

It is at present in every one's mouth, "Who could be so foolish as to give the Americans credit?" but here the great folly of our merchants does not lie: it is giving credit to a set of adventurers, who become American merchants on speculation, and without ever being worth five hundred pounds in their lives. Our merchants greedily give into their schemes, and were eager to out-run each other in order to get first into the good graces of the infant states. The consequences have been bankruptcy and disgrace, while the adventurer, after his bankruptcy, has perhaps found himself a better man than ever he had been.

The great increase of the French navigation and trade, is owing to their underselling most West-India commodities, especially sugars, cotton, indigo, and all West-India goods, by which France is now become the greatest market in the world, which is not to be wondered at, says our correspondent, when we consider their outward bound cargoes cost them twenty per cent less, upon an average, than our outward bound cargoes do us: consequently they can afford to undersell us in all their returns.

Nov. 19. Previous to the difference taking place between the American states and the mother country, the shipping employed by the respective colonies amounted to 1073, the seamen to 28,000, the exports from Great Britain to 3,730,900l. annually, and those from the since united and independent commonwealths, to 3,924,600l. but now their trade and commercial intercourse are nearly doubled, and will of course be considerably increased every year; the shackles of injudicious and illiberal restraints being effectually shaken off, a navigation act will not long operate to their immediate prejudice. Had the same policy been adopted through the efforts of choice, which was afterwards obliged to be made use of from necessity, Americans and Britons would be cemented by the most inseparable bond of union and mutual esteem: but an arbitrary desire of depriving these of that invaluable blessing which they would have, and still endeavour to grasp entirely in their own possession, brought about those humiliating circumstances that have proved so disgraceful and injurious to Britain.

Nov. 23. From a repeal of the navigation act, as far as that act respects Ireland, Lord Sheffield, and other political writers, foresee and predict the most afflicting consequences to the English planter or colonial proprietor, and also great loss to the public revenue. Such an innovation would be more favourable to the smugglers than any thing they have ever yet experienced: for they will be exempted from seizure, unless they happen to be taken in the act of landing their goods. In general, it is not the business of Great Britain to encourage the emigration of her merchants and people to situations of greater convenience, where all the articles of trade and manufactures are so completely unburdened. England, in half a century, would find herself more hurt than she has been by all her debts and all her taxes.

Nov. 26. There has been a great mortality among the Spanish troops in East and West Florida, so to leave those places almost defenceless: and they have been obliged to thin the garrison at the Havana, to supply the necessary detachments for the Floridas.

#### MONTEGO-BAY, October 29.

Tuesday night there came on a heavy swell of the sea, at N. W. which raged with great violence all the next day, and did considerable damage to the wharfs and houses on the beach. All the tenements from Mrs. Sobek's new house to Jackson's wharf, excepting one, occupied by Messieurs Donald and Reardon, are a heap of ruins. It may and Jackson's wharfs are woollly unplanked, and Barratt's totally demolished. The shipping rode it out safe, the wind happily blowing from the southward; a shallop and two boats were drove ashore at Meagre-Bay, two of which are wrecked and the other will be got off; and a boat belonging to Mr. Parfson, was beat to pieces between Jackson's and Barratt's wharfs.

#### BOSTON, December 22.

The new state of Vermont, from a state of anarchy and lawless confusion, is softening down to a happier condition. Their courts of law are regularly held, and justice can be obtained through its proper channel.—The policy of the state is managed with a consistency and energy as bid fair to transform the late dreary wilderness into as fair a republic as any in the confederation.

Considerable quantities of base coin are now in circulation—A copper one in imitation of French guineas, gilt, are very current—they are dated 1732, are larger and thicker than the true ones—a copper coin washed with silver, are frequently passed for English six-pences, they are much larger than good ones: these, with quantities of what are called coppers, but of a base metal, passing, should put people on their guard, not only to prevent being cheated, but to stop their circulation.

Extra of a letter from Bedford (in this commonwealth) November 4, 1785.

"This idle hour I will employ in giving you some account of a great discovery lately made in hydrostatics, by a Mr. Allen, from Martha's Vineyard—a man of good natural abilities, but who never had any advantage of philosophical studies, or other than common education. By accident, he was led to attempt the important trial of separating fresh

from salt water, and has succeeded in a wonderful manner: He informs me that with his present machine he can separate one hundred and twenty-eight gallons, in twenty-four hours: and that he is now constructing one on the same principle, capable of producing between seven and eight hundred gallons in that time.

"How inconceivable its utility to mankind! ships may be furnished with daily supplies of fresh water at a very small expence and trouble, and the freight of water in navigation, in the present mode, is enormous, particularly those on long voyages, and in transporting live stock; ships to India are one third loaded with water. Desolate islands may be supplied by this method. And what I conceive fully equal to either, is the manufacture of salt, whereby we may supply ourselves without importing; as by this easy and quick progress, the fresh water may be separated so effectually, that the remainder will crystallize almost immediately—and I dare prognosticate, that many other eminent advantages will be derived to this and succeeding generations from this discovery.

"He has communicated as much of the secret (excluding intricacies) as has convinced a learned Dr. West, of this parish, of its feasibility: he is to undertake for Mr. Allen, to lay it before the American academy of arts and sciences at their next meeting: If they will secure him a premium, which he may think adequate to its importance, and his merits, he will divulge it to them; otherwise he purposes for Europe.

"I am informed that Mr. Allen, when a boy, on a whaling voyage, approaching very near to a water-spout, he observed the circumfluous water to have the exact colour of fresh water, down to the very surface of the sea; and as the rain which poured down from the cloud above was fresh, he had no doubt but the separation took place at the surface before drawn up: This first gave him an idea of this noble project, without having even one principle of the hydrostatic laws. The hypothesis, that the salt water is drawn up to the clouds in water-spouts, and thereby a certain operation of the air, while it is expanding, and dispersing in the clouds, is separated from the saline particles, must be exploded by this and several other new theories. From what I can gather, by the character and conversation of Mr. Allen, both his theory and machinery must be very simple.

"I should conjecture, by some peculiar temperature, and the action of the air on the surface, he produces the effect to sink the grosser particles, while the pure and subtle float on top, to be received free from salt—Whatever may be the method, I am sure it must be simple, and therefore it will be much more useful to mankind—he assured me the apparatus may be made complete for a trifle, will wear (as his own phrase is) "as long as stem, keel and stern post of a ship," and be very little liable to derangement.

"You have lately heard the lectures of the celebrated Dr. Moyes, on water-spouts. I believe you will never be able to reconcile his darling theory to this discovery; although as yet we can only conjecture, but I dare say, Mr. Allen has as little knowledge of the laws of the electrical fluid, as of the doctrines of Confucius or Zoroaster. I hope the learned president of the academy of arts and sciences will open a correspondence with Mr. Allen, and by some promises of reward to his heirs, induce him to commit the whole to writing, that in case he should die before the negotiation is finished for the purchase of the secret, mankind may not even run the hazard of losing so invaluable a discovery."

#### NEWBURY-PORT, December 14.

In the course of last week, a family in this neighbourhood removed, with their effects, into a newly finished house, and having considerable company, were necessitated to conclude to take up their lodgings in chambers lately plaitered, and not sufficiently dried; in some of these chambers the company spent part of the evening, till at length, a sister to the owner of the house complaining of being unwell, and a pain in her stomach, it was thought prudent for her to retire to bed; but during her preparation therefor, her sister, wife to the owner of the house, fainted, and on recovering herself a little, made the same complaints—their difficulties increasing, a doctor was sent for, who when he came, found 8 or 9 of the company in much the same situation, among whom was the master of the house, who fainted and complained as the rest. The doctor ordered them out of the damp rooms, and they soon found relief—This is inserted for a caution to others.

#### CHARLES-TOWN, (Massachusetts) December 13.

Last Friday, an honest countryman, with a quantity of very nice diaper and thread, (the product of American industry) for sale, in a pillar case of equal goodness, was met in Boston by a knave, who, after a little conversation, with him concerning his goods, &c. invited him, in a friendly manner, to his house, to take some refreshment. The unsuspecting man accepted the invitation, and followed him accordingly. Seating himself he laid his pillow case, with its contents, close behind in the chair in which he sat. After tarrying a while, and drinking with his host, another person (who, probably, was in the scheme) came to the door, and inquired of the countryman, whether he had diaper to sell, to which

he answered in the affirmative; and turning round to take it up, perceived it was removed. The room was searched in vain; when the hospitable villain, affecting concern for his loss, accompanied him out of doors, leading him through an intricate maze of narrow passages, till at length he took an opportunity to slip off. The poor countryman, unacquainted with the place, was thus left alone, completely lost, and could neither find the man, or the house again; but at last making his way into the street, was obliged to return home, without any other compensation for the loss of his goods, than a dear bought lesson of caution in his dealings with strangers.

#### NEW-YORK, December 28.

From a late London paper.—A correspondent expresses his astonishment at the undeserved and unfounded abuse continually lavishing against the trade of America, and earnestly recommends gentlemen to make themselves acquainted with the true state and situation of it, and impartially to report the same. He agrees, that immense sums of money are due from America to this country, but denies it to be from the citizens thereof. At the conclusion of the late war, immense quantities of goods were thrown into the boundless bosom of America by various descriptions of adventurers (of which however those of Scotland, England and Ireland, exceed in the proportion of at least six to one those of America) goods which were bad, old, damaged, and unfit for the American market; where then is the wonder, that such goods should sell under prime cost, or remain unsold to this day? The amount of the goods at this hour in America he thinks exceeds that which she will probably consume in seven years, but the greater part are neither of the quality or sort suited to the market, and therefore will not be got rid of in ten years, unless at a disadvantage. America, in fact, is a store house for the subjects of Great Britain and their merchandise; but certainly the citizens thereof have a right to purchase or not as may be agreeable to them. The different towns throughout America are full of goods belonging to the subjects of Great Britain, either in possession of themselves, or agents, sent out for the purpose of disposing of them; but so far is America from wanting such goods, that she would, on the contrary, be much obliged to those who complain here for the want of remittances, to send both for their goods and agents, as she is determined to purchase only what she likes, and of whom she thinks proper.

It is a fact universally known, that the best men in America generally go to market with produce in hand, in order to purchase of the merchant at the cheap rate.

Numerous instances can be adduced where tradesmen here have sold their American debts for 14 or 15 shillings in the pound, and being interrogated why they did so (when no doubt remained of their being ultimately fully satisfied) have constantly answered, that they got a handsome profit on their goods by such sale, and did not choose to lay out of their money. This rather shews that the tradesmen of this country are not at present so honest as they were a few years ago esteemed to be.

#### PHILADELPHIA, December 31.

Extra of a letter from New-York, dated December 29.

"There is authentic information received here, dated 10th November, from Cadix, which declares that the peace with Algiers is firmly concluded: and that the Barbarian cruizers are in greater force than ever on the coast of Spain and Portugal, and in the neighbourhood of the Straits.

"Captain Edward Wicks from Great Egg-Harbour, after a heavy gale of wind from the N. E. on Sunday morning at 8 o'clock, saw a sail bearing down with a signal of distress: at 10 spoke her; she proved to be the schooner Good Hope, captain John Smith, in a sinking condition, having six and a half feet water in her hold; on which captain Wicks hove too and took them all on board, very much fatigued, having been constantly at the pumps for eight days: at 12 o'clock, in lat. 39 31. north, in 30 fathom water, it blowing hard and a cross sea running, could not save any thing but the sails; at four o'clock P. M. left her, the sea making a passage over her."

Jan 2. By captain Atkins, arrived at Boston, we are informed, that the uneasiness respecting the capturing the American vessels by the Algerines, had, in some measure, subsided;—few of their corsairs having, for some time past, ventured without the Straits, owing to the approach of winter and the vigilance of the Portuguese. No accounts of any late captures by the Algerines had been received at Cadix.

Captain Smith, who is arrived at Boston, from Martinico, informs, that almost every house and store in Demarara has lately been consumed by fire.

#### ANNAPOLIS, January 12.

The honourable Daniel Bowley, Esq; is elected a member of the senate, in the room of James M'Henry, Esq; resigned.

A letter from Paris mentions, that his most christian majesty, willing to encourage men of learning to become more useful, proposes to appropriate 300,000 livres to reward their talents, and employ them in discoveries, and in essential and literary