

# MARYLAND GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 1809.

[No. 3262.]

## Miscellany.

From the Edinburgh Review.

de la Conscription, ou Recueil Chronologique des Lois et des Arrêts du Gouvernement, des Décrets Impériaux relatives à la conscription, à leur remplacement, à leurs dispenses de service, &c. depuis l'an X. jusques et compris l'an XIV. Avec Tables, &c. 8vo. pp. 270. Paris, 1806.

(Continued from our last.)

THESE are the conscripts of "the active service." But besides these, the law reserves an equal number, to form what is termed a reserve, the conscription "of reserve." The members of the reserve are treated, with the same formalities, to march in cases of emergency; are regularly ordered, and carefully disciplined, within their own department, from which they are suffered to absent themselves. A third class is then created, of supplemental conscripts, equal in number to one fourth of the contingent, and destined to fill up the deficiencies which may be occasioned before the conscripts at head quarters, by death, desertion, or other causes. If the supplement should be adequate to this purpose, the reserve is to be placed; and at all events no deficiencies permitted, as each conscript is accountable for its full assessment. No Frenchman under the age of thirty can travel through the empire, or hold any situation under government, or serve in any public office, unless he produces a certificate, duly authenticated, proving that he has discharged his liability to the conscription.

The authorities are bound in solidum, under the severest sanctions, to observe the conscripts are assembled, reviewed, and dismissed to their destination without delay. They are marched under an escort of armée, and in bodies strictly limited to a number of one hundred, to various quarters throughout the empire, and there supplied with arms and cloathing. They are never permitted to exist in separate battalions, but are individually (nominativement) distributed into, or scattered through, distinct regiments of the pre-existing army, to which they are marched in exceedingly small detachments, sometimes from an astonishing distance.

Penalties are given by the higher military tribunals of the prefect; and are provisional or definitive, according to the nature of the offence pleaded. For all diseases proved curable, the discharge is but temporary. The infirmities which tend to disqualify are discriminated with the nicest care, and accompanied by copious scientific explanations. The minister of war reviews the decisions of the tribunals; and if a suspicion of partiality orders the medical inquiry to be repeated. The party released pays an indemnity to the government, the amount of which is determined by the prefect, to his taxes or to his parents. No exceptions were originally allowed to the law "of active service," but at this moment, the eldest brother of an orphan family, the only son of a widow, a labourer above the age of seventy, or who has a brother in the active service, on soliciting the indulgence, he is transferred to the reserve. The same privilege is granted to those who have taken the order of canon in the ecclesiastical seminaries. Parents continue responsible for their absent children until they can produce an official attestation of their death.

The directory admitted of no substitution; the severity of this principle is now relaxed in favour of such as are adjudged "incapable of sustaining the fatigues of war," whose labours and studies are deemed useful to the state than their military service. Proxies are therefore received only in a limited number; not as a matter of right; and

We find, on the subject of dispensation, two articles which should be noted. One p. 100, of the year 1802, by which all workmen engaged in the manufacture of arms and gunpowder, or employed in national magazines of saltpetre, &c. are exempted; and another, p. 104, of the year 1802, which conveys equal number to the one of the whole body of soldiers and subalterns of the army, should be given to such as had served honourably during the whole war, or during five years, as soon as they could be replaced by recruits. The inspector, charged with the distribution of these exemptions, is enjoined, however, to inform the soldiers how much they are in the possession of the first of professions, (le premier état.) In the year 98, the law was revised, which exempted married persons from the conscription. Deferre, and with him Malthus, attribute the increased proportion of births in the country to that period, to premature marriages, and the military levies. (Malthus, b. 2. c. 6.) Premature marriages et multiplier par la loi des lois militaires, are particularly noticed in the statistical reports of the prefects for the year

never without a special mandate from the minister of war. The conscript furnishes a sum of about 5l. (100 francs) for the equipment of his substitute, who must be between the age of twenty-five and forty, of the middle size at least, of a robust constitution, of a good character, certified by his municipality, and himself beyond the reach of the conscription laws. He bears the surname of his principal, in order that the latter may be known and compelled to march, should his proxy desert, or be lost from any other cause than death, or wounds received in battle within the term of two years.

All the enacting clauses of this system are fortified by heavy denunciations against public functionaries, parents or others, who contribute to defeat or retard its operation. Any health officer or other functionary convicted of furnishing a false certificate of infirmity, &c. is subjected to five years imprisonment in irons. All civil and military officers, even of the highest rank, convicted of favouring the escape, or concealing the retreat of a fugitive, are exposed to excessive fines. Conscripts detected in counterfeiting infirmities, or mutilating themselves, are placed "at the disposition of the government" for five years, to be employed in such public labours as may be judged most useful to the state. The absentees or refractory conscripts, whose apprehension is secured by the most minute and efficient precautions, besides undergoing the corporal punishment detailed on their offence, are amerced in a sum of 1500 francs, equivalent, from the comparative value of money in the two countries, to about one hundred and twenty pounds sterling. This sum, together with the expenses incurred in the pursuit, is levied inexorably on the real property of the father or mother, should the fugitive possess none in his own right.

Nine garrison towns are designated throughout the empire, as depots for the refractory conscripts. They are lodged in the citadels, subjected to a most rigid discipline, and made to work in the arsenals, or on the roads, clad in a particular uniform, with their heads closely shaved. Five years constitute the term allotted to this confinement; but it is added, "that they are to be gradually drafted into the army, as they give tokens of docility and reformation!" Every conscript absenting himself for 24 hours from his depot, is punished as a deserter. A special council of war is assembled to decide upon cases of desertion. The penal sanctions are, 1st death, 2d the punishment of the ball (la peine du boulet) and 3d, public, or hard labour.

The nature of the 2d, the punishment of the ball, merits notice. An iron ball of 5lbs. weight, and fastened to an iron chain of seven feet in length, is attached to the leg of the

\* It will not be impertinent to exemplify, here, the immoderate rigour exercised on the points now before us, by a few paragraphs, taken at random from the journals of the country. The following is from the *Mercur de France* of August, 1807. "Jean Vidal, senior, of the commune of Orhon, in order to entrench his son from the conscription, had employed a false document, knowing it to be false. This document was the record of his birth, in which it was stated that he was born in 1734, although the real period of his birth was 1744. His object was to be considered as having attained the age of 71, and therefore entitled to claim for his son the indulgence of the law. The special court of criminal justice has, by a decree of the 21st July, condemned this person to 8 years labour in irons, to be branded with a hot iron on the left shoulder, to an exposition of six hours, and to the expenses of the prosecution, and of 400 copies of the decree." The two following are from the *Journal de L'Empire* of August 2d and 7th. "The tribunal of corrective police (police correctionnelle) of Paris, finished yesterday the trial of seven persons charged with extortion from conscripts.—'Eferoquerie en matière de conscription.' Tessier, a surgeon's apprentice, was accused of having blown into the eyes of a multitude of conscripts, a powder calculated to excite inflammation, and of having received from their friends, for this service, various sums, between two and three thousand livres, somewhat more than 200l. from each. Six other persons were accused of making him known to different conscripts, and of sharing in his profits. While one of these, a goldsmith, called *Lugot*, the father of three children, took his place at the bar, his wife was carried to the grave, having died of fright, when she was told that her husband had been summoned to appear before the tribunal to answer to a charge connected with the conscription. This melancholy catastrophe induced the tribunal to mitigate his punishment. The rest, and among them a woman of some respectability, suffered the utmost rigours of the law." The second case is not a little singular. "The military commission of Turin (department of the Po) decided, in the course of last July, a new case of delinquency with regard to the conscription. Two inhabitants of Turin were convicted, by this commission, of having forestalled (accapare) a great number of substitutes for the department, by maintaining them at their own expense in houses appropriated to this object, and then selling them out at an advanced price to the conscripts who wished to have proxies. "This traffick," says the *Moniteur*, "by which the substitute receives but a small sum, while the broker receives a very large one, must always prove injurious to the lower classes."

deserter. He, in the first instance, hears his sentence read, on his knees, and is condemned to hard labour during ten hours daily, and, in the interval of rest, to be chained in solitary confinement. This sentence is rigorously executed, and embittered by all the external marks of ignominy in dress and appearance. The duration of this punishment, which is ten years, is prolonged, and an additional ball fettered to the leg, in cases of contumacy or serious disobedience. We have remarked a curious provision connected with this double delinquency. The party is solemnly interdicted, under pain of two years imprisonment in irons, from fixing himself, after he is set at liberty, within twenty leagues of the seat of government! The third class of punishment (les travaux publics) is exempt from the iron ball; and, in other respects, only differs from the preceding in the length of the term, which is but three years. A fine of 1500 francs is inseparable from all cases of desertion. Death is inflicted on the deserter to the enemy, and on him who, in deserting from the punishment of the ball, carries off his own arms or those of his comrades. The punishment of the ball is adjudged to such as escape into the interior of the empire, with their uniform, or with the effects of another; or from the public labours which are inflicted upon those who are guilty of simple desertion into the interior. In time of war, every officer or soldier, absenting himself for 48 hours from his corps, without permission, is reputed a deserter. The laws on the subject of desertion are read to the whole French army on the first Sunday of every month.

We have thus given a brief abstract of the law of the conscription, collected from the code itself. We shall now proceed to state the nature and effects of its execution, as represented to us by an observer, who, with the best opportunities, has witnessed them, in almost every part of France, during the progress of three levies.

(To be continued.)

From Bell's (London) Weekly Messenger.

## REVOLUTION IN BUENOS AYRES.

WE have long suspected that *Liniers* was exerting himself to the utmost in favour of the family of *Buonaparte*, and we now learn by letters from Rio Janeiro, of the late date of Feb. 6, that a revolution took place on the 1st of January, in which *Liniers* triumphed, and is now completely master as viceroy of the city. It seems that the marriage of his daughter with a young man of the name of *Perichon*, which was contrary to law, disgusted the people generally, who were besides very desirous to elect a junta, in imitation of Seville, &c. The *Cabildo* met, and the usual elections took place on the first of January; after which, previous dispositions having been made by arming, &c. on both sides, to decide the matter by force in case of necessity, a negotiation took place between the *Cabildo* and *Liniers*, regarding his laying down the sovereign authority.—At length the heads of that body went to the *Fuerte* to treat personally with the viceroy, when up went the drawbridge, and they were quickly marched thro' the *Puerto del Socorro* to the water side, put on board a schooner, and have been sent off nobody knows where; but it is supposed that the voyage was not a very long one, since it is known there were very few provisions put on board. The names of those who thus put themselves into the trap are, *Alzaga*, *Villanueva*, *Sta. Coloma*, *Varela*, and another.

As a proof that this revolution is altogether in favour of France, we only need state, that the above mentioned *Perichon*, is a Frenchman by birth, and is the person who was charged by *Liniers* with dispatches for *Buonaparte*, giving an account of his defence at Buenos Ayres against the British under gen. *Whitelock*, and was on his return from France, through Spain, on his way back to South-America, in May or June of last year, apprehended in Andalusia, by order of the junta of Seville, and confined in Cadiz, from whence it would appear he effected his escape.

The event which has thus taken place, though unfortunate for the patriotic cause of Spain, has removed every difficulty which obstructed the course of operations that it might behove the government of this country to pursue, in concert with the Prince of Brazil. *Monte-Viedo* still holds out against *Liniers*, and must be prevented from falling under his authority, or the whole of Spanish America may be lost.

## APHORISMS.

NEVER begin a thing until you have well considered the end.

Cunning and treachery proceed from a want of capacity, to do all the meaner vices.

## TO DAIRY WOMEN.

TO prevent your Cheese having a rancid nauseous flavour, put one table spoonful of salt to each gallon of milk, when taken from the cows in the evening, for the cheese to be made the next day.—Put the salt at the bottom of the vessel that is to receive the milk. It will increase the curd and prevent the milk from growing sour or putrid the hottest night in summer.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

THE two lumps of gold found near Spotylvania court-house, as mentioned in the *Enquirer* of the 19th ult.—weight 8 oz. 15 dwts is perhaps the largest mass, which has ever been discovered in this state. Mr. Jefferson in his Notes on Virginia, speaks of another instance. "It was interpersed in small specks through a lump of ore, of about 4lbs. weight which yielded 17 penny weight of gold, of extraordinary ductility. This ore was found on the north side of Rappahannoc, about 4 miles below the falls. I never heard of any other indication of gold in its neighbourhood." It is curious that the two lumps lately found were nearly in the neighbourhood of this one being about 20 miles from Fredericksburg, on the Rappahannoc. A few penny weights have also been found in Buckingham.

Whence those small lumps of this brilliant mineral, which are found here and there, in our state? It is a bold idea, that gold is not accented, but is formed of certain materials, as are all the Salts, and the Earth called lime. The unavailing experiments which were formerly made to achieve what was called the transmutation of metals, have tended to cast ridicule over this idea—but ridicule is not always the test of truth. The wonderful discoveries, lately made by the chemists of Europe, have enlarged the sphere of probability itself—and we may even predict that the age of alchemy is not past, nor the avare of the projector extinguished for ever. But this age is not yet come—all that we know at present, is, that gold has been actually found in substances, where there is no other way of accounting for its presence, but by the supposition that it was formed there. For instance read the following extract from *Chaptal's Chymistry*:

"Gold likewise exists naturally in vegetables. Becher obtained it. Henschel affirmed that they contain it; and Mr. Sage has resumed this inquiry and found it according to the following table, which expresses the quantities of gold obtained from the quintal of the several earths.

	Ounces.	Gross.	Grains.
Rotten manure,	0	1	50
Earth of uncultivated ground,	0	2	36
Garden mould,	0	5	0
Mould of a kitchen garden, manured with dung yearly for 60 years,	2	3	40

"These results were at first contested, but at present it appears to be generally agreed, that gold is obtained, but in a less quantity. Mr. Berthollet obtained forty grains and eight twenty-fifths of gold in the quintal of ashes. Messrs. Rouelle, Darcey, and Deyeux, likewise obtained it.

"It is therefore a physical fact, that gold exists in vegetables."

QUERY—May not some of the lumps, which are found in Virginia, have been formed by vegetable decomposition.

From the Press.

MR. JINNS, NOTWITHSTANDING the attention and care with which you have noticed the several manufactures commenced in and about our city, the extensive one for preparing and bleaching WAX, by Mr. Emery and Mr. Rainoldi, appears to have escaped your notice. This business, though only commenced a few months since, has been so successfully conducted, that several thousand pounds of the most beautiful white wax, ever seen in this or any other country, is now nearly ready for delivery. I send you a specimen for inspection. Immense quantities of this useful article are collected in all parts of our country, and exported abroad. I am told that several tons are annually shipped for Ireland, at 35 cents a pound; where it is bleached and sent over to England, at 75 cents; and on being mixed with one third or one fourth of tallow, it comes back to us at one dollar a pound! This fraud, it is to be presumed, will now be stopped, as we will now be able to furnish the most elegant white wax from our own factories, not only for domestic consumption, but for exportation to any possible extent.

A Friend to Home Manufactures.  
\* The specimen is certainly fine. It may be seen by any person who will take the trouble to call at this office.