

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

[LXVIth YEAR.]

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1809.

[No. 3276.]

Episcellany.

From a late London paper.

THERMO LAMP.

THE possibility of employing the gas from pit coal as a substitute for candles, was first exhibited at Paris about eight years since, and is now introduced with perfect success at Manchester, in England, in the cotton mills of Messrs. Phillips and Lee. The introduction of this species of light into the establishment of Messrs. Phillips and Lee has been gradual; beginning in the year 1805, with two rooms of the mill, the counting-houses, and Mr. Lee's dwelling-house. After which, it was extended through the whole manufactory, as expeditiously as the apparatus could be prepared.

At first some inconvenience was experienced from the smell of the unconsumed, or imperfectly purified gas, which may in a great measure be attributed to the introduction of successive improvements in the construction of the apparatus, as the work proceeded. Since its completion, and since the persons to whose care it is confided, have become familiar with its management, this inconvenience has been obviated, not only in the mill, but also in Mr. Lee's house, which is most brilliantly illuminated with it, to the exclusion of every other species of artificial light.

The peculiar softness and clearness of this light, with its almost unvarying intensity, have brought it into great favour with the work people. And its being free from the inconvenience and danger resulting from the sparks and frequent snuffing of candles, is a circumstance of material importance, as tending to diminish the hazard of fire, to which cotton mills are known to be much exposed. The expense of this light is only one third that of candles.

From the New-England Palladium.

NATURAL HISTORY.

CHARCOAL and native sulphur have been found fifty-four feet below the surface of the earth, in the neighbourhood of Washington.

How came wood at such a depth in the earth? What turned it to Charcoal? Was the surface of the earth ever so low as fifty-four feet below the present surface?

[Washington American.]

The hill on which the Congress house stands more than eighty feet above the level of the water of the river, and sixty or seventy above the low lands on the south. It has been thought that in distant ages the bed of the stream was not so deep as at present, but had over a greater extent, and as the channel deepened the water gradually receded, and deposited on the shallows the trees which had been born down by its current. That the water has gradually receded, the land being only stratified with muddy clay, common to the shores, sand and water worn pebbles, has no doubt. Around these trees detached on the shore, mud, and other trees have collected and deepened the channel by forming a bar. But all this is no reason that there is not some coal in the vicinity.

Changes as great, and much more astonishing have taken place, both in the old and new world. On Mont Blanc, the highest of the Alps, and on the Apennines, large oyster shells, muscles, clams and crabs, are frequent. In the north of Europe, there is a coal mine a thousand yards in depth, and every body knows coal to be mineralized vegetables. In this mine a whole tree was found so entire, that even the seed and small branches were discoverable. In lime stone strata, one hundred and a thousand miles from the ocean, marine shells are found at the very bottom of quarries and mines, in the red and utmost parts of the most firm and solid rocks, upon the tops of the highest hills and mountains, as well as in valleys and plains, in one country only, but in all places of marble and chalk, alabaster and gyps, and many other things, were dug.

Richmond, (Vir.) in digging wells six feet, and a hundred feet below the surface, the teeth of a whale were dug up. In Hamburg, two miles from James river, sixty miles from the Atlantic, five feet below the surface, the skeleton of a whale was found, which from various circumstances, was supposed to have perished in his native element. An account of wood being found at a distance of fifty feet, with the appearance of being cut with an iron instrument, a part of which remained in the iron, but entirely corroded, while the wood was almost found. Our papers give us ac-

counts almost every season of fossil wood, echini and entrochi, and strata, of various other shells, or earth moulded in them and petrified, being found in the interior, at various depths. Those who will not believe these things to have been deposited first, and the earth over them, must believe with philosophers of old, that they are mere sports of nature, in exact imitation of those that have had life, crystallized into the forms of shells, &c. which every one will allow to be absurd.

If such things have been found in other places, we can see no reason for astonishment at finding fossil wood fifty feet under ground at Washington; and that it should be turned to charcoal and covered with sulphur, is easy to be accounted for. In sinking wells in and near the city, fossil wood, penetrated with pyrites, (sulphate of iron) have been frequently brought up. After digging from forty to fifty feet, through a gravel, and a muddy clay, at the base of Congress house hill, trees, whose vegetable organization was very evident, were discovered, penetrated with pyrites, which in every country accompanies almost every mineral, particularly decaying vegetables. This composition of sulphur and iron, either natural or artificial, is very well known, on being moistened, to take fire, and to be the cause of all internal fires. Now a proper quantity of moisture came upon these pyrites, they took fire and burned the wood to charcoal, and separated the iron from the sulphur, and because there was little or no evaporation, they must continue burning, undiminished, until accident should extinguish them; consequently charcoal and native sulphur was found together.

An explanation very reasonable and creditable to those whose curiosity prompts them to examine; but astonishing and wonderful to those who ridicule "such paltry investigations."

Of all studies, that of Nature is the most rational, pleasing and instructive. Of all professions, Divinity is the most proper for the investigation of Nature; our Divines should make it their study; they should not preach and extol the wonderful machinations of her prolific power on the authority of others, but should themselves find "tongues in trees, sermons in stones, and God in every thing."

* In the text "Good."

From a late Providence paper.

THE SEASON.

WE believe our oldest inhabitants can hardly recollect an August and September in which such uncommon weather has been observed as we have experienced the present year. For a considerable period of time in the latter end of August and beginning of September, we were shivering with cold and drenched with uncomfortable rains—frost was even a visitor when the dog-star is usually in the zenith of his power. In the interior, we have heard of uncommonly cold rain storms, which have rendered the roads impassable; of severe hail storms—and of the fall of snow in one instance (at Warren, N. Y.) of some inches depth. On the 21st August, a tremendous hail storm was experienced at West Haven, Vermont. The hail descended in volleys, and enveloped the inhabitants in the darkness of night—the only light during the continuance of the storm (about 45 minutes) was produced by the lightning, which was incessant. The hail-stones were about the size and shape of a dried fig, and fell with such force as to break glass, and split and tear off shingles from the roofs of houses.—On one farm, where there were 1300 apple-trees, the branches of one year's growth were cut smooth by the hail from every tree, and part of the bark bruised from the trunk—the cattle in the fields had small swellings raised on their bodies by the stones—30 acres of oats and peas were cut from the roots, and not a summer vegetable remained standing.—Some hundreds of birds were, after the storm, found dead in the fields. Much other damage was done for many miles. The hail fell on a level eight inches—and the day after the storm was in many places on the level ground four inches deep. These facts come attested.

A new invented Overshot Wheel.

RICHARD BERRIAN, announces in a New-York paper, his invention of an Overshot Wheel, applicable to all kinds of Mills, Forges, Factories, &c. greatly superior to any wheel now in use, having a surprising gain of power, being capable, with a suitable head of water, of carrying at once six run of stones, &c. Mr. Berrian advertises that he has erected a Mill on this new construction, which is in full and successful operation.

AGRICULTURAL.

An Experiment on Soapstuds as a Manure. By Mr. G. Irwin, of Taunton, with remarks by the Rev. Thomas Falconer.

A FEW years since, says this writer, my attention was attracted by the soil of a garden reduced to a state of poverty, very unfriendly to vegetation. An invigorating manure was necessary; but such a stimulus could not easily be procured. Considering upon the means, it occurred that possibly some trivial advantage might be derived from the oil and alkali, remaining in the water after washing, commonly called soapstuds. Pits were immediately dug, and the contents of the washing tubs, after they were done with, emptied into them. As washing succeeded washing other pits were dug and filled, so that a whole garden, a small portion excepted, was watered and enriched. Upon the spot purposely neglected, vegetation, says the writer, is still languid, while the residue of the garden, invigorated by studs only, annually exhibits a luxuriance almost equal to any thing this fertile neighbourhood can produce. We have known this kind of manure, and even another kind of domestic lie, applied with success to the roots of the vine.

But the mixture of an oil and an alkali has been more generally known than adopted as a remedy, against the insects which infest wall fruit trees. It will destroy the insects which have formed their nests and bred among the leaves. Used in the early part of the year it will prevent insects from settling upon the leaves. It is also preferable to the lime water, or wood ashes and lime, because lime loses its causticity by being exposed to the air. The only difficulty is in the mode of applying it. Mr. Speechley, in his treatise on the vine, directs it to be poured from a ladder out of a watering pot, over both trees and wall, beginning at the top of the wall, and bringing it on, in courses, from top to bottom. The Rev. Mr. Falconer thinks a considerable extent of wall may be washed by means of a common garden pump, in a short time, as often as a supply of studs, &c. can be had; or a quantity of potash of commerce, dissolved in water, may be substituted. Washing the trees and the wall twice a week for three or four weeks in the spring will sufficiently secure the fruit from the injuries of insects. This upon the whole he thinks a valuable manure, as it can be easily obtained, at a small expense and in large quantities; and when its nature is understood, will probably be no less esteemed than horse dung. To the gardener as well as the farmer, mixed with mould, it is also useful as a fertilizing compost.

To preserve Pumpkins or Pumpkins, through the Winter and Spring.

WHEN taken from the vine, open them and throw away the soft contents, which are found in their inside. Then cut them into small pieces, and dry them in the sun, or in an oven. Preserve them in a dry place. They may be either pounded or boiled, before they are used.

Prepared in this manner, they make a cheap and excellent food for cattle, horses and hogs. Many thousand dollars might be saved, in grain, to our farmers, and to our country, by the general use of this wholesome and nourishing food for domestic animals. They afford more nourishment than the potatoe or scarcity-root, they are cultivated with less trouble, and yield a much larger increase from the same labour.

CURE FOR CORNS.

ALWAYS willing to give any information conducive to the melioration of my fellow sufferers, I humbly tender the following receipt for eradicating the most inveterate corns. Take a little unwrought cotton, lay it on the part affected—wear it for a week or two, and you will find in an unaccountable manner the corn will be dislodged, and nothing left to console the proprietor but the cob. I had been sorely afflicted for a considerable time, with a concomitant of this kind, and finally was obliged to wear an old shoe, put down at the heel, to my great mortification and peril in the winter season:—I was advised to make use of the above stated remedy, and I was very happy to find, after wearing the cotton for ten days, the corn was completely gone.

CURE FOR THE FLUX.

MIX vinegar and salt together, and drink a small quantity of it frequently, which will be an immediate and an effectual cure. I had opportunities of seeing this cure tried, and never knew it to fail—I have even known it to cure those whose bowels physicians had declared to be mortified.

From a French German paper.

ESTIMATE

Of the Austrian Territories in the possession of the French.

THE parts of the Austrian monarchy possessed by the French troops are:

	German miles.	Inhabitants
Lower Austria	572	1,700,000
Stiria	398	812,000
Carinthia	190	230,000
Carniola, with the country of Gortz, and the territory of Monfalcone	251	422,000
Trieste		30,000
Salzburg and Berchtesgaden	170	195,000
Fiume		6,000
Of Moravia, about	180	500,000
Of Galicia	200	500,000
Of Hungary		

The total number of inhabitants in the above countries, is about 8,475,600. The territory independent of the Hungarian Gapschafts, the superficial extent of which is not accurately ascertained, contains 3,775 German square miles. Before the commencement of the war, the whole Austrian monarchy contained, according to Lichtenstein, only 10,935 square miles, and 24,900,400 inhabitants. It appears therefore, that the French possess more than one third of the Austrian States.

The most important towns in these provinces are:—

	Inhabitants.
Vienna	220,000
Lintz	18,700
Gratz	30,000
Clagenfurth	10,000
Larbach	11,000
Trieste	14,600
Salzburg	9,200
Brunn	21,000
Leinberg	38,400
Cracaw	25,000
Presburg	26,900
Oedinburgh	12,000
Raab	10,700

With respect to Hungary, it ought to be observed, that the part of that kingdom in possession of the French, is that which is the most productive in corn, wine and cattle.

AUSTRIA.

The contribution laid on the Austrian conquered provinces is thus distributed in conformity with a decree of the emperor Napoleon, issued on the 7th July:—

Upper Austria	38,000,000
Lower Austria	50,000,000
Salzburg	11,440,000
Stiria	44,880,000
Carinthia	18,210,000
Carniola	15,260,000
Gortz	910,000
Trieste, in addition to the former contribution on the revenue of Trieste	2,410,000
Hungary	7,680,000
The Circle of Znaym, in Moravia	7,490,000
	196,280,000

A new patent Machine, &c. for Writing, &c.

Frederick Bartholomew Folsch and William Howard have obtained a patent for a certain Machine, Instrument, or Pen, calculated to promote Facility in Writing: and also a certain Black Writing Ink or Composition, the Durability whereof is not to be affected by time, or change of climate.

THE pen is made of glass, enamel, or other substance capable of admitting a bore. The point is small and finely polished; but the part above the point is large enough to hold as much or more ink than a common writing pen. The composition is a mixture of equal parts of Frankfort black and fresh butter, which is smeared over paper and rubbed off after a certain time. The paper thus smeared is to be pressed for some hours, taking care to have sheets of blotting paper between each of the sheets of black paper.—When fit for use, the paper is put between sheets of this blackened paper, and the upper sheet is to be written on with common ink with the glass or enamel pen. By this method not only the copy is obtained on which you write, but also two or more made by means of the blackened paper.

THE LOVES OF THE PLANTS.

A Marriage took place a few days ago between Mr. Rose and a Miss Lilly. This is what Dr. Darwin might justly denominate the loves of the plants. *Edin. paper.*