

SCOTT'S LIFE OF BUONAPARTE.

A literary friend, in whose good taste and judgment we confide, has sent us the following notice of a part of a work that is looked for with avidity, and which Carey & Lea, of Philadelphia, have now in the press.

The Life of Buonaparte, by the author of Waverley, is, we understand, to be completed in 7 octavo volumes. We have had an opportunity of perusing the whole of the first (except a sheet at the end of the volume, not sent out) and part of the second, and hoped to have been able to have given an extract which might have served as a key to the general spirit of the whole. In this, however, we are disappointed. This extract would have contained a criticism on Burke's celebrated Reflections, written with a temperance and a happy medium of praise and censure, which strikes us as admirably illustrative of the good and common sense which blends so remarkably with the great genius of Sir Walter Scott. The part of the work which we perused, was a summary of the causes and events of the French Revolution, as far as the massacre of the Swiss Guards. Two or three chapters more would have brought us to the king's death, when the powerful and graphic hand of the author must have made extremely striking and imposing. We are compelled to say that the feelings with which we read the first part of the work, were those of disappointment. So many works have been written, and by men so well acquainted with and able to portray the causes of the French Revolution, that even the author of Waverley can find little of novel or original to chain our attention. Conscious of the tediousness of the beaten track, he has employed in great profusion, and most often neither naturally nor originally, metaphors and similes; which, however well they may suit the style of a novel, take from the dignity of historical discussion. The similes drawn from classical stores, are often of the tritest kind, and in one place we observed no fewer than three successive sentences in the same page, which contained as many laboured comparisons. With regard to the spirit of the work, it is liberal, yet decidedly loyal.—The author is willing to give due credit to the motives of the Constitutional & republican leaders of the Revolution; but the king, Louis XVI, is allowed no faults but those which endear him to us. He is presented with all the virtues which Charles I. possessed, while his only fault seems an unwillingness to shed the blood of his subjects, and too great a distrust of his own judgment. Surely to an unbiased mind, some greater or worse faults must have been found in his character, or Louis never could have been so unpopular, and his person and authority so reviled and despised, from the commencement of the struggle. There is one point in which these views of the French Revolution will be most grateful to Americans. Sir Walter is eminently just to Lafayette etc. Indeed, we are acquainted with no history of these times which exhibits Lafayette in so respectable a light, whether as regards character, influence, or abilities. His motives are represented as pure; his influence as great, and, with but one exception, properly and even generously exercised; he is acknowledged as the leader of his party, and becomes without influence by the diminution of that party; and lastly, his treacherous imprisonment by the Prussian Monarch, is justly and warmly condemned. Some of the characters of the revolution are admirably sketched. Danton, Robespierre, and Marat, are admirably discriminated and marked out by a few striking touches, which convey in brief space excellent outlines of their character. But the description of the more remarkable events—the storming of the Bastille, the attack on the palace of Versailles, and particularly the massacre of the Swiss Guards, are described with the same inimitable hand, which gives so much interest to the mob at Edinburgh, in the Heart of Mid-Lothian. Indeed, the interest wonderfully thickens as we advance towards the fatal period of the birth of Napoleon, until just before the trial of the King, the work has all the enchanting interest of a romance. Its publication may, therefore, be expected with the certainty of the greatest gratification and enjoyment by the reading public.

PAROS.
Extracts from letters received from a young gentleman on board the United States ship Constitution. (Communicated for Poulson's American Daily Advertiser.)

Island of Paros, 1826.
This Island is celebrated among the Cyclades, and is from 60 to 70 miles in circumference, possessing in ancient times, a rich soil, and those extensive marble quarries, which have adorned the labyrinths of Egypt, and enriched the cities of Greece and Rome. This island is also celebrated for those marbles, most commonly known by the name of Arundelian, which informs us of most remarkable events in the early ages of ancient history, and were finished near about 241 years B. C. They are yet to be seen in one of the institutes of Paris or England. The island is said to have been first founded by the Phœnicians who assisted the Persians in the war against Greece—from this cause it was overrun by the Athenians, and some time after, fell into the hands of the Romans.

I travelled over the Island, and found it partially cultivated in the valleys, for the support of two or three inconsiderable villages. The remainder of the island appears to be composed entirely of marble. I visited the quarries said to have been worked in ancient times, and found them to be very extensive, the marble perfectly white and transparent, and celebrated among sculptors for its solidity. The Apollo Belvidere, the Venus de Medicis, and several other beautiful pieces of sculpture have been constructed from this quarry. We set out before the mellow tints of the rising sun had driven away the gray of morning, travelling over slippery marble, and passing through a wretched village, where the poor meagre inhabitants gazed at us, as something supernatural, and shortly arrived at the foot of a high mountain, whose top was crowned with a monastery—we ascended by a winding road, and in half an hour reached the summit, and entered the door, after knocking some time, being opened by one of the Greek fathers, who showed us into their church.—The altar was decorated with gildings, and a few pictures of the Virgin Mary, and our Saviour crucified, together with many scriptural paintings, done with common red ochre, upon the walls, &c. were the whole that adorned this place of devotion. We paid for a blessing and desecrated—took a circuitous route to regain the ship, passing the suburbs of a pleasant looking village, situated at the bottom of a valley.

From Paros, we got under weigh and proceeded to the gulf of Smyrna; in a short time arrived at a place called Vourla, about 12 miles from the former city. I had an opportunity offered me of visiting Smyrna, and availed myself of it. It is considered one of the principal sea ports in Asia Minor, monopolizing a trade from almost every part of the world. It is said to have been first founded by the Æolians, and gone through a succession of revolutions, and has been in possession of the Ionians, Lydians, and Macedonians. The inhabitants have always been given to luxury and indolence, but when called into action are signally brave. 180 B. C. was destroyed by an earthquake but was rebuilt by Marcus Aurelius. The people of Smyrna claim the birth of Homer.

Landed on shore and directed our steps to the Bazaars, where every thing to attract your attention is laid before you, no conception can be formed previous to visiting this place, of the enticement to spend your money. You pass through one section and the air that is inhaled is a perfect perfume of the otto of roses, and every costly scent that is made in Asia, while the eye is feasted with every beautiful little article that can be thought of—another section you find a complete armory of Sabres, Pistols and Guns, all highly mounted with gold and silver, and not infrequently ornamented with precious stones. To be owner of one of these accoutrements is the principal of a Turk's ambition.

In another section, you find cashmere shawls and silks of every colour and beauty—in another shippers embroidered with gold and silver, pipes richly ornamented one of which I purchased (850,) in others, tin ware, and small shops containing tea, coffee, sugar and tobacco. These Bazaars are all of them arches over, which perfectly protects you from the sun. When I gratified

ed my curiosity here, I went through the operation of the Turkish bath—you strip to a light covering, which is thrown over you, when with wooden shoes, to protect your feet from the dampness of the outer floor, you enter the perspiring room, in about ten minutes a Greek slave conducts you into what I call a cracking room—for they lay you down, pull your joints, roll you over and over, plunging their knees upon your breast and shoulders, at the same time rubbing you with a coarse cloth, fitted on the hand similar to a hostler's brush; this done, they take you to a stream of blood warm water, wash you with soap highly scented, wipe you perfectly dry, throw another clean light covering over you, tie up your head with a turban and conduct you to a large square cushion, and place covering over you to protect you from cold.

GENERAL ASHLEY'S EXPEDITION.

The recent expedition of General Ashley to the country west of the Rocky mountains, has been productive of information on subjects of no small interest to the people of the union. It has proved that the over land expeditions, in large bodies, may be made to that remote region, without the necessity of transporting provisions for man or beast. General Ashley left St. Louis in March last and returned in September. His return caravan consisted of upwards of one hundred horses and mules, and more than half that number of men. He went to the station of the party he had left beyond the mountains, when he came in a year ago, and thence descended a river, believed to be the Buenaventura, about one hundred and fifty miles to the Great Lake.

His return march to St. Louis occupied about 70 days, each, each mule and horse carrying nearly two hundred pounds of beaver fur—the animals keeping their strength and flesh on the grass which they found, and without losing any time on this long journey. The men also found an abundance of food; they say there was no day in which they could not have subsisted a thousand men, and of ten thousand. Buffalo furnished the principal food—water of the best quality was met with every day. The whole route lay through a level and open country, better for carriages than any turnpike road in the United States.—Wagons and carriages could go with ease as far as General Ashley went, crossing the Rocky Mountains at the source of the north fork of the Platte, and descending the valley of the Buenaventura, towards the Pacific ocean. The lake which terminated the expedition westward, is a most remarkable body of water, & heretofore unknown, unless from vague accounts. It is estimated to be one hundred miles long, and sixty or eighty wide.—It was coasted last spring by a party of Gen. Ashley's men in canoes, who were occupied four and twenty days in making its circuit. They did not exactly ascertain its outlet, but passed a place where they suppose it must have been. The water of this lake is much saltier than that of the sea. Some of the salt obtained from the water by boiling, has been brought in by Gen. Ashley—he has also brought some specimens of rock salt, found in strata several feet thick at the surface of the ground, with streams of water running through it in numerous little channels. The people of the mountains plentifully supply themselves with salt at this spot, and carry it home in bags.

In the whole expedition, General Ashley did not lose a man, nor had any one of those died whom he left behind last year, many of whom have been out four or five years, and are too happy in the freedom of those wild regions to think of returning to the comparative thralldom of civilized life.—It would seem that no attempt has been made to ascertain the precise latitude of the point at which Gen. Ashley crosses the mountains—it is to be hoped that this will not be neglected on the next expedition. From all that we can learn, the elevation is exceedingly small where the passage of the mountain was effected—a small as hardly to effect the rate of going of the caravan, and forming at the most, an angle of three degrees, being two degrees less than the steepest ascent on the Cumberland road.

(Missouri Herald.)

Maryland Gazette

ANNAPOLIS:
THURSDAY, DEC. 28, 1826.

We have complied with the request of the Editor of the Eastern Gazette, by inserting his reply to some remarks which appeared in our paper of the 30th ultimo, in our first page. Though we have consented to his request simply because of the polite terms in which it was made, we cannot think that he had any right to make it, with out having first inserted our remarks, that the readers of his paper might be able to judge whether we misconstrued his language or not.

The Editor of the Centreville Times, in one of his late numbers, says, "The last Maryland Gazette contains the second number of 'Aethes,' doubtless written by Mr. Maxcy." This is not the fact; and how the editor of the Times could have fallen into such an error must remain for himself to explain. The dispassionate, argumentative and forcible style in which the numbers signed "Aethes" are written, may have induced that editor to believe, that they were the productions of a man of talent and knowledge, and therefore may have brought him to conclude that Mr. Maxcy was the author; but it was certainly very improper in him to name Mr. Maxcy as such, when he was not in possession even of the shadow of proof to sustain his assertion.

The editor of this Gazette, who knows that Mr. Maxcy is not anxious to be dressed in borrowed plumes, considers it proper to state, that he is not the author of "Aethes."

* Quoted from memory.

For the Maryland Gazette.

The Vice-President's Doctrine of Free Senatorial Debate.

No. 3.
As I stated in the commencement of this essay, the question presented by Mr. Calhoun's speech reached only the "latitude and freedom of debate." From what has been urged above, candid reasoners may infer whether he be deserving of censure or of praise. If his measures were in strict conformity with his legitimate powers, no blame can attach to him. His motives must be impeached on other grounds. Those who reflect what clamour would have rung from a certain quarter, had the eccentric orator, whose burning gibes have kindled most of the virulence of the attack on the Vice-President, been ranged with the opposite party, and clobbered by the chair in the effusion of his bitter spleen, will readily appreciate the embarrassments of Mr. Calhoun's situation, and give full credit to the reasons by which he has vindicated his course. It has been insinuated, however, that he should have announced his exposition of the rules at an earlier date. But this is a mistake or at least affords no just ground of reprobation. The decorous habits of the senate, since its organization, had superseded any apparent necessity of precautionary measures against evils which were scarcely to be anticipated. It was not to be expected that the Vice-President should, like a judge charging a grand jury, open the session with a lecture on the laws of decorum; nor could any inconvenience necessarily ensue from his silence, even had this particular case been presented to his attention. Acknowledged concurrent powers existed in the house, whom he could not, (and whom, in spite of the assertions of the administration press, the people will not) believe dead to the sting of personal honour, or regard for the dignity of the most august assembly in the nation. Suppose him then fairly embarked on the labours of the session, when Mr. Randolph started on the intemperate course which has given so much umbrage to all moderate men, and such pretence for obloquy against the party opposed to the reelection of Mr. Adams. Would it then have been decorous in Mr. Calhoun to have come forward with his explanation? Would it not have been a virtual violation of his own principles? Would it not have been saying indirectly to the senate—"Gentlemen, I think Mr. Randolph is out of order, but I wait for your hint to interfere; say the word but one of you, and I will stop him." The application to the existing

facts could not be mistaken, why branch the subject, as that might when other concerns press upon the house? Here was the dilemma in which Mr. Calhoun stood fixed. If he spoke he would be accused of inconsistency.—If silent he would be overwhelmed with imputations of the silliest neglect of duty. A man of intelligence and intrepid principle could not hesitate in the meantime his political opponents (who, if any had cause to complain) sat abutting in their seats and urging on to excess, by the affected eulogium, the intemperate carter, I have heard of, who provoked a gentleman to leave him resisted, till he was sufficiently battered to be able to claim with effect before a jury an amount of damages which stocked his farm.

The zeal of misrepresentation against Mr. Calhoun has led a certain quondam satirist of Mr. Adams to describe "the conscript fathers of the land" prone as school boys to brawl, and idle, whenever the officer sent to preside over the "people" ceases to coerce decorum, or stimulate "their paternal vigilance to the concerns of the empire." Predicating an argument upon this melancholy supposition of facts, the writer ascribes to the president of the senate, by force of his title, certain undefined and awful rights which are to comprehend within reasonable bounds this inherent turbulence of the assembly. As this has given the discussion an artful turn from the true point of issue, I may possibly be indulged in a brief speculation upon the nature of that office. The word president in itself implies nothing but one who occupies the place of honour. It has, however, in common parlance, acquired the meaning of the chief executive officer of a society political or civil; but, as the functions of such officers vary in every such association, it is evident we can learn nothing relative thereto from their bare title. In this vague sense it is used in the constitution. When that instrument says "the executive power" (of the United States) "shall be vested in a president," it does not affect to convey any precise idea of the limit or extent of that power; which is fixed by a subsequent enumeration. So, when it directs that "the Vice-President shall be president of the senate," it constitutes him only the supreme executive officer of that assembly. And, whereas the president of the United States is by express terms empowered "to execute the laws," it can never have been intended to establish in the president of the senate at once an executive and lawgiver. Granting then that the duty of an executive officer of a deliberative assembly is to preserve order therein, his actual functions will remain uncertain till he is instructed, by a competent authority, in the particular import of this relative term. Order, strictly speaking, is nothing but conformity to rule. The order of the senate is conformity to the rules of the senate, the establishment of which is referred by the constitution entirely to themselves. The view of the subject furnishes us with the true criterion between the cases where the president may and ought to exert an original call to order and where not. When an explicit rule is made, whether expressly, or on common principles of criminal jurisprudence must be the case with regard to punishable offences, or even by prescription, as concerns the transaction of business, the will of the senate is made known, and the president, as its administrative head, is bound, in ordinary cases, to enforce its observance by original interference. Where the rule is not promulgated but left in uncertainty till developed by the circumstances which call for its application, (in which case the president under the rule of the house exercises a sort of judicial legislation, analogous to the practice of the common law,) the question must be brought before him by the house; for the house having fixed no law, and he being only its organ, it were usurpation in him to move in a matter which the senate had not referred to him. His province is properly the application of law, but to ascertain the status of facts to which it is applicable. Thus were two members supposed by the Vice-President to rise at the same instant, he would regularly name the first speaker; but, if the fact of simultaneous rising were disputed, he would, he presumed, be thrown upon the arbitrament of the house.

CALETHES.

CHESAPEAKE AND DELAWARE CANAL.

Letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, To the Honourable Richard Rush, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

The President and Directors of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company, very respectfully submit the following brief statement of the progress and present condition of the work; and this they do with the greatest satisfaction, as demonstrating that their labours are at length drawing towards a successful termination.

So much of the wharf work of the Delaware Harbour, as had been directed to be built the present season, is nearly finished; the south pier is not yet filled in; but orders have been given to have it done forthwith. The dredging machine is advantageously employed in excavating the basin. It will shortly be removed through the tide lock into the canal, to be used on the marshes. This harbour will necessarily cost much more than if it had been constructed, as originally intended, with banks of earth; but it will be much more convenient, spacious and secure. It will embrace an area of about seven acres. The Delaware tide lock is finished. It was found that the stone, which entered into its formation, would not be wrought so as to make a tight joint though otherwise very good; and as the best water cement has been freely used, no doubt can be entertained that it is a substantial, durable piece of masonry. A very stiff clay, well puddled outside of the walls, serves to give additional security to the work.

Section No. 1 and 2, are nearly finished. A few cart loads of earth are yet to be removed, and some trifling work done to the swivel bridge at Newbold's, on this part of the canal will be completed and available.

Section No. 3. This has been, in some respects, the most interesting, troublesome and expensive section on the whole line; and from the difficulties which have occurred in the course of its execution, has caused much anxiety to the Board. It extends about three and a half miles through the Cranberry and St. George's marshes, from No. 2 to the left lock. The Engineer in Chief, in a late report, says—"The ground on this section has generally been as bad as Nature ever formed to carry a canal over." As a measure of early precaution, previously indeed to the excavation of a spadeful of earth, and before the work was directed to be made here elsewhere, to ascertain the character of the earth; and the Board prevailed to believe that a stiff clay would be required for the bottom of the canal; but as the work advanced, and the true nature of the ground was developed, it was found to be altogether unfit to enter into the construction of the tow path; no alternative therefore remained, but to incur the very heavy expense of conveying solid puddled earth from a distance for that purpose.

The sinking of this heavy material has been very great; but in the varied opinion of the Engineer in Chief, and other eminently qualified individuals, confirmed by the frequent personal observations and judgment of the members of the Board, no other means of forming a safe and durable canal over these marshes could be pursued. The tow path has at length been carried along the entire line of this section, and nearly the whole of it has been finished; but a very heavy expenditure of money, and about one hundred thousand cubic yards of solid earth. The actual contractors were bound to have completed the section in July last; but it is probable they will not finish it before next spring. In a late communication from the Engineer in Chief, he remarks on the subject of this section; that "much has been said about the line being altered from the original location. I do not think it has been deviated from in any one point, twenty feet from the line reported by Mr. Randel. Many persons have asserted, and groups believe, that by a different location of this line, by cutting off the hard points of land that put in the marshes, the canal would have been formed cheaper.—After much examination and reflection on this question of location, I am decidedly satisfied, that the present location is the best; taking into