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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1864.

From the Richmond ENQUIRER.

THE RAINBOW—NO. I.

INTRODUCTORY ESSAY.

On the utility of miscellaneous essays.

NO literary production is more generally admired, or read with greater advantage and delight, than periodical and miscellaneous essays. Of this species of composition, the classical remains of antiquity do not furnish a single model, or solitary specimen. We shall not on this account, be disposed to entertain an humble idea of its utility and dignity, when we retrace its origin and review its influence.

The composition of large and elaborate works on scientific subjects, requires a portion of genius and learning which is rarely attained by the sons of men. The profitable perusal even of such works, presupposes an improvement of intellect and an extent of information, to which those who enjoy the advantages of what is styled liberal education, rarely aspire.

captivate attention. The historian deems every event unworthy of commemoration, which has not occurred in the "gorgeous palace" or the "tened field." The biographer attracted by the vicissitudes of fortune, or the adventures of enterprise and genius, rarely possesses inclination or ability, to enrich his narrative by analysis of the circumstances, that form the character of the hero of his tale.

Let any of my readers, how faintly so ever his opportunities for intellectual improvement may have been, recollect the books, which originally awakened his sensibility to the beauties of literature and accustom his mind to rational speculation on the affairs of life, the character of man, the history, structure and prospects of society.

There is probably no person who reads the English language, however humble his capacity, or however narrow the range of his ideas, who has not imbibed some notion of literary and moral refinement from the essays of Addison, Johnson, Hawkeforth and Mackenzie. As well might it be believed that the solar rays and genial dews, could penetrate the bottom of the earth without fertilizing the soil, as that the extensive circulation of such works as the Spectator, Rambler, Adventurer and Mirror should fail to improve and refine the general mind.

The writer of this Essay, performs what he feels to be, in the most emphatic sense of the term, a social duty, when on this subject he recommends to such of his readers as may not have been fortu enough to peruse "Essay on Popularity," by Manthus.

reading, conversation and reflection? Are not nations uniformly respectable, orderly and happy, in proportion to the degree in which they possess this ability and enjoy these opportunities? Surely, the general diffusion of useful knowledge is peculiarly desirable and even necessary among a people, who have recently organized a republican government, who profess individually a larger proportion of liberty and leisure than any other upon earth; who, from the influence of pre-established habits and peculiar temptations to excessive sensibility, are oppositely prone to abuse their inestimable boons; and who are called upon collectively and at short intervals to discharge political duties, to the faithful performance of which discernment and intelligence are indispensable qualifications.

(To be Continued on Monday.)

From the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

TO THE PEOPLE. THE DEFENCE—No. XIX.

This treaty, like every other measure of the administration, was vehemently opposed by the minority. With a temerity, unprecedented, even in the versatile region of politics, they unsaid all that they had a short time before so solemnly and eloquently affirmed; and under the talisman of party the paradise of Louisiana was converted into a howling wilderness; and in the late nursery of national strength and glory nothing but thorns and thistles and briars were now seen.

Secondly, we have gained the entire, instead of the limited, navigation of the great river in North America. Thirdly, we have secured the unimpeded enjoyment of a trade, already of great, and every year of growing importance.

Fourthly, we have removed many sources of collision on our frontier, and thereby diminished the only serious causes of future wars that threatened us.

For these great results the price paid is murmured at. With what justice, the following statement will show. Of the fifteen millions, \$7,500,000 dollars are to be paid to our own citizens for debts due by the French Government, and \$7,500,000 dollars are to be paid to France at the expiration of fifteen years, allowing in the mean time an interest of six per cent.

Table showing interest payments from 1804 to 1818. Columns: Year, Dollars, Interest.

When there will be due the principal of 15,000,000

Whole sum paid 35,996,000

According to an official document presented to Congress at the opening of the last session the annual imports of Louisiana then averaged the amount of two millions and a half of dollars, and the exports amounted to about the same sum.

and the immortations have uniformly in our country increased in a quicker ratio. It will be a very moderate computation, to consider them as destined to advance at the rate of fifteen per cent. The average duty paid on imported articles is twenty-five per cent. From these data, it will result, that the following duties will be received.

Table showing duties received from 1804 to 1818. Columns: Year, Dollars, Interest.

The first column exhibits the sums received for duties; the second those sums with the addition of the accruing interest. In order to compare the probable profit with the probable expense: from which it follows that during a period of fifteen years, duties will be received, which may be valued at dollars 54,860,000

And an expense incurred of 35,996,000

Leaving a profit of 18,864,000 which exceeds, by three millions, the whole price of the purchase.

There remains to be considered the incalculable value of from two to four hundred million of acres.

Viewed, then, in a pecuniary point of light, this event will be productive of a great national gain.

But we are told that this immense acquisition of territory will destroy the political importance of the Eastern States, and is therefore unjust, and that our enlarged domains will prove destructive of republican governments.

It is impossible to do justice to these points without descending into an extensive detail. Not attempting this, we shall satisfy ourselves with offering a few considerations that evince the incorrectness of these fears.

The eastern States, viewed in the aspect of their numbers, had, before the cessation of their comparative importance. In the year 1850, when the present census was taken, they were entitled to thirty five representatives, while the middle States were entitled to fifty; the southern to forty six, and the western to ten. It follows that, considering the confederacy as composed of certain great local sections, and the local interests of these sections; as under the guaranty of their political power the eastern section was already greatly inferior to either the middle or the southern. How then can it be said that this section will lose hereafter an importance, which it does not at this time possess. The only local competitors for power will be the middle, the southern and the western States. At present the middle States about balance the southern, and in a few years the western States will rise to an equality. And so far from the power of New England suffering from these different interests, it will constitute a kind of empire in their rivalries.

CURTIS,

Sale by Auction.

ON MONDAY, at 12 o'clock will be sold, on the premises, or payments will then be made known. A Two Story Brick HOUSE, on the south side of Pratt-street, between Market space and the lower bridge. The lot fronts 34 feet on Pratt-street and bounds on Concord-street 79 feet, which property will be sold without reserve to price.

THOMAS CHASE, auc'r. december 5.

Notice is hereby given, THAT a Book for subscriptions to the WASHINGTON TONLINE, agreeably to the terms advertised by Benjamin Stoddert, esq'r. of George-Town, is received by the subscribers, and will be opened on Saturday, the 1st day of December next, at the Counting-house of George Grundy & Nephew, and will continue open until 30,000 dollars are subscribed, or until the twelfth day of December next, when it will be returned with what subscribers may be obtained.

Married on the 29th ult. by the Revd. L. Heath, EDWARD ABSOLITH, Esq. of this city, to the accomplished Miss SARAH LITTLETON MOORE, of Charles-town, Virginia.

One of the directors of the Union Bank arrived yesterday morning from Annapolis. He states, that the charter became the subject of discussion in the lower house of the general assembly on Thursday, and that the most difficult and knotty part of the bill, the amount of the capital, had been filled up with 3,000,000 by a majority of 11; and that every other material request on the part of the stockholders would be granted in the charter.

It is with great pleasure we state that the bill to endow a permanent institution for the education of youth in the City of Washington" passed both chambers of the Council on Wednesday. A few amendments to the original bill, published in this paper, now lie affecting its leading features, have been introduced. The great object contemplated remains unimpaired.

By this bill fifteen hundred dollars a year are appropriated, and provision otherwise made for the establishment of an institution, which, if patronized with becoming spirit by the citizens of the city, will, in its effects, eminently conduce to their prosperity and respectability.

The following gentlemen have been elected Directors of the New-York Manhattan Company for the ensuing year: Daniel L. Ellw, James Fawcett, William Edgar, Isaac Clason, Paschal N. Smith, James Arden, Daniel P. Cox, Wm. C. Bowne, John Broome, Henry P. Rogers, Dewitt Clinton, George Lewis.

Number of Banks in the United States.

Table showing the number of banks in various states: Maine, New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, South-Carolina, Georgia.

Total, including the Union Bank of Maryland. 66

Judge Chase—On Thursday we published the report in part, of the committee, which had been appointed by the house of representatives of the U. States, to examine and report upon the case of Mr. Chase. The following is the eighth article, and conclusion of that report:— ARTICLE VIII. And whereas mutual respect and confidence between the government of the U. States and those of the individual states, and between the people and those governments, respectively, are highly conducive to that public harmony, without which there can be no public happiness, yet the said Samuel Chase, disregarding the du-