

THE WHIG.

"GIVE US BUT LIGHT."

BALTIMORE:
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12, 1810.

"DOCUMENTS," &c. omitted to-day shall be resumed to-morrow.

BLOCKADE.

The extracts from Mr. King's letters, from Mr. Marshall's to him in 1799, and from Mr. Madison's letter to Charles Pinkney at Madrid, dated in 1801, (and referred to in secretary Smith's dispatch to Mr. Pinkney, published yesterday) relate to the question of blockade, which, being well and generally understood we decline re-publishing these extracts—for they have been heretofore published over and over.

On principles admitted by England herself for more than a century, it is allowed that though notice be given by a belligerent of blockade, it is no infraction of it for neutral vessels to sail towards such blockaded port—they must attempt to enter it before they are legally liable to capture—it being assented to on all hands, that "that port only shall be deemed blockaded, into which no ships can enter without being exposed to an evident peril from the forces that attack the said port, and the ships that shall have taken a station near enough for that purpose."

Mr. Madison's arguments assuredly fortify the correctness of the preceding definition—but it is not arguments we now need, we want spirit and determination to enforce our arguments.

DESTRUCTION, DEATH, & the DEVIL!
[See the Federal Republican of yesterday.]

What's the matter? Is any portion of our rights or territory about to be annihilated by the legislature of Maryland?

No.
No earthquake, then?

No.
What has touched federal sensibility to the quick?

A proper distribution of surface and numbers between Calvert and Ann-Arundel counties, proposed by the senate; a distribution which ought to have been made long ago.

Poh! is that all? We remember when the federal party made a similar regulation with regard to districts between Montgomery and Frederick counties. If that change was right, how can this be wrong?

By federal arrogance and sophistry—whatever the federalists do is right, (so they would have us believe;) whatever the democratic party enact, is and must be wrong!

So, this is a false alarm?
Certainly.

We never think of the counties, districts and cities of Maryland without regret; because, we behold hideous injustice and inequality excluding the principle of equal representation. It is that radical evil which exposes democracy to danger—If Allegany has a right to 4 delegates 25,000 people in Baltimore are unrepresented. What barbarity!

LETTER MAILS.

The postmaster-general has written a letter to the postmaster of Philadelphia, of which the following is an abstract:

"As the roads are destroyed by the late extraordinary rains, the stages with the newspaper mail will be new arranged, and an express mail for letters established shortly."

Such an arrangement, was indeed much wanted to expedite important intelligence at this season.

It is well remarked, by a writer in the Democratic Press, that "If the charter is renewed the name ought to be changed: it should be called 'a Branch of the Bank of England in the United States.'"

ARBITRATION.

Of that simple and most efficacious mode of composing civil disputes, Pennsylvania affords a glorious example.—The delays and injustice arising from the mal practices of courts in their barbarous methods of proceeding, luckily drove Pennsylvania to the necessity of this remedy. It is calculated in that state, that Arbitration has in one year kept above two millions of dollars out of the lawyers and sheriff's pockets. We take the following from Mr. Snyder's last message:

"By the act for regulating arbitrations, the prothonotaries of the respective counties are requested to report the proceedings had under that act. These reports, combined with your own observations and experience, will, I trust, furnish materials for the extension and perfection of that truly christian principle, inculcated to preserve peace on earth.—Under it, right and justice may be administered without sale, denial, or delay."

EDUCATION.—We to-day, extract from the Aurora some notice of this important subject, with the intention of giving the public (as we will occasionally) some insight of the plan adopted by Mr. NEEF near Philadelphia,—a plan which, to be universally admired, only requires to be universally understood—as true education is indispensably necessary to the maintenance of freedom, the worth of such a man as Joseph Neef in a republic, surpasses calculation. By the easiest and clearest method (Analysis)

he leads his pupils from the most simple to the most complex—and so effectual is his method, that lispings boys who could neither read nor write, have given answers and solutions that have made old scholars (of the old *inverting* school) ashamed of their own comparative ignorance. Mr. Neef unites in his philosophy and practice the most rational features of the Epicurean and the Stoic. But, he is not flattered by a comparison with Zeno, Socrates, or any of the ancient philosophers. Could the system of Pestalozzi and Neef become general, in all probability liberty would be so too. Those who wish for an account of this admirable system had better read Mr. Neef's little book; or a luminous sketch may be found in a late number of the New-York Medical and Physical Journal.

"Haud in expertus loquor"—I witnessed what I declare

SIAMROUCH; OR, HIBERNIAN CHRONICLE.

GENTLEMEN holding subscription papers for the "SIAMROUCH," are requested to return them to the Editor, at his office, No. 104, Water-street, (near the Coffee-House) in time before Saturday the 15th inst. on which day the publication will commence. Such subscribers as wish to commence with the first number, and whose names do not arrive in time, may rely on having a regular series of numbers forwarded to them, as a sufficient number of papers will be struck off for that purpose. Editors out of New-York, friendly to the publication of the "SIAMROUCH," will infinitely oblige, by giving this notice one or two insertions, and a like favor, when required, will be most thankfully complied with.

EDWARD GILLESPIE, Editor.

[Gentlemen in Baltimore, desirous of subscribing to the work mentioned above, will recollect, that it will not meddle with the local politics of this country; but will be chiefly a repository of discussions, facts, speeches, poetry, and literature relating to Irish affairs.]

From the Aurora.

PRINCIPLES OF EDUCATION.

No subject can be more important in the present age, and especially in a nation that is free, and whose happiness must therefore greatly depend on the prevalence of virtue and knowledge among a majority of the people. The sentiment of Zenophon, ought to be engraven in large characters and affixed in all our public places, in the halls of our legislatures, on the doors of our schools and colleges, upon the dials of our clocks and watches, over the fire places and at our bed sides; and above all, should be the early lesson and admonition of mothers upon whom the happiness of those children, who are to form the new generation, so much depends. The sentiment is:

The greatest of all impostures is that of pretending to govern and regulate the concerns of men, without possessing either knowledge or talents. Xenop. Socrat. book 2, p. 782.

It has been the misfortune of nations as well as individuals, to imagine that they have reached the highest state of refinement, and the most perfect state of civilization. The experience which history furnishes of this great error, though some individuals have profited by it, has not been so productive of utility to society. We are apt to be flattered by self-love, or by perceiving how little more is known by our immediate acquaintances than what we know ourselves, that little more is known or can be known, unless by some laborious or Heaven-favoured few; we look back at the errors that have ceased to govern opinion, and the improvements made in science and the arts of cultivation, and seeing how much has been done, are apt to conclude that there is very little more to do. It would require a volume to sum up the various means by which we are deluded or delude ourselves; and by what strange contradictions the human mind is retarded in seeking and preserving its own happiness.

We enter into no considerations on the perfectability or innate depravity of human nature. Our ideas extend no farther than to say, that knowledge is necessary in civilized society, that it may be obtained with ease and pleasure, if we seek it properly, and that unless we do seek and obtain it, we must like all ignorant nations perish from the mere want of knowledge how to save ourselves.

The experience which mankind has already had on the vicissitudes of nations, and the revolutions of governments, should seem to operate as warnings to every people. The existence of our government as being wholly dissimilar to all, and every other which had before existed, might have told us, that the novelty of situation, would require means and faculties adequate to the maintenance of a new form of government, and a more rational order of society, in order to save it from the influence ancient prejudices or the dangers of an ignorant or incompetent administration of its new functions.

Perhaps it will be apparent in a few years, that far as the United States has outstript cotemporary nations in the invention and organization of new institutions, and the application of rational principles, to affairs of government, heretofore veiled in mystery, or disguised by fraud; that yet we are but in the infancy of social institution, and we owe much of our practical prosperity over to a concurrence in error, and the

force of prejudice employed to persuade men in the realization of their own happiness, by some remote or nominal resemblance between parts of our institutions and others, which prejudice had taught them to admire.

Our ideas were led away from the subject on education upon which we had sat down to write, by the impressions made on our mind, on perusing a work in manuscript, entitled "Review of Montesquieu's Spirit of Laws," in which the principles of civilization, the nature of government, are unfolded, and equal justice is done to the dignity of the subject, and the errors which that great ingenious man has imposed upon himself and upon mankind.

It is the perusal of this admirable work, which we understand will shortly be laid before the public; and some bold and original conceptions thrown out in a late oration delivered before the Society of Fine Arts in this city, and the more than usual interest which we find arising in different parts of the union on the subject of education, which has induced us to make this very interesting subject at all times, an object of discussion at this particular time.

Several writers have recently invited attention to this subject. We have been called upon to give our readers some idea of the treatise of Condillac on thinking—we have been asked for some account of the new method of teaching, first invented by Pestalozzi, in Switzerland—and we have been asked for some account of the system pursued by Mr. Neef, a disciple of Pestalozzi who has established a school near this city.

The respectable Wm. Maclure, by printing an edition at his own expense, and distributing copies of it to the amount of several hundreds in presents throughout the union, we had supposed made that little but invaluable work sufficiently known; or that its cheapness (price 50 cents) would have placed in every library, parlour, and bed-chamber, in the hands of every youth of 16 years old. We shall nevertheless give some extracts, perhaps a concise analysis of it in a future paper.

On the subject of Pestalozzi's system, we have seen it in German and Spanish; and understand it has found its way into Saxony, Bavaria, Denmark and Austria; besides there being schools on Pestalozzi's system, in each of those countries. The Spanish edition was printed at Madrid in 1807, and would afford to those who are zealous to cultivate human intellect and direct liberty and reason in South America, an object worthy of their regard; we mean the system not being competent to appreciate the accuracy of the Spanish tract any more than the German.

Of the school founded on Pestalozzi's principles, and established by Mr. Neef, at the Falls of Schuylkill, near this city, we are competent to form some more accurate ideas, and indeed to furnish evidence of its extraordinary simplicity as well as its very surprising effects.

We are more particularly induced to undertake the subject by two other occurrences, which bespeak a laudable interest in the development of the human faculties. We refer particularly to the subject of the following article: "The attention of the rich and munificent cannot be better diverted at the present moment, than towards a boy of six years and two months old, now in Boston, whose prodigious talents in arithmetical combinations perhaps might challenge the world to produce a similar example."

"None but himself can be his parallel."

The child was examined a few days since, by a number of gentlemen as to the extent of his faculty. He answered upwards of 200 questions of various complexity with wonderful facility, exhibiting at the same time every playful disposition of boyhood. His skillies mostly in multiplication and division; and his quickness almost exceeds credibility. When asked "what two numbers multiplied together will produce 1728, his answer was immediate, 16 times 108; 9 times 192; 12 times 144; 6 times 238; 3 times 576; 36 times 48; 8 times 216; 72 times 24; 18 times 96; and 52 times 51.

All these ten combinations were repeated in less than half a minute. He tells the number of hours and minutes in almost any given number of years, and the number of rods in any number of miles. When asked "how many times 8 made 192?" he said 61 and 1 over. Innumerable questions of this nature have been asked with equally accurate results.

The child was born in Vermont, at the town of Cabot. His name is Zerah Colburn; and is now with his father in Boston, who is an honest respectable farmer; and whose object is, in visiting the town, to produce a fund for his young ARCHIMEDES.

(Bost. Gaz.)

Let it not be supposed that we wish to disparage or diminish the merit or capacity of this promising child; by no means, we should delight to see him placed in a situation where the richness of his intellect should be made to blossom, and produce the finest fruit; this child placed at the school, which we shall describe in its operations—its method—and its success; placed at the school of Mr. Neef, the progress of such a mind is not easily calculated; we infer this from what we have seen and heard, beyond measure more complex than any operation of any numbers multiplied or divided, by boys of from 6 to 8 years old, of which we shall give one or to examples, premising that no lessons are got by rote; that this part of

the system of education precedes, both reading and writing, which are begun to be acquired only after the pupils are perfect in this description of exercises. (To be continued.)

Legislature of Maryland.

(EXTRACTS.)

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

WEDNESDAY, December 5.

The House, according to the order of the day, resumed the consideration of the bill to incorporate the stockholders of the Franklin Bank of Baltimore. On motion of Mr. Emory, the question was put that the following be added to the oath prescribed for the directors in the 5th article:—"And that I will not, if in my power to prevent it, directly or indirectly make use of any money for the purpose of usury, which I may obtain by loan or discount from the Franklin Bank of Baltimore; and that I will not buy or discount, or be interested in the buying or discounting any note or obligation at a higher rate than legal interest; and that I will not suffer any person to obtain any discounts from the bank aforesaid, whom I may know or believe to be in the practice of buying or discounting notes or obligations at an unlawful interest." The yeas and nays being taken, it was carried in the affirmative—yeas 35, nays 20.

Mr. Archer moved that the following clause be added to the said bill:—"Whereas it hath been declared by the Declaration of Rights, that every person ought to contribute his proportion of public taxes for the support of government according to his actual worth in real and personal property; and whereas the stock of the different incorporated banking companies in the state of Maryland amount to the enormous sum of six millions nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which, if taxed in the same proportion with the other personal and real property of our citizens, would bring into the treasury an annual revenue of nearly forty thousand dollars, subject to the appropriation of the legislature for purposes beneficial to the interests of the community, for the diffusion of useful knowledge, and the cultivation of the sciences among the poorer classes of our fellow citizens—objects almost indispensable in a government whose fundamental principle is the liberty of man;—for the opening and improvement of roads and the cutting canals: And whereas the independent freemen of the state, having had these laudable objects in view, have, session after session, through the medium of their immediate representatives, and by petitions to the General Assembly, loudly called for the taxation of bank capital, without effect, it would be improper, and contrary to the wishes of our constituents, to incorporate other banking companies, in addition to those which have been already chartered, without declaring it to be the opinion of this legislature, that the property of the opulent should not be protected by the inexpressible shield of the law from contributing its proportionable part to the support of that government by which so many valuable and exclusive privileges and immunities are granted, and that the important rights by this act intended to be chartered away, and which are vested originally in the people, should not be transferred without a compensation in some measure adequate to the magnitude of the grant:—

Therefore, Be it enacted, that the directors of the Franklin Bank of Baltimore, shall pay unto the treasurer of the Western Shore, the sum of ——— dollars, on or before the 15th day of March, 1813, otherwise this act, and every part thereof, shall expire, and be utterly void."

The motions to fill up the blank with 35,000, 15,000, and 10,000, were successively negatived, and 6000 agreed upon. Mr. Archer moved to amend, by adding "and 3000 annually thereafter;"—determined in the negative. It being determined that it was out of order to offer the foregoing preamble as an amendment, the question was put on the passage of the enacting clause as an amendment—determined in the negative—yeas 20, nays 39. On motion of Mr. Thomas E. Hall, the question was put that the following be added to the said bill:—"And be it enacted that all the surplus monies over six per cent arising from this institution, shall be paid into the treasury of the state of Maryland"—determined in the negative.

On motion of Mr. Bland, an additional section limiting the duration of the charter to the year 1815, was added thereto.

The question was then put, "shall the said bill pass?" and determined in the affirmative. The yeas and nays being called for, appeared as follows:

Affirmative.—Neale, Gardiner, Bell, R. Hall, W. Field, Galamine, D. Rogerson, M. Pherson, Harryman, Randall, M. Brown, Wainwright, Spearer, Jackson, Arnold Jones, Dennis, Moffett, Myrick, Groome, F. Hall, Herbert, Myers, Wilson, Handy, T. Williams, Schley, Swearingen, Cockey, Forward, Davis, Jump, Bland, Martin, Hillary, Perry.—36.

Negative.—Comegys, Marriott, Ireland, Stevens, Eccleston, Bennett, Frazier, Cross, Bowie, Mackubin, Bosley, Emory, Quinton, Archer, Street, Willis, P. Bayard, Bowles, T. Hall, Downey, W. Williams, Gaither, Abm Jones, Wharton, J. Bayard, A. Browne.—26.

CARDS, BLANKS, HINDRILLS, &c.

Neatly executed at this office.

CONGRESSIONAL.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10.

Mr. Helms took his seat on Friday last.

Messrs. Sheffey, Mumford, Porter, Gardner, Sawyer and Love appeared this day.

Mr. Lewis presented the petition of the president and directors of the Bank of Potomac, praying for a charter; which was referred to the committee on the district of Columbia.

On motion of Mr. Davenport, the usual rule was adopted for the appointment of chaplains; the balloting to take place to-morrow.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

On motion of Mr. Allston, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Macon in the chair.

The message of the president of the United States having been read—

Mr. Root moved the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That so much of the message of the president of the U. States as relates to the subject of our foreign relations, be referred to a select committee.

Resolved, That so much as relates to that part of West Florida, acquired by the cession of Louisiana, be referred to a select committee.

Resolved, That so much as relates to the encouragement of American manufactures and navigation, be referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Resolved, That so much as relates to the institution of a National University, be referred to a select committee.

Resolved, That so much as relates to the violation of laws interdicting the slave trade be referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Resolved, That that part relating to fortifications be referred to a select committee.

Resolved, That that part in regard to the militia be referred to a select committee.

Resolved, That so much as relates to the Corps of Engineers and Military Academy be referred to a select committee.

When the resolution respecting West Florida was under consideration:

Mr. Newton said he wished to know from the gentleman that moved the resolutions why he had spoken of a part of West Florida only? whether the whole was not included in the cession?

Mr. Root said he had supposed that no more territory had been acquired by the treaty of St. Idefonso, than lies West of the Perdido; whilst West Florida was understood to extend as far East as Pensacola. But if the whole had been ceded so much the better; all that part "acquired by the cession" was embraced by the resolution.

Mr. T. Moore moved to amend the resolution so as to read "so much as relates to West Florida, as ceded to the U. States."

Mr. Mitchell remarked that the resolution was about as perspicuous as could well be devised: If there was any ambiguity in it, it was derived from the message, in which West Florida was mentioned, although he believed no such name was to be found in the convention for the cession of Louisiana. If the resolution conformed to the message, it was not worth while to go into a discussion as to the different appellations which had at different times been given to the territory in question. Mr. M. took a brief view of the different transfers of that territory, observing that the term West Florida was not known in Spanish geography, being an arrangement made by the British whilst they held possession; so that, in fact, this was a question of British and American geography on one side, and Spanish and French on the other. Upon the whole, as the resolution corresponded with the language of the message, and was sufficiently intelligible at present, he opposed the amendment.

The amendment was lost. When the resolution respecting the encouragement of American navigation and manufactures was under consideration—

Mr. Burwell suggested the propriety of referring the subject to two distinct committees. This motion was supported by Mr. Allston. It was contended that the duties of the committee of Commerce and Manufactures were sufficiently arduous without burdening them also with the subject of manufactures.—Mr. Allston took occasion to observe that the subject of manufactures had hitherto been rather neglected, and it was proper that more attention should be paid to it.

Mr. Newton opposed the motion for dividing the subject between two committees. How were they to encourage manufactures, he asked, unless by laying additional duties on foreign tonnage and manufactures? Mr. N. repelle the insinuation that manufactures have exercised neglect under the guidance of the committee of Commerce and Manufactures. He contended that on the contrary they had given and bestowed under their care, although the House had never consented to take as effectual measures for their support as had been recommended by the committee.

Mr. Mitchell said he too was opposed to covering things which had in their nature an essential connection; for instance, he thought that the proposed separation of the subjects of Commerce and Manufactures was unnatural and preposterous. On a review of what has