

Not have forgot every thing he learned at school; but indeed, indeed, my friend he is no wit.

Charles Fox is highly gifted; his talents are of a very superior nature; and, in my opinion, Fitzpatrick is scarcely behind him; in the article of colloquial merit, he is at least his equal; but they neither of them possess that attic character which, while it corrects, gives strength to imagination; and, while it governs, gives dignity to wit. The late earl of Bath and Mr. Charles Townshend were blessed with no inconsiderable share of it; and it is an intemperate vivacity of genius which confounds it in Mr. Edmund Burke. But the man who is in the most perfect possession of it, has figured in so high a line of public life, as to prevent the attention of mankind from leaving his greater qualities to consider his private and domestic character: I mean Lord Chatham, whose familiar conversation is only to be excelled by his public eloquence. Perhaps Lord Mansfield was born, if I may use the expression, with every attic disposition; but the shackles of a law-education and profession, and some other circumstances which I need not mention, have formalized, and in some degree repressed, the brilliance of his genius. With respect to this great man, I cannot but pathetically apostrophize with Pope.

"How sweet an Ovid was in Murray lost!" George Selwyn is very superior to Chafe Price, but very inferior to Charles Townshend; against whom, however, he used, as I am told, continually to get the laugh; but this proves nothing: for good humoured George Bodens would have gained the prize from them both in the article of creating laughter. I may be wrong perhaps, but it has ever appeared to me that Mr. Selwyn's faculty of repartee is mechanical, and arises more from habit than from genius. It would be a miserable business, indeed, if a man, who had been playing upon words for so many years, should not have attained the faculty of commanding them at his pleasure.

B—— converses with elegance; L—— is an excellent critic; and others of the same class may be found who are well qualified to be members of a literary club, but no farther. Garrick is himself upon the stage, and an actor every where else. Foote is a mimic every where; excellent, delightful, on the theatre and in private society; but still a mimic. No one can take more pains than Mrs. M—— to be surrounded with men of wit: she bribes, she pensions, she flatters, gives excellent dinners; is herself a very sensible woman, and of very pleasing manners; not young indeed, but that is out of the question;—and, in spite of all these encouragements, which, one would think, might make wits spring out of the ground, the conversations of her house are too often critical and pedantic,—something between the dullness and the pertness of learning. They are perfectly chaste, and generally instructive; but a cool and quiet observer would sometimes laugh to see how difficult a matter it is for la belle President to give colour and life to her literary circles. It surprises me that you should leave Windham out of your list, who (observe my prophecy) will become one of the ablest men and shining characters that the latter part of this age will produce. I hazard little in such a presentiment; for his talents, judgement, and attainments, will verify it.

The gibe, and jests that are wont to set the table in a roar, promote the cheerful purposes of convivial society; but they have nothing to do with that attic conversation which is the highest enjoyment of the human intellect. Wit, believe me, is almost extinct; and I will tell you, among other reasons, why I think so:—because no one seems to have any idea of what wit is, or who deserves the title of it. To think little, talk of every thing, and doubt of nothing; to use only the external parts of the soul, and cultivate the surface, as it were, of the judgement; to be happy in expression, to have an agreeable fancy, an easy and refined conversation, and to be able to please without acquiring esteem; to be born with the equivocal talent of a ready apprehension, and on that account to think one's self above reflection; to fly from object to object, without gaining a perfect knowledge of any; to gather hastily all the flowers, and never allow the fruit time to arrive at maturity; and all these collected together, form a faint picture of what the generality of people, in this age are pleased to honour with the name of wit.

You must not be angry with me for this long letter; but rather be thankful that it is so short, considering the subject you threw before me, and the desire I have to set you a thinking on a subject of which you

seem to have formed very wrong notions. I again repeat, that true wit is expiring, and great talents also. My words are prophetic, and a few years will determine the matter. It would not be a difficulty to prove the why and the wherefore; but of all subjects, these half metaphysical ones are the most unpleasant to Your's, &c.

WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24th, 1800.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The following are the amendments to the constitution of the United States proposed by Mr. Nicholas on Friday, which were referred to Messrs. Nicholas, Harper, Macon, Griswold and Evans.

Previously to reading them, Mr. Nicholas noticed the propositions submitted by him during the last session, and the extraordinary provisions made in a bill received from the Senate, and stated the improbability of his voting for his own propositions, in case they had been called up by the house.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States, two thirds of both houses concurring, that the following articles be proposed to the legislatures of the U. States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United State.—

1. That after the third day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and one, the choice of Electors of President and Vice-President, shall be made by dividing each state into a number of districts, equal to the number of Electors to be chosen in such state, and by the persons in each of those districts who shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the legislature of such state choosing one Elector in the manner which the legislature thereof shall prescribe.

2. That the election of representatives to serve after the third day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and three, shall be by dividing each state into a number of districts equal to the number of representatives to which such state shall be entitled, and by the people within each of these districts who shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the legislature of such state choosing one representative in the manner which the legislature thereof shall prescribe.

On FRIDAY the House authorised their door keeper to employ an additional assistant, and to hire two horses; to enable him to do which they allowed him twenty eight dollars per week during the session and for twenty days after its close.

On SATURDAY, after attending the delivery of the President's Speech in the Senate chamber, returned to their own chamber, when the speech was again read, and referred to a Committee of the whole house, Mr. HARPER in the chair.

The Committee, having taken the speech into consideration, made report that a respectful answer should be presented to the President, with the assurance that an attention would be paid by the house to the several important matters submitted to them.—The house agreed to the report, and Messrs. Griswold, Nicholas, Macon, Craik, and Henderion, were appointed a committee to prepare the address.

MONDAY, Nov. 24, 1800.

The SPEAKER read a letter from OLIVER WOLCOTT, Secretary of the Treasury, stating, that with the approbation of the President, he had determined to resign his office at the close of the year; and inviting, if the house deemed it fit, an investigation into his official conduct.

IN SENATE, Nov. 22.

Messrs. Tracey, Morris, and Baklwin were appointed a Committee to prepare an answer to the President's speech.

A Trenton paper of the 18th instant states the total federal majority in the state of New Jersey to have been about 3,500 in the late elections for representatives in Assembly.

Accounts have been received from North Carolina, which state the 12th elector chosen for that state to be republican.

The Rutland (Vermont) paper says the snow fell four inches deep in that place on Thursday evening the 23d ult.

John Bacon and Phaniel Bishop, both republicans are elected members of the House of Representatives of the United States for Massachusetts. The Boston paper states the probability that General Dearborne, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Cutts, also republican, are elected.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

The appearance of the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER has been protracted to this day, by the unavoidable, though anticipated embarrassments attending the removal of a Printing Office. The vessel, which contained the greater part of the materials, sailed from Philadelphia on the 20th of September; but did not arrive in this City till the 25th inst. owing to her having been driven on shore by the violence of the late storm. This information is given to remove any censure that may have been thrown upon the Editor for his unexecuted delay.

The Editor, at the commencement of his duties, considers it as not improper to state the nature of the plan, which he intends to pursue, and to notice the principles by which he proposes to regulate his own conduct, as well as those by which it is expected that Correspondents will regulate theirs.

Various political opinions divide the civilized world. These opinions in some cases are diffused by the press; in others by the sword. Amidst this collision of hostile sentiments no surer safeguard of human happiness exists, than the liberty of the Press.

There is truth in the declaration the venerable CONGRESS of 1774, who in their address to the Inhabitants of Quebec, speaking of the freedom of the press, say "The importance of this constitution, besides the advancement of truth, science, morality, and the arts in general, in its diffusion of liberal sentiments on the administration of government, its ready communication of thoughts between subjects, and its consequential PROMOTION OF UNION AMONG THEM, whereby oppressive officers are shamed or intimidated into more honorable and just modes of conducting affairs."

But while the Editor classes with our dearest rights the Liberty of the Press, he is decidedly inimical to its licentiousness.

As, on the one hand, the conduct of public men and the tendency of public measures will be freely examined, so, on the other, private character will remain inviolable, nor shall indelicate ideas or expressions be admitted, however dignified by satire or enlivened by wit.

No sentiments whatever, on the prevalence of which the general good depends, will be excluded from enquiry and discussion. Guided by this principle, the editor need not caution the public against ascribing to him, a belief in all the opinions which may occasionally be supported, or a disbelief of those which may be opposed. For as he means not to surrender his own sentiments, so he does not expect that those who write for the National Intelligencer will surrender theirs.

In the admission of compiled as well as original articles, it will be his object to be impartial, and to exhibit, as they exist, the varying opinions and actions of men. Let it however, be considered, that impartiality does not consist in the ACTUAL ADMISSION of as much political matter on one side as the other; but in a readiness to insert articles of merit on either side.

Aware of the equivocal character of PROFESSIONS, and convinced that the public judgment will be formed, as it ought to be, from the manner in which the National Intelligencer shall be conducted, the Editor will add only one remark. His Paper will be PURELY AMERICAN. It will be his effort to promote the true interests of his own Country, uninfluenced either by foreign attachments or enmities.

THE FOLLOWING are the TERMS on which the National Intelligencer will be published, subscribed to which is the address which accompanied the Proposal Papers.

1st. The NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER shall be printed three times a week on good semi paper, and with a new type

2d. The annual subscription shall be FIVE DOLLARS paid constantly in advance by all subscribers not residing in the City of Washington, and SIX DOLLARS paid by those who reside in the City; in which case the payment shall be half yearly. It being understood that subscribers, residing at a distance from the City of Washington, are invariably to pay for a year in advance, and in every such case the transmission of the Paper will cease as soon as the period shall expire for which payment shall have been made. No paper will be forwarded in any instance until the money is actually paid.

3d. All Letters to be post paid.

The Editor of the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER, impressed with the great importance of the present crisis, and with the strong necessity of having conducted, at the seat of the General Government, a newspaper, that may claim the reputation of being useful, by diffusing unperverted facts, and correct political ideas, has determined to enter upon the arduous duties which such an object involves. He is well apprised of the expence and exertion which such an establishment requires. But he confides in the prompt and energetic co-operation of the friends of truth and of their country in the different parts of the Union. As it is his firm determination, that nothing shall be admitted into the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER, which shall wound national, or calumniate private character, so it is his unalterable purpose freely to insert, and earnestly to invite, whatever shall promote the general welfare.

this, and this only, shall be the motive by which his professional department shall be guided.

Hitherto, in the management of the UNIVERSAL GAZETTE, the Editor has confined himself, agreeably to the original plan, to recording events as they occurred, with but little animadversion on their causes or effects; and as far as opinions were involved, to relating those of others rather than his own. The Universal Gazette will still be continued on the same plan; the only change that takes place, will arise from its being printed at the seat of government at Washington, instead of Philadelphia; whereby its value will be appreciated rather than impaired.

With respect to the National Intelligencer, another plan will be pursued. Over a faithful and comprehensive detail of facts will preside a spirit of investigation, a desire to enlighten, not only by fact, but by reason. The tendency of public measures, and the conduct of public men, will be examined with candour and truth.

In addition to the mass of information, formed by domestic and foreign events, and especially by a detailed statement of the debates and proceedings of Congress, as much original matter will be furnished as the exertions of the Editor shall be able to command. And if he be not deceived, he can promise the readers of the National Intelligencer, an organ, which shall communicate the language of truth with accuracy, with dignity, and with spirit.

October 31st, 1800.

The Managers of the Washington DANCING ASSEMBLIES inform the Subscribers that the first Assembly will be held at MR. STILLE'S HOTEL, on Tuesday Evening next 25th Instant half after 5 o'clock.

CONRAD & MUMMUN

HAVE opened houses of entertainment in the range of buildings formerly occupied by Mr. LAW, about two hundred paces from the Capitol, in New Jersey avenue leading from thence to the Eastern Branch. They are spacious and convenient, one of which is designed for stage passengers and travellers, the other for the accommodation of boarders. There is stableage sufficient for 60 horses.—They hope to merit public patronage.

City of Washington, Nov. 24, 1800.

JUST IMPORTED.

IN the ship Missouri, via Philadelphia, and now opening for sale at the Subscriber's Store on New Jersey Avenue Capital Hill, Square 690.

A General Assortment of Ironmongery, Cutlery, Sadlery, Brass Wares and Building Materials.

Among which are the following Articles. Iron pots, frying pans, chaffing dishes, Brass, iron and Japan Candlesticks, patent metal reg kettles and sauce pans; japanned tea trays, waiters and Bread baskets, sad irons, wired up Jacks, Sweeping, scrubbing, hearth and shoe brushes; Mathematical instruments, mahogany knife cases, filled with ivory handled knives and forks. Cruet stands, ladies dressing cases; mill, pitt and cross cut saws, 56, 28 and 14lb. Iron weights. Also scale beams to weigh from 5 to 10 cwt. at an end.

HENRY I. GLE. November 24th, 1800.

WASHINGTON BOOK-STORE.

RAPINE, CONRAD, & CO. Corner of South B. Street and New Jersey Avenue, near the Capitol.

HAVE just received, and for sale at the above store Letters from Alexander Hamilton, concerning the public conduct and character of John Adams, Esq. President of the United States.

Also, just opening, a choice assortment of books in History, Law, Medicine, Divinity, Arts and Sciences, Classics, School books, Novels, Romances Biography, &c. &c.—With a good assortment of super royal, royal, medium, demy, and foolscap writing paper, thick and thin post, blue & common wrapping paper. best Dutch quills, wafers, sealing wax, ink powder, red and black ink, black lead pencils, parchment, laying cards, blank books, &c. &c.—All which they will dispose of at the very lowest prices.

Public officers and others, who will please to favour them with their custom, may rely on having the strictest attention paid to their orders. Nov. 17th, 1800.

JOHN BARNES,

FROM PHILADELPHIA,

Has just opened for sale the following articles at his store opposite Mr Semmes's tavern, in Georgetown, a general assortment of

Fresh Teas of the first quality, viz. Imperial, Large Hyson, Young Hyson, Hysonskin, Souchong and Bohea.

SPICES.

Nutmegs, Mace, Cinnamon, Cloves, Four bags fresh Almonds.

LIQUORS.

Madeira, six years old, Dry Sherry & Port, Brandy, 4th proof Jamaica Spirits, and Holland Gin.

COFFEE,

Pennington's best refined sugars.

With a handsome assortment of gentlemen's fashionable London HATS and trimmings.

He has likewise for sale, ten cases well assorted STATIONARY, consisting of writing paper of different qualities, Quills, Wafers, and Ink powder, in packages from 80 to 180 dollars on the most reasonable terms for cash or approved notes.

English and American playing cards, Pasteboard per groce, Wrapping paper per ream, A case of 7-8 and yard wide Irish Linen per piece.

Nov. 14th, 1800.