

**OF THE COCHINEAL INSECT.**

The cochineal, to which we owe our beautiful scarlet and purple colours, has not yet been found any where but in Mexico. It is an insect of the size of a bug. The two sexes are distinct, as in most other animals. The female, fixed upon a point of the plant, almost from the first instant of its birth, remains always attached to it by a kind of trunk, and presents to the eye only an hemispherical crust, which covers all other parts. This covering is changed twice in twenty-five days, and is sprinkled over with a white and thick dust, which is immiscible with water. At this period, which is that of puberty, the male, which is much smaller, and more slightly made, issues out of a farinaceous tube, by means of wings with which he is provided. He flutters over the immovable females, and fixes upon each of them. The same female is thus visited by several males, who perish soon after fecundation. The bulk of the female visibly enlarges, till a drop of liquid, which escapes from under her, shews that eggs, which are in great numbers, will soon make their appearance. The little insects burst their covering at the time of their birth, and soon spread themselves over the plant, to choose a favourable spot to fix upon. They particularly endeavour to shelter themselves from the east wind. Accordingly, the shrub upon which they live, when viewed on that side, appears quite green, while upon the opposite side, which the insects have preferred, it is white.

This shrub, which is known by the name of nopal, or Indian fig, is about five feet high. Its stem is fleshy, large, flattened, downy, a little rough, and covered with clusters of thorns, regularly disposed upon its surface. Its branches out very much, and grows narrow, as well as its branches, at every point of ramification: this gives to each portion of the plant thus made narrow, the form of an oval, thick, and thorny leaf. It hath no other leaves but these. Its flowers, scattered over the young stems, are composed of a scaly calix, which supports several petals and stamens. The pistil, surmounted with a single style, and concealed, at the bottom of the calyx, grows along with it into a fruit that is fit for eating; it resembles a fig, and is full of seeds, fixed in a kind of reddish pulp.

There are several species of nopal. Those which have a smooth stem, with a number of thorns placed too close to each other, are not fit for the breeding of the cochineal. These insects thrive well only on that sort which hath few thorns and a downy surface proper to give them a firmer footing. Wind and cold and rain, as well as too much damp, are injurious to the plant.

The mode of lopping the trees is not advantageous. It is better to replant it every six years, by putting several pieces of the stems into cavities of some depth, disposed in a quincunx, or a square, at the distance of six or eight feet from each other. A spot thus planted, and distinguished by the name of NOPALRY, is usually no more than one or two acres in extent, seldom three. Each acre produces as much as two quintals of cochineal, and one man is sufficient to cultivate it; he must weed frequently, but with precaution, in order not to disturb the insect, which would not survive if it were displaced. The cultivator must also take care to get rid of the animals that would destroy the plant; the most formidable of which is a caterpillar, which makes its way even through the inside of the plant, and attacks the insect underneath.

Eighteen months after the plantation, the nopal is covered with cochineals: but in order to distribute them more regularly over the whole plant, and to prevent them from their proximity, small nests, made of the outside rind of the cocoa, open to the west, and filled with twelve or fifteen females ready to lay their eggs, are fixed to spines at certain distances. The little ones which come out, fix themselves on the nopal, and attain to their utmost growth in two months, which is the limited duration of their life. They are then gathered, and this operation is renewed every two months from October to May. The crop may be less valuable if it should be mixed with any other kind of cochineal of a lower price, or if there be a great quantity of males, which are in little estimation, because they are less, and that they fall off before the time. This crop is to be gathered some days before the laying of the eggs, either to prevent the loss of the eggs, which are rich in colour, or to hinder the little ones from fixing upon a plant which is already exhausted, and must be left to itself for a few months. Beginning then by the bottom of the plant, the cochineals are successively detached with a knife, and are

made to fall into a basin placed underneath, one of the edges of which being flattened, adapts itself exactly to the plant, which is afterwards cleaned with the same knife, or with a cloth.

Immediately before the rainy season comes on, in order to prevent the total destruction of cochineals, which might be occasioned by the unwholesomeness of the air, the branches of the nopal, loaded with infant insects, are cut off. These branches are laid up in the houses, where they retain their freshness, as all mucilaginous plants do. Here the cochineals thrive during the bad season. As soon as that is passed, they are placed on trees, where the vivifying freshness of the air soon makes them procreate.

The wild cochineal, a different species from the fine or mesleque cochineal, we have been speaking of, but cultivated in the same places, and on the same plant, does not require so much care and precaution; it is a more hardy insect, and bears the injuries of the air better. The crop of it is consequently less variable in the produce, and may be gathered all the year. This insect differs from the other, inasmuch as it is more voracious, less abounding in colour, and enveloped in a kind of cotton, which extends two lines all around it. This species multiplies more readily, spreads further and faster without any assistance; so that a nopalry is soon covered with them. As its produce is more certain, as its price is equivalent to two thirds of that of the finer sort, and as it propagates upon all the species of nopal, it may be cultivated with success, but separately; because if it were placed near the other, it would starve it, and therefore might also be smothered under the down. This species is also found in Peru, upon a very prickly nopal, which is extremely common there.

As soon as the cochineals are gathered, they are plunged into hot water to kill them. There are different ways of drying them. The best is to expose them to the sun for several days, by which means they acquire a red brown colour, which the Spaniards call *renegrida*. The second method is to put them in an oven, where they assume a greyish colour, streaked with veins of purple, which hath given them the name of *jaspeada*. But the most imperfect, which is what the Indians most generally practise, consists in putting them on plates along with their cakes of maize; in which process they are frequently burnt, and called *negra*.

Though the cochineal be classed in the animal kingdom, the species of all others the most likely to corrupt, yet it never spoils. Without any other care than merely that of keeping it in a box, it hath been preserved in all its virtue for ages.

This valuable production would probably succeed in different parts of Mexico; but hitherto scarce any besides the province of Oaxaca, hath seriously attended to it. The crops have been more plentiful upon a barren soil, which is beneficial to the nopal, than upon a soil naturally fertile; they have experienced less accidents in an agreeable mild exposure, than in places where the heat and cold were more sensibly felt. The Mexicans were acquainted with the cochineal before the destruction of their empire. They made use of it to paint their houses, and to dye their cotton.

**Notice is Given**

THAT I shall attend at the Eastern Branch Ferry on Monday, the 29th inst. for the purpose of renting the Fishing Landing. If any person should want to rent it, with whom I am not acquainted, security will be required.

JOHN WALLACE, of Wm.  
December 22, 1800.

**Thomas Carpenter, TAYLOR,**

GRATEFULLY acknowledges the numerous favours conferred on him, and informs his friends and the public that he has entered into partnership with CHARLES VARDEN, likewise from Philadelphia, on Capitol Hill, opposite Mr. CARROL's buildings, where, as well as in Pennsylvania Avenue, between the Presidents House and George Town, from their long and extensive experience in Military, Naval and Fancy dresses, and in Ladies Habits &c. and from their having procured the best of workmen and materials, the utmost taste and punctuality might be expected.

Two apprentices wanted.  
Washington, Dec. 22.

**TO BE RENTED,**  
FOR a few months, a Two story brick house with 4 rooms, together with mahogany chairs, bureau, sofa, bedstead, looking glasses &c. enquire of HENRY INGLE, New-Jersey Avenue, Capitol hill. Who has just received a few Coal Grates in addition his assortment of Hardware.

H. INGLE.  
Dec. 2, 1800.

**20 Dollars Reward.**

RAN away from the Subscriber, living in Frederic County, Virginia, a Mulatto boy named Tom, about twenty years of age, of a sturdy make, about five feet nine inches high, he has no particular mark.—He will endeavour to pass for a free man.—He has a mother, a black woman, slave to Mr. Frederic Conrad, living in the Federal City; where it is conjectured he will harbour. The above reward will be paid on his being brought home, or Ten Dollars if procured in any jail and information given to

A. LINDO.  
December. 22.

**Kid, Eliot & Co.**

HAVE received by late arrivals, a general assortment of Hard ware and Ironmongery, which they offer for Sale at their Store opposite the Great Hotel.

They have also on hand  
Madeira, }  
Sherry & } Wines.  
Lisbon }  
Cogniac Brandy.  
Jamaica Spirits,  
Holland Gin,  
Loaf and Brown Sugar,  
Tea, Coffee, &c. &c.  
Washington, Dec. 18.

**To RENT.**

A Commodious Two Story brick dwelling house on square No. 701—the lot is well enclosed and hath every necessary out house, and is very convenient for a small family—it may be entered on immediately, the terms made known and the premises shown by applying to  
BENJAMIN MORE.  
Washington, New Jersey Avenue,  
December 17, 1800.

**FORTY DOLLARS REWARD.**

FOR Apprehending and securing in any Goal, so that the Subscriber gets him again. A NEGRO MAN named NACK, ran away some time in the month of October, aged Thirty years, about five feet high, light complexion, wears his hair queued, a well set trunked fellow. I have cause to believe he is in the City of Washington. It is unnecessary to describe his Clothing as he will have it in his power to change them. I will give TWENTY DOLLARS if ten miles from home, THIRTY DOLLARS if twenty miles, and the above reward if a greater distance.

ZACHARIAH SOTHORON.  
Charles County near ned October 8, Def

**JOHN MINCHIN, BOOT MAKER**  
FROM PHILADELPHIA.

RESPECTFULLY acquaints his FRIENDS, CUSTOMERS, and the PUBLIC, that he has removed his BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTORY from near the Eastern Branch, to New Jersey Avenue, on the hill, near the Capitol, where he makes Gentlemen's Boots, Footers, dress and undress Shoes on the shortest notice, in the neatest manner, and of the best materials.  
December 3d

**TO JOURNEYMEN SHOEMAKERS.**

WANTED, a number of Journeymen Shoemakers, to whom constant employment and good wages will be given.

**CITY OF WASHINGTON.**

FOR SALE,  
Lot No. 9, in Square 122.

THE above is inferior to few lots in this city, being but two squares west of the President's Square, commanding an extensive view of the Potomac, it is a corner lot, and fronts 155 feet 10 inches on F. Street, and 59 feet and an half inch on 20th Street.—An indisputable title will be given on receiving the amount of the purchase money. For terms apply to the subscriber a few doors east of the Little Hotel.

JOHN KEARNEY.

N. B. I will also sell Lot No. 4, in Square No. 421, fronting 55 feet 3 inches on the Pennsylvania Avenue, and extending back 150 feet to an alley of 30 feet wide, with the advantage of a 15 feet alley along side of it; and Lot No. 24, in Square No. 378, fronting 51 feet 5 inches on Ninth Street, and running back 107 feet 2 inches to a 30 feet alley. West India goods will be taken in payment for a considerable part of the above property.

I. K.  
November 17, 1800.

**CONRAD & MUMM**

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.

NOTICE is hereby given to all whom it may concern, that two Tracts of land belonging to CHARLES GRANDPRA lying in the County of Pickering in the Mississippi Territory, and adjoining land belonging to Adam Bingham are attached by a Foreign attachment at the suit of Joseph Calvet for a debt of 2063 dollars 50 cents

JOSEPH CALVET.  
Nov. 28, 1800.

**CONVEYANCER'S OFFICE.**

THOMAS HERTY has opened an office a few yards from the Capitol, on the New Jersey Avenue, where he will attend daily till 3 o'clock during the sitting of Congress, and in the afternoon, at his office opposite the Little Hotel.—Conveyances of land, wills, mortgages, leases, assignments, copartnerhip deeds and dissolutions, marriage settlements and separations, letters of licence and commission, bills of sale of vessels, slaves, and other chattels, bonds of conveyance, and other bonds, powers of attorney, awards, manumissions, partitions, exchanges, petitions, annuities, post obits, testaments wills and powers, and all other instruments in the above line, are drawn according to the legal import of the same respectively, with the utmost punctuality, accuracy, secrecy, and dispatch, and on moderate terms.

Titles investigated, and opinions given where necessary.

N. B. Herty's Abridgment of the laws of Maryland, approved and sanctioned by the Attorney General and Legislature of Maryland, may be had at the above office, price Six Dollars neatly bound and lettered; also Herty's Digest of the Laws of the United States, price Three Dollars, neatly bound and lettered.

December 5, 1800 twtf.

**RAN AWAY**

FROM the Subscriber on the 10th inst. Negro FIDELIO, well known about the City, and it is thought he is Lurking about Mrs. Young's where he has a wife. I will give a generous reward for having him put in Jail, and One Dollar for flogging him and bringing him home. All persons are also forewarned from crediting any person on my Account, without an order from under my hand, and also from Harboring my People, or permitting them to cross the Ferries without a line from,

JAMES R. DERMOTT.  
St. Elizabeth, Dec. 15, 1800.

This day is Published and for Sale

BY

**RAPINE, CONRAD & Co.**

AT THE WASHINGTON BOOK STORE,  
Corner of South B. Street and New Jersey Avenue, near the Capitol.

A FEW remarks on MR. HAMILTON's late Letter, concerning the Public conduct and character of the President, price 25 cents.

The BEGGAR GIRL and her Benefactors 3 Vols. by Mrs. Bennet author of Welsh heirs. Juvenile indiscretions, Agnes De Courci, and Ellen Countess of Castle Howell. price 3 dollars, neatly bound.

**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, Saddlery, Brass Wares and Building Materials.

Among which are the following Articles.

Iron pots, frying pans, chaffing dishes, Bras, iron and Japan Candlesticks, patent metal tea kettles and sauce pans; japanned tea trays, waiters and Bread baskets, sad irons, wind 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, pit and cross cut Saws, 56, 28 and 14lb. Iron weights. Also scale beams to weigh from 5 to 10 cwt. at an end.

HENRY INGLE.  
November 24th, 1800.

**LOTS FOR SALE,**

In the City of WASHINGTON.

THE SUBSCRIBER offers for Sale a number of valuable Lots beautifully situated between the Capitol and the Eastern Branch. Also a few Lots to be let on lease for ninety-nine years in the vicinity of the Navy yard.

WILLIAM PROUT.

City of Washington, December 12, 1800

N. B. A few Tons of good Meadow Hay, one Kiln of Bricks, and some Cord Wood.

W. P.

**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 Tocha.

**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,  
Passeboard per groce,  
Wrapping paper per ream.

A case of 7-8 and yard wide Irish Linen per piece.  
Nov. 24th, 1800.