NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOURNALIANA—No. III.

He who attends to the English newspapers, the scope which they give themselves, and the tone which they take as to persons, things, and opinions, is apt, we think, to come to the conclusion that the Press is, practically, freer in Great Britain than it is in this country; and, of course, this freedom of opinion in that leading direction is but a token of a greater freedom there of all opinion; since the Press—the Newspaper—is only the organ, the expoment, of the general thought of the day. Liberties, for instance, are taken there with the great, with the powerful—with the sovereign, with the Parliament, with the authorities, temporal and spiritual—which among ourselves are not, and perhaps cannot be. Is it that, being of more solid foundation and less subject to be shaken than ours by momentary opinion, they are more tolerant and better-tempered? Possibly. The strong reality of orders may feel a security and admit familiarities which the more personal and temporary tenure of eminence cannot brook—just as the long-descended and undisputed noble has less need to fence himself about with ceremonial and haughtiness than has the parvenu new-raised to the peerage; or as Catholicism, when it held undivided sway over Europe, could allow its followers (as Rabelais or earlier Boccaccio) to joke with it as the heat of some new-risen sect of now-a-days could not safely permit to any levity of any of his flock, in the midst of adversaries. Let the reason be, however, as it may, certain it is that John Bull contrives, without any public disapprobation, to be, in a behind way, a good deal more free-spoken about those who govern him, and even about his institutions, than is exactly usual in the United States, unless in the most violent heats of party, when not political toleration makes men bold or gives them impunity, but the protection of a numerous faction, whose cause they assist. Many books directly advocating a republic have been published in England—as Sydney's and Locke's and Bentham's in particular. Let some lady try, if he will, to do the like in this country, and write in favor of monarchy, or against popular government! Or consider the satires of Dr. Wolcott (Peter Pindar—the "Lousiad," &c.) against George III. or Byron and Moore the "Irish Avatar" and "Tom Crib's Memorial") against George IV. and especially, in Victoria's day, the universal jaw-hooped, at Prince Albert's coming over to be married, on the German poverty of his wardrobe—the paucity of his stockings, the state of his shirts and pocket-handkerchiefs, the dilapidation of his boots, and the decided "seediness" (very unclassical but horribly descriptive word, which we can't avoid) of his whole personal array. Indeed, loyal as she is, England has, from the very first accession of the Hanoverian line, diverted herself at now the manners, now the pronunciation, or the habits, or the dulness, or even the madness (see Byron's "Vision of Judgment") of her Kings. They are a pageant of the State at which she will have her jest; but a pageant necessary to her laws, and which, for their sake, she bears, (even while she laughs. She has had the wisdom to disarm her Executive and make him a mere symbol of her constitution, a sort of image of her Government. Good he can do, but no harm; for she can make him do what she likes. He cannot carry on the Government except through so-called "servants," a Ministry; and *that* she makes him change the moment she does not like its measures. Thus, always watchful of the Throne, she is never afraid of it; and, though claiming and very liberally exercising the right to laugh at it, knows when and how to reverence it.

In this British license of debate, turning (as it ought to do) the whole public who can read into audience and all who can write into critics of the rulers, before the still higher supervisory power of the ruled, Parliament is often handled, like the King, with exceedingly little ceremony, though still with decency; for, as to this latter point, the British press—now seldom constituted out of any but well-educated men, who have character to lose and possess abundant experience to guide them—understand the value of a good name (and especially its value to a journalist) quite too well to rush into the folly of flinging away, in unjust or heedless aspersions, its own respectability in order to damage that of an adversary, or that error (so common in this country) of attempting to serve a party or power by the sacrifice of what should most support it—reason truth, candor, and decorum. If one *does* want to destroy other people's character, the best means to that charitable end is to have much care of his own.

Under this better state of Journalism, then, the Press—dependant on its own individual reputation rather than government patronage which is very little in Great Britain; or on party favor—is neither the hireling advocate of that, nor the unscrupulous instrument of this; but, to a great degree, even when adhering to the general cause and course of one or the other, the common censor of both. Such is the independent position which the London *Times* has, by commanding abilities and a powerful combination of capital with parts, achieved for itself. The *Chronicle*, the *Examiner*, and the *Spectator* are little behind it in the respectability and the independence which they maintain. They are all—and surely this is the great political object for which the Newspaper should exist in a free country—rating the daily domestic counsellors for the people (not the ministers and apologists for Power and all its measures, or the confederates of Party, too often intent on little but becoming Power in its turn. Which, then, the chief London papers hold towards Parliament, as we have said, a language frequently by no means complaisant, at times that body merits and receives such signal and high praise as the following. It is from the *Chronicle*, and its occasion is one of the debates on the Ministerial bill for removing the Jewish disabilities which do not as yet permit Baron Rothschild to take the seat for London to which he has been elected:

"The very interesting discussion which came to so satisfactory a termination on Friday night, is in every respect creditable to our new House of Commons. Of the many debates which have taken place within our time on questions of this class, we do not remember one that has exhibited the temper and judgment of Parliament to greater advantage. We say this with no exclusive reference to those admirable speeches of the noble mover and the more influential of his supporters, which must so powerfully impress all minds capable of appreciating breadth of thought and generosity of sentiment. The whole tone of the discussion is indicative of a general progress to wisdom and liberal ways of thinking. There was a very moderate amount of nonsense spoken. There was an almost total absence of those offensive manifestations of vulgar bigotry, and those irritating appeals to vulgar prejudice, which at any former period would inevitably have played a large part in the argument. Some, in particular, of the weapons once familiarly used in this controversy were expressly abandoned by the leading champions of exclusion; and the attempt thus made to keep the discussion within the bounds of propriety and decorum was not frustrated, to any serious extent, by unseemly escapades of the *odium theologicum* on the part of their humble coadjutors. The debate had warmth without passion, and was interesting and animated without the slightest assistance either from party zeal or rhetorical antagonism. As the course taken by the leaders of all political sections had dissolved, for the occasion, the ordinary restraints of party, and left every man free to do and say what was right in his own eyes, the absence of angry and intemperate resistance to a claim which would once have roused a perfect tempest of opposition is especially gratifying."

That King of England who, usurping and cruel as he was weak, drove his people to Runnymede, able and virtuous King John, kept, like our President—who has almost made himself a King—a somewhat empty Subtreasury; and when he wanted to replenish it for foolish wars, had a Jew's teeth torn out of his head, one by one, until the almost fangless Israelite consented to take stock in a new loan which his Secretary of the Treasury was then proposing for. Better days have dawned, thank God! for the children of Jacob: they now retort upon kings and pull *their* teeth for them. In the times of *Old* Hickory, it was one of the crimes of the United States Bank that "it drew foreign capital into the country:" that fact was "dangerous to our freedom:" but, under *Young* Hickory, his organ absolutely exults in Baron Rothschild's—a British M. P.—having lent our President money! Thus the progress of liberality among us, from the age of Old Hickory and the Richmond *Enquirer* to that of Young Hickory and the *Union* is almost as great as in England, from the time when Hebrews were supposed to steal Christian children and cut their throats, down to the moment when London city votes a Hebrew into Parliament, to aid in watching over all the children of England!

When Gibbon had written his "Decline and Fall"—that most learned, masterly, and instructive of histories—with, however, one terrible fault—the very able yet charitable Bishop Watson replied to its anti-Christian portions, by his Apology. A private correspondence ensued, full of the mutual respect and kindness which became two such illustrious champions of opposite, but candid opinions. About the same time Dr. Priestley—himself a leader in doctrines then held hardly more orthodox than Gibbon's own—also drew the latter into a private correspondence of the same sort, in the course of which a controversy arose, in which the Doctor lost his temper and threatened, by way of making Gibbon popularly odious, to publish his letters. In short, Priestley, himself so much needing charity, displayed as little of it as Watson much. These two correspondences (which may be found in Gibbon's *Miscellaneous Works*) form a curious contrast and a striking example of the persecuting spirit which may inhabit the bosoms of men complaining of persecution. It is quite like our own fierce old "Pilgrim Fathers," who fled from England out of love for "Religious Liberty" and then lashed Quakers for exercising it, and drove Roger Williams to Rhode Island, for daring to think, on points of faith, one inch wise than their own "League and Covenant" contained. It was in vain that all these people had suffered spiritual injustice: they would not learn one good lesson for which Jove, according to Gray, gave his darling child Virtue at school to Adversity.

> Stern, rugged nurse! thy rigid lore
> With patience many a year, she bore:
> What sorrow was, thou bad'st her know;
> And from her own she learned to melt at others' woe.

But while in the British Parliament a religious liberality, such as we have just now seen, was exhibiting itself, Glasgow, a great seat of learning, was affording, and that in her very University, a very different spectacle. We have a good account of the scene in the following extract from a London paper. The occasion was the late Parliamentary measure, of which Lord John Russell was a supporter, for educating papists as well as Protestants, by giving a public endowment to the Catholic College of Maynooth. A part of the story—that about Wordsworth as a candidate in particular—will be found amusing enough:

"Among the students of the University of Glasgow, from the age of thirteen or fourteen upwards, a portion fancy that they are Tories; another portion, some of whom fancy that they are Liberals, and a few that they are the reverse, unite in the notion—a common one in Scotland among men and women, as well as young boys—that the endowment of Maynooth is a political error, deserving the severest reprobation, both of boys and men. At the election for the Lord Rectorship, in November last, the Maynooth question was fiercely mooted. The Liberal party in the University (that portion excepted who could not forgive Maynooth) agreed, after having debated for a season upon the respective merits of Mr. Macaulay, Lord Morpeth, and Lord John Russell, to support the pretensions and claims of the Premier. The Tories and Conservatives, joined by all those who thought the Maynooth question the only essential one, agreed to support the claims of Mr. Wordsworth, the poet laureate, in opposition to any and every Liberal candidate. The election was signalized by the usual jokes. Young gentlemen indulged in all the bitter animosities which are but too common among their seniors, to the annoyance and discomfort of the very respectable personages, to the great disturbance of the quiet of the neighborhood, and to the cruel neglect of their own studies. The Wordsworthites denied Lord John Russell's statesmanship; the Russellites returned the compliment by affirming that whatever Mr. Wordsworth might be *quoad* Maynooth, or *quoad* any thing else, he was no poet—quoting 'Betty Foy' and the 'Huge Balloon' in proof of the assertion. The Wordsworthites, somewhat disabled, between wit and more insults, 'No Popery' and 'Poetry forever.' The Russellites retorted by indignant shouts of 'No Cassandle, and 'Sixteen-stringed verse-making.'

"On the votes being taken, there appeared two 'nations' for Lord John Russell and two for Mr. Wordsworth, the votes composing the 'nations' being numerically greater in favor of the poet than of the Premier. The chairman of the meeting, who is always one of the professors, gave the casting vote, to which he was entitled, in favor of Lord John Russell. His lordship accepted the honor, which we need observe he never solicited; and all parties, friends as well as foes, were pleased, when the ballot was over, that so illustrious a name had been added to the annals of the University. The Lord Rector is elected on the understanding that he should, although subject to annual re-election, hold office for two years at least, and that he should present himself at the University within the first year for the purpose of installation. Lord John Russell was acting, it appears, to conform to the usual custom. Publicousness was, however, of too serious and severe a nature during the current year to admit of his visit a fortnight, and the period of re-election arrived before an opportunity had been afforded for the ceremony of installation. The Anti-Maynooth Tory candidate, remembering their last year's defeat, resolved on a contest. They found the Liberal students somewhat disconcerted by the non-arrival of their Lord Rector, and, giving Mr. Wordsworth the go-by, they selected Lord Mahon of Chevening, M. P. for Reigate-shire, as his lordship's successor, and carried his election by a considerable majority. Colonel Mahon is a moderate politician and a sensible man, and we are very fine weather to boast of in his victory. The citizens of Glasgow have nothing cared to take any other interest in these elections than to wish them should end. They were doubtless happy at the prospect of having Lord John Russell among them, and anxious moreover to wish all the enthusiasm which the Liberal cause produces in that city, and with all the respect and honor which his lordship merits, both in his public and private character, for the election of 1846, or that which has just ended, they take no part. The days are gone when there were considerations of the highest importance as indicative of public opinion. When Sir Robert Peel was elected some years ago, it was a fierce contest, and any victory for Toryism, when so achieved by the votes of students, was of too great account in the estimation of the Conservatives to be allowed to occur without a vigorous shouting of exultation. Party feeling has almost died out in Glasgow since those days—any more than may yet exist having been transferred into religious questions. The citizens generally look with contempt upon the annual display, and we truly wish that the custom was allowed to fall in the University of the Capulets, and to be only remembered by its breach (let no schoolboy take offence at the word) and not by its observance.

Meantime, as it to carry us back to the days of Lord George Gordon's "No Popery" riots—the days when England trembled at the cry of "Wooden Shoes!"—or to a not no remoter time when (see *Espriella's Letters*) on one of the great Christian feast-days, all the population of an English town rushed, at the hour of the Resurrection, into the streets, crying

> "He is risen! He is risen!
> "All the Jews must go to prison!"

there are still folks in that country who appear never to have come down to any better ideas than those for which Shakspeare drew his *Shylock*; and one of these folks is, it seems, a British Earl. The nobleman's views seem just about upon a level with those of "Front-de-Bœuf," in Scott's "Ivanhoe;" and, verily, his Christianity may, after all, be much the same as that worthy's! We copy from the London *Morning Chronicle*, which deigns no further commentary than that conveyed by the title which it prefixes:

"The Anti-Jewish Mania.—The *Standard* of last night publishes the following address from the Earl of Winchilsea:

"Weldon, December 18, 1847.

"*Fellow-Countrymen:* To those amongst you who have not been imbued with the falsely-styled Liberal, but truly Infidel principles of the present day, and who still value the inestimable blessings which Christianity has conferred upon our country—to those amongst you who still regard it as your highest duty, and your most exalted privilege, to uphold that blessed religion which our crucified Lord and Saviour bequeathed to us as the most invaluable of all earthly possessions—I call upon you at this hour of national apostacy and infidelity (by every duty which you owe to yourselves, your children, your country, and to your God, and by that awful account which we shall all have to give before his tribunal) boldly and firmly to declare to the majority of the nominal professing Christians of the lower house of Parliament, who, by their votes last night, have placed Christianity and Judaism upon the same footing within the walls of that house, that you are prepared to bury yourselves under the ruins of your country, rather than suffer the Christian character of the Legislature to be destroyed, and the foul and unbearable stigma to be attached to our land that England has become a Christ denying people.

"I have the honor to be, with every respect, your most obedient faithful servant,

"Winchilsea and Nottingham."

In the midst of all this, it is gratifying to find that one of the leading advocates for the removal of the Jewish Disabilities is a young and very promising Catholic nobleman, whom we may find some other occasion to commemorate with due honor. We trust that when Baron Rothschild shall take his seat in Parliament, he will not turn about and repay him in a violent philippic against Pius IX, by ringing a great alarum about the danger to English freedom from the progress of Popery, and a Hebrew outcry against the old scarlet lady of Babylon. Nations just emancipated cannot gracefully insist upon being permitted without reproach to enslave others; and when men are getting the new benefits of liberalized thought and the recognised right of holding what faith they fancy, they ought certainly to display a little tolerance, nor pass from persecuted into persecutors.

NATIONAL WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

Information is received from Mr. J. W. Eckloff, appointed by Dr. Burr sub-agent in the 1st Congressional district in Virginia, that the contributions for the National Washington Monument in the borough of Norfolk are far more liberal than they were in 1846. More money has been realized in a few days there than was obtained in the district when an appeal was formerly made to the people; and several have assured Mr. Eckloff that they will contribute at a future period, when they can do so more conveniently than at present. Being accompanied by Capt. Page, he was favorably received at the Navy Yard at Gosport, and at the last account the operatives were preparing for a liberal contribution. An example worthy of their imitation was set by the operatives at Pittsburg.

Samuel Whitcomb, Jr., Esq., sub-agent in the counties of Windsor and Orange, Vermont, reports favorably, considering the season of the year he commenced his services. He is qualified to appeal to the gratitude and patriotism of the people of his district, and much is anticipated from the wealth and liberality of the good citizens of that State.

A VENERABLE PRESENT.

Mr. Custis, of Arlington, has presented to his son-in-law, Capt. R. E. Lee, of the U. S. Engineers, an officer whose brilliant services in the Mexican war have elicited the praise of *all the Generals*, a sword, with the following inscriptions: "The gift of General Washington to George W. P. Custis, 10th of January, 1799." "Presented by George W. P. Custis to Captain Robert E. Lee, U. S. A., the 22d of February, 1848."

This ancient sabre is peculiarly venerable, from its being *the only sword that Washington ever presented in his lifetime, and with his own hand*, to a human being.

When presented by the Chief to his adopted son, (then an officer of cavalry,) in 1799, it was attended with the injunction: "This sword, sir, you are never to draw but in a just cause, or in defence of your country."

When this interesting relic of a past age shall arrive in Mexico, will not many a martial spirit of our gallant army delight to grasp a hilt that once was grasped by the Father of his Country?

The Washington Sabre will remain a short time at Mr. Keyworth's, where executing the inscription.

The Boston Money Market was very tight on Monday. About 2½ per cent. discount was a fair quotation for gold paper.

In New York, on Wednesday, money was quite scarce, and good paper was sold at 1½ per cent. per month. The Journal of Commerce says:

"The deposites have been reduced at the banks one third within a few weeks, chiefly, as is supposed, for investments in Treasury notes. Men who have connections in France do not disposed to draw at present, nor are others disposed to buy; the consequence is that some $75,000 in silver are to be shipped by packet to Havre. Mexican dollars 14 a 15 premium, pieces of 5 a 95 cts. each; sterling bills are plenty, and the top rate is 9½ premium."

The Works of John Quincy Adams, which will make some four or twenty large octavo volumes, it is stated will be soon given to the press by Mr. Charles Francis Adams, the son and executor of the deceased statesman, who has carefully revised them for publication, and has by his will appropriated a sum of money to defray the expenses of printing, &c. Among the unpublished writings of Mr. Adams is a new version of the Psalms in Metre, a translation of Wieland's Oberon, and several minor poems; but the chief portion of his MSS. consist of historical, biographical, and political works, relating to the last half century.

Diabolical Murder.—Mr. Rade, manufacturer and vender of Homœopathic medicines, residing in Fourth street, Philadelphia, was found yesterday morning, in his bedroom, stabbed and cut in fully twenty places, and in the agonies of death. His wounds were of such a nature that no hopes were entertained for his recovery. The terrible tragedy does not end here. Mrs. Rade, wife of the unfortunate victim, was also found in the same room with her husband, entirely dead, having been literally hacked and cut to pieces. No clue has yet been had to the perpetrators of this horrid crime.

A Liberal Offer.—We know an instance in which a manufacturer prefers, rather than to reduce the wages of his operatives, to offer his mills, machinery, and his own services for three months to those operatives, without any charge therefor, and let them divide the profits of the three months' manufacture among themselves for their services. His operatives give satisfaction, and many of them have been in his employ for a long time, and he dislikes to do any thing that may dissolve the connexion that exists between him and them.

[*Pawtucket Gazette.*

Supreme Court of Louisiana.—Their Honors on the 13th instant gave their decision in the case of *Amy glas Lafobalguarre* vs. *The Second Municipality*. The suit involves the interests of this section of the city more vitally, since the question to be decided (for the case is not one of a row at an end) is the right to the immense batture which has been formed, and is still annually increasing in extent, in front of the Second Municipality. The plaintiff claims possession to a considerable portion of it, opposite St. Joseph street. The original batture, it will be recollected, was bequeathed to the city, on condition that no buildings be erected on it. The Council of the Second Municipality, in the general interest of the inhabitants, about a year or eighteen months ago, proposed to form three or four streets on this batture, and the intelligence of this intention brought forth a host of claimants, of whom Madame Delabigarre was, we believe, the first to test her rights before the judicial tribunals of the State. In one of the lower courts she obtained judgment in her favor, and the case was then carried on appeal to the Supreme Court. Their Honors had had the subject under consideration for some time, and yesterday they gave judgment as follows: "It is therefore ordered that the judgment in this case be reversed, and that plaintiff's petition be dismissed, with costs in both courts." This does not put a final stop to litigation, as the plaintiff, who is, we believe, a resident in Philadelphia, can carry her claim to the Circuit Court of the United States, and eventually to the Supreme Court at Washington.

[*New Orleans Times.*

Frozen to Death.—The Maryland Reformer, (Rockville,) reports the death of Mrs. Sage, an aged and worthy lady, who, on returning home from a neighbor's house, on Monday night week, fell into a stream of water and was found frozen to death the next day.

The Rockville (Md.) Journal says that the jail of Montgomery county (Md.) is at present without a tenant. The Journal adds, "This is no unusual thing of late, as crime is of rare occurrence in our county."

FROM MONTEREY.

The Monterey Gazette of the 26th ultimo is filled with a graphic account of the celebration of the anniversary of the battle of Buena Vista. The celebration took place at the Governor's palace on the 23d. The officers of the 16th infantry gave a splendid dinner to Gen. Wool and the officers of the army now with the division who shared with him the perils and achieved the victory of the ever-memorable 22d of February, 1847. The General was in excellent health and spirits, and entered with zest into the festivities. Toast, story, reminiscence, song, and sentiment went round the sumptuously spread board, and several very pertinent speeches were made. We copy a sketch of that made by Gen. Wool, in giving the following toast:

"General Taylor: He has returned to the bosom of his family crowned with a wreath of laurels, and bearing on his shield the victories of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Monterey, and Buena Vista."

General Wool remarked that he thought it a proper and fit occasion, seeing so many gallant spirits present, to contradict a statement which had been published in the United States, and recently as coming from the other line, that at some period of the two eventful days of the 22d and 23d of February, 1847, when, as Santa Anna said, blood flowed in torrents, and the field of battle was strewed with the bodies of the dead, that he had advised Gen. Taylor to fall back, or retreat from the position occupied by the American troops at the pass of Angostura. He declared the statement to be wholly and totally false, and without the shadow of foundation. The idea of abandoning that position had never for a moment occupied his mind; so far from it, he considered it the only position in the valley of Saltillo where a small force could maintain itself against a large one; and had selected it as early as the 23d of December, 1846, two days after his arrival at Agua Nueva, under the earnest entreaty of Gen. Worth to come and assist to repel Gen. Santa Anna, who he supposed was approaching Saltillo with a large army. He was confident that he could defend it with his column, at that time about 2,700 strong, against any force which it was probable Santa Anna could bring against it. He further remarked that such was the strength of the position that but for the unfortunate and most unexpected retreat of Col. Bowles's regiment, the 2d Indiana volunteers, the Americans would have defeated the Mexican army early in the day. The attack in the centre had been repulsed with great loss by Washington's battery; the advancing columns sent to attack and force the left had also been repulsed and dispersed, when, at this moment, Bowles's regiment fled, under his order to retreat, the field of battle. The engineer in the staff of Santa Anna says in his report of the battle that if the Americans at the time they dispersed the advancing columns had pushed on, the Mexicans would have been defeated; Santa Anna seeing our troops flying the field, hastened up fresh columns of lancers, drove back Lieut. O'Brien, now captain, and forced our left.

Monument to the Memory of Alexander Barrow.—A monument has been made by Mr. Mayles, of Philadelphia to be placed over the grave of the lamented Barrow, late United States Senator from Louisiana. It is twelve feet high, being four feet broad at its base, and of the Grecian order of architecture. On the shaft in front is the United States coat of arms, and the top is surmounted with a cap, on which is a festoon of oak wreaths, being emblematic of the loyalty with which he so faithfully served his country. The inscription is as follows:

TO THE MEMORY OF
ALEXANDER BARROW.

He was born in the State of Tennessee, on the 27th day of March, 1801, and died in Baltimore on the 20th of December, 1846, being, at the time, a Senator in Congress from the State of Louisiana, of which he had been a citizen for twenty-five years.

The venerable Dr. Strang, of New York, died on Saturday, after an illness of two weeks, caused by the absorption of virus while probing a mortified limb.

Naval.—The U. S. ship *Relief*, Lieut. Comm. Jenkins, arrived at Pensacola on the 12th instant, after a passage of nine days from Anton Lizardo, Gulf of Mexico.

The Relief brought no news from Mexico. Commodore Perry hoisted his flag on board of the steam frigate Mississippi, Commander Mackenzie, on the morning of the 1st instant, and proceeded from Vera Cruz along the coast to the eastward, accompanied by the steamer "Lexington," Lieut. Comm. Herndon.

Movement of Troops.—The transport ship Christiana sailed from New York for Vera Cruz on Saturday, carrying out a detachment of troops from Fort Columbus, under orders to join the army in Mexico. The detachment numbers 290 men. They were accompanied by ten officers, to wit:

Col. A. C. Ramsay, 11th infantry, commanding; Capt. C. S. Merchant, 3d artillery, as passenger; 1st Lieut. P. D. Wallen, commanding company I, 4th infantry; 1st Lieut. J. J. F. Quinty, 3d artillery, A. C. S., commanding company D, 4th infantry; 1st Lieut. J. W. M. Lane, mounted rifles, commanding company I, 3d infantry; 1st Lieut. J. A. Grier, 9th infantry; 2d Lieut. G. T. Shaler, 6th, 6th infantry, 2d Lieut. J. Bedell, 9th infantry, 2d Lieut. W. Schoonover, 11th infantry; and Acting Assistant Surgeon, J. Hewitt, U. S. Army.

Baltimore, March 22.

My despatch from *Philadelphia* does nothing that is new, except that Ex-President Van Buren has arrived in that city. He was in the cars to which were attached the engine and tender that yesterday fell through the bridge at Newark. This was a frightful accident, and it is presumed that it did not involve a great loss of life. The engine was new and of extraordinary power, and the engineer, having run it but two or three times, was not acquainted with its speed. As the Newark bridge was approached, the draw was up and a sloop preparing to pass. The engineer saw the signal flag flying, but did not reverse the engine till the train was going on the bridge. It could not then be stopped; the locomotive ran off and went to the bottom. The baggage car followed it, and the forward second-class passenger car ran half over, when the wood work gave way which held it to the freight car, and it hung pendent over the chasm. Only one person was killed. He was the fireman of the Raritan steamboat, which was burnt on Monday, and was on his way home to his family at New Brunswick. His name was Charles Sanderson. He jumped from the car upon the bridge, striking his head and ribs against the beams and falling into the water below. The engineer and firemen also jumped off; the former was badly hurt, and the latter escaped without injury. The baggage crates floated down stream, but were towed back and the baggage taken out.

Memphis, (Tenn.) March 10.

Shooting Affray.—During the noon adjournment of the Memphis Commercial and Criminal Court yesterday, Judge E. W. M. King, its presiding Judge, furiously assaulted, with a pistol and cane, C. Irving, Esq., junior editor of the Enquirer, for an article published in the Enquirer of that morning, censuring Judge King's conduct and interference at the corporation and county election polls on Saturday last.

Judge King, it is said, discharged three barrels of a revolving pistol, one of which lodged in the surface of Mr. Irving's wrist and another striking the hand of Mr. Dashiell, the hotel-keeper. He also used his cane, and severely beat Mr. I. over the head and face with his pistol. Mr. I. had his pistol to drop from his hand at the time his wrist was shot. He knocked the Judge down, it is said, with his own cane, which he had thrown down after first striking Irving. They were finally parted while closely clinched and both down upon the floor. Mr. Irving is a small, weakly man, and the Judge a stout six-footer and over. That it was a most unwarrantable assault, admitting of no palliation whatever, is the general voice of the community so far as we have heard its expression, and that has been quite a free one.—*Eagle.*

Examination on a Charge of Murder committed fourteen years ago.—Mr. John Cook, Jr. of Winchendon, was arrested on Monday of last week, on a warrant from Justice Phillips, of Fitchburg, charging him with the murder of his wife, in 1834, by administering arsenic. The friends of the deceased had some suspicions of poisoning, at the time of her death, and some recent developments have greatly increased these suspicions. The body was kept in a tomb, and has continued in a remarkable state of preservation. The remains of the stomach and bowels were brought to Boston a few weeks since by Dr. Alfred Hitchcock, of Ashby, and a chemical analysis was made by Professor Webster, at the Medical College, who obtained four or five grains of arsenic, as testified before the magistrate. The testimony of the nurse of Mrs. Cook, the sexton, and some eight or ten medical gentlemen, showed a strong *prima facie* case against the prisoner, who was committed by the Justice to Worcester jail, to take his trial for murder at the next term of the Supreme Court.—*Boston Atlas.*

REVOLUTIONARY CLAIMS.—I am in possession of authentic documentary evidence of the services and claims of the officers of the Virginia State Line and Navy to half-pay for life, and bounty lands, and of the officers of the Continental Lines of the several States to pensions, commutation pay, and bounty lands. The evidence will be furnished, or the claim prosecuted at the option of the claimant.

Letters directed to Gen. John P. Duval, Attorney at law, Tallahassee, Florida, post paid, will be attended to.

oct 14—eptf JOHN P. DUVAL.

COMMUNICATIONS.

SUGGESTIONS UPON THE FOREIGN NEWS.

TO THE EDITORS.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton: Recent events, always by natural association, rouse the mind to reflection on the past. In some degree human history may be regarded like the seasons, differing in different epochs, but renewing similar phenomena. Abdication of political power is one of that class of facts which has individual examples from time to time, produced by various causes. In Brande's Dictionary the article "abdication" concludes thus: "Abdication is said to 'differ from resignation, the former being unconditional, the 'latter done in favor of some other person.

This definition is defective in fact and principle. Abdication is, under all its forms, also resignation; but may be unconditional, according to circumstances. Of the ancient abdications history has preserved the record of two; first, that of the Dictator Sylla, ante C. 75, and that of the Emperor Diocletian, A. D. 305. These were, from the inherent tenure of their power, without any condition.

In modern ages abdication had the same effect in most cases as would have been produced by death. Of those the most remarkable were in Europe. The Turkish Sultan Amurath II, about 1443; Charles I. as King of Spain, and Charles V. as Emperor of Germany, 1555; Christina, daughter of Gustavus Adolphus, and successor to her father, as Queen of Sweden, 1654; and that of Victor Amadeus, King of Sardinia, 1730.

In each of these cases the abdication was made in favor of the person who would have succeeded by established right, and the operation was no otherwise *a favor* than leaving the sceptre, crown, and throne to the legal inheritor. Sultan Amurath II. abdicated in favor of his son Mahomet II, and, though the father was compelled to resume the sceptre by the Turkish army, and hold it to his death in 1451, the son then succeeded.

Charles V. when he abdicated his royal and imperial power, would have gladly left both to his son Philip, and did so, as far as Spain and its dependencies were at his disposal; but having contributed to make his brother Ferdinand King of the Romans, the empire of Germany passed in the very same manner that it would have done had Charles died in 1555, in place of having abdicated. The same observation may indeed be repeated as regarded the succession of Philip II.

Christina, Queen of Sweden, has been made rather the heroine of romance, than represented as a real character in history. The history of Germany (vol. 9, Barre, in French, now open before me, page 852) in a few words removes the mist thrown over the character of that extraordinary woman:

"This Princess renounced the crown of Sweden. Born with a genius of an exalted order, she far preferred the conversation of the learned than to reign over a people who knew no other science but that of war. She rendered herself as illustrious in quitting the throne as her ancestors had done by its affirmation in arms. The Protestants blackened her character because she had abjured their communion, and the Catholics, on the contrary, made too high a triumph on the conversion of a woman who was in fact only a philosopher. She retired to Rome, where she passed the remainder of her days in the centre of the arts which she loved, and for which, at the age of twenty-seven, she had renounced a kingdom.

"Before abdicating, she engaged the States of Sweden to adopt as successor her cousin, Charles (X,) son of the Elector Palatine and Duke of Deux Ponts."

Charles X. was grandson to Charles IX, and great grandson to Gustavus Vasa, and undisputed heir to the throne of Sweden, when the elder line failed in the family of Gustavus Adolphus. What transpired in this case, as in so many others, was leaving a throne vacant to be filled by the legal inheritor. James II. of England, under the imposed charge of abdication, was, in substantial fact, dethroned.

WILLIAM DARBY.

Washington, March 20, 1848.

GUTTA PERCHA AND CHLOROFORM.

TO THE EDITORS.

Gentlemen: Permit me to request the introduction of this notice, showing the new use to be made of *Gutta Percha* and *Chloroform*. Whatever may be the ultimate opinion of the safety of chloroform in surgical operations, there can be no doubt of its uses as proposed by the writer of this article. And having had one painful operation performed upon myself under the influence of chloroform with perfect success, and without any attendant effects not very way pleasant, I trust the world is yet to know with certainty the exceptions to its use, where case must be sacrificed for safety. G. W.

FOR THE BOSTON JOURNAL.

Mr. Editor: In the use of Chloroform as an anæsthetic agent we have already seen quite too many questionable results to give it a preference in practice over sulphuric ether. Still we may rejoice that it is possessed of *peculiar* and most valuable properties. To say nothing of its wonderful *anæsthetic* powers on animal functions, it moves thus far a perfect solvent for all the vegetable gums. Even Gutta Percha, which yields to no other agent, and for which a solvent has never been made public, dissolves readily in chloroform, and, without the application of caloric, is held in solution in such a manner as to render its greatest benefits immediately available.

I take the liberty to send you by our worthy express agent, Mr. Foster, a phial of this solution, to be examined at your leisure. You will find that wherever a thin coat of it is applied, especially to the surface of the body, an apparently new skin is formed. The chloroform instantly evaporates and the percha alone remains, forming a plaster as free as isinglass from irritating qualities, and as pliable and impervious to air and water as the skin itself, and at the same time almost as adhesive. Applied in larger quantities it forms shields or splints for dislocated or fractured limbs.

Will you have the goodness through your columns to suggest to the medical profession a trial of this preparation in dressing such wounds, &c. as need only to be kept tightly adjusted and protected from atmospheric action?

Yours, truly, E. S.

Andover, March 13, 1848.

COMMUNICATED FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

I have in my possession a lithographed receipt which certifies that the possessor of the said receipt has paid to Mr. J. W. Eckloff, agent, the magnificent sum of two dollars towards the erection of the National Monument. Having proved so generous a contributor to furtherance of this stupendous enterprise, may I not, Messrs. Editors, consider myself at liberty to say a few words concerning the proposed undertaking.

I have never been concerned (nor do I ever expect to be) in constructing a public work of any sort, and therefore I do not speak from a practical experience; yet I have no doubt there are many who will not consider me hypercritical in declaring that I was *most seriously disappointed* when I first got sight of the engraved representation of the proposed Monument. I saw there a tall Egyptian structure (the admired obelisk, supposed by many to be a device from an antediluvian era, to the present and future ages) pointing far aloft in its simple majesty, and nobly indicative of the character of him whose memory it is designed to honor; but I saw it resting, like a giant upon a foreign stock, from a "pantheon" whose style of architecture (although in itself splendid) is as utterly incongruous as the crescented minaret of the Turk is with the purer styles of structure to which it has been appended.

It is to this union of dissimilar—this modern manufactured "compound site," that I do object, and object most decidedly. The nation wants a consistent structure—a structure which, at the present and at a future day, must excite the admiration and satisfy the judgment not only of the barbarian, but of the cultivated mind—a structure which will stand confessed among all nations and in all ages to be without reproach—a record as well of our taste as of our devotion.

Suppose a building, constructed in all other respects after the Pantheon, were lighted, by the modern fancy of some bank or custom-house director, with Gothic windows—suppose the Doric column were set in fuller relief by the pointed arch and diamond pane behind it, would not such an exhibition be condemned, and upon strictly reasonable principles? And yet the incongruity in the proposed Monument would not be greater than this. The grandeur of the Egyptian obelisk style is only equalled by its simplicity; the grandeur of the Grecian style is perhaps surpassed by its beauty; and both seem to my eye to be utterly unsuited for combining. Each is distinct in itself—each is perfect in itself. Why amalgamate what belongs to different cycles and to different races? We of America have already gained a name for irreverence of antiquity; let us not, in our grand "national" design, deserve that name by striking our doughtiest blow at the hallowed orders of architecture! It was a daring act in that artist who, in the Capitol building in Washington, introduced the "golden ear" of Virginia upon the time-sanctioned Corinthian capital, among the leaves and flowers of a more eastern growth; but that innovation, although sanctioned by national pride, was comparatively hidden in a private part of the *interior* of the building, there to stand the test of time and criticism!

But I have said enough, Messrs. Editors, to make myself understood. I am sure that my remarks will be appreciated by all who consider them impartially. I write in no captious spirit; I write for the purpose of finding fault with no individual, and with no committee. I pen this article as I would record my vote. The Monument is yet *to be* built. Were it completed, I should have felt no disposition to send you a communication of this sort. The architect who has shown so much taste in the proportions and adjustment of the different parts can, I am sure, propose a whole which would not appear incongruous to even the most fastidious. The nation does not want originality in architecture in the seven-thousandth year of the world. We ought to be satisfied with consistency. When we deviate from an approved path, we *may* go wrong. It is true that the Doric, which has been chosen for the "Pantheon," is the most majestic of all the styles of Grecian architecture; but still does it not savor too much of the ornate to be united with the Egyptian? Or is not the obelisk too severe to be united with *it?*

We have been forewarned by the examples of other centuries; we should be forearmed. The Romans, the Franks, the Turks, the English, have all tried this system of "engrafting," and have all failed signally. Let us not risk it! The monument which a nation's vote has before accorded to the illustrious departed (I mean the giant statue of Washington, now in your city) can be characterized only as a splendid failure, and this because the Roman symbols were thrown around the American hero.

Let us profit by our warnings, and none will be better pleased at the attainment of perfection in this Monument of the people than the mother of the patriot and sage whose remains now repose in the bosom of his own beloved

March 15, 1848. VIRGINIA.

TO THE EDITORS.

Cambridge, March 13, 1848.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton: Having just received the number of the *National Intelligencer* of the 10th instant, which contains M. Le Verrier's letter upon the planet Neptune, I hasten to reply to his strictures upon myself, and trust that you will do me the justice to insert my reply in an early number of your journal. *M. Le Verrier* has not touched the main point at issue, which is contained in my original communication to the American Academy, including it probably among "the strange assertions in America" with regard to which he was "resolved to be silent." In whatever light it was viewed by him, it has commanded sufficient respect in Europe to be republished at full length in the most eminent astronomical journal in the world, and which rarely republishes any thing, viz. in *Schumacher's Astronomische Nachrichten*.