CHEMISTRY MADE PLAIN!

PROPOSALS,

FOR PUBLISHING BY SUBSCRIPTION,

A NEW WORK,

ENTITLED,

PLAIN DISCOURSES ON THE CHEMICAL LAWS OF MATTER,

Containing a General View of the Principles and improvements of the Science of Chemistry, with a particular Detail of those Parts which are common and connected with domestic Affairs.

ADDRESSED TO THE CITIZENS OF AMERICA:

BY THOMAS EWELL, M. D. OF VIRGINIA.

Honorary Member of the Philadelphia Medical Society—and one of the Surgeons of the United States Navy.

To the Promoters of Useful Knowledge.

I HAVE ventured to present for your patronage a new work. It is a system of chemistry divested of such technical terms as retard the study, by those persons not desirous of entering into the useless refinements of the science; and it will convey particular descriptions of those processes that are for domestic purposes. The object of the work is to render the study of chemistry less difficult, more general and agreeable, as well as to lead to *Improvements* in various *Arts*.

Long has the greater part of mankind labored under difficulties which might have been avoided by an acquaintance with the discoveries of philosophers. During the study of most sciences, we notice improvements unknown to the majority of the people; and in no one have these become more conspicuous than in the science of chemistry. Since the wild conjectures of deluded men were banished from its annals, the study has become one of the most useful and interesting to ALL of common understanding. The science is now characterised by a simplicity, hostile only to the pride of the pedantic scholar.—Its extensive scenes are open, and with powerful attraction invite the entrance of the intelligent in the pursuit of pleasure, of information, or of most of the arts. An entrance is desired, that the wonderful beauty and wisdom displayed in the operations of nature may be contemplated with rapture, in parts neglected by the vulgar as a "dreary void."

To those in the pursuit of pleasure, the study of chemistry affords the greatest delight. The conversion of solids into volumes of vivifying airs, and of airs and other fluids into solids, are processes which although inferior to many in chemistry, give unusual satisfaction. To know the composition of the substances surrounding us, with their connection and relation to each other, and to understand many of the arts of chemists, will impart to the mind an agreeable action, while they increase its capacity to make improvements. And such are the fascinating powers attached to the pursuit of this knowledge, that France is fast becoming a nation of chemists, in consequence of the general study of the science, by the ladies as well as gentlemen.

The respectable *Cultivators* of land will be much benefitted by an acquaintance with chemistry.—It will teach them the properties of the soil they cultivate, the art of making manures, and the kinds of vegetables as well as *Manures* best adapted for their respective farms. An idea of this may be formed from the famous fact, that by a judicious management of the grave yards at Paris, such quantities of salt-petre were procured for the powder manufactories as to enable the French government to prosecute their war!

To be able to detect the presence, and discriminate between the noxious and innocent metals, as well as to make most useful combinations of them; to ascertain the constituents of medicinal springs; to detect the adulterations of *Wines* and other drinks; and to correct corrupted airs, must be of consequence to most individuals.

The burning of bodies—The Arts of making GUNPOWDER *and* SALTPETRE *—common* SALT*—and all other* SALTS *—of* TANNING LEATHER*—Of purifying and preserving animal and vegetable Matter—Of* DYING *and* PAINTING *—Of making* GLASS *and* EARTHEN WARE*—Of* BREWING *—* DISTILLING, *&c. &c. depend on* CHEMISTRY.—No doubt most of them would be improved by a further cultivation of the science, which, from its simplicity, could be done in but a small part of the time often misspent by the artists. This will appear less doubtful, by the following extracts from a letter I received from the President, Mr. Jefferson—and from one received from Judge Washington, of Mount-Vernon.

"*Monticello, August* 1805.

"Of the importance of turning a knowledge of chemistry to household purposes, I have been long satisfied. The common herd of philosophers seem to write only for one another. The chemists have filled volumes on the composition of a thousand substances of no sort of importance to the purposes of life; while the arts of making bread, butter, cheese, vinegar, soap, beer, cider, &c. remain totally unexplained. Chaptail has lately given the chemistry of wine making; the late Dr. Pennington did the same as to bread and promised to pursue the line of rendering his knowledge useful to common life; but death deprived us of his labors. Good treatises on these subjects should receive general approbation.

"Accept of my salutations,

"and assurances of respect,

"TH: JEFFERSON."

"*Mount Vernon*, 13*th Sept.* 1805.

"I have long thought that a work upon the plan you suggest, was much wanted by those who form the great bulk of readers on chemical subjects. I have not met with a single treatise which has not appeared unnecessarily obscured by technical terms, which only scholars can understand. They have been more generally addressed to the comprehension of professional and learned men, than to those of the humbler walks of life; for whose use this science might be made most essentially to contribute, by adapting it to their capacities, and by pointing out the way by which its principles may be applied to the more common arts, in which they are daily employed. You will I think do great good to society and . . . . . by executing such a work as you propose. My best wishes will accompany you in your labors, and I shall be happy to aid them as far as I can.

"BUSH: WASHINGTON."

But, fellow citizens for you to know the beauty, the Connection, and the Importance of the science I wish to communicate to you, it is necessary that you know the science itself. To relate in the most intelligible terms the discoveries of chemical philosophers will not be the extent of my labors I shall offer a new view of the art of ascertaining the fertility of lands, and of the formation of vegetable juices, which has been approved of by some distinguished characters. I shall also relate some original experiments, a part of which establish a hitherto disputed doctrine concerning heat, and throw light on the art of enriching impoverished land.

You will now determine by your subscription, whether the desire of one to disseminate knowledge highly useful and interesting to most of mankind shall be gratified—whether the proposed publication shall appear.

T. EWELL.

TERMS OF PUBLICATION.

As soon as a sufficient number of subscribers are obtained, the work shall be put to the press. It will be comprised in about 500 pages, Octavo, and be printed on good paper with suitable type. A general Index will be annexed to the work—with proper drawings of the apparatus commonly used by chemists. The work shall be delivered in boards to Subscribers at Three Dollars per copy.

☞ Subscriptions received at this Office.

Under a well grounded belief in the great good that would result from a more general knowledge of the science of chemistry, or laws of lifeless matter, I have issued proposals for publishing a new work on the subject for common use. Surely my fellow citizens will no longer delay giving the desired support, if they will but reflect on the intimate connexion between chemistry and most of the arts—the immediate advantages resulting to the community from a knowledge of the improvements that have already been made—and the prospect of making still greater improvements by the artists—after they are acquainted with the principles of the science. The discoveries whereby salt-petre can be made from articles usually thrown away—leather tanned in the same number of days that formerly required weeks—pot-ash procured in large quantities from corn stalks—tainted meats made pure—the rancidity of butter completely corrected by the most simple processes—independently of the great improvements in other arts, and particularly in agriculture—are alone sufficient to recommend a work of the kind to public patronage.

M. Chaptall, after stating that in the province of Languedoc in France, he had annually instructed from 3 to 400 persons in the principles of chemistry, goes on to speak of the glorious effects his labors had produced, by observing—"that our manufactories are daily increasing in perfection, that several new kinds of industry have been introduced; that in a regular succession abuses have been reformed, while the processes of the arts have been simplified; that manufactories of alum, of oil, of vitriol, of copperas, of white lead, &c. had been established in several parts of the province. Chemistry is therefore (says he) essentially connected with the reputation and prosperity of a state."

The great revolution in Languedoc and other old provinces, is not comparable to what might be wrought in new countries, and particularly in the United States, where nature has lavished her favors. At present we are ignorant of the value of the surface of our earth; but no doubt, when led duly to estimate it by chemistry, riches will be derived from manufactories, erected even on apparently barren fields.

Every individual learns something of the laws of matter—often, perhaps, without knowing that that he is learning chemistry. Were the science studied systematically, but for a short while—much more information might be treasured up with less trouble; and the person would be more capable of making discoveries interesting to all mankind. The time will no doubt come, when the study of chemistry will be as common as that of arithmetic. I shall be exceedingly glad to be instrumental in hastening this desirable event—and shall certainly be so, if my fellow citizens will but for a moment think on the wonderful beauty and great utility of the science of chemistry. T. EWELL.

George-town, Nov. 5, 1805.

**** Those Editors who have been so kind as to insert the proposals in their papers, are respectfully requested to publish the above.*

Twenty Dollars Reward.

AARON, a mulatto man about 43 years old, left the city of Washington early in October and was seen on the road leading from Alexandria to Leesburg in company with a black woman, who I am informed is the property of some person in the vicinity of this place—He is about 5 feet 10 inches high, has strait hair, very bald in one of his eye brows (I think it is the left) near his nose, there is an indented scar occasioned by a stroke he received, which fractured the bone in that place, and whenever he has it in his power never fails to drink to excess It is probable that he has gone to Jefferson or Berkley county in Virginia, where he formerly resided, and from thence will endeavor to go to Kentucky. The above reward will be paid to any person who will have him committed to jail, and give information thereof to the subscriber in George Town, district of Columbia.

EDWARD GANTT.

Nov. 11—tf

Prince George County.

Pursuant to a decree from the court of chancery, I shall offer for SALE, at PUBLIC AUCTION, in the town of Piscataway, on Monday, the 3d of February next,

ALL the real estate, not heretofore sold, of Thomas Clagett, esq late of Prince George's county, deceased, to wit: That handsome well improved lot, in the town of Piscataway; 8[illegible]0 acres of rich fertile land part of several different tracts, commodiously adjoining each other, on Piscataway branch, near the tobacco warehouse, and on the navigation of Potomac river, well wooded, and a great proportion of rich meadow; it will be sold in one body, or in lots, as may best suit those who wish to purchase The terms of sale are, that the purchaser or purchasers of the whole, or of any part, shall give bond, with approved security, to the trustee for the payment of the purchase money, with the interest thereon from the day of sale, in four equal annual instalments On the chancellor's ratifying the sale and on the payment of the purchase money and interest, and not before, a good deed to be given by the trustee to the purchaser or purchasers, and his, her or their heirs, for the land to him, her, or them sold, free, clear, and discharged from all claims of the heirs of the said Thomas Clagett.

THOMAS DUCKETT, Trustee.

Dec 23—tp

STELLE's HOTEL & *CITY TAVERN.*

THE Subscriber takes this method of thanking his friends and the public for their favors whilst on the Capitol Square and begs leave to acquaint them that he has taken the *Spacious Hotel lately erected by Mr. Carroll*, near the Capitol. The hotel being above one hundred feet in front, and containing fifty rooms enables the subscriber to offer every accommodation to members of Congress and travellers which can be expected in a public house.

PONTIUS D. STELLE.

Washington City, March 25—tf

N. B.– P. D. S. will rent the house lately occupied by him on the adjoining square.

NOTICE

Is hereby given that a joint committee of the City Council, will meet on the first Monday in January next, at 10 o'clock A. M. to hear complaints of those persons who conceive themselves aggrieved by the assessment of 1803.

By order of the Council of Washington.

WASHINGTON BOYD, Treasurer of Washington city.

Dec 20—tJan.6

New DRY GOOD STOR[E].

BENJ. & HORATIO JONES,

HAVE just received at their store in High street, next door to Mr. John Cox's, a handsome assortment of

Fall and Winter Goods,

which being laid in on the best terms, they will dispose of them unreasonably low, for cash.

George Town, Nov 13 6w

NOTICE,

THE Commissioners appointed by virtue of a commission of Bankruptcy issued and awarded on the 10th April 1801 against Washington Bowie, will meet at the Union Tavern on Saturday the 1st day of February next at 10 o'clock A M for the purpose of receiving proofs of such claims against the estate of the said Bowie as have not yet been exhibited and proven They will then also declare a dividend of the assets in hand, from the benefit of which such creditors as shall not then have proved their claims will be excluded. The dividend will be paid on application to the subscriber.

WALTER SMITH, surviving assignee of Washington Bowie.

George Town, January 1—tF

CHARLES H. VARDEN,

MERCHANT TAYLOR,

NEW JERSEY AVENUE, NEAR THE CAPITOL.

Respectfully informs the gentlemen of the District of Columbia that in addition to his former stock he has received by late arrivals at Philadelphia from London a choice assortment of superfine cloths, single and double milled cassimeres, Bennets patent cord, woolverteen and waistcoating, fancy and black silk moleskins, all of superior quality and newest fashion, plain and stripe black velvets, constitution cord, Knap coatings, Flushing flannels, &c. &c with a variety of other articles in his line, and he pledges himself, to those gentlemen who shall favor him with their orders to compleat them in the newest style of fashion.

N B Ladies habits, regimentals, navy uniforms, made in the most fashionable manner.

Washington Dec 18——tf

KING'S HOTEL.

The subscriber begs leave to inform his friends and the public generally, that he has moved from the Navy Yard to the Capitol Hill, in the hotel lately occupied by Mr. P. D. Stelle, where he hopes to be favoured with a part of their patronage it being a desirable situation, and the conveniencies of the hotel excelled by none in the city. He therefore hopes to please those that call upon him in every instance.

WILLIAM R. KING.

August 30—tf.

NOTICE.

By virtue of a decree of the high court of chancery of the state of Maryland will be sold at 12 o'clock on Friday the 17th day of January next at public auction on the premises. Two tracts or parcels of Land in Montgomery county called Magruders purchase and addition to resurvey on Magruders purchase, but lately distinguished by the name of "Fruit Hills," containing by estimation two hundred and ninety five and one half acres. On the premises are tolerable buildings and an excellent orchard. The whole situated about five or six miles from the city of Washington and George Town, and has great facilities of communication in all directions.

The terms of sale are that the purchaser shall at his or her election either pay the purchase money on day of sale or on the day of the ratification of the sale by the chancel or which will not be less than five weeks nor more than six weeks from the day of sale, and will be notified in the newspaper where the sale is advertised.

NICHS. BREWER, Trustee.

Nov. 29 – tdof

N. B If the day appointed be a bad day the sale will take place the first fair day thereafter. N. B.

Twenty Dollars Reward,

WILL be given for apprehending negro FAME a very low and tolerable lusty woman about 38 years of age, but from appearance older, very black and much marked with the small pox which occasioned a small defect in one of her eyes, has lost one of her foreteeth, she is very artful and cunning, having procured a free pass, and passes by the name of Charity Shorter; she was formerly the property of John Chittens of this county, and was run away for near eight years, was apprehended and sold to me in 1803 and was hired by me to a certain Thomas King of Prince George's county, from whom she absconded in Oct. 1804 and has been lurking, I do suppose near where she was hired or gone to Calvert county where I have understood her husband has gone. The above reward will be given to any person who will lodge her in jail so that I get her again, or deliver her to Mr. Samuel Speake city of Washington, or to the subscriber living in Charles county Maryland, near Port Tobacco.

P. S. I forewarn any person from harboring or imploying said woman, at their peril.

MASEY SIMMS.

Nov. 27—tf

On a liberal credit.

THE subscriber will dispose of at private sale, his estate called Chichester, lying on the eastern branch, immediately opposite the city of Washington. This tract of land containing 697 acres is laid off in lots from 83 to 144 acres for the convenience of purchasers. Plats of the estate and the terms of sale are in the hands of colonel Hanson at the navy yard, and Charles Wayman of George Town The lots will be shewn by Mr Wedden, living on the premises, near the Eastern Branch bridge.

ANTHONY ADDISON.

Barnaby, 11th June 1805—tf

LUMBER

Wanted Immediately.

PROPOSALS sealed up, post paid & addressed to Robert Underwood, of this city, will be received until the fourth Monday in the present month, stating precisely the lowest terms on which the proposer is willing to contract for supplying the following described lumber, to be delivered at the Tiber creek in this city, and which is designed for improving the navigation of said creek so as to admit vessels of One Hundred Tons and upwards to pass up at least 3000 feet from its junction with the Potomac, viz 4 or 500 Red Cedar or White Oak posts, from 15 to 18 feet long, capable of squaring 7 inches at the but end, and to designate the price of each kind of timber.

Four hundred White Oak Poles, 20 feet long, to square 3 1-2 or 4 inches at the top end.

Thirty thousand feet of 2 inch pitch pine plank, from 10 to 12 feet long

Washington city, Dec 16—tf

Adam King, and Co.

Have this day received, and are now opening a very handsome assortment of FALL GOODS with which they can afford to accommodate their customers on better terms than they are usually bought, and which having arrived so late in the season induces them to sell by the piece or package at the most reduced prices for cash or tobacco—They have also added to their former stock of old wines and liquors, a compleat assortment of groceries, and expect in a few days a large supply of fresh fruits—they have likewise on hand a large and general assortment of hard ware and cutlery

Geo. Town, Dec 2 – tf.

CENTREVILLE ACADEMY.

ON the second day of January next an academy will be opened in this place for the reception of students under the direction of the Rev. Mr. SNYDER, assisted by one or more Ushers.

This Gentleman has conducted different Academies for the space of several years past, with great credit; his department is consonant to his station, and to the accomplishments of the scholar he adds the happy facility of exciting in his pupils the symptoms of literary genius, and to cultivate their mental improvements.

In this institution will be taught the Latin and Greek Languages; the English Language grammatically; Geography, History, Elocution; the various branches of the Mathematics; Writing; Arithmetic and Book Keeping.

There are few places in our country more advantageously situated for an institution of this nature, than this Its situation is very elevated and the air salubrious; and in the centre of a remarkably healthy neighborhood; the necessaries of life are cheap and may easily be procured. The strictest attention will be paid to the morals of the students both in and out of school

The terms of Tuition will be; for the Latin and Greek Languages, including Geography, &c 25 DOLLARS; for the Mathematics 20 DOLLARS; for Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, 14 DOLLARS per annum, paid quarterly in advance. A small contribution will be required from each pupil for the purchase of fire wood.

Centreville Dec 1[illegible]——ep

WANTED,

A WOMAN that understands plain cooking and house work; likewise a GIRL of about 14 years of age to take care of children – none need apply but those who can bring unexceptionable recommendations Enquire at the 2nd house from the west end of the Six Buildings and at this office.

Nov. 27——tf

CONFORMABLY to an order from the hon. court of Calvert County at September term last, the subscribers will offer at Public Auction on Tuesday the 4th day of February next, if fair, if not the first fair day thereafter, at the late residence of Nathan Smith deceased, at the hour of 12 o'clock,

A valuable Tract of Land

containing Four Hundred and Fourteen acres, and Fourteen Perches.—This truly fertile spot may justly be ranked as first rate land, the soil being extremely rich, capable of producing wheat, hemp, flax, clover, timothy, indian corn and fine tobacco; the greater part of this beautiful place lies extremely level, and we should do injustice to it did we neglect to say that few places are equal and none can excel it; the improvements are convenient and in tolerable repair, and as it is presumable those who are inclined to purchase will view the premises previous to the day of sale, it renders a full detail of the improvements unnecessary. This place lies within four miles of Nottingham and about six from Fig Point, has a sufficiency of timber and wood to support it, a tolerable apple orchard, with other fruit trees.

The terms of sale are, that bond and approved security will be required, on the day of sale, payable in two equal payments, the first in twelve, and the second in eighteen months, with yearly interest on the purchase money unpaid, the sale to be subject to the ratification and confirmation of the court, and upon the whole purchase money and interest being paid (and not before) the purchaser or purchasers will receive an indisputable title to the premises so bargained and sold. Possession will be given on the day of sale. This land will be sold altogether or in lots as may appear most conducive to the interest of the representatives.

Joseph Bl[illegible]ke,
Charles Williamson,
Richard Ireland, Jun. } *Com'rs.*

Nov. 27—2m

The subscriber will fulfil his

present engagements, but declines undertaking any new business in the territory of Columbia. His office is removed to the house lately occupied by Charles Wayman, where Mr. Francis S. Key will attend and conduct as an attorney at Law any professional business offered him

PHILIP B. KEY.

George Town, December 23 – 2w

City of WASHINGTON, *Sept.* 9, 1805.

Several persons under the impression that the public lots in this city are to be disposed of in future by *public sales only*, having made enquiries when the next sale will probably take place, we are requested to state that those lots may at any time be purchased at private sale of the Superintendant of the City.

Sept 9——tf

The Partnership of

JOHN CROW & TH. C. WRIGHT,

Trading under the firm of Crow and Wright is this day dissolved by mutual consent—those indebted to the said firm are requested to make immediate payment to Thomas C. Wright, and all persons having any claims thereon, are requested to send them in without delay; as the books will be closed and put into the hands of Thomas Herty for collection and suit after the 25th of December.

JOHN CROW,
THOS. C. WRIGHT.

George Town, Nov 30–

The business will be conducted in future at the same store by THOS. C. WRIGHT, for cash.

December 0——1m

Notice is hereby given, that

the subscriber is authorised by the administrator to collect all debts due to the estate of John Dunlap late of George Town deceased——All persons indebted are therefore desired to call and settle their accounts, as otherwise suits will be commenced immediately.

JOHN MURDOCH.

George Town, Dec. 12—tf

ELIAS B. CALDWELL,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

HAS removed his Office, to the house lately occupied by Mr. LAW, on Capitol Hill.

Washington, July 26—tf