A great variety of plants which grow here, some of which in their season are said to produce flowers highly ornamental, would probably reward the researches of the botanist.

On the morning of the 8th January, 1805, the party left Ellis's on the river camp, where they had been detained for several days, waiting for such a rise in the waters of the river, as would carry their boat in safety over the numerous rapids below. A rise of about six feet, which had taken place the evening before, determined them to move this morning; and they passed the shuttes about one o'clock. They stopped to examine the rocky promontary below these falls, and took some specimens of the stones which so much resembles the Turkey oil stone. It appears too hard. The strata of this chian were observed to run perpendicularly nearly east and west, crossed by fissures at right angles from five to eight feet apart; the lamina from one fourth of an inch to five inches in thickness. About a league below, they landed at Whetstone hill and took several specimens. This projecting hill is a mass of greyish blue schistus of considerable hardness, and about 20 feet perpendicular, not regularly so, and from a quarter to two inches in thickness, but does not split with an even surface.

They landed again on the morning of the 9th, in sight of the bayau de la prairie de champignole, to examine and take specimens of some free stone and blue slate. The slate is blue schistos, hard, brittle, and unfit for the covering of a house; none proper for that purpose have been discovered, except on the Calfat, which Dr. Hunter met with in one of his excursions.

On the evening of the 20th they encamped near Arcion's Troughs, having been only three days in descending the distance which took them thirteen to ascend. They stopped sometime at the camp of a Mr. Le Fevre. He is an intelligent man, a native of the Illinois, but now residing at the Arkansas. He came here with some Delaware and other Indians, whom he had fitted out with goods, and receives their peltry, fur, &c. at a stipulated price, as it is brought in by the hunters. Mr. Le Fevre possesses considerable knowledge of the interior of the country; he confirms the accounts before obtained, that the hills or mountains which give rise to this little river are in a manner insulated; that is, they are entirely shut in and inclosed by the immense plains or prairies which extend beyond the Red river, to the south, and beyond the Missouri, or at least some of its branches, to the north, and range along the eastern base of the great chain, or dividing ridge, commonly called by the name of the sand hills, which separate the waters of the Mississippi from those which fall into the Pacific ocean. The breadth of this great plain is not well ascertained. It is said by some to be at certain parts or in certain directions, not less than two hundred leagues; but it is agreed by all who have a knowledge of the western country, that the mean breadth is at least two-thirds of that distance. A branch of the Missouri called the river Platte, or Shallow river, is said to take its rise so far south as to derive its first waters from the neighborhood of the sources of Red and Arkansas rivers. By the expression plains or prairies in this place, is not to be understood a dead flat, resembling certain savannas, whose soil is stiff and impenetrable, often under water, and bearing only a coarse grass resembling reeds; very different are the western prairies, which expression signifies only a country without timber. These prairies are neither flat nor hilly, but undulating into gently swelling lawns, and expanding into spacious vallies, in the center of which are always found a little timber growing on the banks of the brooks and rivulets of the finest waters. The whole of these prairies are represented to be composed of the richest and most fertile soil; the most luxuriant and succulent herbage covers the surface of the earth interspersed with millions of flowers and flowering shrubs, of the most ornamental kinds. Those who have viewed only a skirt of these prairies, speak of them with enthusiasm, as if it was only there that nature was to be found truly perfect; they declare, that the fertility and beauty of the rising grounds, the extreme richness of the vales, the coolness and excellent quality of the water found in every valley, the salubrity of the atmosphere, and above all the grandeur of the enchanting landscape which this country presents, inspire the soul with sensations not to be felt in any other region of the globe. This paradise is now very thinly inhabited by a few tribes of savages, and by the immense herds of wild cattle, (bisbon) which people these countries. The cattle perform regular migrations, according to the seasons, from south to north, and from the plains to the mountains; and in due time, taught by their instincts, take a retrograde direction. These tribes move in the rear of the herds, and pick up stragglers, and such as lag behind, which they kill with the bow and arrow, for their subsistence. This country is not subjected to those sudden deluges of rain which in most hot countries, and even in the Mississippi territory, tear up and sweep away with irresistible fury, the crop and soil together: on the contrary, rain is said to become more rare in proportion as the great chain of mountains is approached; and it would seem that within the sphere of the attraction of those elevated ridges, little or no rain falls on the adjoining plains. This relation is the more credible, as in that respect our new country may resemble other flat or comparatively low countries, similarly situated; such as the country lying between the Andes and the western Pacific; the plains are supplied with nightly dews so extremely abundant, as to have the effect of refreshing showers of rain; and the spacious vallies, which are extremely level, may with facility, be watered by the rills and brooks which are never absent from these situations. Such is the description of the better known country lying to the south of Red river, from Nacogdoches towards St. Antonio, in the province of Taxus: the richest crops are said to be procured there without rain; but agriculture in that quarter is at a low ebb; the small quantities of maize furnished by the country, is said to be raised without cultivation. A rude opening is made in the earth, sufficient to deposit the grain, at the distance of four or five feet, in irregular squares, and the rest is left to nature. The soil is tender, spongy and rich, and seems always to retain humidity sufficient, with the bounteous dews of heaven, to bring the crops to maturity.

*(To be Continued.)*

## Foreign Intelligence.

LONDON, Sept. 15.

Mr. Fox.—At a quarter before six on Saturday afternoon this great and illustrious statesman yielded his last breath in the arms of his nephew, lord Holland. His dissolution was so gradual and accompanied by so little struggle, as scarcely to permit the most anxious eye to ascertain the instant. His friends had at least the sad and melancholy consolation of perceiving that he suffered no pain—and they had been prepared for the event, by the unerring symptoms of exhaustion that had encreased for the two days preceding.—On Friday, at noon, the physicians announced to him the approaching close, and he received it, as he had done in the first instance, with that firm tranquility of spirit which was characteristic of his nature, and which he maintained to the last.

Mr. Fox died at the very moment when the Park and Tower guns were announcing the capture of Buenos Ayres.

It is singular to remark the fatality that has spread among the leading men of this country within the last twelve months, viz.

Marquis Cornwallis, Oct. 5, lord Nelson, Oct. 21, Mr. Pitt, January 23, lord Thurlow, Sept. 12, Mr. Fox, Sept. 13.

On the subject of the pending negociations with France, we can say nothing farther, than that couriers are continually passing between the two governments.

The troops which disembarked from the transports at Plymouth, in consequence of admiral Louis's squadron, which was to convoy the expedition, having been detached for the purpose of intercepting admiral Guilleaumez, have been re-embarked, and the transports are immediately to proceed to Falmouth, to await the return of admiral Louis.

A messenger to the Russian ambassador arrived at half past four o'clock yesterday, with dispatches from the court of St. Petersburgh.

Yesterday morning Mr. Basset, the messenger, also arrived in town with dispatches from St. Petersburgh.

Mr. Ruffee, the messenger, set off on Saturday with dispatches for Copenhagen.

The Russian minister, in announcing to the French cabinet, the refusal of his master, to ratify the treaty of M. D'Oubril, declares, "that the minister had *acted entirely contrary to the orders & instructions which he had received*; but that in order to leave no possible means of restoring peace, and general tranquility, untried, the imperial ministry has received orders to make known to the cabinet of the Thuilleries, the basis on which his imperial majesty will be ready to renew the negociations—so that it will depend on the French government, to accept or decline the equally just and moderate proposals which are made to it."

Sept. 18.

We have received Paris papers to the 11th, and Dutch to the 15th inst. they both agree in stating, that upon the news of the non-ratification of D'Oubril's treaty, the return of the troops from Germany was countermanded, and the camp of Muedon, near Paris, was expected to break up. A camp for the reception of 60,000 men, is preparing at Zeist, on the northern frontier of Holland; and other military movements and operations, indicate approaching war. Private letters from Holland stated, that the Russian ambassador had left the Hague, but we have seen a letter of the 14th, in which it is mentioned that the Russian ambassador is still at the Hague. From the manner however, in which this statement is introduced, it seems evident that the rumor of such an event was prevalent in Holland, and that war was generally expected between that country & France. The hopes of peace have likewise diminished.

*Extract of a letter from commodore Popham, who commanded the expedition against Buenos Ayres, to the Secretary of the admiralty.*

*Off Buenos Ayres, 6th July.*

Sir,

In a letter which I had the honour to addreſs you from St. Helena, on the 30th of April, I fully explained, for the information of my lords commiſſioners of the admiralty. the motives that induced me to preſs ſo ſtrongly the urgency and expediency of undertaking an expedition againſt the enemys's ſettlements in Rio de la Plata.

I have therefore to give you only a ſhort detail of the proceedings of the ſquadron; previouſly congratulating their lordſhips on his majeſty's forces being in full poſition of Buenos Ayres and its dependencies, the capital of one of the richeſt and moſt extenſive provinces of South America.

To the commerce of Great Britain it exhibits peculiar advantages, as well as to the active induſtry of her manufacturing towns. And when I venture in addition to aſſure their lordſhips of the extreme healthineſs of the climate, I truſt I only hold out a conſolation that the friends of every perſon employed in this expedition are juſtly entitled to, and which I am ſatisfied will be equally gratifying to the feelings of every Britiſh ſubject

As I conſidered the object of material conſequences to obtain the earlieſt local informations of the river, I placed the ſquadron under the direction of capt. Rowley, and preceded it in the Narciſſus for that purpoſe.

On the 8th ult we anchored near the Iſland of Flores; and after paſſing Monte Video the following day, we detained a Portugueſe ſchooner, by whom the intelligence we had formerly received was generally confirmed. On the 11th, we fell in with the Encounter and Ocean tranſport near the ſouth coaſt of the river;—and on the 18th we joined the ſquadron.

It was immediately determined to attack the capital; and no time was loſt in removing the marine battalion to the Narciſſus, the Encounter, and the tranſport, for the purpoſe of proceeding to Buenos Ayres, while the Diadem blockaded the port of Monte Video, and the Raiſonable and Diomede, by way of demonſtration, cruiſed near Maldonado, and other aſſailable points.

Our progreſs up the river was very much retarded by the ſhoalneſs of the water, adverſe winds and currents, continual fogs, and the great inaccuracy of the charts;—but by the unremitting and laborious exertions of the officers and men I had the honor to command, theſe difficulties were ſurmounted, and the ſquadron anchored, on the afternoon of the 25th, off point Quelmey a Pouichin, about 12 miles from Beunos Ayres.

As it was impoſible for the Narciſſus, to approach the ſhore, on account of ſhoalneſs of the water, the Encounter was run in ſo cloſe as to take the ground, the more effectually to cover the debarkation of the army in the caſe of neceſſity; the whole however was landed in the courſe of the evening without the leaſt oppoſition; conſiſting of the detachment of his majeſty's troops, from the Cape, and that from St Helena, with the marine battalion under the orders of capt. King, of his majeſty's ſhip the Diadem, which was compoſed of the marines of the ſquadron augmented by the incorporation of ſome ſeamen, and three companies of Royal Blues from the ſame ſource of enterprize, which had been regularly trained for that duty, and dreſſed in an appropriate uniform.

The enemy was poſted at the village of Reduction, which was on an eminence about two miles from the beach, with the appearance of a fine plain between the two armies, which however proved on the following morning to be only a moraſs in a high ſtate of verdure.

This in ſome meaſure checked our advancement, nor did the enemy open his field train till the troops were nearly in the middle of the ſwamp, from whence he thought it was impoſſible for them to be extricated.

The able and excellent diſpoſition of Gen. Bereſford, and the intrepidity of his army, very ſoon however ſatisfied the enemy, that his only ſafety was in a precipitate retreat, for we had the ſatisfaction of ſeeing from the ſhips near 4000 Spaniſh cavalry flying in every direction, leaving their artillery behind them, while our troops were aſcending the hill with that coolneſs & courage, which has on every occaſion marked the character of a Britiſh Soldier, and has been exemplified in proportion to the difficulties and dangers by which he was oppoſed.

On the 27th, in the morning, we ſaw ſome firing near the banks of the river Chuelo, but it blew ſo hard that it was totally impracticable to have any communication with the ſhore during that day. On the 28th, our troops took poſſeſſion of Buenos Ayres.

I have ſent Lieut. Groves to take poſſeſſion of Euſenaba de Baragon, a port to the eaſtward of Buenos Ayres, where I underſtand there are two gun veſſels and two merchant ſhips.

GREENOCK, Sept. 19.

Since our last, both the Hamburgh mails which were due have arrived. Their contents are important. Prussia has been driven to such extremity, that unless she at length determines to resist the farther encroachment of France, she must submit to receive the imperial *coup de grace*, and sink into absolute vassalage. Russia holds a commanding position. Sweden preserves her wonted spirit, and Austria seems waiting for an opportunity to revenge the insults she has sustained.

LAUENBURGH, Sept. 5.

His Majesty the King of Sweden, has taken possession of this country in the name of the King of England; the Prussian arms and eagles are taken away, & every thing re-established on the former footing.

PARIS, Sept. 9.

The refusal of the Emperor Alexander, to ratify the treaty of peace, already concluded between Russia and France, has not as yet been followed by the rupture of the negociations between the French and English plenipotentiaries, though, according to all appearances, they leave but slight hopes of peace. In the mean time, as the signature of peace with Russia was followed by preparations on the part of France for the evacuation of Germany, so the unexpected determination on the part of the Court of St. Petersburg, which rejected a treaty which had been actually signed, has immediately determined the Emperor Napoleon to countermand the orders for the return of his army to France, where some of it has already arrived, and the whole would have been soon collected. The camp of Munden, in which the troops were first returned, were assembled, & which in a few days would not have been sufficient to contain the number of troops expected, is about to break up, and we are assured that orders have been transmitted to Marshal Prince Berthier, minister of war, and major-general of the Grand Army, to stop the return of the army.

# WASHINGTON CITY.

*MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10.*

The death of Mr. Fox is an event, whose magnitude it is scarcely possible correctly to estimate. England, since he has been placed at the helm, has looked to him as her deliverer, and Europe as her pacificator. It is now but too probable that the storm of war will renew its destructive rage, and sweep before it all the established landmarks of kingdoms, and what is still more important, spread incalculable misery among the lower and middling orders of society.

Never was man raised to a more awful and even dangerous eminence. Many of his best friends considered him as exposing to shipwreck that character which he had so laboriously acquired by a life of unintermitted public services. But he had a spirit that dared to attempt any thing which promised to promote the happiness of his fellow-men. However dazzled by the talents of this illustrious statesman, it is his virtue that most commands our homage. No man more loved power than he; but he loved integrity still more; and office was only desirable to him as the means of doing good. In the trying scene in which he was placed, he seems to have formed the heroic resolution to abandon the crooked and contracted policy of his predecessors, and to take the plain path of honesty; to treat with foreign nations on the ground of reciprocity, and to require no more than he gave. He correctly viewed the energies of his country as boundless, when disengaged from the chains imposed upon them by monopolies and restrictions. It is to be feared that we have lost, by his death, a powerful friend, and that no successor can be found who will so eminently combine the ability with the disposition to reconcile our differences on terms of mutual benefit. We believe it may be stated as a fact that this great man has been in every vicissitude, the steady, invariable friend of the United States; contemplating with admiration their struggle for liberty, rejoicing in its successful termination, and approving the wise policy, which, since our independence, has marked our political career. We should be destitute of gratitude, could we as a nation ever forget the support we received from him in the worst of times. Supporting, and supported by a Chatham, he had the boldness to declare that he rejoiced in our successes, thereby inspiring us with confidence in the justice of our cause, and with the hope of ultimate triumph. It was his eloquence that conquered the obstinate repugnance of the king to acknowledge our independence, and that produced a treaty of peace between the two nations. Such services must be indelibly engraven on the hearts of freemen. Let us hope that what *they feel*, they will not hesitate to adopt some marked mode of manifesting to the world. Charles Fox was not merely an Englishman, but a citizen of the world, a philanthropist. As such it becomes us to express our regret; and we flatter ourselves that the national legislature will seize this occasion to manifest the distinguished estimation in which he is held by their constituents. Franklin extorted this token of respect from the representatives of France, and why should not the memory of Fox receive the same distinction from the representatives of the United States?

The House of Delegates of Maryland have unanimously elected Tobias E. Stansbury, their Speaker.

*Appointment by the Governor and Council of Maryland.*

John Johnson, attorney general, in the place of J. T. Mason, who is elected to the senate of Maryland.

Joseph Bloomfield, republican, is re-elected Governor of New-Jersey.

The Tennessee Gazette, of the 11th October, published at Nashville, says, "Colonel A. Burr left town on Monday last (the 6th October) for Kentucky."

The legislature of Vermont have re-elected Stephen R. Bradley, to represent that state in the Senate of the United States, for the term of six years, to commence on the fourth of March next.

We are informed, that the company of Dragoons, commanded by Captain James Ferguson, have made a tender of their services to the President, should our misunderstanding with Spain render a recourse to arms necessary.—Too high a compliment cannot be paid to their patriotism, and must be doubly acceptable to the President at the present period, when designing and ambitious individuals would endeavor to foment the public mind, in order to effect a separation of the Eastern and Western states. From the persons concerned, however, we have nothing to apprehend—and we hope the laudable example set by the company of Horse, will be followed by the uniform companies through the state.

[*Western Spy.*]

It appears by late Jamaica papers, per the Philanthropist, that gen Miranda had been reinforced by La Seine, frigate, on board of which vessel he had embarked, and had sailed from Aruba to Curracoa, and thence to Barbadoes, in hopes of obtaining more adherents, to attempt once more his meditated scheme.

When the body of the illuſtrous hero of Trafalgar was put into a caſk of ſpirits to be tranſported to old England, the bung accidentally fell out & one of his Lordſhip's fingers made its appearance at the opening——A ſeaman who had for ſome years ſerved in the admiral's ſhip, ſeized the hand, & giving it a cordial gripe, at the ſame time wiping away a tear that gliſtened on his weather beaten cheek, exclaimed, "D—n me old boy, if you are not in *better spirits* than any of us."

ADVANTAGES OF UNION, WITH AN INQUIRY INTO THE COMPATIBILITY OF REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT WITH AN EXTENSIVE TERRITORY.

(CONTINUED.)

There is no political topic respecting which greater errors and prejudices have prevailed than on this. An experience of the fate of other governments has been consulted, and found in every important feature fallacious. Because all the free goverments which have heretofore existed have been found to be incompatible with an extensive territory, it has been superficially inferred that the union of these states will be equally perishable. A moderate degree, however, of reflection will be sufficient to satisfy us that the most important characteristics of our systems of government were either unknown to or unadopted by the ancients. Three powerful agents of influence have been since created; the press—the principle of representation—and that of federalism. Owing to to the want of the first, there was no common or easy mode of diffusing information among communities, whose consequent ignorance made them the dupes of every impostor that sprung up among them; owing to the want of the second it was impossible to collect with any precision the public suffrage, except in very small societies; and owing to the want of the last established on principles of justice and reciprocity, and only taking cognizance of concerns of a general nature, small communities, individually too weak to protect themselves, were incapacitated from uniting themselves in a firm or advantageous alliance.

All these agents are now in powerful activity in the U. S. This united influence is not only vast, but almost irresistible. It will consequently be allowed they have effected a fundamental revolution from which the greatest effects may rationally be expected. They certainly ought so far to influence our judgments as to prompt us to dismiss as futile all the preposterous analogies that are attempted to be drawn between our situation and that of the ancient republics. Let us then, throwing aside all such fanciful reasoning, consider how far, according to the reason of things, a government such as ours is inconsistent with an extensive territory.

We have already seen that there are no physical or moral sources of disunion inherent in the states; we have seen on the contrary, that those circumstances, which a superficial observation has considered as having a tendency to divide, have in truth a powerful influence to unite the different sections of the community.

First, then, the existence of local interests cannot impair the duration of the union, because these interests are confided exclusively to the state governments. The powers of the general and state governments are in this respect so well defined, that there cannot hereafter arise any serious collision unless from the deliberate intention of the one to trench upon the powers of the other. In this event, however such a purpose may be entertained for a short time, it is scarcely possible to last long enough to accomplish its object. The ensuing elections, which cannot be more distant than one, two, three or four years, by an appeal to the people, the fountain of all power, as well that consolidated under the states as under the confederacy, will restore things to their original situation. Should an invasion of state powers be attempted by the general government, the states will be prompt to take the alarm, and a sense of common interest will not fail to unite them in the prosecution of vigorous measures of re-