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National Intelligencer.

COMMUNICATION.

At a general meeting of the Citizens of Washington a committee of Seven was unanimously appointed to suggest the means of opening the CANAL from TIBER CREEK to the EASTERN BRANCH.

The following contains a summary of the arguments used in favor of this beneficial undertaking :—

Experience is now verifying the predictions of our ancestors, who, tracing the various rivers which flowed from the interior to the ports of the Atlantic, formed their judgments of the probable future consequence of each from its natural advantages.

Mr. Jefferson in his luminous Notes on Virginia, has proved the distance from New York to Pittsburg to be above 800 miles with several portages, and demonstrated the direct route by the Potomac ; and a sensible writer on Canals in Philadelphia has urged the propriety of a water communication from this city with the waters of the Ohio, and by the lines he traces, that city will be almost twice the distance of ours from Pittsburg ; but the most full description of our local superiority is in general Washington's letters to Mr. Arthur Young. In them he uses these emphatic words—" The Potomac river is in the centre of the Union, it is between the extremes of heat and cold, and the spot designed for the permanent seat of government must become the great emporium of North America." That wise and good man whose revered name our city bears, was the planner and promoter of the River Potomac Company, and confirmed his sentiments of its productiveness by his donation of 50 shares in the stock as a fund for an intended University.

The Company have at length after much expence, long patience, and laudable perseverence accomplished their object, and 339 miles of navigation, including the branches of the Potomac, are now bringing the abundance of a most fertile and populous country to our district—whilst European, Asiatic, and West India articles are now boated up the river for the Western country ; as cheapness and saving of time are both experienced by the merchants.

There is at present a scarcity of boats, but that will be soon supplied. I rejoice that several individuals have gained a thousand dollars already during this spring. If a boat makes one trip and back in seven days ; it will at the present rate of a dollar per barrel, obtain its owner and three hands, 2,400 dollars in six months. Will not this encourage boat building ? If any one can doubt it, let him calculate the number now making on the Potomac, Shenandoah, and other branches. I know of one person building six. It will require only about 200 boats and 400 men, to bring down about 600,000 barrels in a year, whereas 2000 waggons, 2000 men, and 6000 horses would be employed in land carriage of the same quantity—I need not expatiate on the benefit to land holders, by the application of these men and horses to agriculture, nor need I dwell on the saving of 50 or 75 cents on each barrel of flour.

We have now numerous facts to confirm the theoretical reasoning of those who studied the geography of the U. States, and doubt is done away by certainty.

In the numerous boats we view, the increasing tolls of the Potomac Company, the flour, iron, hemp, &c. coming down, and the goods from New York going up the river, evince the success of efforts to improve the navigation, and it is now no longer a question, whether it can be practicable for intercourse during every day in the year, except when the stream is arrested by the ice.

Our meeting this day is to devise means to open the Canal, designated in the map of the city from the mouth of Tyber Creek to the Eastern Branch.

Congress passed an act for this desirable object in the year 1802 ; but at that period the Potomac Company was at a stop for want of resources, and the city had few inhabitants on the Eastern Branch and a general despondency prevailed, from disappointments, failures and impoverishment which it were now painful to look back upon.

Some persons indeed stated that the canal was superfluous as boats could come round the Point ; but the route is circuitous, and though the boatmen charge an addition of 6d. per barrel, they generally refuse to risque their boats ; heretofore also postponement was urged, till merchants were settled on the Eastern Branch. Seven years are now elapsed, and it is proved that merchants will not settle where productions cannot be easily brought to them, any more than industrious bees will collect where honey cannot be gathered. I will not here enter into an invidious comparison of the local advantages of Georgetown, Alexandria and the city harbors. It is sufficient to say in our own favor that the Navy Yard is on the Eastern Branch ; but there will be business for all, and I hope that our motto will be, "*Tria Juncta in Uno.*"

By the canal, which we are now all I trust determined to open, we shall drain the low grounds ; by the canal we shall save to every householder a considerable sum in cartage ; by the canal the Navy Yard will receive hemp, timber, &c. and by the canal we shall have commerce, ships, and seamen ; in short by the canal we shall become most populous and prosperous. I will restrain my inclination to present the pleasing prospect of our future situation, should you resolve to solicit Congress with a renewal of the act with some modifications of the former charter, and speedily and completely to perfect the undertaking.

This is not a proper occasion to enter into details—a committee should be appointed to take measures to ensure the accomplishment of an object which we now I believe unanimously acknowledge to be all-important.

Mr. Latrobe's very able report and accurate surveys with various calculations are now laid before you for your perusal, and for the particular attention of the committee.

Should this canal be finished, Washington city need not envy London its Thames, nor New-York its North River.

When king James threatened to remove his court to Winchester, the lord mayor of London shrewdly hoped that his majesty would not also take the Thames with him.

We have not to apprehend the capriciousness of an individual, for Congress, notwithstanding bad accommodations and numerous inconveniences, have continued here annually voting appropriations to evince their good faith, their stability and the wisdom of their first choice of this central spot.

Let us not continue inactive, but cordially co-operate and henceforth complaints will cease, jealousies will be extinguished, and general success crown our enterprize.

The following gentlemen compose the committee appointed.

Robert Brent,
Daniel Carroll of Dudn.
J. P. Van Ness,
Thomas Law,
John Davidson,
J. D. Barry,
George Blagden.

From the Literary Magazine.

FRENCH THEATRES.

The number of theatres in France amounts to one hundred and sixty-six, in one hundred and twenty-nine cities of the French Empire.

Paris contains	18
Bordeaux	4
Lyons	2
Marseilles	3
Brussels	3
Ghent	2
Rouen	2
Turin	3

The number of performers attached to the

Opera in Paris amounts to	366
Theatre Francais	174
Comic Opera	188
Empress's Theatre	174
Vaudeville	82

These, with the other theatres of Paris, amount to 1,388 ; and, supposing that the 166 theatres have 20 persons each, they amount to the trifling number of 3,268 theatrical artists.

From the above list we may form some idea whence proceeds the gay and lively disposition of the French nation. There is no doubt but the stage has a very material effect in the improvement of all ranks in their address and manner ; there is no place where better lessons could be received than from a pure moral stage. The stage is a school, where we often see what has been represented in real life, and what is daily going on, particularly as to intrigue and deception, and where very good lessons are given to avoid or execute.

GREAT BRITAIN.

MR. HERIOT, post-master of British America, a gentleman who unites a superior talent for drawing with the literary and scientific attainments necessary to form an interesting traveller, has availed himself of the opportunities afforded by his official situation, and is preparing for publication a splendid work descriptive of Upper and Lower Canada. Mr. Heriot will first give an account of his voyage from England to the Azores, of which he will introduce a better description than any now existing in our language ; he will then conduct his readers up the river St. Lawrence, by land and water ; across the several lakes to lake Superior ; describing, in this immense route, every prominent feature which can be interesting to political economy and commerce. The embellishments will consist of about twenty views, twelve new plants, some animals, and several characteristic representations of the manners and customs of the inhabitants.

Mr. Janson, who has lately returned from America, has brought with him many interesting materials towards furnishing a complete survey of the state of society and manners in that country ; which will speedily appear in one quarto volume, accompanied with a number of engravings.

Mr. Northmore has nearly completed an epic poem, of ten books, upon which he has been engaged for a considerable time. It is entitled, *Washington, or Liberty Restored*, and, exclusive of the imagery, is entirely founded upon historical records.

Sir John Carr is preparing for the press an account of his excursions into Holland and up the Rhine, as far as Mentz.

Walter Scott, Esq. is preparing for publication a new poetical work, to be entitled, Six Epistles from Ettric Forest.

Mr. John Pinkerton is preparing for the press a New Modern Atlas. It is proposed that this Atlas shall consist of at least an equal number of maps with those of the new edition of Mr. Pinkerton's Geography, but of the size called Atlas, so as to correspond with the celebrated works of D'Anville. These maps will be delineated with all the superior advantages afforded by the late improvements in geographical precision, and engraved with the utmost beauty that the state of the arts can admit, so as to be a national and perpetual monument, worthy of the first commercial country in the world, and from whose exertion and enterprise have arisen the most recent and important discoveries. Each map will be drawn under Mr. Pinkerton's own eye, revised with the utmost care ; and will form, like the works of D'Anville, a complete record of the state of science at the time of publication. Table lands, chains of mountains, and other features which belong to the natural geography of each country, will be indicated in a new manner, and with an exactness not to be expected from geographers who are unacquainted with that branch of the science, which is, however, so essential, that without it no country can be truly represented, nor works on natural and civil history perfectly understood. In the other parts which illustrate civil history, equal care shall be exerted not to insert obscure hovels and villages, while places remarkable in historical record are totally omitted. Instead of careless positions, arising from the blind imitation of antiquated maps, the greatest attention shall be bestowed, that every position be conformable to the latest astronomical observations, and, in default of these, to the result of the best itineraries, and other authentic documents.

HEALTH.

The bill of mortality for the town of Portsmouth, in New Hampshire, for the year 1806, gives 119 deaths, 61 of which were males, and 58 females, averaging at but little more than two a week. The largest number of one disease, is 21, of consumption, 10 males, and 11 females. The respective ages were as follows :

From 90	to	100		1
80	to	90		6
70	to	80		14
60	to	70		15
50	to	60		12
40	to	50		10
30	to	40		7
20	to	30		6
10	to	20		6
5	to	10		5
1	to	5		12
Under one year				25
				119

There were in the same time 256 births, of which 128 were males and 128 females, averaging at nearly five a week. The marriages during the year were 63. Most of those who died between the age of 60 and 70—70 and 80—80 and 90, had approached nearest the highest extreme of those two numbers. The eldest death was 98.

Portsmouth, in the year 1804, contained, according to Dr. Morse, 5,339 inhabitants ; on a moderate calculation for increasing population, the number of inhabitants in 1806, may be estimated at about 7000. Portsmouth is situated in Lat. 43, 5, N. Long. 70, 41, W.

We have seen in the southern and eastern papers, a calculation of the arrivals at different ports for a month. This induced us to go over our list of arrivals at the port of New York for one month, (from the 8th of April to the 8th of May) and the result exhibits the following :—

The whole arrivals have been 345, viz. 88 ships, 92 brigs, 125 schooners, and 45 sloops : of which 214 were from foreign ports, including 72 ships and 76 brigs ; the remainder were schooners and sloops ; 148 ships and brigs.

N. Y. Gaz.

ANECDOTES OF BONAPARTE.

The Emperor Napoleon rises early in the morning, for he sleeps very little, not more than three or four hours a night. After having taken his coffee, of which he is very fond, as he never drinks less than thirty cups a day, made very strong, he goes to his bath, the water of which is mixed with some medical preparation, to cure the effects of the impurity of his blood, which is visible upon his skin. As he never can be a moment idle, and makes the most of his time, he is attended by a person who understands the English language perfectly, and has the ability of translating it without hesitation into the French. He therefore reads the English newspapers to the emperor, as if he had a French paper in his hands. This he calls his hour of amusement, and sometimes laughs at the absurdity and ignorance of the English writers as he calls their contents. The person who reads to him, is instructed not to pass by any expressions, or to soften them ; he must read as he meets them ; for he likes to know what the enemy think and write of him. After having bathed, he dresses himself and goes to the chamber, where he has always some one to attend him ; his ministers or officers have the preference, next his private secretary. He is called at the hour of dinner, and but half an hour is occupied with that meal, for he eats very little ; and has almost never any appetite, on account of the quantity of coffee which he drinks from time to time.

In the afternoon he is as busy as in the morning, but allows himself, sometimes thrice a week, an hour, to go to some theatre or other ; but it is never known when he goes, or which theatre he means to visit ; he very seldom knows it himself till dinner time, when he enquires for the different plays which are to be given in the night. The empress accompanies him always ; she is fond of him, and he is very much attached to her. He is always attended by Rostan, a Mameluke, who is very much attached to him. He was a common man, whose family and relations suffered greatly in Egypt ; Bonaparte, when in that country, took a fancy to him and, after having proved his fidelity, employed him in his service ; he raised him from time to time, and he is now a colonel. He is not only with him every where in the day time, but in the night is the nearest to his person. Madame Bonaparte does not sleep with him. Rostan sleeps before the door of his bed chamber, so that it is impossible it can be opened without disturbing him. When he is upon his post, the emperor thinks himself safe ; for he relies much more upon his Mameluke, than upon all the pages, guards, and watchmen that are placed in the different avenues to his bed room.

Enquirer.

Foreign Intelligence.

DUBLIN, MARCH 19.

Yesterday, in obedience to a summons of the right hon. the lord mayor, a post assembly was held at the exhibition room, in William street, to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning the imperial parliament to support our happy constitution in church and state.

In the commons house, Mr. Giffard entered into a full investigation of the claims of the Roman catholics and their objects, as appeared in their debates lately published in the newspapers, on which he animadverted at length, and concluded with moving, "That a petition be presented to both houses of parliament, praying them to refuse the claims of the Roman catholics, and thereby preserve the constitution in church and state.

Mr. Cope seconded the motion.

Mr. Farrel, Mr. Hatton, Mr. Semple, and Mr. Stephens, opposed the motion ; while Mr. Cope and Mr. M'Cauley supported it.

Mr. Semple moved the question of adjournment, upon which a ballot was demanded, when there appeared, for the adjournment, 13—against it, and for going into the business of the day, 39.

The question of adjournment being thus lost, the house was proceeding in the debate on Mr. Giffard's motion, when a message was delivered from the board of aldermen, desiring the concurrence of the sheriffs and commons in forming a committee to meet a committee of the aldermen, to draw up and prepare a petition to parliament, praying them to resist the claims of the Roman catholics, and to preserve the constitution in church and state ; which petition, so prepared, should be presented in case the Roman catholics persisted in their demands. This message containing in substance the resolution then under debate in their House, was immediately acceded to, and Mr. Giffard, Mr. M'Cauley, Mr. Cope, and major Sirr, were named a committee to meet the aldermen and recorder on this business. In a short time they produced a petition, little varying from that of 1805, which passed with two dissenting voices.

BANKS OF THE ELBE, MARCH 14.

"In a former letter I communicated to you the intelligence received (via Vienna) concerning the battle of Eylau. I now transmit the dispatches themselves.

AU COMTE BASUMOUSKY.

No. 1.—*Extract from the dispatches of General Essen, dated 31st Jan. (12th February, 1807)—Received 6th (18th Feb.)*

"I hasten to communicate to your excellency the happy intelligence which I have just received from general Benningsen. Bonaparte attacked him on the 8th instant (N. S.) with all his forces, Eylau ; but he met with so obstinate a resistance that he was obliged to renounce his purpose, with a loss which is estimated at 25,000 men. Gen. Benningsen has marched to Wirtemberg, in order to replenish himself with ammunition.

"On my part, I attacked on the 3d inst (N. S) the corps opposed to me. They were defeated on the whole line. The enemy having been reinforced afterwards by the army of reserve under Oudinot, appeared desirous to attack me ; but I shall do this myself to-morrow, & I hope that God will bless our arms.

No. 2.—*Extract from the report of general Benningsen, dated the 11th Feb. (N. S.) 1807, received 18th Feb. (N. S.)*

Wirtenberg, Feb. 11.

"Having been informed that the enemy had collected all his forces at Alenstein, I advanced with all mine. Being arrived at Jankow, I was attacked there on my left wing, and drove the enemy back. The same was done also in every direction by my right wing. However, the engagement was prevented from becoming general by the approach of night. I then resolved to change my direction, in order to cover the city of Koningsburg, which was the point at which all the endeavors of Bonaparte were aimed. I thus drew the enemy along by my side, and my rear continued fighting six days successively. At length being arrived on the 7th inst (N. S) at Preussisch-Eylau, I halted and waited his approach. He attacked me, and entered into the town, which was in my front. As our forces could no longer resist those opposed to them, I dispatched a part of my reserve against them, & advanced myself to the attack.

The town was taken in an instant and two battalions of the enemy, which had not time to escape, were in part cut to pieces or taken, together with two colors. In the evening I evacuated the town secretly, in the expectation that the enemy would send a body of troops on the other side of it, in order to attack my centre ; which in fact took place during the night. At the break of day I directed a part of the artillery against the French column ; it was thrown into disorder, and forced to draw back. Bonaparte himself then attacked me on all points at the head of four corps of his army & of his guards.

He was every where repulsed and completely beaten. He renewed his attack with his guards repeatedly ; but whole columns of infantry, and regiments de cuirassiers d'elite, were nearly annihilated by the fire from our line, charges from our cavalry, and at the points of our bayonets. I estimated the loss of the enemy at more than 15,000 men.——We have captured 20 stand of colors, and made 2,000 prisoners, I shall cause this preliminary report to be followed by a detailed relation of this battle, which I shall lay at the feet of his majesty the emperor."

P. S. The following important facts have just transpired :

We are informed from the borders of the Vistula, that in that neighborhood there is a great want of provisions which may lead to very important results.

It was general Bertrand who arrived on the 17th Feb. at Memel, with pacific propositions. He departed on the 18th, with success.

Three thousand Dutch infantry, a part of them consisting of the garrison of Hamburg, have set out on their march from Lower Saxony to Upper Saxony, in order to supply the place of the French, who are to join the great army on the Vistula.

The Russians have had the audacity to advance again, and it seems that it is their intention to regain the Vistula. Further battles are therefore expected in that quarter.

In this neighborhood even the most timid and melancholy begin to entertain lively hopes, that the tide of fortune will soon be found to have turned from the cause of ferocious tyranny to that of liberty & humanity.