National Intelligencer.

& WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

VOL. IX. | WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. | NO. 1388.

FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1809. | *PAID IN ADVANCE.*

THE *National Intelligencer* is conducted by SAMUEL H. SMITH, and JOSEPH GALES, Jun. and printed at the Office of the *former*, to whom subscribers and correspondents are requested to address themselves.

The annual price, payable in advance, is *Five Dollars.*

ADVERTISEMENTS, not exceeding one square in breadth, are inserted the first time at *fifty cents*, and for every subsequent insertion at *twenty-five cents*. If inserted less than three times a *Dollar* is charged. If inserted less than once a week, an addition of one fourth part is made. Other advertisements charged in the same proportion.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

TOMBIGBEE ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The following list of toasts affords some evidence of the loyalty of a people settled in a remote part of the American territory, lately an uninhabited wilderness.

It has been intimated in Congress that these people, who in conjunction with the old settlers on the Tombigbee have lately petitioned for the establishment of a new territorial government, were persons concerned in the Yazoo speculation. This was certainly a mistaken idea. Whatever may be the case as to the new settlement in the Big Bend of the Tennessee, the settlers on the waters of the Mobile are certainly no Yazoo men; and the only person there, who is known to have been concerned in that speculation is violently opposed to the separation of that country from the Mississippi territory. It will be observed that one of the toasts drank at this meeting was Mr. Randolph: a gentleman who is far from being a favorite with Yazoo men, but whose indignation at the oppressions suffered by the settlers on the Tombigbee from the Spanish government, has endeared him to a people whose situation naturally calls their attention more to local grievances than to general politics.

The 15th toast alludes to a recent event, scarcely less mortifying to the people of the Tombigbee country, than the restrictions on their trade imposed by the Spaniards. Paying to that government 12 per centum not only on all their exports, but on all their flour, whisky, salt, iron, coarse linen and other imports; they have been exceedingly anxious to see an intercourse established between them and the people of Tennessee, and as there is only a portage of eight or ten miles between the navigable waters of the Tennessee and those of the Coose or Alabama river, one of the great branches of the Mobile; it was most earnestly expected that nothing but a knowledge of the lower country could be wanted to induce the citizens of Tennessee to commence such an intercourse.

Truly mortified, therefore, are they to learn that the first boats descending the Alabama from the Tennessee country, and with regular passports from Gov. Sevier have been seized by the Creek Indians, and the property on board of them confiscated under the sanction, as the Indians allege, of the U. States' agent in the Creek nation.

At a meeting of a number of respectable citizens, settled on the Choctaw purchase, east of the Tombigbee, at the house of Capt. BEARD, for the purpose of celebrating the national festival, after the appointment of COL. JNO CALLER, President, and *Capt. Chas Reads*, Vice-President, and during the participation of a suitable repast provided for the occasion the following toasts were approved and drank. The decent deportment of all at this novel, convivial and truly republican assemblage of citizens cannot be too highly complimented. All was harmony and order; the only emulation was, who were most American.

1. July the 4th—Inviolable adherence to the principles which gave rise to this memorable anniversary. 5 cheers.

2. The Congress and Heads of Departments—Just in measures and fertile in means. 3 cheers.

3. This Infant Settlement—Firmly attached to government, waits in confidence its timely patronage. 4 cheers.

4. John Rhea of Tennessee—The generous patron of emigration and western population. 6 cheers.

5. The Elective Franchise—Unfettered by the chain of the old ordinance. 3 cheers.

6. The memory of the Illustrious Washington. 7 cheers.

7. James Madison, President of the U. States. 6 cheers.

8. Thomas Jefferson. 3 cheers.

9. The Constitution of the U. States—The immovable basis of our Independence. 5 cheers.

10. The perpetual remembrance of the enlightened heroes and patriotic worthies of '76. 7 cheers.

11. His Excellency Governor Holmes. 3 cheers.

12. John Randolph of Virginia—The great patriot. 4 cheers.

13. Agriculture, Commerce and home manufactures. 3 cheers.

14. The third regiment of the militia of the Mississippi Territory. 2 cheers.

15. May the enterprize of the citizens of Tennessee surmount the opposition of Creek agency, and force their trade through the channels which nature has provided. 3 cheers.

16. The Mississippi Territory—Wisdom to its rulers. 2 cheers.

17. The American Fair—In form superior, in mind most elevated. 5 cheers.

BOTANY AND GARDENING.

The subscriber having recently purchased in the vicinity of Philadelphia, twenty acres of ground, for the purpose of converting it into a *Botanic Garden and Nursery*, and also into an experimental *Seminary* of all the valuable grains, grasses, fruits and other vegetable productions which he now has, or can in future procure, from his correspondents and friends in the United States, Europe or elsewhere; takes the liberty of inviting the lovers of botany, horticulture or agriculture, in every country, to an exchange of seeds and plants: of the former, his present collection is extremely numerous, and will continually be kept up and increased: of the latter, it is pretty considerable, especially in rare and valuable kinds.

He intends, as soon as possible, to introduce into this ground, every species of plant, indigenous or exotic, that he can procure, either in a growing state or from seed; whether calculated to aid the arts, administer to health, please the palate or gratify the curious. This being an arduous and expensive undertaking, and having no aid in the establishment or support of it, but the fruits of his own industry, as a *Nursery and Seedsman*, he respectfully solicits, in the line of his business, the countenance and patronage of a patriotic and discerning public.

An establishment of this kind within less than three miles of the centre of the most populous part of the city, will doubtless prove of some importance to society, and stimulate the laudable and growing taste, as well as facilitate the means of our young ladies and gentlemen, and others resorting from foreign parts, to our seminaries of education, of studying, with the advantage of the living objects, the important, delightful and interesting science of botany; of which the celebrated James Edward Smith, M. D F. R S. and President of the Linnean Society of Litchfield, justly says, in the preface to his "*Introduction to Physiological and Systematical Botany*"—

"I shall not labor to prove how delightful and instructive it is to

"Look through Nature, up to Nature's God."

"Neither, surely, need I demonstrate that if any judicious or improved use is to be made of the natural bodies around us, it must be expected from those who discriminate their kinds and study their properties. Of the benefits of natural science in the improvement of many arts no one doubts. Our food, our physic, our luxuries are improved by it.—By the enquiries of the curious, new acquisitions are made in remote countries, and our resources of various kinds are augmented. The skill of Linnæus, by the most simple observation, founded, however, on scientific principles, taught his countrymen to destroy an insect, the *Cantharis navalis*, which had cost the Swedish government many thousand pounds a year, by its ravages on the timber of one dock-yard only. After its metamorphoses, and the season when the fly laid its eggs, were known, all its ravages were stopped by immersing the timber in water during that period. The same great observer, by his botanical knowledge, detected the cause of a dreadful disease among the horned cattle of the north of Lapland, which had previously been thought equally unaccountable and irremediable, and of which he has given an explicit account in his Lapland tour, as under *Cicuta virosa, Engl. Bot. 479, in his Flora Laponica.* One man in our days, by his scientific skill alone, has given the bread-fruit to the West Indies, and his country justly honors his character and pursuits. All this is acknowledged.—We are no longer in the infancy of science, in which its utility, not having been proved, might be doubted, nor is it for this that I contend. I would recommend botany for its own sake. I have often alluded to its benefits as a mental exercise, nor can any study exceed it in raising curiosity, gratifying a taste for beauty and ingenuity of contrivance, or sharpening the powers of discrimination. What then can be better adapted for young persons? The chief use of a great part of our education is no other than what I have just mentioned. The languages and the mathematics, however valuable in themselves when acquired, are even more so as they train the youthful mind to thought and observation. In Sweden, natural history is the study of the schools by which men rise to preferment; and there are no people with more acute or better regulated minds than the Swedes.

"To those whose minds and understandings are already formed, this study may be recommended, independently of all other considerations, as a rich source of innocent pleasure. Some people are ever enquiring "what is the use" of any particular plant, by which they mean, "what food or physic, or what materials for the painter or dyer does it afford?" They look on a beautiful flowery meadow with admiration, only in proportion as it affords nauseous drugs or salves. Others consider a botanist with respect only as he may be able to teach them some profitable improvement in tanning or dyeing, by which they may quickly grow rich, and be then, perhaps no longer of any use to mankind or to themselves. They would permit their children to study botany, only because it might possibly lead to professorships, or other lucrative preferment.

"These views are not blameable, but they are not the sole end of human existence. Is it not desirable to call the soul from the feverish agitation of worldly pursuits, to the contemplation of divine wisdom in the beautiful economy of nature? Is it not a privilege to walk with God in the garden of creation, and hold converse with his providence? If such elevated feelings do not lead to the study of nature, it cannot far be pursued without rewarding the student by exciting them.

"Rousseau, a great judge of the human heart and observer of human manners, has remarked, that "when science is transplanted from the mountains and woods into cities and worldly society, it loses its genuine charms, and becomes a source of envy, jealousy, and rivalship." This is still more true if it be cultivated as a mere source of emolument. But the man who loves botany for its own sake knows no such feelings, nor is he dependent for happiness on situations or scenes that favor their growth. He would find himself neither solitary nor desolate, had he no other companion than a "mountain daisy," that "modest crimson-tipped flower," so sweetly sung by one of nature's own poets. The humblest weed or moss will ever afford him something to examine or to illustrate, and a great deal to admire. Introduce him to the magnificence of a tropical forest, the enamelled meadows of the Alps, or the wonders of New Holland, and his thoughts will not dwell much upon riches or literary honors, things that

"*Play around the head, but come not near the heart.*"

"One idea is indeed worthy to mix in the pure contemplation of nature, the anticipation of the pleasure we may have to bestow on kindred minds with our own, in sharing with them our discoveries and our acquisitions. This is truly an object worthy of a good man, the pleasure of communicating virtuous disinterested pleasure to those who have the same tastes with ourselves; or of guiding young ingenious minds to worthy pursuits, and facilitating the acquisition of what we have already obtained. If honors and respectful considerations reward such motives, they flow from a pure source. The giver and the receiver are alike invulnerable, as well as inaccessible, to "envy, jealousy, or rivalship," and may pardon their attacks without an effort.

"The natural history of animals, in many respects, even more interesting than botany to man as an animated being, and more striking in some of the phænomena which it displays, is in other points less pleasing to a tender and delicate mind. In botany all is elegance and delight. No painful, disgusting, unhealthy experiments are to be made. Its pleasures spring up under our feet, and, as we pursue them, reward us with health and serene satisfaction. None but the most foolish or depraved could derive any thing from it but what is beautiful, or pollute its lovely scenery with unamiable or unhallowed images. Those who do so, either from corrupt taste or malicious design, can be compared only to the fiend entering into the garden of Eden.

"Let us turn from this odious picture to the contemplation of nature ever new, ever abundant in inexhaustible variety. Whether we scrutinize the damp recesses of woods in the wintry months, when the numerous tribes of mosses are displaying their minute, but highly interesting structure, whether we walk forth in the early spring, when the ruby tips of the hawthorn bush give the first sign of its approaching vegetation, or a little after, when the violet welcomes us with its scent, & the primrose with its beauty; whether we contemplate, in succession all the profuse flowery treasures of the summer, or the more hidden secrets of nature at the season when fruits and seeds are forming; the most familiar objects, like old friends, will always afford us something to study and admire in their characters, while discoveries will awaken to a train of new ideas. The yellow blossoms of the morning, that fold up their delicate leaves as the day advance; others that court and sustain the full blaze of noon; and the pale night-scented tribe, which expand, and diffuse their very sweet fragrance, towards evening, will all please in their turn.—Though spring is the season of hope and novelty, to a naturalist more especially, yet the wise provisions and the abundant resources of nature, in the close of the year, will yield an observing mind no less pleasure than the rich variety of autumnal tint afford to the admirers of her external charms. The more we study the works of the creator, the more wisdom, beauty and harmony become manifest, even to our limited apprehensions; and while we admire, it is impossible not to adore.

"Soft roll your incense, herbs and fruits, and flowers,
In mingled clouds, to *Him*, whose sun exalts,
Whose breath perfumes you, and whose pencil paints!"

The nations of Europe, duly appreciating the importance of botanical and horticultural establishments, have for a length of time continued to encourage them, and at no period so much as at present; notwithstanding their sanguinary wars & convulsions of empires. Those twin brothers are, and ought to be inseparable; as all the discoveries of the botanists are, generally, first introduced into the gardens, in order to make the requisite experiments on their culture and qualities, previous to the introduction of the suitable kinds into the fields.

Some may consider establishments of this kind of little importance; but let it be remembered, that such gave the grape vine, peach, apricot, nectarine, sugar cane,* potatoe, &c. to Europe: also, the improved varieties of pear, plum, apple, wheat, barley, rye, oats, cabbage, &c.—and to the United States, cotton, rice, tobacco, indigo, Indian corn, flax, hemp, sweet potatoes, red clover, with grasses of various kinds, as well as many varieties of the fruits and grains above mentioned: but still there are many more which may yet be obtained and introduced for the public benefit, with a little trouble & the advantage of a good correspondence.

The citizens of the United States, now finding it necessary to commence manufactures of various kinds, will require several plants, that hitherto were *here* of little importance. The woad (Isatis tinctoria) will be found necessary in the dying of blue; the wold (Reseda, luteola) for dying yellow; the dyer's madder (Rubia tinctorum) for dying red; the fuller's teasel (Dipsacus fullonum) for dressing and finishing fine cloth. Many other truly valuable plants are scarce, or not at this time to be found in the country; but it shall be one of his primary objects to propagate such of those as he has, and to obtain such as he has not, for the same purpose; in order that they may be distributed through the union for general utility.

BERNARD M'MAHON.

, *Such printers as approve of the above will oblige by giving it publicity, when not pressed by more important matter.*

* Before the discovery of the West Indies in 1492, by the Spaniards; or the East Indies in 1497 by the Portuguese; it is certain that abundance of sugar was made in the islands of Sicily, Crete, Rhodes, and Cyprus. The sugar cane is supposed to have been brought to these islands originally from India by the Saracens, and from thence transported into some ports in Italy. The sugar cane is said to have been introduced into Spain, from Africa by the Moors; to be first cultivated there in Valencia, and afterwards in Grenada and Murcia, where it is cultivated to this day. From Valencia the cultivation and manufacture of sugar was carried to the Canary islands in the fifteenth century; but prior to this this period, the Portuguese in 1420 carried the cane, and the manufacture from Sicily to Madeira. Hence the culture of the sugar cane and the art of making sugar were extended to the West India islands and the Brazils.

If in Europe the sugar cane can be cultivated between latitudes 37 and 40, why may it not be expected to succeed in all our sea-islands south of Charleston, lat. 32 50? A successful experiment has lately been made on its culture in the small island of Sapelo in Georgia, by a Mr. Spalding, for which he deserves well of his country.

Longevity.—There died in February, 1806, at Gloves, near Athenry, in Ireland, of a short illness, Dennis Conrobee, of Ballendangan, aged 117 years. The life of this man was remarkable not only for its duration, but from its exemption from most of the evils of humanity. He retained his mental and corporal faculties in full vigor to the last. Three weeks before his death he walked out and home 26 miles in one day, and read the smallest print without glasses as distinctly and easily as a boy of 16. Two days previous to his death, he never remembered to have any complaint or sickness whatever, tooth-ache only excepted. The first fifty-six years of his life passed entirely free from even the tooth-ache. After that period his teeth began to decay; but in the course of 15 years a new set appeared, of which he continued in possession till his death.

Of his moral character, it is only recorded, that he was steadfastly an honest man; sober, regular, and perfectly upright in his deportment.—His mind was naturally strong and acute, not disciplined by a literary education, but enriched by observation and experience. He spent his life in the cultivation of the same farm, the property of which he had acquired early in life, and bent his attention chiefly to agriculture, in which he was generally allowed to be eminently proficient. He was one of the earliest who introduced and propagated the potatoe, which he cultivated for the last seventy years.

He was seven times married.—He was first married at the age of 21.—With his last wife, who survived him, he lived longer than with any of the previous ones, that is, 26 years, having married her when 93 years old. In general, they were short lived, and were young women of his immediate neighborhood. The years of his widowhood, taken together, amounted to 11. All the children born to him were forty-eight, which, it on an average, is one for every two years, since the first year of his marriage. He had three sets of twins; and his third wife bore him 11 children in 12 years.

His grand children were in number 236, which is a little more than 5 to each child. His great grand children amounted to 944 which is more, proportionally, than 8 to each child.——He had 25 great great grand children, the oldest of whom is now 4 years old. Of 1253 descendants of his body, 487 survived him.

By his last wife, he had six sons, the youngest of whom is a fine lad of 18.

These facts are extracted from a register kept by the old man, of the names, births, marriages, deaths, and general situation of his wives and descendants. The keeping of this register was his principal amusement; and his descendants being scattered far and wide over the earth, he took great pains to make a catalogue exact and complete. It is to be hoped, that some curious person may rescue this document from oblivion, by committing it to the press. It must certainly lead to some very valuable inferences, as to the constitution of human bodies and of human society.

From the Philadelphia Gazette, (a federal paper.)

It has been with no small degree of surprise, that I have noticed the labored attempts of certain writers in this country, to exculpate the British government, in its rejection of the settlement made between Mr. Erskine and our government. At one time they are disposed to throw all the odium upon the two last; and on other occasions to divide the blame between the two cabinets and the minister here. What possible good can arise from those kind of statements, in which the construction is evidently forced? Are these men disposed to come forward as the supporters of the British ministry, and that in a cause which it is out of their power to defend before the American people, who keenly feel the injury done them by that ministry? Are they prepared to accede to any terms that Mr. Canning may offer us? Do they believe that the American nation will ever agree to any arrangement, which does not fully embrace every object in Mr. Erskine's settlement? And if the Cabinet of St. James are disposed to make a treaty on equal terms, why would they disavow what Mr. Ers-