

WASHINGTON WHIG.

BRIDGETOWN, MAY 26, 1817.

The publication of the *Albany Register*, a semi-weekly paper, has been discontinued, for want of encouragement.

The *Portico*, a periodical work published in Baltimore, is said to be in a languishing state. We regret to see so many instances of the failure of works of this kind in the United States. It is a reproach to the nation. The above is reputed to be a work of considerable merit; it does not consist merely in a selection from foreign magazines, but is made up wholly of original matter. It is humbling to our feelings to see the efforts of American genius, in this department, so often rendered fruitless. We trust, however, the work will be revived. The editor is an American, and therefore has an additional claim on the people for support. On this subject, the Baltimore American makes the following correct observations:

"For ourselves, we must say, that we feel humbled to see the struggles of American genius to burst the shackles of foreign despotism over taste and letters, rendered nerveless;—her generous aspirations to equal, by patient assiduity, the fame of the Eastern Magi, repressed and stifled;—and her efforts to run with honor the race of literary glory, palsied and withered by the cold and heartless neglect of Americans themselves;—when Parkinson and Mellish and Ash, *et id genus omne* of foreign travellers, may be seen pocketing their fees for vilifying every thing American that is peculiar to us as Americans—even when those peculiarities may be displays of republican simplicity, rustic but honest hospitality, and unsophisticated moral virtues, to which these doughty travellers had been, at home, entirely strangers. Moore may lampoon us in his melodious doggerel, and be caressed and courted, and edition after edition of his harmonious scandal of ourselves be sold and sung among us—while a man who is an American indeed, whose talents and virtues we know and respect, who is independent enough to tell the truth, and intrepid enough to say that his fellow citizens are neither fools nor knaves—who devotes himself almost exclusively to an enterprise, which does honor to us all, and who asks no other compensation than to have a just estimate set upon his labors—no other reward than to satisfy his paper maker and printer—must either involve himself in pecuniary embarrassments, which he cannot justify to his family, or abandon an enterprise of which we all have reason to be proud.

The U. S. brig Prometheus, Capt. Wadsworth, and the Lynx, Capt. Storer, arrived at Philadelphia on Monday last from Boston, with seamen for the Franklin, 74.

The ice in the St. Lawrence is stated to have been firm on the 1st of May: several May-poles were planted on the river, and horses, carriages and horned cattle, crossed it to the day of its breaking up; which was on the 3d inst. Another instance of the river being covered with fixed ice opposite Quebec at this late period, is not recollected by the oldest inhabitant.

The schooner Peacock, arrived at Providence, was boarded on the 1st instant, by the U. S. brig Boxer, Capt. Porter, 5 days from New-York, having run 700 miles in three days.

GLEANINGS AND LUCUBRATIONS. No. XXXV.

On Education.

"Surely no one will deny that the two principal objects in a well conducted education, are to cultivate a good heart, and to give the understanding such additional strength and information as may safely direct the heart in the various events of life, and teach the possessor of it to act up to the comparative dignity of a rational creature. But attainments merely ornamental have little tendency to accomplish either of these purposes. On the contrary, as they add a lustre without solidity, they induce idleness to content itself with the appearances of merit, which are easily assumed, and to neglect the reality, as attainable only by a painful and unostentatious application. They inspire confidence, without worth to support it; they give an air of insolent superiority, which often defeats even the purpose of pleasing; and however they may cause admiration in the dissipated and superficial, they are little esteemed by those whose applause is valuable, men of approved virtue and dispassionate reflection.—They are then only useful and truly graceful, when they tend to render good characters more conspicuously amiable." Knox.

"When we observe how ineffectually, throughout all ages, wisdom has laboured, by her instructive lessons, to restrain the passions which in infancy might, have been subdued; to awaken the affections which in infancy might have been cherished; and to invigorate those intellectual energies, which ought in infancy to have been exercised, it will not seem hyperbolic to assert, that if mothers were universally qualified for the performance of these important duties, it would do more towards the progressive improvement of the human race, than all the discoveries of science, and researches of philosophy." Mrs. Hamilton.

When a child has learned to read? his own language with facility, and acquired some knowledge of its Grammar and Syntax, he is prepared to exercise his memory by spelling, and by rehearsing moral and religious essays and sentences. We unhappily have no spelling book in our schools free of errors, and injurious faults. Webster is doubtless a man of considerable genius, and has been the means of some improvement in the English language; but he appears to want that judg-

ment, and discrimination of mind, which are necessary to the compilation of a complete spelling book and grammar. We have seen a late spelling book announced, by an experienced teacher in New York; but have not had an opportunity of examining it. If the character given it be just, it ought to be substituted for those now generally used in our schools.

When children begin to read fluently, they should be furnished with books within the reach of their comprehension, that will excite in them an avidity for reading, and implant in their tender minds the love of virtue and science. We cannot coincide with those philosophers who object to the Holy Scriptures as unsuitable books for children. In our opinion, they ought to be used among the first and the last in every seminary of learning. The sublimity of the ideas, the beauty of the figures, and the captivating description of that refined morality with which they are crowded, make them peculiarly calculated to infuse, into the susceptible minds of children, the first lessons of wisdom.

A variety of books have been published for the use of the rising generation, and in making the selection we should have regard principally to those which may afford them present amusement, invigorate their mental powers, and confirm, while they direct their taste for reading. Some of the books printed solely for the use of children, are of too trifling a nature to afford a child either pleasure or improvement.—The books which will most captivate their fancy, and at the same time impart the most useful instruction of which they are yet capable, will be those which describe the more common actions and characters of men, the scenes of external nature, the properties of material objects, the forms and tempers of animals, and whatever either at present exercises their active powers, or can open up to them a new sphere of employment. The Fables of Aesop, and Fables generally, are too unnatural to instruct children, and should, together with all the multiplied, puerile and nonsensical books extant, be banished from schools.

Having thus far disciplined and instructed your pupils, the difficulty attending a proper education will diminish by every advance in life, and knowledge; especially if the scholar begins to exhibit a love of letters, and of books. The learner should now be taught to write, let his future destiny be what it may.

At this period, by careful observation of the bent of the child's mind, and its habits and propensities, some estimation may be made of its future progress in virtue and literature. The first indications of genius are discovered by an anxious curiosity, and a spirit of prying observation. Genius, so far as it depends upon a peculiar state of nervous sensibility, is no doubt the offspring of nature; but like the cartilages of the body, acquires solidity from the necessity of exercise. Whatever may be the difference with respect to capacity that children bring into the world with them, we need not despair of any who discover an ardent desire for improvement. Having made some discovery of the capacity of the child, it is at this period proper for the parent to direct his future studies with reference to his destined profession.

If a parent is desirous of educating his son for one of the learned professions, he should at this period commence the study of the Latin language. It must be admitted, that classical literature is highly important in a liberal education. We are sensible that many valuable and useful men in the respective profession of law, physic and divinity, are destitute of classical erudition; but we know very well, that every one of them, who are truly respectable, feel and lament their deficiency as a serious injury. It is therefore that we recommend the commencement of the study of Latin for all who are destined to a learned profession, as soon as they begin to learn Penmanship. The Latin language is, in many accounts, a very desirable attainment. There are authors in that language of very distinguished excellence, particularly in the exquisite skill which they discover in the selection and structure of words. Besides, the Latin language recommends itself to our attention as a praxis or example of investigation and analysis, and on account of the words undergoing an uncommon number of variations and inflections; and these inflections are more philosophically appropriated, and more distinct in their meaning, perhaps, than those of any other language. Further, as the words in composition are not arranged in a natural order, the mind is obliged to exert itself, to disentangle the chaos, and is compelled to yield an uninterrupted attention to the inflections. And let it be carefully remembered, that to teach youth to think with precision, and to excite in them an ardent temper of mind, are absolutely necessary for the improvement of their understanding. The study of Latin is also highly beneficial in order to the attainment of the philosophy of language generally.

For these and other reasons that might be adduced, it is evident that the study of Latin is valuable, though it should never be applied to any practical purpose, but merely introduced as a matter of intellectual discipline. The study of Latin, and of Geometry, are recommended in Education, not only on account of their direct, but also of their indirect uses. They cultivate the powers of the mind, invigorate the intellectual stamina, and generate useful habits, by subjecting every thing to inflexible laws. The mind that has become accustomed to these studies; acquires habits of order, and of comprehending subjects with clearness, arrangement and discrimination. And to attain such a clearness of apprehension, is of inestimable value to every citizen. It is for want of acquiring the habit of close investigation, and nice discrimination, that a great part of mankind are constantly deluded, imposed upon, and deceived by quacks, impostors, and knaves, in all the arts and sciences, in the practice of law and physic, and by the pretended Ambassadors of Christ;—many of whom, instead of being teachers themselves, "Have need that one teach them again which be the first principles of the Oracles of God."

Notwithstanding the great importance we attach to the study of the classics, in a liberal education, we would not have a boy confined all day in coining over his lessons in Grammar and Syntax. A boy of ordinary capacity will advance as rapidly with devoting three or four hours daily to that study, as by being obliged to pour over his book for a longer period. And although it would be improper to distract his mind with too great a variety of objects, yet by choosing the subject, his mind would be relieved, and his spirits invigorated; therefore, part of his time should be employed in writing, and in acquiring the first elements of Arithmetic, at the same time that he is engaged in learning Latin.

To such as are designed for the labours of husbandry, or the mechanic arts, time cannot be spared for learning Latin. The English grammar, penmanship and arithmetic, should at this period of life employ their attention. An early and accurate acquaintance with arithmetical notation and enumeration, are well calculated to impart habits of precision, arrangement and classification, and should therefore be peculiarly attended to in a common education. By this means, children, before they are capable of manual usefulness, may have their minds awakened, to progressive improvement in knowledge, in after periods of life.

We understand, says the Georgetown Messenger of May 9, that a ship load of Stocking Looms, and Swiss weavers, arrived at Washington a few days since, where they propose to form an establishment which has for its object the manufacturing of cotton and woollen hosiery, kuit pantaloons, petticoats, under waistcoats, and Berlin lace, and tulle for ladies dresses.

We learn with pleasure, that the banks have been liberal in their promises of support to this industrious and valuable little colony.

AN ILLUSTRIOUS TRIO.

On the 5th of this month, three men were seen together at Charlottesville, county of Albemarle, each of whom alone is calculated to attract the eager gaze of their Fellow Citizens.—We mean Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe, two of them ex-presidents and the last the present President of the U. States. They have been friends for years, and are as sincere friends at this moment.—Messrs. Madison and Monroe had attended Mr. J. on horseback, from Monticello to Charlottesville, to assist in fixing a site for a "Central College"—under the Act of the General Assembly. The appearance of three such men together at a village where the citizens of the county had met to attend their court, is an event, which for its singularity, deserves the notice of a passing paragraph. Mox Eng.

Niles Register.—Never there was a periodical paper worth the sum at which it was published, this certainly is. Its worth as a newspaper, though it collects and condenses every interesting article of intelligence, is the least part of its value. As a record of important documents it is above all price to the present generation; and will be a rich legacy to posterity, to whom it will furnish the best history of the present times. To render it thus useful, Mr. NILES has applied all his capital, employed all his time, exerted all his talents, sacrificed repose, and dispensed with recreation, until his intense application has reduced a robust body to a mere skeleton, and his pecuniary advances have involved him in extreme embarrassment. His paper is universally approved; and if he could feed on applauses, he might grow fat. His subscription list is well filled; and if names were money, he would soon be rich. But, we are sorry to learn, by the last Register, that such is the

shameful and culpable remissness of many of his subscribers, that he entertains thoughts of transferring his establishment to some one who is "better fitted to attend to the main chance, the collection of its dues," than he is. We hope that this step may not be necessary; and that a returning sense of justice will prompt his delinquent subscribers to pay up their arrears, and by that means induce and enable him to pursue his present avocation with renewed pleasure to himself, and increased usefulness to the public. For ourselves, we cannot conceive how a man of any feeling can take a paper from year to year, read it week after week with delight and improvement, and all the while neglect to furnish even a dollar to assist in defraying the vast expense of its publication, or in rewarding the labor which renders it entertaining and instructive. We would suppose that every time he took the paper in hand his memory would remind him of his delinquency, and his conscience reproach him with his injustice. Tren. True Am.

From the National Intelligencer.

IMPORTANT TO FARMERS.

BUCKLAND, VA. MAY 10, 1817.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton:

The ravages of the Hessian Fly, of which we have so general accounts this season, are certainly a subject of melancholy concern. As far as I have been able to learn, in all the counties of Virginia where the growth of wheat is sufficiently advanced to produce the discovery of the visitation of this insect, it has invariably appeared, and I now very much lament that some of my neighbors, or myself, did not, last year, give publicity to the facts on the subject, which for several years have been known to us, and of which the present year affords additional evidence.

About five years ago, a kind of wheat was introduced into this neighborhood, which has been found, by invariable experience, to resist the fly. It was brought here by James Lawler, in a small quantity, in his saddle bags, from Chester county, Pennsylvania, where he had been on a visit to his friends. He stated, that it was there called Jones' White Wheat, and had never been infected with the fly. From this circumstance considerable attention was paid to the propagation of it. The second year after it had been cultivated in this neighborhood, I was so fortunate as to get five bushels of it; I sowed it on one side of a field of about 120 acres, the balance of the field in the golden beard; there was no difference in the soil, and the Lawler wheat produced eleven for one, while the other did not exceed three for one. The fly that year was very fatal, and the golden beard, which was sowed much more thick than the other, became, after the commencement of spring, thin and scattering, and continued to decline in prospect; much of that which had survived falling till it was harvested, while the Lawler wheat grew to a fine height, and was without any fly in it.

I sowed the succeeding year my product of fifty-five bushels, and twenty more, which I obtained by giving four bushels for one. I sowed that year 270 bushels of different kinds, and made as much from the seventy-five of Lawler wheat as from all the rest, for that was also a fatal year to the general crops, from the ravages of the fly. I afterwards sowed my whole crop of the Lawler wheat; but the last fall, being lulled into a false security, from the circumstances of the fly not having made its appearance the preceding season, I sowed a portion again of the bearded wheat, in order to divide, for convenience, the time of the harvest coming in as the Lawler wheat comes later than any, except the old yellow bearded wheat generally in use some years ago, and is about as late as that. But this year has again most fatally testified to the value of the Lawler wheat. I have almost wholly lost my seeding of the golden beard, while the other has continued to grow in proportion to the benignity of the season, and has a perfectly healthful appearance without the trace of any fly; while in that adjoining it, of a different kind, you may immediately see deposited in the stalk, 6, 8 or 10 of the embryo. Among my neighbors, as far as I have learned of the state of their crops, the same result has occurred. The Lawler wheat is invariably exempt from fly, and every other kind as invariably destroyed.

Experiments were, in the first three or four successive years after its introduction, made of its efficacy, with the most satisfactory success. I will only mention one—Mr. John Brown, in the fall of 1814, sowed equal quantities of the purple straw and Lawler mixed; the fly commenced its depredations as usual in the spring, and at harvest scarcely a straw of the purple wheat was left, while the Lawler remained alone, and apparently uninjured.

Of this valuable wheat much was this year ground, the anxiety to get of the seed having subsided; from the favorableness of the last season. At some other time it may be proper to assign the reasons of this extraordinary exemption, if indeed they can be

