NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

Vol. III WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. *No. CCCCIII.*

Five Dolls. per ann. MONDAY, MAY 23, 1803. *Paid in Advance.*

To be sold positively at public sale, on Tuesday the 26 of May, on the premises.

THE Subscriber's life-estate in the Walnut Tree Farm, situate on the river Potomac, about 4 miles below Alexandria. The farm consists of about 360 acres. The buildings and improvements very good, and the fishery attached to it very valuable.

Also will be sold at the same time and place, a number of horses, cattle, and sheep, and a variety of farming utensils as well as a quantity of household furniture, consisting of mahogany tables, bureaus, bedstead, chairs &c.

The terms cash for all sums under one hundred dollars; and for all sums above, approved notes negociable in the banks of Alexandria or Columbia, at 60 and 90 days.

TOBIAS LEAR.

May 4, 1803. ep24M.

CHARLES VARDEN,

TAYLOR,

From Philadelphia.

HAS received from Philadelphia an elegant assortment of the best quality Superfine Cloths, Cassimeres, Silk florintine, Black and fancy silk moleskin velvet, white & figured Marseilles, Swandowns, Toilinettes, Velveteens, Fancy cords, Coating, &c.

With a variety of other articles suitable for the winter season.

N. B. Ladies Habits, Regimentals and Navy uniforms made in the first style of fashion.

New-Jersey Avenue, the second House from the Capitol Square.

December 8, 1802. tf.

The subscriber has for sale,

A QUANTITY OF

Claret in bottles,	Jamaica Spirits,
Anchovies in boxes,	Whisky in barrels,
Capers in ditto,	New-England cheese,
Olives in ditto,	Imperial Tea in chests,
Olive Oil in ditto,	Butter in Firkins,
Sugar in hhds, & bls.	&c. &c.

WILLIAM BRENT.

Washington, May 11. tf

Carpenters and Labourers Wanted.

Wanted to work on the Bridge over the eastern Branch of Potomak, a number of rough Carpenters, also a number of labourers by the month, to whom employment will be given during the whole of the summer. Their wages will be paid monthly, and the best prices will be given. Application to be made to the Subscriber.

WILLIAM BRENT.

Treasurer of the Eastern Branch Bridge Company. *April 18th.* *ep 3w.*

Plank & scantling for cash

Wanted for the Eastern Branch bridge a quantity of the best HEART YELLOW PINE *plank and Scantling, viz.*

2000 feet running, of 5 by 6 inches in lengths of 5 f. 3 inch.—10 f. 6 inch —15 9 inch. or 21 feet.

3400 feet running of 5 by 6 inch. in lengths. from 17 f. 6 inch. to 26 f. 6 inch.

3350 feet running of 2 inch plank 8 inch. wide and 3250 feet running of 4 by 4 inch. in lengths of 8 f. 6.—17 f. 0 inch or 25 6 inch. as most convenient.

Also 50 000 feet 4 inch plank in 17 feet lengths.

The whole must be found and entire heart—Apply speedily to

WILLIAM BRENT.

Treasurer to the Eastern Branch bridge company.

Capitol Hill May 4, 1803. ep2w.

FOR SALE OR RENT,

THAT elegant three story BRICK HOUSE on the corner of Falls & Frederick street in George Town, lately occupied by Mr. PICHON.

Likewise,

THE two well finished three story BRICK HOUSES, adjoining that occupied by Mr. SAMUEL H. SMITH, Printer, on the Pennsylvania Avenue, east of the centre Market House, City of Washington—Apply to

GEORGE THOMPSON,
George Town.

Geo. Town, Oct. 20. tf.

THOMAS CARPENTER, TAYLOR.

HAS Just received by recent arrivals at Philadelphia, from England, and the East Indies, a handsome assortment of SPRING and SUMMER GOODS, of the best quality, also Patent water proof Cloth's and Cassimere's, superior NAVY BLUE and other colours; handsome NAVY & FASHIONABLE BUTTONS, &c,

Gentlemen of ARMY, NAVY and FASHION served with expedition and taste.

New Jersey Avenue, seventh house from Capitol Square and Pennsylvania Avenue near the President's square.

April 13 1803. tf.

TO LET,

And be entered upon immediately, three well finished BRICK HOUSES,

NEARLY opposite Morin's Tavern, on Twelfth street very near Pennsylvania Avenue, built for the WASHINGTON BUILDING COMPANY.

The Houses will be rented on very reasonable terms.

Apply to THOMAS CARPENTER near the President's Square. eptf.

Dec. 1st.

To the Electors of the City of Washington.

The gratitude and respect, which your former kindness claims, calls on me, in returning into your hands the trust conferred, to render you an account of its exercise; and of my consequent impressions respecting your affairs and interests.

In the midst of that change of sentiment on governmental subjects, which the revolution of America has produced, one respecting the government of cities is not unobservable. Formerly towns and cities received from the sovereign power an endowment of particular privileges, and an exemption from certain oppressions, denied to the rest of the community. In countries which presented the aspect of a gloomy and ferocious despotism, particular towns and cities were invested with a shadow of liberty; and enjoyed a partial safety from that tyranny, which blazed on the surrounding country, with intolerable fierceness. Hence the charters, on which depended the tenure of these advantages, were justly deemed of high importance, and inviolable sanctity. They were regarded as the security against the encroachments of the prince; the evidence to strangers of their privileges and advantages; and the memento to the citizens of their duties, and of their rights.

In the United States of America, our first institutions, in relation to the domestic government of cities, were in imitation of those of the mother-country. The government of London, like that of the nation of which it is the metropolis, exhibits a confusion of free and despotic principles, modern refinements grafted on the relics of gothicism, an intermixture of legislative, executive and judicial powers, with a multiplicity of offices, some of obsolete utility, some of frivolous ceremony. The sources of its jurisdictions and authorities are arduous to comprehend, from their antiquity, their variety, and their number. The grants, charters, statutes, contracts, customs, privileges, exemptions, which attach to it, are innumerable; and constitute an article of no inconsiderable difficulty and importance in the administration of the laws. That idea of a *corporation*, which is peculiar to British jurisprudence, and consists in *a capacity of representation in courts of justice*, is the sole advantage we have derived from the institutions of the mother country in relation to this subject; and is one so essential and useful as to be well worthy of extension to all the political communities of a nation. In other respects the government of the metropolis of Great Britain is a very intricate and complicated system; and unworthy of American imitation.

Governments of this kind ought to accord, as far as is practicable, with the general principles of the national system. Special immunities and advantages are unjust; and even unnecessary anomalies are impolitic. A city is but a community distinguished from others in a nation by the circumstance of greater contiguity among its inhabitants. The government of a community characterized as a city, need to vary from that of a community characterized as a nation, but in very few particulars. In a *free* nation the system of government in a city ought to be a *free* government.

In the City of Washington the system of government is but the national system in miniature. Here we behold the people themselves electing their own representatives; and through them enacting the laws which their general good, and common welfare, appear to require. Here we behold the legislative power vested in two separate bodies; as in all the other systems of American legislation. Here we behold a sole and distinct executive magistrate; to whom is confided the authority of appointing to offices created by the legislative power. Here also we behold this *legislative* power, and this *executive* power, unassociated with the *judicial* power. It will be found an essential advantage in governments, and as well in those of subordinate as in those of superior grade, that they who make the laws should not be those who execute them; and that they who judge on the rights arising under them should be unconnected with either. It is a hope I therefore cherish with great solicitude that the leading principles of this system of city-government will be preserved unimpaired; whatever mutations or modifications future occasions may require. I particularly hope that judicial powers will continue to be withheld from the city government; that laws may continue to be made by citizens who are not concerned in the immediate execution of them; and that a high and confidential executive magistrate, with the power of appointment to office, may continue to be the sole organ of carrying the laws into execution.

With these essential and important recommendations your system of city government is not free from peculiar defects. An early discovery of these could not fail to be made by those who were first called to carry the system into operation. They accordingly devoted a sedulous attention to devising a proper remedy for them; and submitted the result in a memorial to the national legislature. The precipitancy of business prevented any amendment being made during the last session. With respect to the more important ameliorations, those which regarded an enlargement of representation, and an increase of powers, the postponement will not prove of the least essential injury. But from not obviating a smaller and more unimportant defect, very serious inconvenience has been, & will continue to be, sustained. From a jealousy entirely unreasonable, and warranted by no particular necessity, a deviation was made from the simple and only correct principle, the rule of a majority; and the presence of three fourths of the members of each chamber was required, in order to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. This amounts in each chamber to within one of the whole. It will not be found in a large city that a selection of characters can be made from the active and useful departments of society, and these ought to be preferred, because the quantum of information is always more abundant & more correct than in elevated grades of life, who will have it constantly in their power to assemble at the same time. Absences from the city, sickness, and some times the indispensible urgency of other business, will occasion the non-attendance of some one or more members. Where the activity of the whole body is paralysed by the unavoidable absence of one or two, who may at the same time be perfectly disposed to sanction what is transacted, the operation of the rule proves it to be hard, inconvenient, and absurd. This defect must necessarily be remedied before the city government of Washington can progress with advantage. It is fortunate for the city that it has occurred when the urgency has been less than it may be in future; but serious evils have notwithstanding already resulted from it. As the affairs of the city cannot well be transacted by a steady session, at any certain period of the year, but require a constant succession of meetings, at short intervals, I have found, that from the inconvenience which has been mentioned, it will not be in my power consistently, with your advantage, to serve in the next council. My avocations frequently call me to an absence of a week or two from the city; and if in that interval, any other member of the same chamber should be absent, or confined by indisposition, business becomes entirely suspended. I beg leave therefore, in resigning this trust into your hands, to decline a re-election to the same place; in case your satisfaction with my past conduct should be sufficient to have entitled me to that mark of your approbation. It is to be ascribed to the cause which has been mentioned; and to that alone. The sincere pleasure imparted by the evidence of your former favor, which is still vivid in my remembrance as if bestowed but yesterday, convinces me how grateful a renewed testimony of similar confidence would have proved to my mind.

On one subject I cannot refrain, in terminating my period of service, to express to you my dissatisfaction. It is that of taxation; and as my sentiments on this point differ from those of some others, I presume it will not be unacceptable to you to be possessed of them somewhat in detail.

Taxes are a necessary attendant on free governments. They are the price which the citizen pays for his liberty. They are the cost of his exemption from tyranny, from exaction, and oppression. How cheaply the purchase is made, let the citizen of this free and independent republic answer, when he compares his situation with that of the subject of any of the despotic governments on the earth.

Taxation is not in itself an evil. It is only when it becomes so heavy as to check industry, that it proves an injury. If the money annually levied from a community were so much sunk in the sea, or buried in the earth, it must at length impoverish them. But considered only as a small surplus from each man's prosperity, applied to public accommodation convenience and embellishment; it is returned into circulation, the industrious man again finds it, and it is as essentially beneficial as a capital obtained in any other mode.

To render a community perfectly satisfied with its taxation it ought to perceive that while no member of society is oppressed by it, no individual enjoys any disproportionate advantage, or undue emolument, from the product. It ought to be applied with *purity*, and with *economy*, to public benefit.

In order to apply public monies with *purity*, it is sufficiently a check that a legislature, of ordinary wisdom, should not be personally interested in the execution of their own laws; or concerned in contracts made under them. Their responsibility to the people will then always operate as an adequate restraint.

But for a government to be able to use *economy* something further is requisite. It ought never to be poor. It ought not to be fettered with heavy debts. Its income ought always to leave a liberal excess over its expenditure. It is by improvidence and indiscretion that the resources of a society become mortgaged to the money-lender; and its most effective energies devoted to the exoneration of past burthens, instead of the satisfaction of current wants.

By a law of Congress the justices of the peace for the county of Washington were erected into a body of partial legislation, with authority to impose taxes on the people. The assessment they had made, in raising their first tax, so far as it comprehended Washington, was adopted by the City-Council. Commencing our career unincumbered, it appeared to me prudent to preserve a disembarrassed situation; and to avoid pledging the future resources of the city by the accumulation of a debt. To have effected this, it would have been necessary to have limited our expenditure, during the first year, to a very moderate sum; and to commence a systematic and permanent mode of assessment, avoiding the prodigal expence attending special assessments, keeping the receipt constantly in advance of the expenditure, and leaving always a surplus at the expiration of the year; a system which would have been laborious in the first formation, but would have proved eminently productive as the city advanced in resources.

A temporizing course was however preferred; and in consequence of it, no light sum will have been raised from the people, a few inconsiderable purposes will have been attained, we shall go out of office in debt, and our successors will find themselves poorer than if we had left them a well-digested and productive system of finance. I shall be happy if in a course of years we regain the ground we have lost.

The people are sometimes slow to perceive the impolicy of a measure, but it will shortly be discovered that the erection of this *levy-court* is a real injury; and that the institution of a territorial legislature will be the surest mode of extracting public resources, in answer of public wants, with economy, and of applying them with effect. It will produce a saving, instead of an increase of expence; independent of its being the only reasonable mode of placing the inhabitants in the position which freemen ought to occupy, and at the same time securing to them the advantage of possessing *constitutionally* the permanent national metropolis.

The occasion may justify me in extending my observations to two additional points.

The inflammation of party-spirit can render no service, but may do essential injury, to Washington. Miserable would be the fate of a citizen of this country, if on account of his entertaining peculiar opinions on any subject, and especially on political subjects, he were to be entirely proscribed by the rest of the society, and held totally unworthy of all trust and confidence. It is right in questions of great political magnitude for a people to manifest a decided sentiment; and to ensure it efficacy by their suffrages. But where competency exists, and with it popular approbation and confidence, it is cruelty and persecution to deny the possessor a share in the councils of the community in which he resides. I trust that attempts will not be made to exclude in the election of characters for your domestic government men of any general political sentiments, whose private virtues, and talents to be useful to this city, call them to be participators in your public concerns.

The spirit of local rivalship between Alexandria, Georgetown, and Washington, may be carried so far as to prove pernicious. The mind must not have gone through much contemplation on the subject of the commercial prospects of the city of Washington, which has not perceived that, under existing circumstances, the rudiments of its commercial greatness must be derived from the superabundant prosperity of those two places in the first instance. Had those towns, from the establishment of the city of Washington until the present time, advanced as rapidly as other towns had before done, and as those will yet do; we should already have felt the advantage here. But the same events which checked the commerce of all the other towns on this continent, extended to these also; and has effectually denied to us, although of ten years establishment, even a commencement of mercantile enterprize. Some years must necessarily elapse ere Washington can rank with the commercial towns on this continent. In a period not extremely remote, the Pennsylvania avenue, from the Anacostia river to Georgetown, will present a continued line of improvements. Then public resource, and the spirit of individuals, should direct itself to the opening of the Virginia avenue, to the same extent. Traversing the finest ground, and commanding the navigation of four streams, it is the proper site for the transactions of commerce. It cannot be until our internal exertions have carried us to a certain point, that we can expect the aid of foreign capital, or immigration from other places. Then we may calculate on a rapid advance, which, like the progression of compound interest, will astonish the most circumspect mind. Let it not be doubted, a high destiny is recorded in the volume of fate for the city of Washington! Our own levity, unsteadiness, or illiberality, can alone retard it. The united capital of the towns in the territory of Columbia will be sufficient, in a very short time, to place it in a position of successful competition with the fairest favorites of commerce in this country. The first to suffer, it is your peculiar duty to make the first sacrifices of partiality, prejudice, and jealousy, to respect, confidence, and liberality; and to cultivate harmony, intercourse, and connection in business.

AUGUSTUS B. WOODWARD.

Washington, May 20, 1803.

LEBOO

WILL cover the ensuing season, to commence the first day of April, and end on the last day of June, on Mondays and Tuesdays at Queen Anne; Wednesdays and Thursdays at the farm of the subscriber, and Fridays and Saturdays at Bladensburg; at the rate of 16 dollars per Mare, cash, and half a dollar to the groom; the money to the groom to be sent with the mare, and a note for the balance, with the assumption of Messrs. Clagett or Hodges, of Queen Anne, or Messrs. Lowndes or Bruce, of Bladensburg, payable on the first day of December next, will be received.

Leboo is eight years old, a fine bright bay, 15 hands three inches high, a star and two white feet. He has proven himself both a sure and good foal-getter, having covered at four years old 25 mares, all of whom proved with foal; the colts are equal in size and beauty to any in this part of the country, and except in two instances, they were alike as to colour. At four years old Leboo won the colt's purse at Annapolis; on the next day he won the City purse, and on the third day he won a purse in Prince George's county, immediately after having travelled upwards of 30 miles. The next spring, at 5 years old, he won the first day's purse at Canton; the fall after he run against Mr. Tayloe's Leviathan, at Alexandria, one heat, was lame and drawn; a few days after he won the first day's purse at Govan's town. At 6 years old he won the first day's purse at Canton; the fall after he won the purse again at Canton, the jockey club purse at Govan's town, the purses at Frederick town, and the city of Washington; running nine miles, by mistake, at the last mentioned place, beating Mr. Tayloe's Leviathan. At seven years old he received a forfeit of 900 dollars at Havre-de-Grass, proceeded on to German town, won the first heat, afterwards fell lame, and was beat by Gen. Ridgely's Hamlet, whom he had beaten three times before.

Leboo was got by High Flier, his blood and figure equal to that of any other horse, and his pedigree may be seen by applying to the subscriber.

OSBORN SPRIGG.

Prince George's County, March 28.

☞ *The Subscriber will furnish good pasture, at half a dollar per week but will not be answerable for accidents or escapes.*

WANTED,

One or two Boys to learn the BOOT and SHOE-MAKING Business.—Apply to *JOHN CROOKSHANK.*

George-Town, Jan. 19, 1803. tf.