For the National Intelligencer.

Mr. Smith,

The right freely to investigate the measures of government, to know its principles of action, and the motives of its conduct, results from the doctrine, that all governmental power is derived from the people, and that, whenever exercised, it should be exercised for their benefit. They, who give power, ought to know the direction in which it operates; they, who alone are interested in any act, ought not to be prevented by their agents from judging of its propriety either by secreting it from their observation, or obscuring its object in such a manner as to render it invisible to the eyes of the community. To the people belongs the privilege of determining, at the time, whether the persons to whom they have intrusted power, have acted with wisdom and foresight; for they should not be compelled to judge of the goodness of measures by their consequences alone. Unless they have this privilege, however precautious they may be against encroachments upon their liberties, either by the form of their constitution, or by the selection of suitable characters to fill offices, they are not secure against the apostacy of their agents, nor are their liberties guarded against the covert attacks, and corrupting influence of those intrusted with the government. It therefore behoves a people, who wish to perpetuate their freedom, to be jealous of every secret act and every unintelligible proceeding not only of the executive, but of the legislative organ of their government. The latter especially should be an object of jealousy; for it holds the purse-strings of the nation, and communicates power to the other branches of the government. Without its aid the executive is incapable of effecting any scheme for the subversion of liberty, or of essentially impairing the fabric of our constitution. When they unite in any system of iniquity the only constitutional remedy is by a new election: But if they have seated themselves too firmly in power to yield to this prescription, the only alternative for relief is to wait till the accumulation of oppressions shall awaken the indignations of the community, and rouse into just vengeance the energies of an injured and insulted people. The former has been once tried successfully during the short period of the existence of our government; the latter, I hope, may never be wanted. Though we believe these to be undeniable principles of republicanism, yet where measures are intended to operate upon our exterior relations, and involve the interest of a foreign power, they cannot in all instances be acted upon without sacrificing the welfare of the country. For the policy of the present governments of the world is such, that it is necessary for each individual government, in order to protect itself against the intrigues of the others, to preserve, in some of its measures, a certain degree of secrecy. This is an evil which flows from the present state of political society, and which can never be remedied but by a radical change in almost every political institution. When governments are administered for the happiness of mankind, when wars cease, and the intercourse of nations is conducted upon the broad basis of justice, then every measure of Administration may be as public as the light of heaven. But until such a change is effected it would be the height of folly for one government alone, unless it were so powerful as to awe every other into compliance with its measures, to expose to the world all the motives of its conduct and the rules of its proceedings. Until such a change is effected, we must be restricted in our right to know all acts of government, and must submit, for our good, to judge of the propriety of some by their consequence: we must adopt the principle, which every other nation pursues, that of consulting our own interest and prosperity in preference to that of others. If we should unfortunately be involved in a war with a foreign power, would it be right in our government to give publicity to the deliberations of a cabinet council, whose object was the adoption of measures to defeat the hostile intention of our enemies? And if to aid this measure the concurrence of the legislature were necessary, would it be good policy, would it be consistent with the duty of the legislature or with our welfare, to permit the subject to be openly discussed? Every man possessed of the least spark of patriotism would blush with indignation at a policy so preposterous, at a conduct so destructive of our interests, and so replete with hazard to the very existence of our independence.—These principles may justly be applied to the defence of the secret sittings of Congress during the last session; for they are now pretty well understood to have had a reference to the occlusion of the port of New-Orleans, and to the difficulties which were in prospect between us & foreign powers. It is probable too that the law, giving to the President the disposal of two millions of dollars "for the purpose of defraying any extraordinary expenses which may be incurred in the intercourse between the United States and foreign nations", without specifying the object of expenditure, has a relation to the same subject. Should it be to enable him to purchase a tract of land lying on the Mississippi, where it is navigable for vessels of a size suited to trade at foreign markets, will it be said that it was our interest to have declared to the world that this was the object of the appropriation? Would not such a declaration have placed us completely in the power of the nation with which we were to treat on this subject After we had thus virtually told her that this is the price we will give, rather than not obtain our object, is it probable she would be induced to contract for a less sum? He must indeed be little acquainted with the avarice of governments, and the propensities of a mind habituated to courtly intrigue, who could for a moment harbor the probability

CURTIUS.

May 19th, 1803.

From the last publication of The Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture.

Raising of Virginia Wheat.

An account of a successful experiment in raising the early Virginia Wheat, and some observations on the use of the Plaister of Paris as a manure.

By Justin Ely, Esq. of West-Springfield

In October, 1798, I purchased a small piece of intervale land on the west banks of Connecticut river, in the general field in *West Springfield*. It lay so high as not to be covered by the floods. The soil, a warm loam, mixed with a little fine sand, and naturally of a good quality, but it had been exceedingly exhausted by a long course of tillage (probably one hundred and fifty years) and by raising exhausting crops, viz. Indian corn, buck wheat, &c. with very little if any manure; by this practice it was reduced so low as to produce very poor crops.—In 1799, three acres and twenty five rods, being the northwardly side of the said land, were sown with oats and red clover and herds grass seeds. The crop was very different. After the oats were harvested, a severe drought followed, which entirely destroyed the young herds grass, but the red clover mostly survived it. Since I have owned the above land, the plaister of Paris, at the rate of one bushel to the acre, has been annually sown thereon, some-times in the spring, and sometimes late in the fall. In the fall and winter of 1799 I procured a small quantity of yard manure to be spread thereon, probably not more than six or eight loads to the acre. In 1800 and 1801, it produced good crops of red-clover hay, from two tons to two tons and an half to the acre. On the 21st day of August, 1801, the land was ploughed a little deeper than common, and the clover sward was turned under. After a few days it was harrowed down by two horses with a seed harrow, in the same direction it had been ploughed; then the land was again ploughed by two horses in a day, with a small plough (such as is used to plough Indian corn) but so shallow as not to disturb the turf which had been first soaked thirty-six hours in water. The water was then drained off, and the wheat was taken out, about a half a bushel at a time, and spread in a half hogshead; then four or five quarts of ground plaister of Paris were spread thereon, then about three quarts of herds grass seed, and one pint of red clover seed was spread over the plaister, and then the whole was stirred and well mixed together—the remainder of the seed was prepared in the same manner, and then sown the same day while the wheat was still wet, and the fine plaister still covering the surface of every kernel. If suffered to remain a few hours after the application of the plaister, the wheat will become so dry that the plaister will not adhere to it.—The seed was then lightly ploughed in with a small plough drawn by one horse only. The ground was then harrowed crossways of the furrows to make the surface even for mowing.

The mixing the plaister with the grain, when sown as abovementioned, causes it to come up sooner. The first shooting of the blade appears stronger, and of a darker colour, and comes on faster than it otherwise would do.

On the 22d day of November following, three bushels of plaister of Paris were sown on the ground. If sown with the grain or very soon after, it will bring forward the grass so rapidly as to injure the crop, and some times to choak and destroy it; but if no grass seed is sown with the grain, the plaister may be sown at the same time or soon after. Some sow it on their winter grain the next spring, but the fall is preferred.

The appearance of the crop of wheat did not promise any thing extraordinary in the fall, nor till a month before harvest, at which time I would gladly have parted with the crop for one half of what it yielded at harvest. It ripened so early as to be harvested a few days sooner than any crop of rye in the vicinity:—to this circumstance of its ripening thus early, before the nights get to be warm, is imputed the security of this kind of wheat from blasting.

The produce of the above crop was one hundred and eleven bushels of good plump berried wheat, the average weight whereof was sixty four pounds to the bushel. Besides some bushels of foul grain for horse provender—about ninety-five bushels of the above wheat have been disposed of for seed at one dollar and an half for a bushel.

The grass seed sown with the wheat succeeded well, and at this time appears more promising than any I ever had before.

The sowing the grass seed, mixed with the grain and plaister, saves the trouble of sowing and harrowing it in the common way; and by being thus lightly ploughed in, the seeds are covered at different depths in the earth, and are more sure of succeeding, (especially in a dry season,) than when sown on the surface, or but thinly covered, as is commonly done.

The above was a larger production of wheat than is recollected to have been ever raised in the vicinity, being about thirty-six bushels to the acre. A single acre of the best undoubtedly yielded more than forty bushels.

The land was made mellow and well-fitted for the crop, but the uncommon produce was undoubtedly owing to the application of the plaister of Paris with the small quantity of manure put on the land. The quantity of yard manure was insufficient to give the whole of the land a very thin light dressing; therefore some of the hollows and best of the land had no yard manure put thereon, but had the usual annual supply of plaister; in those places the crop was very indifferent, and the land did not produce more than one quarter as much wheat as grew on the land adjoining, which had been manured.

The sowing one bushel of plaister to the acre annually, causes our lands to produce very abundant crops of grass, where very little would grow without it. This succeeds better than sowing four or five bushels to the acre once in three or four years.

When the land is ploughed up where the plaister has been applied, it turns up lively and mellow. When laid down to grass, two crops, or at most but three crops, are taken, the sward is then ploughed in, and one or two crops are taken of English grain, flax, indian corn, potatoes or buck-wheat, the plaister is successfully applied to each of these crops, and the land is then again laid down to grass.

By this rotation of crops the lands are improved, and continue to produce larger crops. Whether the same course of tillage will succeed in other parts of the country can be determined only by experience.

Judge *Peters*, in his treatise on the use of the plaister of Paris, in a note which is pasted in at the end of some of the books, but is omitted in others, observes, that the plaister will not be productive in the vicinity of the salt water, and that the marine salts prevent its operation. As I have not the books before me, I cannot quote his words, but I think the sense is as above expressed—Experience shews the justness of the observation, for near the salt water the plaister is said to produce no beneficial effects. The greater the distance from the salt water, the greater is said to be the efficacy of the plaister. It is carried from Philadelphia in waggons across the Alleghany mountains, two hundred and fifty miles into the country, with success.

Cattle in the vicinity of the salt water, require no salt in the summer season; at some distance they require a little, and it is said their consumption of salt is in proportion to their distance from the salt water.

Is it not possible this may be a criterion whereby to determine whether the application of plaister of Paris to lands will be beneficial?

If near the sea, where cattle require no salt in the summer, the quantity of salt descending in dews or otherwise, is so great as to prevent the efficacy of the plaister, the fact will be of great utility to be known, as thereby many people may save themselves the trouble and expence of fruitless applications of the plaister, and the mortification of disappointments. This will also reconcile the different and contradictory accounts received from different parts of the country, of the utility and efficacy of the plaister.

West-Springfield is at the distance of fifty or sixty miles from the sea. Here the plaister succeeds on all our lands, except those that are occasionally flooded by the streams. Yet farther inland to the westward and northward it is said to answer still better. It accelerates the growth of fruit trees. One or two handfuls should be sprinkled around each tree annually; this will make them thrifty and fruitful.

Same people practice spreading a very thin covering of their highest yard manure on their mowing lands, and then sow thereon a bushel of plaister to the acre. The produce of the manure and plaister thus united is thought to answer better than when they are applied separately. That seemed to be the case with the crop of wheat abovementioned.

Where the plaister has been sown, the dews fall more copiously in the night, and continue on much longer the next day. The cattle prefer the grass and hay where the plaister has been sown.

Where yard manure, consisting mostly of straw and hay, not sufficiently rotten, is spread on mowing land, the application of a bushel of plaister to the acre sown thereon, will soon rot the straw and hay, so as to convert them into good manure, by which the quantity of grass is increased and the mowing is facilitated.

The southwardly part of the above lot has been sown annually with plaister in the same manner as the north side, but had no yard manure applied, till two years after it had been put on the other side of the lot. In 1799 it was planted with corn and potatoes. The summer was very dry and the crop very poor. On the 25th day of October, 1799, three bushels and a half of early Virginia seed-wheat were sown on the land abovementioned, being about three acres and a half, after the crop of corn and potatoes were gathered. Herds grass and clover seed were sown with the wheat; the seed was ploughed in with a small plough by one horse. The produce was but seven bushels of merchantable wheat, with a few bushels more so foul as to be used for horse provender. The very small crop shews the extreme poverty of the land, and how much it was reduced by bad management. After the wheat had been gathered in the fall and winter of 1800, six or eight loads of barn-yard manure were spread on each acre; the produce since has been about two tons to the acre of herds grass and clover-hay.

Valuable Ware House

FOR SALE.

WILL be exposed to public sale on the premises on Friday the 10th day of June next at 12 o'clock, the Ware Houses and the Wharf, now occupied by Messrs. Stewart and Beall. This property is situated at the corner of Frederick and Key's street in the centre of that part of Georgetown where the flour and shipping business is done. There are two ware houses connected in such manner, (the one opening on one and the other on the other street) as to be used in separate or joint tenements, that are strongly and well built of stone and brick, three stories high, beside an extensive sail loft, are well divided for storing, and very capacious; they front about 70 feet on the street next the water, and about 50 feet on the other. The wharf is only divided from them by the street, and extends, in water sufficient for large ships, the whole width of the widest front, the whole is in good repair.

This sale will be made under a deed of Mortgage, and power of attorney to sell, to reimburse the subscriber a sum of money due from the late Francis Lewis Taney. The residue, if any, to be divided among said Taney's creditors.—The title will be explained on the day of sale—and will be given to the purchaser on the payment of the purchase money.

Approved negotiable notes for the purchase money, payable the one half at six months, the other half at nine months, will be required, and must be given at the time of purchase, or the sale will be void and a resale take place.

J. MASON.

George Town, May 17.——e p. til June 10.

JOHN GOULDING,

BROKER AND COMMISSION MERCHANT,

Hath lately received from Baltimore & Philadelphia,

AND FOR SALE,

Cogniac Brandy,
Old Spirit,
Claret,
Red Port,
Madeira, &
Sherry,
} Wines of good quality & fit for immediate use.
Hare's Philadelphia Porter,
Fresh Teas, &c. &c. to be sold Cheap for Cash.

He wants to purchase,

One hundred Shares of Columbia Bank Stock for cash

George-town, May 18. 4w

Foreign Intelligence.

PHILADELPHIA, May 19.

From England.

Late last night we returned from along side of the ship Roebuck, capt. Kelly, 40 days from Liverpool. Capt. K sailed from Liverpool the morning of the 6th April, and is the bearer of but one loose paper, which is a Liverpool print of the 5th. Enclosed London papers are to the 4th of April, a file of which we have received from a commercial friend, but they contain no additional information on the momentous question of peace or war.

Capt. Kelly reports, that on the morning of his departure, (April 6th) information was received in Liverpool, which produced considerable agitation among the merchants. The purport of this information he had not time nor opportunity to obtain; but the impression he imbibed was that it was of a *warlike tendency*.

☞ Since the above, we have learnt, that the Roebuck's merchant at Liverpool, the moment of Capt. Kelly's departure, on the 6th, informed him, "*that the information received that morning from London, was more indicative of war than any thing that had been received subsequent to the King's message.*"

The following extracts are from the latest papers by the Roebuck:—

LONDON, April 4.

The veil of secrecy still covers the negotiation with France. Councils are held; Dispatches are received and sent off; couriers pass and repass; but nothing has transpired to enable us to form any decisive opinion. A cabinet council was held on Friday night, and an ultimatum is said to have been drawn up. The answer, it is hoped, will be received by Thursday, the day on which parliament is expected to adjourn for the Easter holidays. The public will certainly be not a little surprized, if both houses adjourn without any information being communicated to them upon the situation of the country.

We have a strong suspicion that the question of peace or war will be decided before many days have elapsed. It is probable that a communication will either be made to parliament, or that a discussion will take place upon the situation of the country, before the adjournment for the recess: In the mean time a negociation is said to be going on for effecting a partial change of administration. Lord Grenville is gone to visit Mr. Pitt at Walmer Castle; and many of the ministers friends begin to talk of the necessity of introducing Mr Pitt again into the cabinet.

The funds this morning were at the beginning of the Market 6313-48. They fell at noon to 63 ; and in five minutes afterwards to 61 3 4. At one o'clock they were 62. The gloomy nature of the intelligence received this morning, and the heaviness of the account caused the depreciation. Two more failures occurred this morning, and more expected to-morrow. A more tremendous account never was known in the annals of the stock exchange.

March 26.

A Dutch mail arrived last night. The Dutch papers confessing, that in the event of a war between G. Britain and France, Holland would not be permitted to remain neutral, inform us that the consular government has demanded of the Batavian, that the necessary preparations for the maintenance of a considerable corps of French troops shall immediately be made, which troops are said to be already on their march for the Dutch frontiers. 'It appears, (adds the Leyden Gazette) that the French army destined to cover Holland, in case of invasion, and no doubt, also to make part of a general expedition against England, will be distributed in the principal towns of Holland.'

General Duroc's mission to Berlin is said to be, to require of that court the most prompt measures with respect to the Electorate of Hanover.

March 30.

We have received the Moniteur of Saturday last. It does indeed contain a political article, but not one word of the manifesto, nor a line of invective against this country. The article relates entirely to the conti-