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A work has lately been published in France, entitled "Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt, by Vivant Denon," one of the companions of Bonaparte, which has attracted much attention from the interesting nature of its contents. For the entertainment of our readers we shall make several extracts.

ALEXANDRIA & POMPEY's PILLAR.

"It would be impossible for me to describe what I felt on landing at Alexandria, where there was no one to receive us, or prevent our going on shore. We could scarcely prevail on a group of beggars, leaning on their crutches, to point out to us the head quarters. All the houses were shut: those who had dared to fight had fled; and those who had not been killed in the combat, had concealed themselves, for fear of being put to death, according to the Oriental custom. Every thing was new to our sensations; the soil, the form of the buildings, the persons, customs and language of the inhabitants. The first prospect which presented itself to our view, was an extensive burying ground, covered with innumerable tomb stones of white marble, on a white soil. Among these monuments were seen wandering several meagre women, with long tattered garments, resembling so many ghosts. The silence was only interrupted by the screeching of the kites which hovered over this sanctuary of death. We passed from thence into narrow and deserted streets. In crossing Alexandria, the description which Volney has given of that city was brought to my remembrance; form, colour, and sensation, every thing, in short, is represented by him with such a degree of truth, that, on looking over his work some months after, I fancied that I was entering Alexandria once more. Had Volney described all Egypt in the same way, no man would have thought it necessary to undertake any other description, or to make any drawings of that country.

"During the whole of my progress through this long and melancholy city, Europe and its gaiety were brought to my recollection only by the chirping and activity of the sparrows. I could not recognize the dog, the friend of man, the faithful and generous companion, the gay and loyal courtier. Here this animal is a dull and selfish brute, a stranger to the master beneath whose roof he dwells, and, separated from the inmates without ceasing to be a slave, loses sight of him whose asylum he defends, and on whose bleeding carcase he feeds without abhorrence. The following anecdote will fully pourtray his character.

On the day of my landing, having neglected to bring ashore linen to shift myself, I was desirous to go on board the Junon frigate, which I thought was stationed off the entrance of the harbor. I hired a small Turkish bark, and we steered towards that point. Having reached the frigate, we found it was not the Junon; and another was pointed out to us in the road at half a league's distance. The sun was setting: I had already made two-thirds of my way; and it was still possible to sleep on board. We now sailed toward the frigate in the road, which was still not the Junon; she was cruising in the offing: we were therefore, under the necessity of returning; but the breeze had freshened, and the swell was so great, that it was with difficulty we could descry the land towards which we had to bend our course. My conductor gave me the charge of the tiller, to bestow his whole attention to the sail.

"It was not easy for me to find the direction to which I was to steer; and I now began to feel that it was in a manner devoting one's self to destruction, to be at such a time of night at the mercy of the winds, on a rough sea, and without any other companion than one who, in common with all his countrymen, had every reason to hate the French, and to seek to avenge himself on any of that nation who might fall in his way. I put on a confidential air, and affected to be gay; we at length reached the shore, the object of all my hopes and wishes; it was however, eleven o'clock at night. I was half a league from the head quarters; and I had to cross a city which had been taken by storm in the morning, with not one of the streets of which I was acquainted. I could not prevail on my boatman, by any offer of recompence, to leave his bark and accompany me. I set out alone, and, defying the ghosts of the dead, crossed the burying ground, the road with which I was most familiar. As soon as I had reached the nearest habitations of the living, I was assailed by multitudes of ferocious curs, which attacked me from the doors, the streets, and the house-tops. Their yelping was continued from house to house, and from family to family. I could perceive, however, that the war which they waged against me was not a war of *coalition*, for as soon as I had passed the property of those by which I had been attacked, they were driven back by those which came to receive me at the frontiers.—Not knowing the abject state in which they live, I dared not strike them, from an apprehension of their howling, and thus kindling up the wrath of their masters against me. The darkness was diminished by the light of the stars only, and by the transparency which the night always has in this climate. To profit by this small portion of light, and to escape from the yelping of the curs, and take a road which could not lead me astray, I quitted the streets, and resolved to walk along the beach. My passage was, however, barred by the walls and timber-yards, which extended to the sea shore. At length, after wading through the sea to shun the curs, and feeling the walls to avoid the sea when there was too great a depth, wet, covered with perspiration, and exhausted by terror and fatigue, I reached one of our out-posts at midnight, fully persuaded that curs are the sixth, and the most dreadfull of the plagues of Egypt.

"In the morning, on arriving at head-quarters, I found Bonaparte surrounded by the grandees, of the city, and by the members of the old government, from whom he received the oath of fidelity. He addressed himself in the following terms to the Sheik Koraim: "I have taken you in arms, and I might treat you as a prisoner: as you have, however, behaved with courage, and as I think bravery inseparable from honor, I give you back your arms, and I think that you will be as faithful to the republic as you have been to a bad government." I could distinguish in the countenance of this able, enterprising man, a dissimulation, shaken, but not subdued, by the generous conduct of the commander-in-chief. He was not, as yet, acquainted with our resources, and entertained some doubt whether what had passed was not owing to a *coup-de-main!* But when he saw thirty thousand men, and the heavy ordnance and field-pieces landed, he endeavoured to captivate the good graces of Bonaparte, was never absent from head-quarters, and was in the anti-chamber before the commander-in-chief was out of bed, a circumstance very remarkable in a Musulman.

"We passed near Pompey's pillar.—This monument is in the predicament of almost every thing famous, which loses on a near scrutiny. It was named Pompey's pillar in the fifteenth century, when learning began to recover itself from the torpid state in which it had so long languished. At that epoch, men of science, but not observers, bestowed names on all the monuments; and these names have been handed down by tradition, and without being disputed, from century to century. A monument had been raised to Pompey at Alexandria: it had disappeared, and was thought to be recovered in this pillar or column, which has since been converted into a trophy erected to the memory of Septimius Severus. It is, however, placed on the ruins of the ancient city; and in the time of Septimius Severus, the city of the Ptolomies was not in a ruinous state. To support this column by a solid foundation, an obelisk has been sunk in the earth, on which is placed a very clumsy pedestal, having a fine shaft, and surmounted by a corinthian capital of bad workmanship.

"If the shaft of this column, separating it from the pedestal and the capital, once belonged to an ancient edifice, it is an evidence of its magnificence, and of the skill with which it was executed.—It ought therefore to be said, that what is called Pompey's pillar, is a fine column, and not a fine monument; and that a column is not a monument. It should be said, that the column of St. Maria Maggiore, notwithstanding it is one of the finest in existence, has not the character of a monument; that it is merely a fragment, and that, if the columns of Trajan and Antoninus are not in the same predicament, it is because they appear as colossal cylinders, on which the history of the glorious expeditions of these two emperors is pompously displayed, and which, if reduced to their simple form and dimensions would be nothing more than dull and heavy monuments.

"The earth about the foundations of Pompey's pillar having been cleared away by time, two fragments of an obelisk of white marble, the only monument of that substance which I have seen in Egypt, have been added to the original base, to render it more solid.

"Excavations made round the circumference of this column, would, no doubt, afford some information relative to its origin. The shaking of the earth, and the form it takes on treading on it, seem to attest that these researches would not be fruitless. They would perhaps discover the base and *atrium* of the portico to which this column belonged, which has been the subject of dissertations made by literati who have seen the drawings only, or whose information has been limited to the description of travellers. These travellers have neglected to apprize them, that fragments of columns of the same substance and diameter are found in the vicinity; and that the shaking of the earth indicates the destruction of great edifices buried beneath, the forms of which may be distinguished on the surface, such as a square of considerable size, and a large circus, the principle dimensions of which may be measured, notwithstanding it is covered with sand and ruins.

"After having observed that the column, entitled *Pompey's pillar*, is very chaste both in style and execution; that the pedestal and capital are not formed of the same granite as the shaft; and that their workmanship is heavy, and appears to be merely a rough draught; and that the foundations, made up of fragments, indicate a modern construction; it may be concluded, that this monument is not antique, and that it may have been erected either in the time of the Greek Emperors or of the Califs; since, if the capital and pedestal are well enough wrought to belong to the former of these periods, they are not so perfect but that art may have reached so far in the latter.

"Subterraneous researches made on this spot might also ascertain the site of the city in the time of the Ptolomies, when its commerce and splendour changed its original plan, and rendered it immense. That of the Califs, which still exists, was but a diminution of an ancient city, notwithstanding it comprehends within itself, at this time, plains and deserts. This circumvallation being built of ruins, the edifices bring unceasingly to the remembrance destruction and ravage. The jambs and lintels of the doors of the dwelling-house and fortresses consist entirely of columns of granite, which the workmen have not taken the pains to shape to the use to which they have applied them. They appear to have been left there merely with a view to attest the grandeur and magnificence of the buildings, the ruins of which they are. In other places a great number of columns have been applied to the construction of the walls, to support and level them; and these columns, having resisted the ravages of time, now resemble batteries. In short, these Arabian and Turkish buildings, the productions of the necessities of war, display a confusion of epochs, and of various industries, more striking and more approximated examples of which are no where else to be found. The Turks, more especially, adding absurdity to profanation, have not only blended with the granite, bricks and calcareous stones, but even logs and planks; and from these different elements, which have so little analogy to each other, and are so strangely united, have presented a monstrous assemblage of the splendour of human industry, and its degradation."

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

An objection to the purchase of New-Orleans and Louisiana considered, as far as the want of information will admit.

(No. VIII.)

Suggestions have been published, in some of the federal newspapers, on the subject of the Louisiana purchase, which merit the candid attention of good men of all parties. It has been intimated, on one occasion, that there is some provision of the treaty, which is contrary to propriety and right, in respect to Great Britain. The proper reserves of our government, until the meeting of the senate, naturally occasion the community to be in a state of imperfect information. In the mean time we are to remember, that our two ministers in France, and and our minister in England, were all men of the law, aware of the obligations of former treaties, and of the rights of nations. Yet, when the two first concluded the treaty, and Mr. King communicated its bearings on our engagements to, and relations with Great Britain, to its minister lord Hawkesbury, (as we have seen by our gazettes) it does not appear that any provision in the treaty occurred to either of them, as justly exceptionable to Great Britain, or inconsistent with our engagements to that country. ‡ It is not immediately perceived indeed, how the British treaties in 1782, 1783 and 1794 can, *in any wise*, affect the French or Spanish territory of Louisiana, or the French or Spanish right to the river as they stood in 1782, 1783 and 1794. The Floridas and the British right to the Mississippi were ceded to Spain by Great Britain, after our British treaty of 1782. It is conceived that England thus parted with all her right to navigate the Mississippi below lat. 31. It should be remembered, that but for this cession, by Britain to Spain of West Florida and the Mississippi, the rights to the river and dominion would have returned, (in virtue of the right of *postliminium*) to Great Britain on the peace of 1783. Our claim to the navigation of the Mississippi, below the 31st degree of latitude, at the peace of 1783, was founded upon one common principle (natural right of ingress and egress) in respect to the Mississippi, and the St. Lawrence. This principle however, has been roundly and formally denied by Great Britain, in relation to the Scheldt; about the opening of which she considered herself justifiable in commencing hostilities on France in 1792. It has likewise been emphatically and practically denied in relation to the St. Lawrence, the navigation of which (with the *right of deposit*) would be *very important* to New England and New-York.—If we had any thing *below the 31st. degree*, to grant in 1782 and 1783 to Great Britain, in relation to the Mississippi, we had then, and now have the same for ourselves, and must have the same even *to grant to other powers*, on the St Lawrence. The idea of a natural right to navigate the rivers, that lead from *interior* countries to the sea ports and to foreign markets, has been much agitated, but has been generally treated as a question of mere power or policy.—It has never been alledged, however, that such natural right, held or claimed as consequent upon the ownership of an *interior* territory, could be *granted at will* to any foreign power, by the *interior* state; and it remains to be dispassionately considered (with all the facts and treaties in their order of time, before us) whether the United States in their preliminary treaty of 1782, did or could validly grant to Great Britain, any right whatever to the Mississippi, below our south west angle on the east bank of that river, in lat. 31. north. It is true, that as we are sincerely desirous to be friendly and useful to each other, it might be perfectly well now, *by another treaty*, to allow her people, at the head of the Mississippi, free egress and ingress thro' our *subsequent* and recent acquisition of Louisiana, with or without the right of deposit; Great Britain allowing to our nation, for the benefit of New-York & New England brethren, on, and near the lakes, the St. Lawrence and its waters, a like free egress and ingress thro' her province of lower Canada, with or without a corresponding right of deposit. It may not be out of place, respectfully to recommend a very early attention to this subject.

In the new case of *a precise and supreme written constitution*, like that of this nation, the government and people of this country, and foreign nations concerned, will necessarily have to consider every acquisition of country made by us, as subject to the true meaning, actual extent, plain limitations, and peculiar nature of that constitution. It will require our government to consider, 1st. whether Louisiana, as acquired by treaty, comes directly into the American *union*, as an entire and complete new member: or 2dly. whether Louisiana comes in as a district, of those *peculiar* qualities, which characterise the North-western and Mississippi Territories, whose lands were of our *original* dominion and jurisdiction, and whose inhabitants are native or adopted *citizens* in *strict* conformity with our statutory provisions: or 3dly. whether Louisiana comes to us as a fief of our empire, according to certain known cases and examples in Europe, subject however to a number of peculiar circumstances as to the tenure and descent of lands, courtesies, distributions of personal estates, *regulations of trade and commerce, foreign relations*, interior government, *treaty stipulations*, &c. &c. which may require weeks on some points, and, as to others, years to bring the whole of her internal and external concerns into a condition for a perfect conformity with our system, and an absolute union with the American states, according to the form and substance of the *American confederation*, under the Constitution of the United States.

If an island lay in some interesting situation in respect to the safety of their states, and a treaty were made with its foreign owners for a purchase, subject to a condition that for seven years the inhabitants of the island and the selling power should have the exclusive trade of the island, free of import and tonnage duties; the citizens of the U. States, and of course the most favored foreign nations could have no reason to censure, though the provisions of the constitution and laws should be regularly made to conform *for the necessary term* to the *conditions* of a desirable or an indispensible purchase. The Scotch and English union, the Irish and English union, the cases of Guernsey and Jersey, of Jamaica, of Canada, and of the English countries beyond Good Hope, have given rise to such *peculiar* circumstances in their treaties, foreign relations, commercial regulations, and constitutional operations. This community, as before observed, necessarily remains without the information which would afford a complete reply to the suggestion made, but it is conceived sufficient to observe, in addition to what has been said, that Great Britain will doubtless be on the same footing in regard to Louisiana, as any other nation, whenever, by the necessary attention to the dictates of the constitutions, and to *the conditional conditions of the purchase*, that newly acquired country shall become an *ordinary* member of the North American union. The candor, prudence and dignity of foreign governments, in amity with the United States, will reject attempts to acquire benefits from us, at the risk of harmony, to which a reasonable construction of all our treaties and of the law of nations, shall not appear on a fair examination, really entitle to them. The government of the United States are not disposed to the slightest injustice towards that of Great Britain; but they may fairly acquire *territorial* benefits, upon ordinary stipulations of a consideration in money, or in *temporary benefits* out of the *acquired dominion*.

COLUMBUS.

‡ *Lord Hawkesbury's reply to Mr. King, lately published, proves the English Government to be well satisfied.*

For the National Intelligencer.

A VINDICATION OF THE *PURCHASE OF LOUISIANA,*

Or a view of the inconsistencies of Federalism.

BY CURTIUS.

(CONCLUDED.)

It will not be said, that the federal senators have exaggerated the advantages, which we shall derive from the acquisition of New-Orleans and Louisiana. For surely they could not wish to impel us to war on false grounds; they could not wish that we should expend our treasure, and spill our blood, in pursuit of benefits, which were the fabrications only of their own fancy. The language they speak, seems to be the language of conviction, the dictate of minds impressed with the magnitude of their subject. Are their adherents ready to say, that their representations were intended merely to blind the eyes of the people, and to excite them to hostilities, for no other purpose than to gratify the ambition of a party, who delight in war, because it presents opportunities to plunder, and inflict misery on their fellow men? Are they ready to say, that the opposition wished last winter to send us in pursuit of shadows for their own pastime, and embroil us with France and Spain, for the purpose of destroying the popularity of the present administration? But whatever the adherents of the opposition may *think* of the integrity and honesty of those members of the Senate, who advocated Mr. Ross's warlike resolutions, we present the following quotations from the federal news-papers of this Summer, as evidences that neither integrity, nor honesty, nor consistency, are qualities inseparable from federalism.

(Columbian Centinel.) "We thought that French influence had gone to sleep, to eternal sleep—But the *purchase of Louisiana* will evoke *this devil* from his cell."

Fabricius.