NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

VOL. VI. WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. No. DCCCXXII.

FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1806. *PAID IN ADVANCE.*

National Intelligencer.

Extract of a letter from S. Griswold, Esq. of Detroit, to Francis Gardner, Esq, giving an account of the total eclipse, June 16, 1806, as it appeared at Detroit, and its effect on the Indians.

For several months this anticipated phenomenon was a subject of enquiry with the indians, as many stories had been told them, partly by ignorant and partly by designing persons, of terrible things which would accompany that event. The troubled aspect of our national affairs with foreign powers at that period, facilitated the propagation of visionary and awful predictions. Hundreds came to me to consult on the subject of the eclipse and its threatened accompanyments and consequences: some large parties came in from a distance on purpose to enquire on this subject. They knew that white people could foretel eclipses, and supposed we must be able too, to predict the attendant circumstances of wind and weather and every effect upon the earth. Most of them believe this faculty is given to white people by the Great Spirit, which he has thought proper to deny to Indians—and appear to have little notion that it depends upon calculations upon natural principles.

It has long (perhaps always,) been a general sentiment of Indians, that an eclipse, particularly of the sun, is an expression, or rather token, of the anger of the Great Spirit,—and the degree of his anger is indicated by the magnitude of the eclipse. The expectation of a total eclipse, therefore, was sufficient to prepare them for the reception of every extravagant tale and direful prognostication. Among other ideas, that of war, bloody war, naturally occurred and was easily fomented, in conjunction with the then existing circumstances. It was not difficult for a designing person of influence among them, to point out to their satisfaction, how and where, this calamity was to take place, and whose blood must be shed. It is said, the Indians defeated general Harmer on the day of an eclipse, and have since entertained a persuasion that such a phenomenon is peculiarly unfortunate for Americans, and sufficient to ensure success to Indians if they strike on that day.—And it was generally reported a short time previous to the late eclipse, that an attack under its auspices was agreed to be made upon this and other American posts in this quarter.

Besides that of war, the minds of the Indians were filled with other terrific anticipations. Some whole villages appeared impressed, that the darkness would be equal to that of the darkest night, and would continue for months, and many imagined it would be a dark year. They expected the sun would be put out for that space of time, that vegetables and animals would perish, together with most Indians who lived on the casual produce of the chace. But the more general expectation was, that it would be only a dark day, or as they expressed it, a night day. And they supposed the day would be productive of the most dreadful storms of wind, hail, and other elementary concussions beyond the power of man to describe. I found but one Indian out of some hundreds that came in from the wilderness, who appeared to possess any just conceptions of the expected phenomenon. It was the son of an intelligent chief now dead, who declared that he had no fears, for he believed he had seen such a thing when a boy, and his father taught him it was caused by the night-sun (their term for the moon) getting over the day-sun, and thus stopping its light for a short time.

Seeing the general attention of the Indians thus excited, and wishing to allay their painful apprehensions, as well as prevent any possible consequences of a serious nature, I thought it my duty to instruct them as far as they were capable of understanding, into the cause and nature of an eclipse—told them the day and precise time of day it would happen—its duration, appearance, &c. and as to the dreadful accompanyments of storm and wind, I discountenanced such an expectation, though something of the kind might take place as on other days—but assured them they would survive it, and expressed my hope of seeing a clear sky on that day, that I might behold the phenomenon in all its grandeur, and the stars in their glory surrounding it. They were thankful for these assurances, and some took encouragement, while others remained fearful and perplexed.

The eclipse made its appearance under every favorable circumstance that could be wished, and agreeable to all I had told the Indians. The day was remarkably fine, without a cloud or a gust of wind. It commenced here about an hour earlier than the calculations at New York and Albany. The disk of the sun was completely covered for the space of three minutes, the stars appearing very brilliant within the compass of the eclipse's shadow on every side of the sun's place—the greatest obscuration was equal to that of the clearest star light evening—the brutes and the fowls gave signs that they thought it night, and were retiring to repose, when they were recalled by the bursting forth of the light. Its effects upon the Indians were great. Those whom I saw during the greatest darkness, appeared thoughtful, but held their courage. Others I was told ran up and down with agitation. Some fell on their knees and prayed: while a few wrapped themselves in their blankets and lay down to die. After it was seen to pass off without harm, and the day proceed as usual, all took courage and became very social. By the evening many were ready to be drunk. A general muster of militia had been ordered on that day, which was well attended & had a good effect. Governor Hull had arrived in season to take the field.

AGRICULTURAL.

A member of an Agricultural Society at Greennock recommends an improvement in the culture of potatoes of which he has had several years experience.—"The first year (he says) I cut the potatoes in 3 pieces, the top, the middle, and the bottom parts, (I suppose every person knows, the top of the potatoe from the bottom, as the principal eyes are on the top.) and planted therein 3 rows. The top plant was ten days earlier than the middle plant, and a much greater crop; the middle plant was earlier than the bottom, and a better crop;—the bottom produced but a very indifferent crop. For some seasons past I have only planted the top eyes, and I may safely say, that I have the best crop, and driest potatoes, in the country. None need be deterred from this plan on the ground of waste; for after the top is cut off, the remainder keeps better, and longer for use than if the potatoe was preserved entire. As a proof of this, lay a whole potatoe on the top of the ground, or in any exposed place, and it will shew, that the top plants grows faster, and are many inches long before there is any growth from the bottom."

Savannah, Aug. 19.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman residing in the Mississippi Territory Washington County to his friend in this city, under date of the 15th ult.

"Since I last wrote you of the situation of this unhappy country, the Spaniards, have not only seized our property, and imprisoned our citizens, but they have proceeded step by step, to strike a deadly blow at the settlements on the Tombigbee and Alabama Rivers. Since the arrival of the Intendant MORALES, the port of Mobile has been entirely shut, not only to American vessels, but to that of Spain and every other nation.

"The Commandant at Mobile suffered our merchants, for a short time, to deposit their goods at Mobile, and proceed from thence, in boats up the river; but that privilege is now denied; they will not suffer us either to purchase or sell a single article at Mobile; they have sent back from Mobile boats of corn—our last year's crop of corn is entirely destroyed by the weasels; our cotton is rotting, in large quantities, on the Tombigbee and Alabama Rivers. In vain does the farmer cultivate his lands—he sows in despair, and reaps in sorrow.

"If some change does not take place between this and May next, this country, not only possessing every local advantage for navigation and commerce, but for agriculture, will be deserted by its present inhabitants, and instead of a well cultivated country, it will be a lasting evidence of Spanish tyranny.

"The important situation of this country is but little known——the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers form the Mobile, the junction is about two miles above Fort Stoddart, where the Mobile is about one mile wide; one mile below the fort the Mobile forks and empties by five mouths into the Bay of Mobile, opposite the town, where the Bay is nine miles wide—the Mobile Bay forking, makes several islands, one of which is about thirty miles in length and about ten miles wide, and is as fine land for rice as any in the world. The Alabama takes its rise in North Carolina—this river is very rapid, the tide flows but little way up—the Tombigbee is the best river for navigation, the tide flows up about one hundred miles from Fort Stoddart, which is about fifty miles from the town of Mobile; but what will one day make it more valuable, is the near approach of this to the Tennessee river; it is a fact that from the head of navigation on this river, to a navigable Creek, known by the name of Bear Creek, is about thirty miles. What an outlet for the Western produce! Whoever will take the trouble to cast their eyes upon the town of Mobile, must say, that it will at one day rival New-Orleans, the promised city of commerce——but this is on the supposition that the Floridas will be given up to the United States."

FROM A LATE LONDON PAPER.

STATE OF THE NATION.

Scarcely had the new ministers entered into office, than a work was published, stated to be *An enquiry into the State of the Nation*; a work which in strict conformity with the politics which the Foxites have adopted since they came into power, draws the most gloomy picture of our situation and resources. To depreciate the measures of that administration, and of that minister, whose death his successors are affording us daily more and more reason to lament, and to exalt the talents and characters of the present ministers, is the great object of the work alluded to. How well it has succeeded in accomplishing that object, may be seen in the rapidly declining popularity of the ministers, whom it has so lavishly eulogised, and in the increasing regret of all ranks of people for the loss of that man against whom it so copiously enveighs.

To that work a most victorious reply has just issued from the press—strong in point of reasoning, conclusive in point of effect—elegant in its style, and temperate in its manner, but not purchasing the praise of temperance by the sacrifice of firmness. We recommend it to the attentive perusal of our readers, & we shall take frequent opportunities of making quotations from it. The following extract is from the introduction. It draws a strong and just character of the pamphlet to which we have alluded—

"In an enquiry into the state of this rich and powerful nation, it is singular that, except the character of our present ministry, there should not be discovered a single favorable circumstance in our situation—no cheering ray to diversify a picture of the most gloomy coloring. A melancholy note is struck at the beginning and the doleful cadence continues to the end. The state of our public funds has entirely escaped the notice of this impartial writer. Our naval victories, although only a few months old, appear to have fled from his recollection. Perhaps he is prepared to argue, that flourishing finances, and unparalleled naval triumphs have no connection with our foreign relations, or with the state of the country.

"Let us examine, in the first instance, the plan of the work before us, and how far its substance fulfills its title. The author confines himself almost entirely to foreign relations, and divides them into the following heads:

"1. The late continental alliance.

"2. The consequence of our late foreign policy.

"3. The state of foreign affairs, independent of our late coalition and its consequences. Under this head the author discusses the origin of our war with Spain, and the neutral questions.

"It is apparent from this outline, that the work under review is only nominally an Inquiry into the State of the nation. In reality, it is an exposition of every unfavorable circumstance in the state of our relations with foreign powers. In other words, it is a most gloomy catalogue of the difficulties under which the right honorable secretary for the foreign department is desirous that the public should believe that he entered upon office. It concludes with lavishing the most profuse encomiums on the talents, experience, rank and integrity of the right honorable secretary and his friends.

"Before proceeding upon an examination of the work, it is natural to inquire in what light Lord Grenville views its publication. We believe it is without example in the history of those constitutional parties which have divided the attachments of our countrymen, that a minister should lend his sanction to a pamphlet replete with the most bitter censure of his colleagues—a colleague who is not only a distinguished member of the cabinet, but the head of the administration. The allusions to the former conduct of the noble lord, are direct—the condemnation they convey is unqualified—'The author dwells on the "high, unbending, unaccommodating tone which we have been accustomed to hold all over the world." Now, lords Hawkesbury, Harrowby, and Mulgrave, the successors of Lord Grenville in office, have never been accused of giving offence to foreign courts by haughty or unbending conduct. The reprobation so pointedly expressed in the inquiry, is applicable, therefore, in a particular manner, to lord Grenville. Indeed the author leaves us in no doubt in this respect. I shall quote his own words.—"To have looked forward beyond the next year; to have taken measures in silence for the slow preparations of distant events; to have gradually disposed the minds of a people in our favor by kind treatment, for which no immediate return was expected, or won them by any other means than a manifesto from a commander, at the head of a paltry force; to have laid plans of war before hand, which should not for some time burst into view with glare and noise: All this would have indicated a strange, unaccountable deviation from the system which has been unremittingly at work since the treaty of Pilnitz,* by day and by night, during war and during truce, in aggrandising the proud & crushing the humble."

"These expressions required no comment. Mr. Fox and lord Grenville are the acknowledged leaders of the cabinet, and I leave the reader to judge of the prudence of the minister who can give circulation to such unqualified accusations of the former conduct of his colleague."

The author enters into an able justification of the late ministers, with respect to the last war—Speaking of any peace to be concluded with France, the author makes the following excellent remarks:

"Unquestionably every enlightened and liberal mind, capable of appreciating the real causes of the prosperity of nations, will pronounce, that by a secure peace the interests of this country will be more effectually promoted, and its welfare more radically and permanently established, than by the most successful war: and if Mr. Fox succeeds in negociating a peace honorable to us and safe for the continent, he will deserve, not only the thanks of the country, but the forgiveness of all his inconsistencies.

"Of such a peace, however, we have no flattering prospect. To act a condescending part in negociation with so arrogant an enemy as Bonaparte, is to insure a renewal of hostility. Let it never be forgotten, that the treaty of Amiens, of which the chief recommendation was its having been made 'in the spirit of peace,' kept us, during the short interval of its duration, in a state of alarm worse than war. In any negociation with Bonaparte, let Mr. Fox remember, that he is treating with the most false and artful of men, with one who combines the most subtle mind with the most perfidious heart. He alternately oppresses by open violence, seduces by secret fraud, or assassination in midnight obscurity.

——*Ille venena Colchica et quicquid usquam concipitur nefas, Tractavit.*

"His system is to crush the weak, and beguile the powerful——to frighten the timid, and cajole the brave. The sword is the favorite engine of his government, and it is congenial to the turbulence of his temper. But he combines in his administration every species of support to himself, and of danger to his enemies. By the employment of enlightened men like Talleyrand, he makes even philosophy administer her sacred aid to his lawless violence. He has reduced falsehood into a system, and adapts his lies with wonderful sagacity, to whatever character he addresses. He prevailed on the cabinet of Vienna to acquiesce in his usurpations in Italy, by pretending that they were necessary to enable him to re-establish with security, hereditary monarchy in France. With equal truth, he will endeavor to persuade Mr. Fox that he desires peace for the sake of alleviating the sufferings of mankind; that he has always admired pacific sentiments; that he has no wish to abridge the power of Britain, but that he is desirous to cultivate with her the most amicable relations, and to forget the evils of war in the innocent emulation of *commercial rivalship.*

* *Such were the expressions in the first edition of this work; but the author thought proper subsequently to strike out the words, "since the treaty of Pilnitz." Was Lord Grenville called by the pointed censure of his conduct, which was thus spread abroad by his colleagues in office; did Mr. Fox and his friends shrink from the just instigation they had roused, and attempt to eat their words? But was this mere withdrawing of so pointed an allusion a sufficient reparation for this public and gross insult? Or, indeed, does the mere omission of these five words in any degree alter the directness of the censure?*

[*From the London Literary Journal.*]

TURKISH LITERATURE AND SCIENCE.

Who shall deny that the lights of knowledge are rapidly diffusing themselves over the world, and penetrating into the most benighted regions, when we find the grand seignior, the successor of Mahomet, employing his authority to propagate literature and science. Our readers have not forgotten the saying of the Mussulman, prince, when asked what was his pleasure in regard to the library of Alexandria: "If these books," said he "contain only such things as correspond with the Koran, they are unnecessary, for all useful truth may be found there; if they contain any thing contrary to the Koran, they must be pernicious: at all events therefore, let them be burnt!" Such are the principles on which his successors have acted for so many centuries; and hence those regions of Asia, which were once the seats of arts and science, are now consigned to worse than Cimmerian darkness. The present Sultan has, however, lately issued a decree commanding the decayed hospitals of Constantinople to be rebuilt; medical schools to be annexed to them; a correspondence to be maintained with the most celebrated universities of Europe; and liberal endowments to be provided for the medical graduates of those universities who shall be willing to settle at Constantinople. This decree is directed to prince Demetrius Von Morusi, who has already distinguished himself for his zeal in the cause of learning and has established academies for mathematics and belles letters at Kouroukesme. He is invested with full powers to carry the decree into effect, and also to establish such other institutions for the propagation of literature and science as he may judge expedient. Of all such institutions which are or may be appointed in the Turkish empire, he is nominated supreme dictator, with power to new model the old, and to establish new ones at his pleasure. We doubt not that prince Demetrius will exert himself to forward an object which he has already labored to promote. In a century hence the dark ages of Constantinople may be as much a matter of history and of wonder as the dark ages of Europe. The same edict contains various regulations for the suppression of rogues, vagabonds, and beggars, by providing them with employment.

Foreign Intelligence.

Baltimore, Sept. 6.

By the regular trading, and fast sailing ship Fair American, capt. Davis, in 40 days from London, we received papers to the 23d of July, 3 days later than any heretofore received. From a hasty perusal of these papers we do not discover any thing on the subject of peace, except that couriers are still passing between England and France. Extracts follow.

LONDON, *July 19.*

Basilico has not yet taken his departure. A Russian Courier however embarked yesterday for Boulogne with dispatches for M. D'Oubril, who is supposed to have reached Paris.

The removal of the crews of the Prussian vessels from on board their ships to prison, has been the forerunner, as it was natural to expect, of the departure of the Prussian ambassador, Jacobi, who has received orders to leave this country, and who is expected to set off about the end of next week.

July 21.

Letters from the coast mention that Calais had lately been bombarded by our cruizers on that station. It appears while commodore Owen was examining some vessels that had run within the French shore, he was fired on from Calais; on which it is added he sent in a flag of truce, declaring that he had been restrained by considerations of humanity from firing on the town; but that should they persist in their wanton attempts to annoy him, he should be compelled to retaliate. A correspondent continues to observe, that an insulting answer having been returned, the commodore ordered two gun brigs to play upon the town for 8 hours, and that part of it in consequence was reduced to ruins.

July 22.

The Constance frigate arrived at Portsmouth on Saturday; spoke on the preceding Thursday an American schooner, the Hope, P. Woodward, master—she had just come out of Cherbourg. The master of her declared, that he had read in the Moniteur, that a treaty had been signed at Paris between the emperor and the Porte, by which the former is permitted to march troops through the Turkish territory to Egypt.

The reports of American masters prove in general so erroneous, that we may fairly question the accuracy of this intelligence.—That the new Turkish ambassador might have been wheedled by the French minister for foreign affairs into a renewal of the ancient relations between the Porte and France, is very likely, and was to be expected; but, that with one dash of the pen he should give up Egypt without some kind of equivalent, is most incredible. If Talleyrand has been so successful as to carry so important a point, he would scarcely be guilty of the indiscretion of promulgating it at the moment that he is supposed to be engaged in negociations for peace with Russia and England. It possibly might be the subject of a secret article; as such, it never could have been read by the American master, for it would not have appeared on the face of whatever treaty has been signed at Paris. The concession itself is of little value, except as far as it shows the complete influence which France has obtained in the councils of the Porte. If ever Bonaparte shall again penetrate into Egypt, it will be by