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CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Copy of a letter from a commanding officer in his majesty's service, at the Cape of Good Hope, to a particular friend in Dublin, March 16, 1806.

MY DEAR SIR,

According to my calculation you will, about this time, have heard of our having succeeded in recapturing this important colony.

No secret could have been better kept than that of our destination; even when we left St. Salvador, 28th November, most of us were convinced that Buenos Ayres was the object in view. On the 6th of December we received our instructions and plans of the Cape.

After a tedious pleasant enough voyage, we made Table Hill (at the foot of which the town lies) on Friday the 3d of January; got into the bay on Saturday evening, when the signal for the 1st brigade to land, was made, *i. e.* the 38th, 59th and 83d; the 24th, which also belonged to it, was at that time making a diversion to the southward of the town. The attempt was not made however until Sunday morning, about 12 miles north from the town, but the surf ran so high that it was impracticable; it was now the Highland brigade's turn to try, and accordingly on Monday the 6th, 3 miles to the northward of the place where the former attempt was made, notwithstanding a tremendous surf and a strong breeze, "we jumped on dry land to our necks up in water," (as a certain Irish song says) the light bobs were the first, and very soon made our opponents scamper, who consisted of about 150 sharp shooters, about a dozen of whom were killed and wounded, which was very fair, for they were all *flying* shots, & the firing did not last 10 minutes. I don't know how it happened, but some how or other, I found myself amongst the green feathers, and on my coming back to the regiment, you may guess what my feelings were on seeing a general order for all the light companies of the army to be formed into a battallion under my command, and it was not the less pleasing for having been totally unsolicited and equally unexpected on my part. A melancholy accident occurred in landing—one of the boats from my ship was blown to leeward and could not be rowed clear of a rock, which she no sooner touched, than a heavy sea striking her, she instantly turned bottom up, and down went 36 of our noble fellows, *cheering* as they sunk! they were so loaded with ammunition, accoutrements, &c. that they went down directly, four only were saved of the 40 in the boat—poor fellows! not an hour before they were dancing reels to the Scotch bagpipe.

We were obliged to wait, in order to get our guns, &c. &c. landed, until day-light on the 8th, and then we proceeded to wait upon governor Janssens and his republican friends, who had taken up his position between us and Cape Town, about 5 miles off, we being considerably in front, were ordered to cover the formation of the line, and accordingly extended and advanced within cannon shot of the enemy, but so covered that they could not do us any mischief. The left of the Highland brigade was opposite to the enemy's right, and as we had nearly double his number, and all our regiments in one line, we out-flanked his left by nearly all the first brigade, so that it was hardly engaged. It is impossible to give an idea of the badness of the ground over which our line had to advance—very deep sand, and completely covered with a sort of brushwood, which is something like a gooseberry bush, with thorn prickles on it, some of them as high as the chin, and through this they had to march in a line under a very heavy fire from 18 pieces of artillery, exclusive of this, the heat was intense—I could not have believed it possible for troops even to move on in a line thro' such ground, but they did, and with a rapidity and regularity which was truly wonderful, the fire from the enemy's infantry only served to encrease the rate of pace; when very near the enemy, the Highland brigade opened up a roaring fire to be sure, but never halted; at length seeing that Mynheer began to look if the road behind him was clear, the order was given to charge, and to be sure how the fellows did run! Luckily for them our fellows were out of wind, otherwise I verily believe they would not have left a man of them to tell the tale—Their cannon kept firing and retiring for some time, at length they all set off towards the mountains up the country—It is not perhaps in the power of language to describe our sufferings for want of water, several men dropped down dead, & had there not been two small ponds of water, about 3 miles off, (and where we took up our position for the night) the consequence must have been dreadful—Next day we marched towards the town, when a flag of truce very soon made its appearance, several of the out-works were given up immediately, and on the 10th the whole capitulated; if they had not, every thing was ready for an assault, and we should very soon have been into their works. They had hardly any troops, though they did not want for cannon, as there were 370 pieces of one sort or another upon the different works and defences of the place. The next job was to pursue Janssens, who had taken post at a pass, where it was impossible to force him, and there being no other road up the country, except by making a detour of 60 or 70 miles, the 83d were embarked in order to land somewhere in his rear, and the 59th and 72d sent round by the same road. On the 18th, however, terms of capitulation were agreed to by both parties, and so the campaign ended—It was short to be sure, but perhaps in no instance did troops ever suffer more, and certainly none ever bore their sufferings with greater fortitude and spirit. I must not omit mentioning the sailors—they acted as horses until we took the town, and to be sure the manner in which they dragged the seven guns through that deep sand, up hill and down hill, and the rapidity with which they went, was without any exception, the most wonderful sight I ever beheld—each man had a pike, sword and pistol—their disappointment at not having an opportunity of *boarding the town* was extreme—they d——d and blasted Mynheer, from head to foot, for striking without firing a shot; they were in some degree consoled, however, by being ordered to draw their guns in first, with the king's colors flying on the leading one.

For some time after our arrival, we were in great expectation of admiral Linois coming in here; now, however, I fear there is no chance of it, as by this time he most likely had fallen in with some vessels from which he might learn that the colony was taken; he sent in two prizes for us, one of them brought letters from himself, saying he would be here to water, &c. the beginning of March. We have been on the alert for some days in consequence of intelligence brought by the Voluntaire, French frigate—she, it seems, was the advanced guard of a squadron of 11 sail of the line which left Brest in December, six of them bound for the E. Indies, and five for the West. Somewhere off Ushant she captured two or three transports, with part of the fifth and Queen's regiment on board, going from Gibraltar; the frigate had no idea of our being here, and seeing the Dutch colors flying on both ships and forts, she came in very quietly within pistol shot of the battery, and dropped her anchor close to the commodore, who very soon undeceived her by dousing his colors, and hoisting an English Jack; all private signals, &c. &c. were taken. She is a very fine 38 gun frigate; she carries dispatches to England, in which is this letter. Brigadier general Ferguson, (than whom a more princely fellow does not live) goes in her, chiefly on account of a liver complaint. Col. Grant, 72d, another noble soldier, who was wounded, accompanies him.

This is the most delightful climate imaginable; every vegetable production that you can think of, grows to the greatest perfection.

MARCH 17th.

Before I conclude, I beg leave to introduce you to my corps, viz. Hottentots!! And who the devil would have guessed that I, who at this hour on *Paddy's day* last year, was spectator of the race for the gold cup at Kilconnel, should now be a *Black Chief!!!* You will say then, what is become of the Lt. Bobs?—I'll tell you—they were sent to their respective regiments on the town capitulating, but not until their extreme vigilance and good conduct were the means of procuring me public thanks in general orders, and the general immediately recommended me to promotion. We have between 2 and 300, most of them were in the Dutch service, who they detest as much as they like the English; although forced into the Dutch service, not a man of them deserted, and they were the last to run away; they are a mild, tractable, honest, worthy people; the most wonderful bodily activity and quickness of sight, and even an American Indian could not shoot with greater nicety and coolness. Now as this is by far the most favorable country for sharp-shooters I ever saw, and as we have got rifles and grey clothing, I think in one year we shall be a very formidable corps, particularly as in a few months we shall have as many of them as we please.

FROM THE UTICA (N. Y.) PATRIOT.

AGRICULTURAL.

To Farmers, on the subject of Smut in Wheat.

Having heard frequent complaints among the millers and merchants, that the wheat in this neighborhood is smutty; and also that some of my neighbours, this very season, are complaining that their crops are nearly ruined by the smut, whilst in my own fields I have not this year or last, found a smutty head, I am led to believe this difference arises solely from my cleaning my seed wheat, whilst they have sowed theirs without this precaution. Not having been bred a farmer, when I commenced this occupation I was led to consult agricultural books, and from reading the experiments made in England, and by our own agricultural society, I was led to try the experiments there detailed for curing the smut in wheat; a distemper in the grain which greatly injured my crops. My practice now is, and for two years past has been, to wash my seed wheat in clear water, and skim off all the light grain—if it were washed in a strong pickle made with salt, I have no doubt it would be still better, as more of the light corns would swim and thereby be separated from that which is heavy and best for seed. After the wheat is washed clean in small parcels, the better to separate all the light grain, it should be soaked about 20 hours in a pretty strong ley of wood ashes, immediately before it is wanted to be sowed, and as sowed it must be mixed with plaister or lime and immediately sowed, or the lime will dry the wheat too much. I presume that dry ashes would answer very well for this purpose, although not so well as plaister, or even lime; but some such substance must be used, or the wet wheat will not be strewed evenly over the ground, but will stick together, and fall from the hand in lumps, and of course render the work very imperfect. Why soaking seed wheat in the ley of ashes should prevent the smut from injuring the succeeding crop I cannot pretend to say; I only know that simply washing smutty wheat in fair water, will not wholly prevent the smut from attaching itself to the next crop; although it will greatly lessen the evil—but since I have, in addition to washing my seed wheat in water, steeped it in a pretty strong ley, I have had no smutty wheat, even when sowed on moist new land. I have not, therefore, the least hesitancy in stating, that every farmer may keep his crops quite free from this complaint by the same easy method of preparing his seed.

As this is a subject of much importance to the farmers as well as to all merchants and millers who grind for market, I beg leave to add, that where the seed is not remarkably clean, it should be washed in small parcels, of not more than half a bushel, put into a common sized washing tub at once, and repeated until as much is cleaned in one day as is wanted to sow the next, and then steeped in the ley the afternoon and night preceding its being sowed the next morning; the same ley will do a second or third time, yet where the grain is very dirty the fewer times it is used the better. The expence of fresh ley is too trifling to a farmer to merit any consideration. My method of sowing is to take as much wet wheat into the field as I want to sow the same day, and mix plaister with about half a bushel or a bushel at a time, and when that is sowed, mix as much more with the plaister and directly sow it. If the plaister should be put on the grain any considerable time before it is sowed, it will render it too dry and hard, and may prevent its vegetating as soon as is desirable, should the weather prove dry; but if used as above, the grain will vegetate sooner by a day or two than wheat sowed dry and without soaking. It will come up with a strong dark colored leaf, &c. and grow much more rapidly than wheat not so prepared.

AN ONEIDA FARMER.

FROM THE REPUBLICAN ARGUS.

To the People of the United States.

It is announced to you from authentic sources, *that you are no longer to have any trade with the principal countries of the continent of Europe.* Not a pound of American produce, not a pound of those foreign goods, which your commerce obtains is to be carried in any American vessels to the innumerable customers in large districts of the old world.

The old world is put under the *naval banner* of the King of Britain, and the *exports of your country domestic and foreign*, are to be included in the unqualified *veto* of that legislator of the seas. A preposterous affection of the forms and names of the blockade, is to lull the personal honor of the officers of the British navy who are to extend the *severest regimen for places besieged* to the millions who inhabit Europe.

The poor of the old world may no longer eat your grain, your meat, or your fish, nor consume your liquors. Their manufacturers may no longer spin your flax, your hemp, your wool, nor your cotton. Your iron may no longer take useful forms upon their anvils, nor may they (resting from their labors) fill with your tobacco the calumet of frendship. Not a rigorous application is to be made of all the powers of the British navy at once to destroy the business & comforts of the people of Europe and your lawful and necessary markets. With your right to sell, an immense branch of your carrying trade is to fall. As the exclusion of your ships and cargoes from the European continent will leave open to you only the British kingdoms, so you will have only left to you the dangerous right to commit your vessels and your goods to the municipal jurisdiction of that king who has done you this vast wrong.

Never did the rights of property receive so broad, so deep a stroke. Never was such an attempt before made to paralize the navigation, the commerce, the fisheries, the manufactures, and the agriculture of neutral countries. How is this mighty wrong to be met by the government & the people of America, & how are we to countervail the vast injuries it will induce? Calm reflection can alone discover the means. The case is extreme enough, for many angry passions, but they lead only to the unprofitable unsheathing of the sword. That suits not us. Our executive government will undoubtedly negociate, and will as certainly digest the most important materials for the information of our national legislature.

Our legislative body will certainly give to the extraordinary case all the consideration, which it so imperiously demands. But the good sense and energy of the country at large may do much to lessen the evils we are to sustain from foreign violation of the laws, which protect the indefaasable rights of the neutral states.

The government of Britain, by their arbitrary and unlawful blockades of the markets for American and foreign raw material, has opened to us the instructive volume of necessity. We read there, not that it is necessary to store but that it is necessary to manufacture raw materials, and to create manufacturing consumers of our provisions. For British rum and malt liquors, we can make fruit and grain spirits, and American malt liquors. For British snuff and manufactured tobacco, we can make American. For British cordage, twine and threads, we can make American substitutes.

For British woollens, we can make American woollens, linnens and cottons, our government will have an opportunity to consider, whether it will not be proper and easy to force G. Britain out of the American woollen trade by a total prohibition or high duty on all woollens, (flannel and hosiery excepted.)

Rather than to have our cotton and wool to rot upon our hands, let us substitute cotton garments for those we have used of wool in all cases, except those worn next to the body. Great Britain sends to this country ten millions of dollars in woollen goods, which interfere with our cotton and sheep wool. For British saddlery, shoes, boots, &c. let us use only those of our own workmen. For British hats, let us make American substitutes. For British brass and other metals, let us use our own braziery, and wares made of various mixtures to harden our superabundant lead. So of wares of gold and silver, and of a vast number of other manufactures of our work shops.

But the most formidable battery against this recent British attack upon the prices of our crops, is one which can be powerfully garrisoned by our faithful allies the American women. We mean the system of household manufactures. It is by these that the Irish linnen branch has been raised, maintained and perfected; and by the same fair means a vast proportion of the woollen and cotton branches of the European nations is regularly conducted.—Our women can be taught universally to card, to spin, to weave, to scour, to full, and to dye.—Of six millions of persons who inhabit the U. S. one million and one half are able to bear arms, and a greater number of our females are of course able to perform the operations of the various manufactories. This numerous portion of our inhabitants is not at present half employed; the American matron will not yield to the palm of patriotism to the matron of ancient Rome; our excellent mothers have, in the profits of domestic manufactures, an abundant fund to educate their children in useful knowledge, and in sacred religion.

They have in these profits of household industry, the copious means to procure the comforts, the decencies, and enough of the elegancies of apparel for their rising young. The savings and gains of home manufactures will enable them to meet the taxes of their husband's estates, and the annual wear and costs of household furniture. The thrifty house-wife, the animated damsel, will not consent that the produce of their husbands' and their parents' farms, shall be destined to waste and rot by a lawless exclusion from foreign invaders of our neutral rights, that we are able to beat them, and to inflict upon them an exemplary punishment, by fining their manufactures. Avoiding the contest of war, let us engage men and women and children, in the worthier contest of industry and skill.

RITTENHOUSE.

FROM THE AURORA.

POLITICAL VIEWS.

No. VIII.

COMMERCE OF THE LEVANT.

The woollen trade affords an excellent criterion of the proportions possessed by the several nations in the general commerce of the Levant. The linen trade appears to be comparatively insignificant, that is, linens the produce of flax and hemp.

The linens of Silesia, Carinthia, Bohemia, Lower Austria, and a considerable portion from Belgium, found their way to the Levant; from 1000 to 1500 pieces had found a market; some of these were ornamented with needle work to the taste of the country; but the trade has fallen off, perhaps owing to the universal introduction of cottons, and the cotton cloth being at once more comfortable and healthful. The damask linens of Vienna, Trieste, Venice, Ghent, Brussels and Holland, and other parts of the low countries, with grotesque figures and variegated borders, continue their value, and are in demand —but in the best periods of the linen trade, England sent none, and the whole of that commerce did not exceed 400,000 dollars.

The cotton piece goods of Asia, by their cheapness and profusion, appear to have obtained the preference of the universe, to have superceded linens in all warm climates; their flexibility, the absorbing quality of the cotton, the facility with which it is cleansed and bleached; wrought into various patterns; and stained with various dyes, renders the trade in cotton one of the most important articles that enters into universal commerce, and it promises to be the most durable and co-extensive with the manufactures of iron.

The cotton goods consumed in the Levant, cannot be easily conceived by those who have not an acquaintance with oriental habits and customs. The stained cottons called calicoes, which are in universal demand, require patterns to the taste peculiar to the country: those which fashion produces in Europe would not find a vent in the Turkish empire; a taste as barbarous and *outre* as that of the Chinese, (epithets which they bestowed perhaps with equal justice upon the taste of Europeans) prevails in Turkey, & the Greeks, who abhor their tyrants, are their slaves in this particular.

For a considerable number of years the cotton goods and silks, the calicoes, muslins, and the infinite variety of E. Indian cotton goods, were furnished at the Levant by the route of the Red Sea, Djudda, Suez and Egypt—by the gulph of Persia, Busrah, Aleppo & Damascus. But the growth of this commerce became so great, from the cheapness of transportation, by the caravans, compared with the heavy expences of navigation round the cape, that the English resident merchants who were not in the service of the company, the Americans & Greeks who were numerously dispersed thro' India, were able to rival the goods brought by way of England, and undersell them. Sir Robt. Ainslie, the English ambassador at Constantinople, was directed, in 1779, to put an end to this traffic, and he accomplished it by hiring a tribe of the vagabond Arabs to way lay the carravans. The history of this extraordinary transaction, though not immediately, is remotely connected with the subject of the trade to the Levant, and merits notice on that account.

The Carravan which was intercepted, set out from Suez at the head of the Red Sea, in the 1st week of Jan. 1779, and several English officers and other persons who were on their route over land for Europe, and had recently landed from two vessels at Suez, accompanied the carravan, among others a M. de St. Germain, from the island of Bourbon in the East African Ocean. Their route was by Cairo. Five leagues from Suez the carravan was attacked by the hired Bedouins, and a rich carravan became their prey; the travellers had no sort of arms; and were of course incapable of resistance; they were all stript stark naked and left in that condition in the sandy desart, but not otherwise molested; a few made their way back to Suez in that deplorable condition; of eight who thinking to reach Cairo, seven perished by hunger, thirst, and heat of the sun; M. de St. Germain alone survived these; and during three days and nights. This execrable stratagem put an end to the traffic of India through those channels, and the only overland intercourse with India, of any importance, has been since conducted through America. But the market encreased for English goods, & gave encouragement to the establishment of cotton manufactures in Germany.

In the commerce of the Levant there were disposed of, before the French revolution, *twenty thousand pieces of muslin*—manufactured in Saxony, Bohemia, Upper Austria, and the Swiss cantons of St. Gall and Appenzel. The cotton from which these were all manufactured was all the produce of the Levant—a fact which is worthy of the consideration of the American cotton planters, and of those merchants who have shipt cotton as a good cargo for China.

The callicoes of Austria at one period, had the greatest ruin in the Levant —those of Saxony at Constantinople alone; but those most generally coveted throughout Greece and Turkey were manufactured at Pleven, in the district of Vaightland in Upper Saxony; The