WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19.

WE understand that the statement made some days since in the Washington Federalist, that a relation of Mr. Munroe had passed through this city with dispatches for the President, representing that the Florida negociation had failed, is without foundation. Mr. Bankhead, the gentleman alluded to, was only the bearer of duplicates of letters long since received.

THE Public will hear with pleasure that there is now in the Press at Philadelphia, a new Edition of the *Vision of Columbus*, by MR. BARLOW. In this Edition the original work will be greatly enlarged, and the plan essentially modified. Its typographical execution will be in the best style, and it will be embellished by superb engravings done in England.

Mr. *William Ludlow*, of the state of Ohio, announces his ability to supply the inhabitants of that state with one hundred thousand good thrifty Apple Trees. We notice this as one among the numerous evidences of the rapidity with which population advances in this rising state. Why does not some individual resident in it exhibit a view of its unparralleled progress? Such a view, faithfully delineated, would be fraught with the most useful instruction. It would demonstrate the powerful influence of republican principles, of universal freedom, of economy, of industry and enterprize. It would, perhaps, exhibit, in many respects, a model worthy of the imitation of the new states that are destined, at no distant day, to rise in the west; and it would expose the defects which have been suffered to creep into some part of the system pursued in this flourishing state. It would shew, probably, that she has failed to bring into full activity her vast resources for instructing the rising generation. It might draw the attention of her patriotic citizens to this object, and stimulate them to seize the most auspicious moment which can ever occur for laying the foundations of future glory. It will be the fault of her councils, if Ohio is not in a few years the favorite seat of the arts and sciences; and if her citizens are not pre-eminently distinguished for knowledge and virtue.

DIED—At Albany, on the 9th inst. WILLIAM PATTERSON, one of the Judges of the Circuit Court of the U. States.

DIED,

On Sunday the 7th inst. Mr. JOSEPH TAYLOR, formerly of Connecticut, but for several years past a Clerk in the Auditor's Office of the Treasury Department of the U. S.

[COMMUNICATION.]

Translation of a review of a work published in France by EUSEBIUS SALVERTI, *entitled conjectures upon the cause of the apparent diminution of the waters upon our globe.*

Many celebrated natural historians have published systems of cosmogony: their theories, springing from lively imaginations, are rather ingenious than true; we admire without believing them. Love of the public good has conducted citizen Eusebius Salverti upon their steps; aided with the light of experience, he explains under the modest title of conjectures, a phenomenon the most interesting for humanity.—Newton, says he, thought that the mass of water spread over the globe, undergoes a progressive diminution; this opinion is the result of observations which are constantly renewed. In all times the sea has left dry vast flats formerly covered with waves, if, on the other hand, it has overflown new lands, those conquests do not equal its losses: we daily see many sources disappear, and the beds of rivers diminish! Homer paints the Scamander as a terrible river whose angry waves arrested the impetuous Achilles, and would have overwhelmed him, if he had not been succored by the gods; and the Scamander is now only a rivulet. The parallel direction of the hills which border the course of rivers, prove that they were formerly bathed by their waters; the enquirer asks himself, what is the cause of this diminution? Eusebius Salverti examines all the hypotheses hitherto framed to resolve this interesting problem: the water absorbed by organised bodies, then decomposed by the vegetation of plants, and the digestion of animals: the formation of whirlpools and caverns in the interior of the earth; the separation of the two principles of water in the atmosphere. This last hypothesis, supported by the striking experiments of modern chemistry, furnishes the author an occasion of explaining, in a new and very ingenious manner, the formation of the Aurora Borealis; but none of these systems appear to him sufficient, and he concludes, that the diminution of waters is only apparent, and that the circulation alone is diminished. He demonstrates this proposition by the experiment of the pump of Verrat, in which the quanity of water furnished appears more considerable in proportion to the quickness of movement, although always the same, if the superior reservoir pours into the inferior: he explains it further by the apparent riches of a country, calculated, not upon the quantity of money existing, but upon the quantity in circulation. Men, in digging canals and narrowing the beds of rivers to facilitate communications, in draining ponds and marshes for the benefit of agriculture, in cutting down forrests, have diminished the means of evaporation and consequently the rains, the sources and currents of rivers: it is above all by destroying the woods that men have diminished the circulation of water, for trees are the most powerful conductors of this element: and a simple glance cast upon the globe, suffices to prove that the countries where the vegetation is the most vigorous, are also the richest in running waters. From a diminished circulation of water results two constant phenomena; the one is the impoverishment of vegetation, the other the variation of temperature in countries a long time unfurnished with woods; finally, from these effects result the depopulation of countries in which formerly flourished the most powerful empires. But it will be asked, what becomes of the portion of water which no longer circulates? Eusebius S. answers this question, by an idea new, by a system which is ingenious, and which is very plausible. If, says he, in a vast extent of country, all the trees are destroyed, the vapours of the earth will be attracted only by the mountains; a portion of the clouds will be arrested upon their elevated tops, which despoiled of the trees that defended them, will present only naked peaks almost impermeable to water, and unprovided with the warmth which maintained vegetation; these clouds will condense into ice at their summits instead of filtrating to form sources at their feet: the rest of the vapours and clouds, become the sport of every current of the air, will, above all, participate of the continual motion which the centrifugal force, arising from the rotation of the globe, impresses upon the atmosphere: these clouds will be driven towards the poles, and will there add to the frightful mass of ice. The author supports this theory by observations and conclusive experiments: he proves that the higher glacieres of Switzerland and the polar seas augment daily; a part of Greenland is no longer accessible, and the Strait of Forbisher is now so obstructed that no vessel can find a passage. We should be obliged to copy his work entire, to follow Eusebius Salverti in his philosophic reasonings, which he presents with an order, a clearness and an elegance very rare amongst writers who occupy themselves with physical sciences. In order to judge of his stile we cannot refuse to transcribe at least one paragraph.—"Run over," says he, "with an attentive eye, the entire surface of the globe; contemplate at first the enormous piles of ice which load the two hemispheres; the mass is almost double in the southern hemisphere, which, possessing a much less terrestrial surface, can only re-collect upon its few elevations a small part of all the water which is evaporated from its vast seas: in proportion as the lowering of the mountains worn by the action of waters and of years; in proportion as the destruction of forests, devoured by the improvidence and prodigality of man, diminish the means, by which nature carries back upon our soil the waters dissolved in the atmosphere, a portion of water carried off by evaporation from the seas and rivers, comes there to fix itself forever, and to add to these shapeless masses of ice, the solitary abode of silence and death. Or will you, upon another view of the picture, look over those unfortunate lands which have lost such considerable masses of water? Behold those burning deserts which seperate Asia from Africa; see the mournful ruins of Balbec and Palmyra, there also, and forever, dwell death and silence; where now are the innumerable palm trees of ancient Tadmore? Where now are the fountains once shaded by their foliage? The sorrowful eye perceives far around only an arid sand, naked, unceasingly furrowed by the winds; never does the water of Heaven come there to refresh the wandering traveller, and the earth, which he opens with his hands, offers, reluctantly, to his devouring thirst but a few drops of water loaded with the bitterest salts; these are the only remains of the various treasures which nature formerly spread so profusely in those places; what scourges have desolated these countries so populous of old? In proportion as society extended itself, the draining of the stagnant waters and narrowing the currents of rivers, have diminished the evaporation; the trees cut down in these extensive clearings, have ceased to attract to the earth the tribute of the clouds; the sources have dried up. In vain the industry of man struggled for a time against the course of nature. In spite of the labors of the Palmyreans and of the Roman emperors; in spite of the magnificent aqueduct, which even at this day encumbers the parched land, the destructive dryness daily made more rapid progress, and these regions, once the glory of Asia, are now transformed into frightful deserts. Contrast with these images, the aspect of new lands, where the hand of man has never imposed laws upon the elements. In the vast Savannahs of America, the water covers an immense portion of soil and seems disposed to cloath it intirely. Forests of boundless extent bring back upon the surface of the earth all the fluid which has evaporated from it. The breadth of rivers, the extent and multiplicity of lakes and marches, the exuberance of vegetation, offer at every step, the proof of an enormous circulation of waters. An aspect more pleasing to the eye of civilized man, is that of a country where industry has been guided by prudence, avidity restrained by an interest wisely consulted, where the breadth of water courses has been always respected, and the preservation of large plantations of trees allied to the most extensive agriculture; the earth there enjoys an astonishing fertility, and nourishes an innumerable population; the circulation of water, constantly maintained in a moderate degree, affects not the salubrity of the air, favors vegetation and the regularity of the seasons, and gives to interior navigation the most prosperous activity."

After this interesting picture the author concludes that a wise government cannot too much encourage the plantations and repress the devastations of forrests; he offers his wishes for the perfecting the interior navigation of the republic, by the establishment of canals similar to those of England. "It is then, says he, that France will unite to the riches of art, which belong to the most civilized ages, the treasures of nature, which seem to belong truely, only to the infancy of the world."

It is not for us to decide, whether citizen Salvesti has penetrated the secrets of nature; but it may be permitted us to say, that he has found that of rendering science attractive. The glow of his diction dissipates the dryness of an abstract subject, and we find in his manner of presenting his conjectures, & applying his facts, a resemblance to the stile of Buffon, of which he has sometimes the richness, and always the clearness.

The celebrated Irish patriot and barrister, Mr. Curran, has obtained from the minister the most lucrative and pleasant place in Ireland, that of master of the rolls. It is to all intents and purposes a sinecure.

It appears that the pickpockets infest the avenues to the House of Commons, animated doubtless, with the general anxiety to raise the supplies in such a manner as shall scarcely be felt.

[*Lon. paper*]

It is reported that an affair has lately taken place in high life, of so singular a nature, that if it ever comes before the public, it will puzzle the sages of Westminster-Hall as much as the casuists of Doctors Commons to decide upon it. Some years ago a person of high rank obtained a divorce of his wife after having previously recovered damages against the adulterer who seduced her. The seducer and the lady were married immediately after and lived together until very lately when she suffered herself to be again seduced. The new seducer is her former husband!

[*Lon. paper.*]

Baltimore, Sept. 13.

Extract of a letter, dated Norfolk, Sept. 8, 1806.

"Since 10 or 12 days there has anchored here an English and French frigate. Both have been much injured by the late violent storm, and have come here to repair. It is said there are a number of impressed Americans on board the English frigate, which seems to be the case, as they will not admit any person on board, nor suffer any of their crew to land. Many of their crew have deserted, and we have frequently heard at night volleys of musquetry discharged at those attempting to make their escape, and numbers, it is feared, have lost their lives by their temerity. The captain has said, as it is currently reported, that it is a matter of indifference to him if they all desert, as he can get a sufficient number off Cape Henry. The English did not fire a salute when passing the fort, which is generally a custom with armed vessels, neither would they permit the custom house officer to board them, and yet they lay claim to all the rights of hospitality. The French when passing the fort, fired a salute, which was returned by the Fort, and will permit any person to go on board, and when on shore are very peaceable—the contrast, though diminutive, may apply to them nationally.

"The storm, which has introduced to our acquaintance these wooden walls, was productive of serious injury. The alarm was so great as to cause a great number to rise from their beds, fearing their houses would be blown down. Ships were blown from their moorings—two of them, it is feared, will not be got off. The gable end of a large house was blown down on a small one, in which there was a young man, who fortunately received no injury; though the house was nearly levelled with the ground!"

Baltimore, Sept. 16.

We understand that at the time of the gale which proved so disastrous to the French fleet adm. Jerome Bonaparte was in the Veteran, which vessel has not since been heard of.

Sept. 17.

Arrived in Annapolis Roads on Monday evening, under jury masts, the French ship L'Eole of 74 guns, Mons. Prevost la Croix, commander, one of Jerome Bonaparte's squadron; driven in by stress of weather, having lost all her masts, and her rudder materially injured. She saluted the city, which was returned by a discharge of cannon from the City Point.——The captain, arrived here yesterday evening.

HALLIFAX, (N. S.) *Aug. 18.*

Captain Whitby, of the Leander, was sometime since superceded in the command of that ship by captain Humphreys, from England. The Leander sails for England between this date and the 24th inst. Capt. W. goes passenger in her, and a strict inquiry is to be made into the unfortunate occurrence off New York. He is permitted to take home such officers as he may think necessary to bring forward in his defence.

"In his majesty's instructions to flag officers, captains, &c. &c. dated on the 29th of May last, I find the following paragraph:

"Representations having been made that neutral ships are frequently detained on frivolous grounds, you are hereby further required and directed not to interrupt any ships under neutral flags engaged in trade not prohibited by law, except upon proof or strong ground of presumption, that the ship or the goods belong to his majesty's enemies, and you are particularly to bear in mind, that neutral vessels, conveying cargoes between this country [England] and the ports of the enemy, carry with them a strong presumption, that the property is either on British or neutral account, and engaged in a legal trade; his majesty having, in consideration of the present state of commerce, been pleased to allow that trade to be carried on by British and neutral subjects—it is therefore proper that such trade should suffer as little interruption as possible.

(Signed) H. NEAL,
RUSSELL,
KENSINGTON,

By command of their Lordships,"
B. TUCKER."

"The above instructions from the lords of the admiralty were received on this station by his majesty's ship Leopard—and I have further understood it is the wish of the admiral here, that no neutral vessels should be detained on light and frivolous grounds."

Norfolk Sept. 12.

Extract of a letter from the captain of an American vessel to his friend in this place, dated London, July 20.

"I expect I shall get away by the 10th of August, and it is probable Mr. Monroe may come with me; he wishes to do so, and thinks he will, if Mr. Fox gets so well as to be able to transact business; the recovery of Mr. Fox is very uncertain. I said nothing to Mr. Monroe on public business, and from his expressing a wish and an expectation of returning with me, I conclude that he apprehends no difficulties to detain him. The opinion here is, that all matters of difference between this country and ours will be amicably adjusted. The merchants do not appear to apprehend any rupture, tho' some few declined shipping goods for their correspondents in America, but they may have had other reasons, than the fear of a rupture. I am no politician, but I see or hear nothing that gives me reason to suppose there will not be an amicable adjustment of differences.

A FACT.

A little after the American revolution, an American citizen happened to be a spectator in one of the London Theatres, when, among other amusements, they had a farce taking off the American officers as shoe makers, taylors, farmers, &c. In this way, one of the players dressed as a British officer was on the stage—another made his appearance as an American officer, in a kind of slovenly half military dress. The former accosted the latter with "pray who are you, sir?"—"An American officer"—"you are?"—"yes"—"so it appears, but what was you before the war?" "a shoe maker"—"I thought so."—The next that appeared was a taylor, and the same remark was made upon him, to burlesque the American officers and please the Cockneys. But as soon as he could be heard, our young American vociferated from the middle of the Pit, *Great-Britain conquered by Shoe-makers, Taylors and Farmers, by G——d!*"

DEMOCRAT.

To BOARDERS.

A MESS of YEARLY BOARDERS *will* be reasonably and well accommodated, at MYER'S HOTEL from the 1st of October next

Washington City, Sept. 19—2w.

District of Columbia, Washington County, ss.

IN the case of BENJAMIN BURCH an insolvent debtor confined in the prison of Washington county aforesaid for debt, notice is therefore given to the creditors of the said BENJAMIN BURCH that on Monday the 29th instant at the Capitol, in the court room at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. the oath prescribed by the act of Congress, entitled, "An act for the relief of insolvent debtors within the district of Columbia", will be administered to the said Benjamin Burch & a trustee appointed unless sufficient cause be then and there shewn to the contrary.

It is ordered that this notice be published twice in a newspaper printed in the city of Philadelphia and twice in a newspaper printed in Baltimore before the 22d inst and in the National Intelligencer and Washington Federalist three times before the 29th instant.

By order of the hon. Wm Cranch chief judge of the circuit court of the district of Columbia.

WM. BRENT, Ck.

September 19—3t

BANK OF COLUMBIA.

The Board of Directors having this day declared a dividend for the half year, ending the 20th inst. at the rate of Eight per cent. per annum. The same will be paid to the Stockholders or their representatives any time after Saturday the 20th inst.

Wm. WHANN Cashier

Sept. 19th.

ELISHA RIGGS,

HAS received by the late arrivals via Philadelphia and Baltimore, a part of his

Fall Goods,

and daily expects by the Leonidas and WILLIAM and JOHN, (from Liverpool to Alexandria) a Large Supply of coarse goods, which WILL make his assortment extensive—among those received, are,

Plain and plaid silks, and shambra muslins,
Dimities, calicoes, and I. Linens,
Furniture, dimities, calicoes, and trimmings,
Carpetting flannels and counterpins, and many other articles. ALL of which are direct from the manufactories or bought in this country for cash, and WILL be sold at a SMALL advance for money, or to punctual persons only.

Geo. Town, September 19—2w4w.

A HORSE LOST.

STRAYED or STOLEN on the 14th inst. about sunset, a handsome dark bay saddle horse, about 14 1-2 hands high, having short buttocks, mane and tail lately thinned, newly shod all round, whose usual gates are an easy pace, rack or canter. He was lately brought from Baltimore, and once belonged to Mr. James Owings. Whoever will deliver the said horse either to Mr. Charles W. Goldsborough of the Navy Office, or to the Subscriber, shall be well rewarded by

R, W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

September 19—3t

PROPOSALS,

FOR PUBLISHING BY SUBSRIPTION,

THE WORKS

OF

DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,

PHILOSOPHICAL, POLITICAL,

AND LITERARY.

Hominum rerumque repertor.

THE publication of the writings of Dr. Franklin in a complete edition, was long contemplated by the late BENJ FRANKLIN BACHE, his grandson, who transcribed the copy which was devised to Mr. W. Temple Franklin, for the purpose. It was originally designed that the corrected edition should appear in three languages, and in England, Germany, France and America, at the same time: this design was frustrated by the devisee (W. Temple Franklin) who, it is now believed, sacrificed the work and the honorable trust reposed in him, for money, to the mortal hatred of the English ministry against the deceased sage.

As soon as this fact was known, the present editor of the Aurora turned his attention to the collection of every paper and circumstance which could tend to preserve and do honor to the memory of a man to which America is so much indebted; and who, as he was the first that from his genius and talents reflected back lustre on his native country, must continue to be ranked to the [illegible] posterity, among its greatest benefactors and ornaments [illegible]

This edition will be published from the copies revised and corrected by Dr. Franklin, the corrections of which are in the hand writing of the author, and may be seen by any gentleman in the possession of the editor of the Aurora.

Early admiration of Dr. Franklin; educated in veneration and reverence of his character—combined with other incidental circumstances not necessary to be pointed out, have concurred to favor the collection by the present editor, of the best materials that could be obtained after the sacrifice of the work by the devisee.

With some industry, and with some expence he has possessed himself, not only of the copy with the corrections and additions in Dr. Franklin's hand writing; but also of several articles which have never appeared in any former collection, and of several which have never appeared in print.

Proposals would have appeared long since in this city, had not an advertisement of an intended edition, being published in the English prints; the present editor thought it might be yet possible that the edition advertised, was that which Mr. Temple Franklin was entrusted with; but it now appears that the English edition is only a republication of the former compilation with some small additions; but still very deficient, on a comparison with the corrected papers in the hands of the editor.

The whole will now be carefully collated, and the work executed in a style worthy of the great patriarch of American liberty and apostle of the American press.

The additional papers will form at least a volume, perhaps more—the authentic papers already printed, form three—and it is intended to begin with the second volume, which will be put to press immediately; and to publish the Biography last, so that such additional particulars as may throw any useful light on the life of this great man, may be engrafted on his memoirs; to obtain which, and other important materials, the editor will spare neither pains nor expence.

Gentlemen who may be possessed of authentic or original papers, or correspondence of Dr. F. or who can give information where any are to be found, will render public service by communicating them to the editor.

CONDITIONS.

The work shall be elegantly printed, on a new small pica type and pale vellum paper in large octavo.

The work will be ornamented with numerous engravings, a vignette to each volume—a whole length portrait from the best likeness allowed to be in existence, now in the possession of——————

The price of each volume will be 2 dollars 50 cents payable on delivery only.

Subscriptions will be received at the book-store of Wm. Duane, No 106, Market street, Philadelphia, and in Pennsylvania avenue, Washington city; and by other booksellers and private gentlemen, whose names will be notified in the several states of the union, in due time.

August 8—