NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

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[illegible] DOLLARS PER ANNUM. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1806. PAID IN ADVANCE.

(By Authority.)

AN ACT
To establish an Infirmary.

BE *it enacted by the first and second chambers of the city council of Washington*, The more effectually to provide for poor, diseased and infirm persons, that there shall be and hereby is appropriated the sum of two thousand dollars for procuring a sufficient lot of ground, and for the erection thereon of a suitable building, to be denominated "THE INFIRMARY;" the said lot shall contain at least one hundred thousand square feet, shall be situated north of F street and between Third and Ninth streets west, and if purchased, there shall not be expended therefor, more than five hundred dollars.

SEC. 2. *Be it enacted*, That there shall be appointed by the Mayor, three Commissioners, whose duty it shall be, without compensation, to designate and obtain, by donation or purchase, the said lot; to cause the same to be enclosed, and suitable buildings to be erected thereon; previously to which they shall submit to the Mayor a permanent plan of the said institution, together with such parts thereof and temporary arrangements as they shall think it proper at present to complete or make, and obtain his approbation thereof.

SEC. 3 *Be it enacted*, That the disposition of the said ground and the buildings erected thereon shall be as far as practicable in conformity to the permanent plan.

SEC. 4. *Be it enacted*, That the sum remaining after obtaining the Lot, shall be applied to the inclosure of the same, to the erection of the necessary buildings, and to the purchase of proper tools and enginery for carrying on such manufactures as the commissioners may think it adviseable to pursue.

SEC. 5. *Be it enacted*, That the aforesaid sum of two thousand dollars shall be paid to the said commissioners or their orders countersigned by the mayor, who is hereby authorised to borrow at legal interest the same, or so much thereof as shall be necessary to carry the purposes of this act into effect, for the reimbursement of which, with the interest thereon, the monies received under the eleventh section of the act, entitled, "An act imposing certain taxes and providing for their collection," passed the fifth of September, one thousand eight hundred and four are hereby appropriated and pledged as follows, viz. One fourth part of the whole sum expended shall be reimbursed by the Mayor on or before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and seven, and a like instalment on or before the same day in each succeeding year, until the whole sum drawn from the treasury with interest thereon, shall be discharged, and to insure the ability of the mayor to make make such reimbursement, it shall be the duty of the treasurer each year to retain in his hands a sufficient sum out of the proceeds of said tax, and of the trustees of the poor to confine their expenditures to the balance of monies appropriated to the support of the poor, remaining after deducting said sum.

SEC. 6. *Be it enacted*, That the said commissioners shall each of them give bond to the mayor in the sum of one thousand dollars, for the faithful discharge of their duties, and shall on the completion thereof lay before the council a full statement of their accounts.

SEC. 7. *Be it enacted*, That the concurrence of any two of the said commissioners shall be sufficient to do any thing required to be done, by them in this act.

SEC. 8. *Be it enacted*, That as soon as the said commissioners shall have performed the duties assigned them by this act, the trustees of the poor shall take charge of the said infirmary which shall thenceforth constitute the poor house of the city, where poor, infirm and diseased persons who may not be otherways provided for, shall be lodged and maintained. And it shall be the duty of the said trustees to procure proper tools and materials for the employment of all such said persons as are able to labor, and to apply the proceeds thereof to the objects of the institution.

T. H. GILLIS, *President of the first chamber.*
ALEXANDER M'CORMICK, *President of the second chamber.*

APPROVED,
October 31st, 1806.
ROBERT BRENT, MAYOR.
Test THOMAS HERTY, Reg.

AN ACT
Supplementary to the act to regulate weights and measures.

BE *it enacted by the first and second chambers of the City Council of Washington*, That the sealer of weights and measures shall once, at least, in every three months between the rising and setting of the sun, enter into every store, shop or place where goods are bought and sold and examine the scales, weights or measures, if any therein. It any should be found unadjusted, deficient or exceeding in weight or measure, the same shall be forfeited to the corporation, and the person in whose possession such scale, weight or measure shall be found, shall pay a fine of two dollars for every such scale, weight or measure; *provided*, that nothing herein shall be construed to prevent any manufacturer or other person from keeping weights and measures for sale; in which case such person shall previously give information thereof to the register, on failing to do which, he shall incur the said penalty.

T. H. GILLISS, *President of the first chamber.*
PHINEAS BRADLEY, *President of the second chamber.*

APPROVED,
November 2d, 1806.
ROBERT BRENT, MAYOR.
Test THOMAS HERTY, Reg.

NOTICE.

It has been represented to the Secretary of State, that John Miller, Robert Briton, Thomas Morris, John Herbert, James Lind, Francis Nicholas, (a black man) Nathaniel Roach, Francis Cormick, Henry Connor, William Allen, William Witherald, James Fowler, James Bennett, John Jones, John Lein, Robert Silver, John F. Cook, James Oppa, William Ambrose, Augustus Tomkins, Thomas Pierce, John Donalds, John Chase, David Hayes, David Johnson, Billy Chiffers, William C. Bree, and John Lock, who calls themselves citizens of the United States, have been impressed into the British service, and are detained for want of documents to prove their citizenship. The friends of these men are therefore notified, that upon their transmitting, to the Secretary of State, proofs of the citizenship, together with a description of the persons, of the above named Seamen, measures will be taken to obtain their discharge.

Department of State, November 3rd 1806.

The Editor of the National Intelligencer, and the Editors who publish the laws of the union in the *sea-ports*, are requested to insert the above *three times* in their respective Gazettes.

TEAS, WINES, BRANDY, GIN, SUGAR, &c. &c.

Now landing from on board the schooner Dispatch, captain Smith from New York.

40 chests of fresh hyson, young hyson, and hyson skin teas, warranted good, imported in August last,
1 chest and 13 small boxes fine imperial teas,
1 chest gunpowder tea, in small leaden cannisters,
10 small boxes hyson Chulan tea,
1 pipe, 2 hhds. and 4 quarter casks Sicily wine,
7 pipes genuine London particular Madeira wine, 4, 5, and 9 years old,
30 quarter casks old sherry wine,
12 do. Colmewar do.
10 do. Catalonia do.
1 pipe 2 hhds. and 12 quarter casks, London particular Teneriffe, do.
1 pipe and 10 quarter casks Lisbon do.
12 pipes high 4th proof cogniac brandy, some of it very old,
10 pipes Pierpoints New York anchor gin,
12 hhds. prime St. Croix sugars,
75 hhds tierces and barrels, Trinidad sugars calculated for retailing, the greater part entitled to drawback,
30 barrels loaf and lump sugars,
70 boxes mould candles,
14 do. spermaceti do.
6 bags pepper, 12 boxes London mustard,
10 boxes Florence oil in flasks,
15 baskets Marseilles do. in bottles,
30 boxes olives, capers and anchovies,
70 whole and half boxes best Havanna segars,
4 hhds. sugar house molasses
800 baskets fine table salt,
100 small sacks Liverpool stored salt,
32 crates Liverpool ware,
300 jugs boiled Holland linseed oil,
100 demijohns,
13 bales India piece goods, consisting of gurahs, raftas, mamoodies, saunaho, &c.
1 bale very fine and wide Russia sheeting,
1000lb. Coffee.
Fresh Zante currants, Smyrna figs, nutmegs, English walnuts, filberts, &c.
100 bushels and 120 barrels excellent potatoes,

The above goods have been carefully selected in the New York market, and purchased on the best terms.

They will be sold by the subscribers at their ware house opposite Lowndes wharf, at a moderate advance.

WALTER & CLEMENT SMITH.

WHO HAVE ALSO IN STORE,
Old Port and Lisbon Wines, Holland Gin, Bordeaux Brandy and a few chests Souchong Tea.

George Town, October 29—wtf

To Rent,

AND possession given on the 19th November next, the Two story Brick Dwelling House on the corner of F and 11th streets, at present occupied by Mr. Andrew Way. Also a two story brick dwelling houses in a central situation, of which possession may be had immediately. For terms apply to

THOs. HERTY.

Oct. 17—3t & wtf

OBSERVATIONS,
Extracted from the Journals of William Dunbar, esq. and Doctor Hunter.

(CONTINUED.)

The rock through which the hot springs either pass or trickle over, appears undermined by the waters of the creek. The hot water is continually depositing calcarious, and, perhaps, some silicious matter, forming new rocks, always augmenting and projecting their promontories over the running water of the creek, which prevents its formation below the surface. Wherever this calcarious crust is seen spread over the bank and margin of the creek, there, most certainly, the hot water will be found, either running over the surface, or through some channel, perhaps below the new rock, or dripping from the edges of the overhanging precipice. The progress of nature in the formation of this new rock is curious, and worthy the attention of the mineralogist. When the hot water issues from the fountain, it frequently spreads over a superficies of some extent; so far as it reaches, on either hand, there is a deposition of, or growth of green matter. Several lamina of this green matter will be found lying over each other, and immediately under, and in contact with the inferior lama, which is not thicker than paper, is found a whitish substance resembling a coagulum; when viewed with a microscope, this last is also found to consist of several, sometimes a good number of lamina, of which that next the green is the finest and thinnest, being the last formed; those below increasing in thickness and tenacity until the last terminates in a soft earthy matter, which reposes in the more solid rock. Each lamina of the coagulum is penetrated in all its parts by calcarious grains, extremely minute, and divided in the more recent web, but much larger and occupying the whole of the interior lamina. The understratum is continually consolidating, and adding bulk and height to the rock. When this acquires such an elevation as to stop the passage of the water, it finds another course over the rock, hill, or margin of the creek, forming, in turn, accumulations of matter over the whole of the adjacent space. When the water has found itself a new channel, the green matter, which sometimes acquires a thickness of half an inch, is speedily converted into a rich vegetable earth, and becomes the food of plants. The surface of the calcarious rock also decomposes and forms the richest black mould intimately mixed with a considerable portion of soil; plants and trees vegetate luxuriantly upon it.

On examining a piece of ground upon which the snow dissolved as it fell, and which was covered with herbage, they found, in some places, a calcarious crust on the surface; but in general a depth of from five inches to a foot of the richest black mould. The surface was sensibly warm to the touch. In the air the mercury in the thermometer stood at 44 degrees; when placed four inches under the surface, and covered with earth, it rose rapidly to 68 degrees; and upon the calcarious rock, eight inches beneath the surface, it rose to 80 degrees. This result was uniform over the whole surface, which was about a quarter of an acre.

On searching they found a spring, about fifteen inches under the surface, in the water of which the thermometer shewed a temperature of 130 degrees. Beneath the black mould was found a brown mixture of lime and silex, very loose and divisible, apparently in a state of decomposition, and progressing towards the formation of black mould; under this brownish mass it became gradually whiter and harder, to the depth of from six to twelve inches, where it was a calcarious sparkling stone. It was evident that the water had passed over this place, and formed a flat superficies and silicious lime stone; and that its position, nearly level, had facilitated the accumulation of earth, in proportion as the decomposition advanced. Similar spots of ground were found higher up the hill, resembling little savannas, near which hot springs were always discovered, which had once flowed over them. It appears probable that the hot water of the springs, at an early period, had all issued from its grand reservoir in the hill, at a much greater elevation than at present. The calcarious crust may be traced up, in most situations on the west side of the hill looking down the creek and valley, to a certain height, perhaps one hundred feet perpendicular; in this region the hill rises precipitously, and is studded with hard sicilious stones; below, the descent is more gradual, and the soil a calcarious black earth. It is easy to discriminate the primitive hill from that which has accumulated, by precipitation, from the water of the springs; this last is entirely confined to the west side of the hill, and washed at its base by the waters of the creek, no hot spring being visible in any other part of its circumference. By actual measurement along the base of the hill the influence of the springs is found to extend seventy perches, in a direction a little to the east of north; along the whole of this space the springs have deposited stony matter, calcarious, with an addition of silex, or chrystalized lime. The accumulation of calcarious matter is more considerable at the north end of the hill than the south; the first may be above a hundred feet perpendicular, but sloping much more gradually than the primitive hill above, until it approaches the creek, where not unfrequently it terminates in a precipice of from six to twenty feet. The difference between the primitive and secondary hill is so striking that a superficial observer must notice it; the first is regularly very steep, and studded with rock and stone of the hardest flint, and other silicious compounds, and a superficies of two or three inches of good mould covers a red clay; below, on the secondary hill, which carries evident marks of recent formation, no flint, or sicilious stone, is found; the calcarious rock conceals all from view, and is, itself, frequently covered by much fine rich earth. It would seem that this compound, precipitated from the hot waters, yields easily to the influence of the atmosphere; for where the waters cease to flow over any portion of the rock, it speedily decomposes; probably more rapidly from the heat communicated from the interior of the hill, as insulated masses of the rock are observed to remain without change.

The cedar, the wax myrtle, and the cassina yapon, all evergreens, attach themselves particularly to the calcarious region, and seem to grow and thrive even in the clefts of the solid rock.

A spring, enjoying a freedom of position, proceeds with great regularity in depositing the matter it holds in solution; the border or rim of its basin forms an elevated ridge, from whence proceeds a glacis all around, where the waters have flowed for some time over one part of the brim; this becomes more elevated, and the water has to seek a passage where there is less resistance; thus forming, in miniature, a crater, resembling in shape the conical summit of a volcano. The hill being steep above the progress of petrifaction is stopped on that side, and the waters continue to flow and spread abroad, incrusting the whole face of the hill below. The last formed calcarious border of the circular basin is soft, and easily divided; at a small depth it is more compact; and at the depth of six inches it is generally hard white stone. If the bottom of the basin is stirred up, a quantity of the red calx of iron rises, and escapes over the summit of the crater.

Visitants to the hot springs having observed shrubs and trees with their roots in the hot water, have been induced to try experiments, by sticking branches of trees in the run of hot water. Some branches of the wax myrtle were found thrust into the bottom of a spring run, the water of which was 130 degrees by Fahrenheit's thermometer; the foliage and fruit of the branch were not only sound and healthy, but at the surface of the water roots were actually sprouting from it: on pulling it up the part which had penetrated the hot mud was found decayed.

The green substance discoverable at the bottom of the hot springs, and which at first sight has the appearance of plush, on examination by the microscope, was found to be a vegetable production. A film of green matter spreads itself on the calcarious base, from which rises fibres more than half an inch in length, forming a beautiful vegetation. Before the microscope it sparkled with innumerable nodules of lime, some part of which was beatifully chrystallised. This circumstance might cause a doubt of its being a true vegetable, but its great resemblance to some of the mosses, particularly the byssia, and the discovery which Mr. Dunbar made of its being the residence of animal life, confirmed his belief in its being a true moss. After a diligent search he discovered a very minute shell fish, of the bivalve kind, inhabiting this moss; its shape nearly that of the fresh water muscle; the color of the shell a greyish brown, with spots of a purplish colour. When the animal is undisturbed it opens the shell, and thrusts out four legs, very transparent, and articulated like those of a quadruped; the extremeties of the fore legs are very slender and sharp, but those of the hind legs somewhat broader, apparently armed with minute toes: from the extremity of each shell issues three or four forked hairs, which the animal seems to possess the power of moving; the fore legs are probably formed for making incisions into the moss for the purpose of procuring access to the juices of the living plant, upon which, no doubt, it feeds; it may be provided with a probosis, although it did not appear while the animal was under examination: the hind legs were well adapted for propelling it in its progress over the moss, or through the water.

It would be desirable to ascertain the cause of that perpetual fire which keeps up the high temperature of so many springs as flow from this hill, at a considerable distance from each other: upon looking around, however, sufficient data for the solution of the difficulty is not discoverable. Nothing of a volcanic nature is to be seen in this country; neither could they learn that any evidence in favor of such a supposition was to be found in the mountains connected with this river. An immense bed of dark blue schistus appears to form the base of the hot spring hill, and of all those in its neighborhood: the bottom of the creek is formed of it; and pieces are frequently met with rendered soft by decomposition, and possessing a strong aluminous taste, requiring nothing but lixiviation and chrystalization to complete the manufacture of alum. As bodies undergoing chemical changes generally produce an alteration of temperature, the heat of these springs may be owing to the disengagement of chaloric, or the decomposition of the schistus: another, and perhaps a more satisfactory cause may be assigned: it is well known, that within the circle of the waters of this river vast beds of martial pyrites exist; they have not yet, however, been discovered in the vicinage of the hot springs, but may, nevertheless, form immense beds under the bases of these hills: and as in one place at least, there is evidence of the presence of bitumen,* the union of these agents will, in the progress of decomposition, by the admission of air and moisture, produce degrees of heat capable of supporting the phenomena of the hot springs. No sulphuric acid is present in this water; the springs may be supplied by the vapor of heated water, ascending from caverns where the heat is generated, or the heat may be immediately applied to the bottom of an immense natural caldron of rock, contained in the bowels of the hill, from which as a reservoir the springs may be supplied.

A series of accurate observations determined the latitude of the hot springs to be 34 deg. 31 min. 4 sec. 16 N. and longitude 6 h. 11 min. 25 sec. or 92 deg. 50 min. 45 sec. west from the meridian of Greenwich.

While Mr. Dunbar was making arrangements for transporting the baggage back to the river camp, doctor Hunter, with a small party, went on an excursion into the country. He left the hot springs on the morning of the 27th; and after travelling sometimes over hills and steep craggy mountains with narrow valleys between them, then up the valleys and generally by the side of a branch emptying into the Washita, they reached the main branch of the Calfat in the evening, about 12 miles from the springs. The stones they met with during the first part of the day were silicious, of a whitish grey, with flints, white, cream-colored, red, &c. The beds of the rivulets, and often a considerable way up the hills, shewed immense bodies of schistus, both blue and grey, some of it efflorescing and tasting strongly of allum. The latter part of the day, they travelled over and between hills of black, hard and compact flint in shapeless masses, with schist as before. On ascending these high grounds you distinctly perceive the commencement of the piney region, beginning at the height of sixty or seventy feet and extending to the top. The soil in these narrow valleys is thin and full of stones. The next day, which was stormy, they reached a branch of the bayau de saline, which stretches towards the Arkansa, and empties into the Washita many leagues below, having gone about 12 miles. The mountains they had passed being of the primitive kind which seldom produce metals, and having hitherto seen nothing of a mineral kind, a little poor iron ore excepted, and the face of the country, as far as they could see, presenting the same aspect; they returned to the camp at the hot springs, on the evening of the 30th, by another route, in which they met with nothing worthy notice.

In consequence of the rains which had fallen, Mr. Dunbar, and those who were transporting the baggage to the river camp, found the road watery. The soil on the flat lands under the stratum of vegetable mould is yellowish, and consists of decomposed schistus, of which there are immense beds in every stage of dissolution, from the hard stone recently uncovered and partially decomposed to the yellow and apparently homogeneous earth. The covering of vegetable earth between the hills and the river is, in most places, sufficiently thick to constitute a good soil, being from four to six inches; and it is the opinion of the people upon the Washita, that wheat will grow here to great perfection. Although the higher hills, three hundred to six hundred feet in height, are very rocky, yet the inferior hills, and the sloping bases of the first, are generally covered with a soil of a middling quality. The natural productions are sufficiently luxuriant, consisting chiefly of black and red oak, intermixed with a variety of other woods, and a considerable undergrowth. Even on these rocky hills are three or four species of vines, said to produce annually an abundance of excellent grapes.

* *Having thrust a stick down into the crater of one of the springs, at some distance up the hill, several drops of petroleum, or naptha, rose and spread upon the surface: it ceased to rise after three or four attempts.*