NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

VOL. VII. | WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. | No. 952.

FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM. | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1806. | PAID IN ADVANCE.

National Intelligencer.

A writer in the Gazette of the United States presents the following statements relative to the commerce and productions of Buenos Ayres.

We shall prefix to our remarks on the commercial relations of Buenos Ayres, some statistical reports of a general nature, yet having an intimate connexion with that subject. The statements of the year 1793, will probably be found to give a fairer average than those of any subsequent year. It must be premised, however, that they refer to the port of Cadiz only; those relative to the ports of Biscay and of the Mediterranean not being in our possession. It is well known that Cadiz is the staple of the Spanish commerce to America, and that the trade of its other ports to the colonies is of small comparative value. We regret this chasm in our information, because we conceive that the inferences which we shall draw from a view of that which we have, would be confirmed by a more general report—But to proceed.

In the year 1793, there was imported into Cadiz from America, the following merchandise, laden on board of 180 ships, viz.

5,999,236 dollars in gold and silver coin.
335,414 dollars in bullion.
36,672 dollars in wrought plate.
6,500 dollars in gold bullion.
57,924 boxes of sugar.
12,461 do. of a larger size.
317 large loaves of clayed do.
292 barrels and hhds. of do.
5,731 quintals of do.
59,746 fanegas (i. e. 110lb.) of cocoa.
3,968,656 lb. of do.
1,440 seroons and bags do.
10,150 seroons of indigo.
42 bales and barrels of do.
1,729 seroons of cochineal.
361 bales of sheeps' wool.
2,352 do. of pepper (of what kind we know not.)
1,691 do. of julap.
940 do. sarsaparilla.
3,769 bales, bags, and seroons of cotton.
1,220 bales, bags and barrels of coffee.
4,031 large and small cases of Jesuits bark.
55,216 quintals of logwood.
419,992 hides.
53,560 horns.
341,918 plates and tips (of horn.)
9,324 tanned hides.
223 bags of Vigonia wool.
9,242 bars of copper.
100 pigs do.
58 jars of balsam.
140 lbs. do.
3,591 bars of tin.

Besides a great variety of other effects of less importance, many of which will be enumerated in the following list—Of the preceding articles there were imported from Buenos Ayres in the two last quarters of the year the following, viz.

409,614 dollars in coin and bullion.
204 bags and bales of sheeps wool.
332,216 hides.
19,300 horns.
173,500 plates and tips of horn.
111 tanned hides.
100 bags of Vigonia (or Vicunia) wool.
221 barrels of tallow.
278 bales do.
152 barrels of salt beef.
8 dozen tongues.
6,700 lb. of bristles.

Skins of various kinds, such as those of sheep, horses, tygers, ostricks, dogs, the chinulla, seals, hares, foxes, &c. &c. &c.

As this statement is only for the imports of the last six months, it is but reasonable to suppose that those of the preceding six must have been nearly equal, and consequently it will not be unfair to presume that double the quantity cited in this last statement may have been the general average of the importations from Buenos Ayres to Cadiz in common years.

On a survey of this report we shall find that hides compose the prominent article of export from Buenos Ayres to Spain, and we shall be astonished to find, that of the flesh and tallow that was covered by upwards of 600,000 hides, only 152 barrels of the one, and 221 barrels and 278 bales of the other were exported to Spain. We know that but a small portion of either finds its way to any of the other colonies, and we must of course conclude, nay, we know, that the hide being the article of principal value, the flesh and tallow are turned to scarcely any account. It is also worthy of remark, that the hide of Buenos Ayres averages more than 34lbs. English weight, and that the average of the hides from the plains of Carraccas does not exceed 22lb. This simple fact speaks more than a volume as to the fertility of the endless plains of Buenos Ayres. We find no mention in our list of the horse hides; nor should we find faith to believe, did not occular evidence convince us, that myriads of these generous animals, living in a wild state, are annually sacrificed to make room for black cattle which are of more value. It was not till very lately that the hide of the horse was deemed worth the trouble of being brought to market, when it has been sold latterly for 1-4 of a dollar. The value of an ox hide is about 2 dollars. How important must it be for a manufacturing country to possess annually at the cost of 2 dollars, 600,000 hides which in their progress to consumption must arrive at the value of 8 dollars each. If Spain has been able to draw 600,000 hides from Buenos Ayres, are we to suppose that the English with their talents for commerce and their enterprize, will draw no more when the source from which they are derived is inexhaustible? Are we to suppose that the flesh and tallow will be turned to no better account than they have hitherto been? It is on all hands allowed by those who have visited this country that the beef is remarkably good and fit for salting. If this settlement remains in the hands of the English we shall soon see their colonies and their fleets in the east and west supplied with salted provisions from this immense store-house. The small grain also of Buenos Ayres, such as wheat, rye, and barley, is remarkably good, and will furnish the means of providing their colonies with the indispensible article of bread, which is now but inconveniently supplied from the mother country—and this connexion between Buenos Ayres and the West India colonies is the more advantageous, as the former, like ourselves, must bring from abroad all the tropical productions, such as rum, sugar, &c. This mutual wants will produce reciprocal benefits to the distant parts of the empire, and at the same time by new and extensive branches of commerce, enrich and strengthen the whole.

To these solid advantages which present themselves at the first view, many others may be added. The fishery, if it may be so termed, of the seal which abounds in the waters of La Plata, and of the whale which is also found in abundance on the adjacent coasts, will soon attract the attention of the vigilant trader. Great Britain may therefore promise herself great advantages, not only in the produce of the soil but from the very waters of her new territory. When to the advantages already detailed we add those which will be derived from the immense and exclusive consumption of her own manufactures, we shall not incur the imputation of extravagance in asserting that this easy acquisition bids fair to be one of the most valuable possessions of the British empire.

Thefollowing are the regulations by which the press is fettered in the East Indies. In the year 1800, they were sent officially by the secretaries of the different governments in Inda to editors of newspapers at the respective presidencies of Calcuta, Madras and Bombay.

Regulations respecting the publication of newspapers at this presidency, viz. 1. Every printer of a newspaper to print his name at the bottom of the paper. 2. Every editor and proprietor of a paper to deliver in his name and place of abode to the secretary to government. 3 No paper to be published on Sunday. 4. No paper to be published at all until it shall have been previously inspected by the secretary to the government or by a person authorised by him for that purpose. 5. The penalty for offending against any of the above regulations to be immediate embarkation for Europe.

Rules for the guidance of the secretary to government in revising the newspapers—1. to prevent the publications of all observations on the state of public credit, or the revenues, or finances of the company. 2. All observation respecting the embarkation of troops, stores, or specie, or respecting any naval power or military preparations whatever. 3. All intelligence respecting the destination of any ships or the expectation of any whether belonging to the company or to individuals. 4. All observations with respect to the conduct of government or any of its officers, civil or military, marine, commercial, or judicial. 5. All private scandal, or libels on individuals. 6. All statements with regard to the probability of war or peace between the company and any of the native powers. 7. All observations tending to convey information to an enemy, or to excite alarm or commotion within the enemy's territories. 8. The republication of such passages from the European news papers as may tend to affect the influence and credit of the British power with the native states.

Interesting and important experiment in the culture of wheat.

On the 8th of August, 1804, a gentleman named Millar, took a plant of wheat which had been sown in the beginning of June, and divided it into eighteen parts, and putting them into the ground, let them remain therein till the latter end of September, when he again took them up sub-dividing them in 67 parts or roots, and replanted them; they remained in this state till the end of March and the beginning of April, when the plants were a third time taken up, separated into 500 roots, and again replaced in the garden. Early in the season, Mr. Millar reaped his little harvest, and found that by this process, a *single grain* had produced twenty-one thousand one hundred and nine ears, containing five hundred and seventy thousand grains, measuring three peaks and three quarters, and weighing 67 lbs.

We have been requested to publish the following interesting view of the salubrity, soil and productions of the territory of Orleans. It is, doubtless, penned by a partial hand; but we have little doubt, from the information we have received from the most respectable sources, of the correctness of the outlines. What a brilliant prospective does it exhibit of the future wealth of this country, compared with which the fifteen millions, paid for it, sink into insignificance!

As many erroneous ideas are entertained in the distant parts of the United States, respecting the salubrity of this country, which has been decried by ignorance and malevolence; and as the advantages which the farmers and planters possess over those of any other quarter of the world, and many other particulars respecting this new acquisition to the United States, are but little known; I have taken some pains to procure information, the result of which I communicate to you. The statements here offered, being made under the eye of those who have immediate opportunities of correcting any errors, or misrepresentations which might find place in them, will I hope carry conviction to those for whose benefit they are intended, and cause at least an impartial eye to be turned to a country which affords resources to the farmers and planters of other parts, almost too great to arrest belief.

With respect to climate and salubrity, few have given themselves the trouble of making much enquiry, but have founded their belief on the reports of seamen, boat-men, or the travellers who have passed rapidly through our country, and without a knowledge of the language, without the means, or perhaps the desire of obtaining just information, spread wherever they went, the horrid tale of sickness and death, which their distorted imaginations always presented to them. These tales related to people of more sense and information, acquired belief by reason of our southern climate, our low country and immense collection of waters, without reflecting that other causes may have combined to guard us from their ill effects. What these causes are, independent of the excellence and purity of the water, I must leave to the learned who may investigate them to determine.—I content myself with the fact, and to prove it, submit the following statements of our population, and mortality in the city and county of New-Orleans, and three adjoining counties, which occupy a space of 150 miles on both sides of the river, from the Fort of Plaquemine near the sea, to Manchac, at the upper end of the island of Orleans.

These counties have always been looked on as the most unhealthy of the territory, from being the lowest and most exposed to damps and exhalations. The period I have chosen, viz: from the 1st of August, 1805, to the 1st of August, 1806; is that in which the country parts are known to be the most unhealthy, on account of the excessive and continual rains in the autumn, which caused an unusual number of fevers, and the remarkable cold and severe winter, which suddenly followed, equally caused a more than ordinary number of pleurisies, and other disorders. I therefore believe, that no one acquainted with Louisiana, will hesitate to say, that the statement would be erroneous, only in supposing, that an equal number of deaths had always occurred during a like period, or that they bore the same ratio to the births and population in the other districts of Louisiana.

To bring this matter in a clear light before the eye of strangers, I first annex the population of the parts treated of from the latest returns, premising however, that many of them are considerably underrated, that they may afterwards compare the number of deaths with it, and let them then decide whether their own or any other country, to their knowledge, has enjoyed a greater degree of health for the period mentioned.

Population of the city and county of Orleans, extending along the river from the neighborhood of Fort Plaquemine, 20 leagues below, to the German county, 6 leagues above New Orleans.

	Whites.	Coloured People.
City and county of Orleans,	7,069	11,989
German county extending along the river 10 leagues higher up,	1,900	3,274
County of Acadia extending from the limits of the latter about 12 leagues further up the river,	2,728	2,556
County of Ibberville extending from the limits of the county of Acadia to Manchac, on the left bank of the river, and to the end of the settled part of the county on the right bank, about 43 leagues above New-Orleans,	1,587	935

Here is then an aggregate population in these four counties in the most exposed situations on the banks of the river Mississippi.

	Whites.	Coloured People.
	13,284	18,754
The number of deaths in the same counties for the time before mentioned, was, viz.	285	414
In the city and county of New Orleans, from the registers of the parish churches, and returns collected from the planters on the distant plantations, viz.		
Per parish registers in New Orleans.	161	300
Parish of St. Bernard Terre aux Boeuf,	5	5
Returns collected from the planters,	4	13
	170	318
In the German county, composed of the two parishes of St. Charles and St. John Baptiste.		
In St. Charles, 15 28		
St. John Baptiste, 21 26		
	36	54
In the county of Acadia, composed of the two parishes of St. James and Ascension.		
In St. James, 36 19		
Ascension, 14 6		
	50	25
In the county of Ibberville, composed of the parishes of St. Gabriel and St. Bernard.		
In St. Gabriel, 24 15		
St. Bernard, 3 2		
	27	17

Making a total of 699 deaths, which compared to the aggregate population, will be 1 for every 47 whites, and 45 blacks, or people of colour.

To those accustomed to examine such statements, this proportion will be so small as almost to preclude the possibility of belief; but if we add to the population quoted here, which is that of residents only, the immense number of strangers from foreign parts, from the Ohio, Mississippi territory, and the distant counties, the seamen and boatmen which croud New-Orleans for 7 months in the year, exclusive of the garrison, the whole of which may be calculated at one half in addition to the whole population, this extreme degree of health and small degree of mortality, must appear really astonishing—the registers, however, are open to the eye of any persons, whose curiosity may lead them to inspect them, and conviction may be thus obtained by those who trust only to their own examination. The thing is of importance to Louisiana, as it respects the idea entertained of it by strangers, and on that account it were to be wished, particular enquiry might be made to change their present disadvantageous opinion of this country.

In the counties before mentioned, the number of births from the 1st August, 1805, to the 1st August, 1806, amounted to the following numbers, as per the registers of the parish churches, viz.

	Whites.	Coloured People.
Parish & convent church, New-Orleans,	275	662
St. Bernard, Tere Aux Boeuf.	25	5
St. Charles, German county,	26	30
St. John Baptiste, do.	68	[illegible]
St. James, county of Acadia,	94	[illegible]
Ascension, do.	50	[illegible]
St. Gabriel, county of Ibberville,	44	51
St. Bernard, Galveston,	11	1
	591	

From what has been said of the salubrity of this country, it is not to be supposed emigrants or strangers are totally exempt from the danger of sickness or death—on the contrary, they are the persons most subject to it from their habits of body, their mode of living, their want of due care and unnecessary exposure. When in this country we see a poor family descend the Ohio and Mississippi in the midst of Summer, and arrive after a fatiguing voyage and an exposure to the sun of forty days in a flat boat, at the Natchez landing, mouth of Bayou Sarah, or elsewhere, and when instead of having a comfortable house, or the means of procuring one to lodge the family in on arrival, it is left in the boat still exposed, and living on salt and rancid provisions, without even a supply of vegetables, while the head of the family is searching for the owner of some piece of vacant land, when after a bargain is struck the wretched family removes into the unsettled country without a stock of wholesome provision, & drinks the water of a spring which scarce runs through the heap of leaves and filth which choak it up—when it is exposed to the inclemencies of the weather while the trees are felled to raise their future dwelling, and when we see what the log house is when raised, the little cleanliness observed in it, and unfortunately we may add, the too great use of spiritous liquors, when they can be obtained—what can there be expected but sickness, misery, death and complains against the Mississippi territory and Louisiana, which would have been remedied in people of common means by a little foresight and precaution, and even in the poorest classes, by a removal at a more temperate season, when there would be time enough to provide against the danger of the summer heats and get sheltered from them.

Should an enemy of Louisiana here raise the usual hue and cry against us of *yellow fever*, which has been so industriously circulated and echoed from one end of the union to the other, and made its inhabitants look upon death as unavoidable when compelled to visit our shores—I would reply to him, by asking whether Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New-York or Pennsylvania have been looked on as the certain grave yards of strangers, because their capitals have been sometimes afflicted with this scourge—I shall be answered in the negative and told that a few maritime cities were alone subject to it, and at particular seasons only, that the sickness never spread itself a mile from their extremities, and that those who took the timely precaution of retiring ever so little a distance into the country on the appearance of this disorder were certain of escaping from it. It is just the case here likewise, with this additional happiness, that it appears here seldomer, than in most of the ports of the United States, having been visited with it only four times since that disorder was first known amongst us—that the residents for a few years in the city are perfectly free and secure from its ravages, which are confined to strangers and new comers, whereas in the other parts of the U. States the oldest residents are equally its victims with the greatest strangers.

In the counties of Acadia, Ybberville and the lower part of the county of Orleans, with very few exceptions, all the men and a very great proportion of the women and children, are at times employed in the labors of the field——in the lower part of the county of German coast, and for a few leagues above and below New Orleans, the planters being generally richer, are less occupied in the laborious part of the culture of their estates; but there are few indeed, who do not themselves overlook and attend to the labor of their slaves, and are consequently like them, exposed to every danger and inconvenience, whether arising from the heat of summer or cold of winter—and it is a lamentable tale, but it ought to be told, that of the strangers, seamen and boatmen, who find here an untimely fate, nine in ten, at least, owe their deaths to intemperance.

This will shew that our climate is neither unhealthy nor dangerous, even to the poorer class of whites who may be under the necessity of supporting themselves by their bodily labor in the field, nor can it be objected that the present inhabitants of the Mississippi, being all creoles, are habituated to the climate from their birth, and consequently less liable to suffer from its effects—this is far from being the case, a full half of all the setlers on the Mississippi in these four counties are either Europeans, Americans, or Acadians from Nova Scotia, a great many of whom, especially among the latter, cut down themselves the first trees that were felled on their plantations, and with no other assistance than what they have derived from their own exertions, arrived at a state of ease if not of affluence, rarely to be met with in people in their circumstances in other countries—let the thousands of Americans who have seen their habitations and their annually increasing impovements, in their different voyages down the Miss.