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THE PAST—THE PRESENT—FOR THE FUTURE.

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PENNSYLVANIA. The long expected map of this state, by Mr. *Melish*, has at length appeared. It may be called a magnificent work, worthy of the great commonwealth which has so liberally furnished the means to produce it. Greater accuracy could not well have been expected than is assured in this map; made up, chiefly, of county surveys, taken by experienced persons, resident in the respective counties, and responsible to their immediate neighbors and friends, for the truth of their representations. There is nothing like *direct responsibility*, whether in mechanics, manufacturers, map-makers, or governors and presidents. It assures fidelity, or enables the people to punish the want of it.

These maps, besides all that it is usual to expect to find on such productions, shew the geography of the whole state, and mark the boundaries of the various cessions of the Indians, &c.

MILITARY ACADEMY. We understand that an order has been issued at this academy, prohibiting any cadet from receiving more than *one* newspaper; and this, perhaps, is right; but it seems that the paper which a cadet is permitted to receive, must be published in his own state, county or town, no matter how useless it may be as a vehicle of intelligence or news. Thus, a cadet from Missouri shall receive an account of the proceedings of congress via St. Louis; and another from Kentucky must expect European news through a Lexington newspaper!

We are informed of some other regulations of this national establishment that do not appear altogether consistent with the light and reason of the republican system—but we do not wish to interfere with them, without a better understanding of their nature; it is possible that a considerable degree of restraint may be necessary to preserve order among so many high-spirited young men, collected from different and distant parts of our country. Hitherto it has too much been a school for the gratuitous education of the children of the rich and influential; but we believe that some reformation has taken place in this particular: at least, there is a better and more just apportion-

THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC. Lieut. *Weaver*, of the navy, has lately arrived in Washington city from the Pacific, though not immediately from our squadron in that sea. He left Lima about the 25th of June, shortly before which a battle took place between the royalists and a division of San Martin's army, in which the latter were decisively beaten, and nearly destroyed. No other event of importance had recently occurred.

Lieut. *Weaver* came over-land from the Pacific to the Atlantic, across the Isthmus of Panama, which has become an interesting country from the possibility of an attempt, some time or other, being made to connect the two great oceans at that point, if the nature of the intervening land be found to admit the practicability of such a work. Lieut. *Weaver* represents the country, on the route which he came, as generally low and flat; and such an one, we should presume, as would render

an inter-oceanic communication, by canal, between the rivers which fall into each sea, a work neither very difficult nor expensive. We did not see Lieut. *Weaver* ourselves during his stay in town, or our inquiries would have enabled us to give a more particular description of the Isthmus. Its general character, however, may be understood from the above, and from his denominating it as throughout an agreeable and fertile country, of which he had good evidence, being detained some time on that road by the sickness.

Nat. Int.

OUR SQUADRON in the Mediterranean, consisting of the Constitution frigate, Ontario, &c. has lately visited some of the Turkish ports and Greek islands. The people of the latter were much delighted with the hope that these vessels had arrived to assist them against the Turks, and were much disappointed to find that it was not so. They made many enquiries about our country, and it appears probable that many of them will embark for it, in the event of being driven to an extremity. The commodore landed at Idra, and was received with a salute of 18 guns. When the squadron returned to Leghorn, it was visited by Lord Byron, who was very respectfully received, and much pleased to see a fine edition of his works in the cabin of the Ontario.

COTTON. Some time ago, we noticed certain experiments that were making in New-York, &c. to ascertain the probable success that would attend the cultivation of cotton, as a crop—those experiments have very generally succeeded so far; and there is every prospect of their complete success, if there should not be frosts before the 6th or 8th of October.

We have in our hands (says the National Gazette) a fine specimen of Pennsylvania cotton, planted on the 6th May, by a gentleman of South Carolina, at his summer residence near Germantown. He has half an acre of it in his orchard, and writes thus on the subject: "It is a sample of the green seed (or short staple cotton). From the rough and poor state of the soil, it has been cultivated under unfavorable circumstances; nevertheless it grows luxuriantly, and is superior to any I ever saw, and the staple is scarcely inferior to the best upland cotton of South Carolina."

BILLS ON ENGLAND are at 10 per cent. advance again, and gold is in much demand, at a high premium, for remittances. The heavy importations of the present year will have a most unhappy effect on the internal trade and commerce of our country. Silver begins to be in request for exportation.

RIGHTS OF THINGS—GREECE, and the French and British agents therein. There is no man in Christendom who has read of ancient Greece and is acquainted with the early progress of her people in the arts and sciences, which they so gallantly defended by their arms, against the vast hordes of barbarians—who has understood what was the condition of this fine country under the mastery of the Turks, and been informed of the present struggle of its present inhabitants for life, liberty and all that

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dent that Russia, yielding to the *holy alliance*, has given up the Christian Greeks to massacre and murder.]

IMPROVEMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION. It is allowed by all, that the interests of public education are entitled to a character of being more extensively useful, and to an encouragement more liberal than those of any object or subject on which national character and independence are to be durably supported. On this subject, whatever experience may have suggested, or whatever genius, of any kind, may have discovered, it is presumed, should always lay claim to attention from an enlightened public.

From more than thirty years' exercise in the instruction of youth, of whom many have filled honorable stations in society: having, also, examined, with no little attention and interest, the systems of *Joseph Lancaster* and *Dr. Bell*, of England, the subscriber flatters himself that he has digested a plan much superior to that of either of those gentlemen; especially where the most liberal course of instruction is contemplated.

It has been on this presumption, that the following information and overture have been, in this way, submitted to the attention of the friends and patrons of literary instruction throughout the United States.

The improved plan would require a house and accommodations well adapted to the purpose, but not essentially different, either in form or in expense, from those which are already in use; and sufficiently spacious to contain, on the lesser scale, three hundred scholars, or, on the larger, six hundred.

The former of these would require only three instructors, and the latter not more than six: the method, in either, altogether different from any yet introduced—and which the author would engage to exhibit, in many respects, superior to any yet offered to public patronage.

This may seem to be professional vanity; and, on this account, if on no other, the plan may be discountenanced. However this may be, its author has too long cherished a confidence in its superiority of general usefulness, and is too thoroughly convinced of its probable advantages, for the diffusion and promotion of national literature, to be discouraged, by any considerations, from offering it to public acceptance.

It is not contemplated to submit a complete development of the system; the principal improvement, however, is to depend on the proper use of the *printing press*; and, by a suitable apparatus, enabling the instructors to extend to many their unremitting labors, with the same facility as to a few; and, at the same time, without resorting to the mode adopted by some other systems, of employing a portion of those to be instructed to teach their fellows—a practice suited to those only who have the misfortune to be in a state of dependence and pauperism.

With any state legislature, district, or city, or county, disposed to patronise and introduce such a plan of public education, its author would be happy in opening a correspondence; and flatters himself with being able to afford such a view of its advantages, as could not fail to receive adequate encouragement.

Any communication, post paid, on this subject, shall receive immediate attention, by the subscriber.

SAMUEL KNOX.

Baltimore, No. 31 East-street, Sept. 20, 1822.

P. S. From an accurate estimate of the probable

expense of such an institution as the above contemplates, it might be supported by a reduction of at least one half of the terms of tuition, as they are at present, at least in Baltimore.

THE FUR TRADE. A St. Louis paper says—Since the abolition of the United States' factories, a great activity has prevailed in the operation of this trade. Those formerly engaged in it have increased their capital and extended their enterprize, many new firms have engaged in it, and others are preparing to do so. It is computed that a thousand men, chiefly from this place, are now employed in this trade on the waters of the Missouri, and half that number on the Upper Mississippi. The Missouri fur company, which alone employs upwards of 300 men, have reached the mountains, and will soon be on the Columbia river.—Others have the same destination, so that the rich furs of that region will soon cease to be the exclusive property of the Hudson Bay company.

THE SLAVE TRADE, &c. In a debate in the house of commons, on the 25th of July, on the subject of the slave trade at the cape of Good Hope, Mr. Wilberforce begged the attention of the house to an extraordinary circumstance. Would it be believed, (said the hon. gentleman), that while this country labored so much to propagate the doctrine of christianity, there were men who had been born Britons, and who boasted of their birth, who took pains to educate their slaves in the principles of Mahometanism? Yet there were colonists who did so, and they assigned in their justification the most extraordinary reasons, that the slaves, being by the principles of Moslemism prevented from drinking wine, would become thoroughly sober in their habits; and also that the want of christian marriages would enable them to separate the father from the mother of his children without any injury to their religious principles. He assured the house that the most odious practice was carried on in some of the colonies. He hoped that means would be taken to prevent it in future. It had been said that the Hottentots had always been incapable of civilization; but the house could not but be aware that man, once stamped with the signet of a beneficent Creator, was always capable of feeling. Mean as the Hottentots had been accounted, even as the meanest of the human race, Mr. Barrow, in his intelligent work on the Cape of Good Hope, had given proofs of their capability of feeling as men.—Sir J. Craig too had, in defiance of prejudices and sarcasm, proved that they could be rendered good members of society, and had formed some of them into a regiment.

Mr. W. Smith, also, regretted that the Hottentots had been in effect reduced to the condition of slaves by the artifice of those who employed them: these farmers supplied them with necessaries and other articles until they got them into their debt, and then brought them before a magistrate, when having sworn to the debt (no doubt exorbitant) the unhappy Hottentot, being in most cases unable to pay, was handed over to his master, to work himself out of debt, which in effect condemned him to slavery, although no more a slave than any member of that house, and placed his liberty in the hands of an arbitrary and rapacious master. He (Mr. S.) had the highest respect for the right of property in all cases, except one, namely—an unqualified property existing in one privileged individual, to the labor and person of his fellow creature.