

FROM THE CENTINEL.

MR. RUSSELL,

The following letter was received by the last post. The manifest design of it is to give information to the Citizens of the United States on points to which most of them must be strangers. I do not know how better to throw it before them, than by requesting the printers to insert it in their several papers. B. L.

GENTLEMEN,

Dec. 7, 1789.

THE permanent residence of Congress has furnished so interesting a subject for debate, in the late session of that honorable body, as to justify us in presuming that the individual citizens of each State must feel themselves deeply concerned in the eventual decision. Next to the great constitutional question, which so lately agitated our minds, we consider it as an object of the greatest importance to the present and future welfare of our country, that ever called for a discussion in our national councils.

Such being the sentiments of the inhabitants of Alexandria and George-Town, they have appointed us a committee to communicate with the principal towns in the Eastern States, on this interesting subject; and to give them an impartial and candid detail of those circumstances, which in our estimation, render the Potomack the most eligible situation in the Union.

In compliance with their wishes, we now beg leave to address you; with the fullest confidence, that a free and manly discussion will never incur the censure of Americans. We are, however, aware of the objections that may be made to our representations on the score of self-interest; nor, will candor permit us to disown the many advantages we shall peculiarly derive from a decision in favor of the Potomack—but, if they be found strictly true, we hope they will have their due weight, notwithstanding the motives to which they may be attributed.

We presume it will be universally admitted as just, that the seat of Federal Government ought to be fixed as near the centre of territory as possible; since population and wealth are circumstances as fluctuating and variable as the winds, and equally undeserving of attention, if permanency is the object. The expense which will attend the erection of the necessary buildings, makes us hope that this is meant. Some regard then ought to be paid to posterity, if a perpetual union is the wish of all; and to the history of emigrations, that we may not have a similar expence to encounter in a short time. That the river Potomack is nearer the centre of the Union, than any other considerable river, and is more advantageously situated for preserving an intercourse with the inhabitants of the Western Territory, none can doubt; when we recollect the anxiety the English nation felt thirty years ago, in consequence of the possession of this extensive and fertile country by the French, we think ourselves particularly interested, from our greater vicinity, in giving the inhabitants thereof no cause to complain.

The safety of all the Atlantic States requires the utmost attention to the continuance of this intercourse; as their independence and separation from the Union would beget connections highly dangerous to our existence. Presuming that the navigation, extent, and productions of the Potomack are not well known to many of your citizens, it may not be improper to give them a full and just description thereof.

The Potomack empties into the bay of Chesapeake in latitude 37. 50. one hundred miles above the Capes: From the mouth of the river to George-Town—the highest part to which navigation is practicable for sea vessels—is one hundred and sixty miles; the depth of water is from three and a half to fifteen fathoms; the breadth of the river is from one to twelve miles: The navigation is more safe and easy than that of any other river in the United States, affording every where good anchorage, and fine harbors from its numerous creeks.

A vessel of twelve hundred hogheads of tobacco burthen has loaded at Alexandria, and one of seven hundred at George-Town. The inland navigation is at present used twenty-four miles above Fort-Cumberland: From thence to the Great-Falls is two hundred miles; though it may be made navigable to the mouth of Savage-Creek, eight miles higher. The present land-carriage from the mouth of Savage to Dunkard's Bottom, on Cheat-River, is thirty-seven miles; from thence to the Ohio it is navigable; but it is very practicable to improve the navigation so as to reduce the land carriage between the Potomac and Western Waters to only seventeen miles. As a proof of the facility of the communication, we apprehend the authority of Mr. WALPOLE and his associates in their answer to the report of the board of trade in England will have some weight. Dr. MITCHELL too, who on occasion of the war between France and England, on account of the back country, was employed by the Ministry to take an accurate survey of all the country, and publish a map in consequence thereof, accompanied with a description of the country, agrees with those gentlemen, in proving the easy communication between the Eastern and Western Country, when it was less known than at present. Speaking of the Ohio, they say, "The country is well watered by several navigable rivers communicating with each other, and by which, and a short land-carriage of only forty miles, the produce of the Ohio can even now be sent cheaper to the seaport town of Alexandria, on the river Potomack, (where Gen. BRADDOCK'S transports landed his troops) than any kind of merchandize is at this time sent from Northampton to London." And Mr. JEFFERSON, in his Notes on the State of Virginia, speaking of the connection between the Atlantic and Western Waters, says, "The Potomack offers itself under the following circumstances for the trade of the lakes and the waters westward of lake Erie. When it shall have entered that lake, it must coast along its Southern shore, on account of the number and excellence of its harbors, the Northern, though shortest, having few harbors, and those unsafe. Having reached Cayahoga, to proceed on to New-York, it will have 825 miles, and five portages: Whereas it is but 425 miles to Alexandria, its emporium on the Potomack, if it turns into the Cayahoga, and passes through that, Big-Beaver, Ohio, Yohogany, (or Monongahela and Cheat) and Potomack, and there are but two portages; the first of which, between Cayahoga and Beaver, may be removed by uniting the sources of these waters, which are lakes in the neighborhood of each other, and in a champaign country. The other, from the waters of the Ohio to Potomack, will be from 15 to 40 miles, according to the trouble which shall be taken to approach the two navigations. For the trade of the Ohio, or that which shall come into it from its own waters or the Mississippi, it is nearer through the Potomack to Alexandria than to New-York by 580 miles, and is interrupted by one portage only.

There is another circumstance of difference too. The lakes themselves never freeze, but the communications between them freeze, and the Hudson's river is itself shut up by the ice three months in the year; whereas the channel to the Chesapeake leads directly to a warm climate—the southern parts of it very rarely freeze at all, and whenever the northern do, it is so near the sources of the rivers, that the frequent floods to which they are liable break up the ice immediately; so that vessels may pass through the whole winter subject only to accidental and short delays." From the mouth of Savage to the settlements in the Mufkingum, west of the Ohio, is about 140 miles. A good road between these places is now opening, if not completed; from the Great-Falls to tide water, following the course of the river, is fourteen miles, and by land only eleven; from the Great-Falls to George-Town, is also fourteen miles, and to Alexandria seventeen, with good roads to each. The lands on the lower parts of the Potomack produce tobacco, corn, wheat and cotton plentifully. The country above the falls is remarkably fertile, and yields large quantities of hemp and flax, with the several articles produced below except cotton; the streams which empty into the Potomack are many; the principal are Patterfon's Creek, which falls into the Potomack ten miles below Fort-Cumberland, and is navigable twenty miles above its mouth; the South-Branch, seventeen miles below Cumberland, is navigable one hundred miles; Cape-Capon, sixty miles below, is navigable twenty

miles. Conococheague, ninety miles below, is navigable twenty-four miles. Opecan, one hundred and five miles below, is navigable twenty-five miles from its mouth, and within a few miles of Winchester, a flourishing inland town. The Shanandoah, one hundred and thirty miles below, may with a small expence be made navigable for one hundred and sixty miles, and is already used for a great part of that distance. The Monocacy, one hundred and fifty miles below Cumberland, is navigable thirty miles above its mouth; this river is within two miles of Frederick-Town in Maryland; one of the largest inland towns in the United States; these several streams pass through a country not exceeded in fertility of soil or salubrity of air by any in America, if any in the world; perhaps no part of America can boast of being more healthy than the Potomack in general; and we have been more astonished at the objections which have been made to fixing the seat of government on it, from a supposed deficiency in this respect, than any other; the country is almost entirely high and dry, with plentiful streams of pure water throughout the whole extent of it: And are not these the principal circumstances which conduce to health in every climate? But we ascribe the imputation to the general idea entertained of a southern climate by the inhabitants of a more northern one, which is only just with respect to the country adjacent to the sea-coast; for it is a fact we believe well ascertained, that the upper country, even in Georgia, the most southern State, is extremely healthy. But we wish to refer you on this subject to numbers of your friends and countrymen settled among us; their health will prove the assertion. The Berkely springs, or bath, is situated within a few miles of this river, and frequented by the afflicted from all the States, and much celebrated for its effects: Slate, marble, freestone of the red and grey Portland kinds, and iron ore may be had in great abundance on the banks of the river; indeed several iron works are already established thereon; of coal too there is an inexhaustible quantity near Cumberland, convenient to water carriage, from whence the towns in future may be supplied—With regard to fish the plenty is too well known to require a particular description; suffice it to say that large quantities of herring and white fish are annually exported to the West-Indies. As to the defensibility of the Potomack, we are of opinion no river in America is capable of being rendered more secure: Its banks are every where high and bold, with the channel often not more than two hundred yards from the shore; Digges's point, about six miles below Alexandria, and just above Piscataway creek, is remarkably well calculated for a battery, as all vessels coming up the river must present their bows to that point, for the distance of three quarters of a mile; and, after passing, their sterns are equally exposed, for about the same distance; the middle of the channel there is not more than two hundred yards from the point.

Having now enumerated the particular advantages of the Potomack, suffer us to observe that the commerce of the river on which the seat of government shall be fixed, will thereby be greatly encreased; and propriety and justice seem to require that the merchants of every part of the Union should partake of the advantages resulting from that circumstance, as equally as the nature of the case will admit. Upon the Potomack are but few merchants of large capital, and but very little shipping; hence the merchants to the eastward would have a fairer chance of sharing in the trade of the metropolis, than could be expected, if the seat of government should be fixed either on the Susquehanna or Delaware, where the opulent and comparatively long established towns of Baltimore and Philadelphia, furnish merchants of large capitals, ready and capable of seizing every advantage themselves, and thus engrossing the whole commerce of these rivers. Besides, we apprehend it to be an incontrovertible fact that your produce and manufactures would meet with a more ready market on the Potomack, than on either of those rivers. The southern States are too much engaged in raising valuable staple commodities to attend to manufactures; it will therefore be a long time before they can rival you in this branch; while the inhabitants of Pennsylvania have already made considerable progress in these arts. The preference given by Britain to the commerce of the southern States before the revolution was founded on this policy, that they interfered least with her manufactures: Ought not the same motives to influence you, who are anxious to supplant her with respect to the articles with which she still continues to furnish us? When the greater centrality of the Potomack is considered, we think this circumstance ought to be decisive with you, in giving it the preference we contend for. To us it appears evident that the produce, manufactures and shipping of your country would be in much greater demand on the Potomack, than any where else more to the northward.

We accordingly request you to take the subject into your serious consideration, and weigh maturely the merits of a place, which besides its other advantages, presents the easiest communication with our western brethren.

We are, Gentlemen, your obedient Servants,
Robert Peter, George Walker, Hebard O'Neill, Benjamin Stoddert, William Deakins, jun. George Gilpin, John Fitzgerald, Charles Simms, David Stuart, Robert T. Hooe.

MR. FENNO,
The following was lately received from a gentleman in Boston—The plan appears to be simple, and a real improvement—and as it includes a provision for both sexes, its liberality and benevolence must recommend it to the friends of the rising generation.

THE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION,
Adopted by the Town of Boston, October 15, 1789.

I. THAT there be one School in which the rudiments of the Latin and Greek languages shall be taught, and scholars fully qualified for the Universities. That all candidates for admission into this School shall be at least ten years of age, having been previously well instructed in English Grammar; that they shall continue in it not longer than four years, and that they have liberty to attend the public writing Schools at such hours as the visiting Committee shall direct.

II. That there be one writing School at the South part of the town: one at the Centre, and one at the North part; that, in these Schools, the children of both sexes be taught writing, and also arithmetic in the various branches usually taught in the Town Schools, including Vulgar and Decimal Fractions.

III. That there be one reading School at the South part of the Town, one at the Centre, and one at the North part; that, in these Schools, the children of both sexes be taught to spell, accent, and read both prose and verse, and also be instructed in English Grammar and Composition.

IV. That the children of both sexes be admitted into the reading and writing Schools at the age of seven years, having previously received the instruction usual at Women's Schools; that they be allowed to continue in the reading and writing Schools till the age of fourteen, the boys attending the year round, the girls from the 20th of April to the 20th of October following; that they attend these Schools alternately, at such times, and subject to such changes, as the visiting Committee in consultation with the Masters shall approve.

V. That a Committee be annually chosen by ballot, to consist of twelve, in addition to the Selectmen, whose business it shall be to visit the Schools once in every quarter, and as much oftener as they shall judge proper with three of their number at least, to consult together in order to devise the best methods for the instruction and government of the Schools; and to communicate the result of their deliberations to the Masters; to determine at what hours the Schools shall begin, and to appoint play-days; in their visitations to enquire into the particular regulations of the Schools, both in regard to instruction and discipline, and give such advice to the Masters as they shall think proper; to examine the Scholars in the particular branches which they are taught; and by all proper methods to excite in them a laudable ambition to excel in a virtuous, amiable deportment, and in every branch of useful knowledge.

WILLIAM TAYLOR,
Has for Sale, at his EAST-INDIA GOODS STORE,
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A General Assortment of EAST-INDIA GOODS,
Among which are the following Articles:—
BOOK Muslins 8-4 6-4 5-4 | HUMHUMS,
Jackson do. | Long Cloths,
Handkerchiefs, of various kinds, | Calicas,
Chintzes, | Seerfickers,
Ginghams, | Boglapores.
A Variety of handsome painted MUSLINS.
With many other Articles, which will be sold by the Piece or Package, low for cash.
And a few pair large handsome Cotton COUNTERPANES, much warmer than Blankets.
JANUARY 9, 1790. r. f.

PROPOSAL,
FOR PRINTING BY SUBSCRIPTION,
MEMOIRS
OF THE
BLOOMSGROVE FAMILY.
In a SERIES of LETTERS from a gentleman in New-England to a respectable citizen of Philadelphia.
CONTAINING
Sentiments on a MODE of DOMESTIC EDUCATION, suited to the present state of Society, Government and Manners in the United States, and on the Importance and Dignity of the Female Character.
INTERSPERSED WITH A VARIETY of interesting ANECDOTES.
CONDITIONS.
They will be printed on a good paper and type—neatly bound and lettered, in two volumes, 12mo. and delivered to subscribers at three quarters of a dollar per volume.

These Memoirs are dedicated to Mrs. WASHINGTON, by her permission. Having seen the manuscripts, and approved the plan, she heartily wishes that every laudable effort to improve the mode of education in this country may be attended with merited success.
FROM the literary character of the reputed author of the above work, and a table of contents left with the printer herewith, being eighty-three letters on the most interesting subjects of education, life and manners, it is expected these Memoirs will prove a very valuable and interesting performance.
Subscriptions received by the Editor, at his office, and letters (post paid) duly attended to.

ADVERTISEMENT.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE OHIO COMPANY.

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Agents, it is very much for the interest of the proprietors at large, that all the lands of the purchase should be divided and allotted as immediately as may be—And in order to accommodate them generally, by the option of classing as they may think proper, and drawing their rights or shares (where they may possess more than one) either together in contiguity, or by detaching and annexing them to distinct classes or divisions (at their own election) to give them the greater chance for variety in soil and situation—It is unanimously resolved, That as soon as the exploring committee shall have appropriated the lands for donation settlements, in quantity sufficient for all the proprietors, WINTHROP SARGENT, JOSEPH GILMAN, and RETURN J. MEIGS, Esquires, who are hereby appointed a committee for that purpose, shall immediately make out, upon a large scale, a complete map or plan of the whole purchase from the best information, which they may be then able to obtain, expressing all the lands of the eight acre, three acre, city lots and commons, one hundred and sixty acre, and donation lots, the reserved lots of Congress, school lots, and lots appropriated for religious purposes—also, the two townships given by Congress for a university, and the towns or situations for towns to be reserved by the company for a future allotment—That, all the residuary lands shall be, by them, the said committee of three, divided and numbered upon paper, into forty equal grand divisions of twenty-five shares each, as like in quality as may be: That each grand division be divided into five sub-divisions of five shares each, and each sub-division into sections of single shares:—That as soon as the map or plan is completed, the agents will form or class their subscribers (who shall not previously class themselves) by sections or single shares, into sub-divisions of five, and grand divisions of twenty-five, and immediately proceed to drawing by lot for said lands; by grand divisions, sub-divisions and sections: That in all draughts of sub-divisions (into sections) which may be made up of proprietors, holding four, three, or two and single shares, it shall be the usage for the greatest proprietor, or holder of the greatest number of shares, to take his lands in contiguity, by lot, either in the southern or northern part of the sub-division, where they shall be numbered from north to south, and in the western or eastern (by lot also) where they may be numbered from west to east; and where sub-divisions may be made up of two proprietors of two shares each, and one of one share, the two greatest proprietors shall receive their sections, by lot, either in the southern or western part of the sub-division. Resolved, That the before named committee, be directed to prepare the names and numbers, and make all the necessary arrangements for the intended draught: That previous to the drawing for this ultimate grand division of lands, there shall be returns of the proprietors, as they may be classed by the agents (or otherwise) lodged in the Secretary's office, and it is recommended in all cases to consult the inclinations and interests of the proprietors in the order of classing.
Resolved, That the agents will give public notice of the time and place of drawing, and that there be two persons no ways interested in the draughts, who shall be sworn to the faithfully drawing out the names and numbers from the boxes, and who alone shall be employed in this business for the draught of grand divisions, sub-divisions, and sections.
Resolved, That the Secretary cause the foregoing resolutions to be published in the newspapers of New-York, and the New-England States; to the end that the proprietors at large may have the option of classing themselves as they may think proper: And they are hereby requested so to do, and to express themselves upon this subject, either to their respective agents, or by information in writing addressed to, and to be lodged with the Secretary, at his office in the city of Marietta, previous to the first Monday of March, 1790—Upon which day it is expected the division will take place.
WINTHROP SARGENT,
Secretary to the Ohio Company.
Marietta, 3d November, 1789.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY,
A YOUNG LAD, of suitable character, to serve as an Apprentice to the printing Business.
Enquire of the Printer.
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