

MR. FENNO,

I saw several pieces in your papers, published when the citizens were dispersed by the late visitation, on the subject of the Schuylkill Bridge; and a proposal for establishing a village, or villages of retreat from the city, in times of calamity, or in the hot season of the summer, when no others than the common maladies prevailed. I do not remember the signatures of these pieces; but it struck me, at the time, that many useful observations were made in them. I perceive that the directors of the bridge company are endeavoring to draw the attention of their fellow citizens, to the enterprise they are engaged in. Being a friend to that useful and necessary undertaking, I lament that it should languish for want of funds. I know not what effect the pieces I have mentioned may have on the affairs of the bridge, with which they seem to be connected, whatever may have been the intentions of the writers of some of them. But I think it will be an indelible stain on the character of this opulent city, if this contemplated undertaking should fall thro', because means are employed in fugacious pursuits, when an opportunity is afforded of establishing a lasting monument of public spirit—rewarded in no small degree, by private emolument. If you can afford, now the citizens are collected, a few columns, to the republication of those pieces, I am confident you will do a public service; which I am convinced will be a gratification to yourself, as well as to an old subscriber.

SENEC.

December 17, 1799.

ASULON.

A Retreat from the Yellow Fever.

While the Citizens of Philadelphia are making laudable exertions to protect their City, from the dreadful Invasions of their annual visitant, the yellow fever, it is surprising they do not turn their attention to provide a safe and commodious place of refuge, from the scene of its ravages. Hope is spun out, every year, that it will not come. Time and temper are wasted on the question "how or whence does it come?" Multitudes, every season, persuade themselves and their neighbours, "till it is next door to them, that it is not come." They are offended with every one who announces the melancholy truth, that the enemy is within the walls. They lift circumstances; and proclaim that the subjects of its wrath have perished by other disorders. They are determined against believing that the destroyer is at work, lest their business should languish, and the credit of the city be injured. Some of their friends and families fall—they are then convinced—they fly, if they can—but know not whither. They pay enormous sums for miserable accommodations. Some, disgusted, or exhausted in their means, return before the foe has retreated, and fall victims to their too eager desires to re-pose in their own homes. All this might, in a great degree, be avoided, if, in time, some asylum were provided. This might be done at a less expence, ultimately, than their annual extra expenditures drain from them. Instead of wasting our time and depressing our spirits in useless lamentation, we should rouse all our energies, and expend some of our money, to evade or repel this truly formidable misfortune.

I do not pretend to dictate, or exclusively fix on any particular spot, to which the citizens should pay more attention, than to another. But some such place, or places, should be sought; and every person wishing to contribute to the safety of the citizens, should be indulged with a candid hearing. If a convenient spot, enjoying good air and pure water, and where materials for building may be obtained with facility, can be found, it should be explored and procured. If it afforded short and easy access to the city, so that articles of merchandise, fuel and materials for manufactures, could be cheaply transported, by land or water, these advantages should give it a preference. It should be so distant as to be out of the vortex of infection, and yet sufficiently near to communicate with the city without difficulty or much expence. A village might in such a spot soon be established. Traders would occupy small lots, and one working for another, would, at a cheap rate, run up houses and shops for their families and business; and instead of spending their time and substance in idleness, ruinous and intolerable to themselves, in times of calamity, they might pursue their occupations to their own, and the benefit of the community. Those who deal in the necessaries, or conveniences of life, would erect stores, or places for their accommodation, and have a market near them. Hotels or houses of entertainment would be built to receive those who had not families. Trees may be planted, in gardens and walks; and rural scenery, not to be found in a city, contribute to health and amusement. Camping houses and stores would be erected by merchants, to which their customers might safely resort. If a fortunate choice of the site were made, the Banks, and Insurance offices, instead of paying high rents upon emergencies, would probably build houses for the temporary conducting their business. The Custom-house might be opened there, or in its vicinity, if short and easy access could be had to the shipping, and the

Post office would be at hand. Prisoners would establish temporary offices. Schools might be opened during the times of pestilence in the city, or constantly during the heats of summer. This would invite settlers and prevent the interruption of education; which is not a small evil produced by the infection of the city. The Courts might occasionally be held there. There might be regulations, to prevent the contiguity of buildings; and proper positions fixed, for those carrying on offensive trades. It may be said, this will become a new city, and injure the old capital in no small degree. Its position forbids any such fears. One on the Delaware might be a more dangerous rival; but it would soon be subject to infection, as the city now is. There is no reason to suppose any rivalry. Villages well disposed, round great cities, encrease their prosperity. Multitudes of towns encircle Manchester, and other cities and great towns in England and other parts of Europe, which encrease by the fabrics manufactured in the towns. Besides the inhabitants of Philadelphia, having a place of safety near them, for temporary refuge, would not, as many now do, abandon the city entirely. There would be no danger that too many would crowd into this contemplated village of Asulus. There would be rivals, let whatever spot be fixed on. Merchants, and others in opulent circumstances, would disperse round the country, if it afforded a variety of sites for country residences; and only have counting-houses, or offices, in the village. If it be placed at the junction of great leading roads, from the back parts of the state, and from the other state dealing with our city, the advantages will all be concentrated. It will be found that it is wiser and more economical to begin some system of escaping our repeated calamity, than to be always overtaken by it unprovided.

Let every one, who chooses to turn his thoughts to the subject, endeavour to fix on a site. Without having a foot of land there, for this village, I have thought of the spot on the West side of Schuylkill, opposite Market-street, on the high grounds, at the junction, or near it, of the Western and Southern roads, leading over the bridge at Market-street. I think this spot unites all the advantages I have mentioned. The Schuylkill gives every facility of water transportation, both from the inland country Northward, and from the Delaware. On the margin of Schuylkill, store-houses, lumber-yards, &c. may be established, and merchandize and produce brought, in small vessels, to both sides of that river.

The passage of the bridge or river, might be easily guarded, to prevent communication, if any deplorable circumstances required it. The very inconvenient and dangerous bridge over the Schuylkill is an objection.—But how shameful is it that a permanent bridge is not built? It is a disgrace to such a city, that this work has been so long neglected. I am told now, that it only waits for subscriptions to the stock of the company, authorized by law to make this creation. This stock, from all the information I can obtain, will be a very profitable source of revenue. A convenient, safe and permanent bridge would encrease the profits many fold, by the addition of pleasurable carriages: The present income is no rule. This being the shortest and best route to the Southward, would unite the custom of all the bridges. The revenue would exceed the 15 per cent. (in all probability) which the company, as I am informed, are authorized to take. Without any such plan as I have mentioned, this bridge ought to be immediately encouraged and completed. Combined with this plan, and aided by the citizens of all descriptions, and though last—not least—the banks and insurance offices—who could not employ a redundancy of capital to more profit—this great and indispensably necessary work would be soon completed. The village and the bridge will be of mutual advantage to each other. The country customers to the village would pay no toll; and the healthfulness of the position, and water transportation, would over-balance any expence of toll to the inhabitants of this, over a situation not near a navigable river.

Whether this proposition is or is not well received, it is well intended. If it sets better heads to thinking on some more eligible plan, or to assist in effectuating this, I shall not be mortified if those who do not like it, call me

A PROJECTOR.

September 1799.

PUZZLING QUESTIONS.

The 1st section of the 2d article of the Constitution of Pennsylvania says, "The Supreme Executive Power of this Commonwealth shall be vested in a governor," and the 2d section of the same article says, "The Governor shall hold his office during three years from the third Tuesday of December next ensuing his election."

Who then will be Governor from the 17th to the 20th of the present month?

The third Tuesday of December in the year 1796 was the 20th day of the month, on that day the office of the present Governor, under his last election, commenced, and the Constitution expressly declares, that he shall hold his office during three years from the time, which cannot be if it expires on the 17th.

The 3d Tuesday of December in the present year will be the 17th of the month, and the Constitution is equally explicit that the Governor elect shall hold his office during three years from that time, which cannot be, if it is not to commence until the 20th of the month.

Are we then to have two Governors from the 17th to the 20th of the present month? It seems not, because the Constitution says, "The Supreme Executive Power shall be

vested in a Governor," and of course it cannot be vested in more governors than one.

Are we then from this uncertainty and contradiction to be without a Governor from the 17th to the 20th of the month? It seems not, since the Constitution is equally explicit in favour of two of them.

Which of the two shall it then be, the present Governor, or the Governor elect?

This question seems to be both puzzling and important.—Passing from what has already been said, and important as it concerns the appointing to offices, and the approving and executing of laws. It is to be hoped that each of the two will be equally tenacious of his own rights and unwilling to infringe the rights of the other.

MARRIED.—Last Evening, by the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Pennsylvania, DAVID MONTAGU ERSKINE, Esq. son of the Hon. Thomas Erskine, to Miss FANNY CADWALADER, youngest daughter of the late General Cadwalader.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, December 16.

Mr. Claiborne, from the committee appointed to enquire whether any and what provision ought to be made for the punishment of such persons as may be discovered in making attempts to alienate the affections of the Indians on our frontiers from the United States, reported "a bill for the preservation of peace with the Indian tribes," which was read a first and second time, and referred to a committee of the whole on Wednesday.

A message was received from the Senate, by Mr. Otis, their Secretary, informing the House, that the Senate had passed an act intitled, "An act for the relief of persons imprisoned for debt," and "An act for reviving and continuing suits and proceedings in the circuit court for the district of Pennsylvania," to which they requested the concurrence of the House.

The former was read a first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole for to-morrow. The latter was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Dana, from the Committee of Elections to whom were referred the credentials of William Henry Harrison, Esq. a delegate from the N. W. Territory, made a report, which concluded with the following resolution:

"Resolved, That William Henry Harrison, a delegate from the Territory of the United States N. W. of the river Ohio, be admitted to have a seat in this House with the right of debating, but not of voting," which was read a first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole this day, and passed.

Mr. Griswold, from the committee of Ways and Means, reported "a bill providing for the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States," which was read a first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole on Thursday next.

Mr. Griswold, from the same committee also reported "a bill supplementary to the act intitled, 'an act to provide for the valuation of lands and dwelling houses, and the enumeration of slaves within the United States,'" which was read a first and second time and committed to a committee of the whole for to-morrow.

Mr. H. Lee, moved the following resolution which was adopted by the house, viz.

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed to report whether any, and if any, what alterations are necessary to be made in the Militia Law of the United States."

In prefacing his motion, gen. Lee said he wished to call the attention of the house to a subject highly interesting to the citizens of the United States, and deserving the serious attention of its legislature. He tho't the system heretofore pursued was radically wrong—and viewed every measure which was not predicated on the wishes of the people, as answering but little effect. He wished to see that system of defence, which growing out of nature, shall enable all men to serve without injuring their families.—The youth of our country should alone be called upon, who would be found sufficiently equipped for its defence. Seventeen and 26 were the ages of which the defenders of our country should consist.—When father and son are arrayed in the same ranks, a wavering must take place, and present an opportunity for an impression from the enemy.—Adjourned.

A Quantity of Dry Goods

ARE WANTED.

FOR which real Estate in the Northern Liberties of this city, (a good Stand for Baffins,) will be given in payment; the bids is clear and good, and is now for a short time lot, but possession will be given in about six months. Enquire at the Office of this Gazette. December 17

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

THE POSSESSORS

OF OBLIGATIONS OR CERTIFICATES signed by the subscriber, of undivided shares or Lots on his purchase within the city of Washington, who have not yet applied for and received their Deeds, are hereby notified, that their several Titles will be duly completed to the order of those who in conformity with the terms of the said Certificates, do make the Payments in full therefor, either to Thomas M. Egan & Co. or to the subscriber at Philadelphia, on or at any time before the 31st day of May next. Samuel Blodget.

December 17

A GENTLE APARTMENT

To be Let, ready furnished.

To accommodate one or two Gentlemen and their Servants with or without boardings, consisting of a dining room, two bed rooms, dressing room and livery room in a private family. Enquire at No. 235 South Second Street. December 16.

NOTICE.

ALL persons indebted to the estate of WILLIAM McDONALD, late of the city of Philadelphia, Taylor, deceased, are requested to make immediate payment; and all persons having any demands against the said estate are desired to render their accounts, duly attested, for settlement, to

ANN MACDONALD, Administratrix.

December 16.

MEDFORD AND WILLIS,

Have received since their late Advertisement—

- 282 Crates Queens Ware, 200 Casks Nails, 6 Trunks Madras Pullicatts, 2 Cases Gloves, 1 Trunk Silk Hosiery, 1 Bale Superfine Broad Cloaths, 16 Bales White, Blue and Green, Kendall Cottons, 10 Bales Bocking Baize,

ON HAND,

- 2 Bales Spotted and Green Rugs, 1 Trunk Scarlet Cardinals, 2 Bales Sail Canvas, 5 Trunks Gingham, 11 Tons Petersburg Hemp,

Orders, remittances or communications for the following Houses, for whom Medford and Willis are agents, may still pass through their medium, viz.

John and Robert Holt and Co.—Rochdale, William D. J. Leicesters, Claud Johnson—Birmingham.

Enquire of

JOHN DORSEY.

December 10.

3aw3w.

- One hundred Pipes and quarter Casks Wine Vinegar, London Porter in Casks of 6 and 8 Doz. Brown Stout do. do. Spanish Segars in Boxes, Dried Peaches in Barrels,

FOR SALE

By BENJAMIN W. MORRIS.

WHO HAS

A Commodious Warehouse, in Pear Street, To let by the Month or Year.

November 29.

1216ed

FOR LONDON,

THE SHIP

ROEBUCK,

Has the greater part of her cargo engaged, and will sail with all expedition.

For freight or passage apply to

THOMAS or JOHN CLIFFORD.

Philadelphia, Dec. 13. cost

Philadelphia & Lancaster Turnpike Company.

December 12, 1799.

NOTICE.

The Stockholders are to meet at their Office, at 10 o'clock, on Monday the 19th January next, to choose their officers agreeable to law.

Wm. GOVETT, Secretary.

December 12.

m&f.4w.

Insurance Company of North America.

THE STOCKHOLDERS

ARE hereby informed that a Stated Meeting of the Company will be held at their Office on the 14th day of January next (being the second Tuesday in the month) for the election of twenty-five Directors for the ensuing year.

Eben. HAZARD, Secretary.

December 12.

m&th.114j.

Schuylkill Permanent Bridge.

THE STOCKHOLDERS

ARE hereby notified, that an Election for a President, twelve Directors and a Treasurer, will be held at their office, No. 23 North Fifth Street, on MONDAY the 6th day of January next, at 10 o'clock.

JOHN DORSEY, Secretary pro tem.

December 4, 1799.

2aw1E

LAWRENCE SECKEL,

HAS FOR SALE,

At No. 155, Market Street,

Superior London Particular, Madeira, WINES, Old Sherry, Port & Lisbon, Best Flavored old Cognac Brandy, Jamaica Spirits and Holland Gin.—By the pipe, quarter cask or gallon.

A few Tons of excellent Hay.

Nov. 30.

d1w—202w

Several Lots of Land

To be sold, at the Coffee House, on Tuesday, the 24th December inst. at 6 o'clock, in the evening.

PART of that Tract, known by the name of Master's Estate. They are laid out upon roads to communicate with Fourth Street continued and Turner's lane, and contain from 4 to 6 acres. The situations are equal to any around the city for beauty of prospect, convenience of distance, or advantages of future improvements and rise in value.

A plan may be seen at the Coffee House, and the conditions will be made known at the time of sale.

JOHN CONNELLY, Auctioneer.

December 14

FOR SALE,

A strong, hearty Young Negro Man,

About 24 years of age,

is of a good disposition and is accustomed to all kinds of House Work, and is an excellent Washer. For further particulars enquire at No. 239, Market Street. December 13.

A YOUNG MAN

ACQUAINTED with the West India trade, wishes to be employed as a Supercargo. He will engage on moderate terms. Satisfactory recommendation will be produced.

A line directed to A. B. left at the Printing Office will be immediately attended to. December 12

JOSEPH D. DRINKER

DEGS leave to inform his friends and the public that he has taken into partnership DANIEL BARTOW.

Their Mercantile Concerns will, in consequence, be conducted under the firm of

DRINKER AND BARTOW,

Who have just imported, per the West Point, arrived at New York, the Amiable Creole, and other late arrivals at this port from Hamburg,

A VARIETY OF GERMAN GOODS,

Consisting of the following Articles, viz.

- Ticklenburghs, Creas, a la Morbih, Dowels, 3-4, 7-8, 4-4 & 8-8ths wide Flanders Sheetings, Silesia ditto, Rouan ditto, Brown and white Flatillas, Britanias, Weigarnige Linens, 7-8 & 4-4 Silesia Sheetings, assorted, Diaper and Dimack Taule Cloths, Clouting Diapers, Diaper Zwillich, Oil Cloths, Glass Tumblers, Quarts, Pints and Half Pints.

Also.

Per the Eliza from London, Russia Sheetings, Ravens Duck, Men, Women and Children's Welsh yarn Hoft.

All which they offer for sale at their Store, No. 61 North Front Street, either by the package or smaller quantity, at the most reasonable rates, for cash or notes at short date.

November 20.

3aw6w

The Subscribers

Have for sale at their Store, No. 5, Chestnut street, the following articles, viz.

Russia Hemp and Duck,

First quality, Bolton do. no. 1 and 2, A small invoice of well assorted cordage, First and fourth proof Brandy, in pipses, Madeira Wine in pipes and half pipes, Claret in cases, New England Rum in hhd's, Winter strained, Spermaceti Oil and Candles, and a few quarter chests of

Hyson Tea, of a superior quality, latest importation.

JOSEPH ANTHONY & Co.

November 16

3aw2m

MATTHEW MCCONNELL

Having opened an Office in Chestnut street,

(A few doors above Fourth)

At No. 141,

AND again commenced the Business of Negotiations, in the various kinds of Public Stock, Bills of Exchange, &c. &c. Engages to do every thing in his power to give satisfaction to those who may think proper to employ him. He means to confine his transactions to the Agency and Commission line, in all such business as is common to the profession.

The purchase and sale of Houses and Lots in and near the City will be attended to, and also of Lands, when that business again revives.

November 10.

d2w (D5 def)

THE SUBSCRIBER

Having explored the Land laid off for satisfying the Warrants due to the Officers and Soldiers who served in the war between the United States and Great Britain,

PROPOSES to locate Warrants to the best advantage, on being allowed a reasonable compensation. He will attend at Philadelphia at the time of locating; and as not less than 4000 acres can be registered or located, will receive any number of warrants less than that amount, and class them with others so as to make up the quantity required.

The subscriber proposes also to attend on the land immediately after locating, and show any section in which he may be employed.

Letters or warrants addressed to Alexander Addison, Esq. Pittsburgh, until the 31st day of January next, or to the subscriber at Washington, Pennsylvania, any time previous to the 17th Dec. and from that day until the 17th day of February next, at the Post Office, Philadelphia, will be attended to.

December 4

Wm. MCLUNEY, cotj

WILLIAM SHEAFF

HAS FOR SALE,

At No. 168, High Street, wholesale & retail,

FIRST QUALITY

Madeira of the vintages of '92 to '97 WINES, Oll Sherry, Port and Lisbon

First and fourth proof old Cognac Brandy, Jamaica Spirits.

Also,

A few Tons of Upland and Meadow Hay,

December 2

d6t

TWO TRUNKS

PRINTED COTTONS,

Suited to the West India Market, and entitled to

Drawback—For sale by

GEORGE WILLIAMS,

No. 103, High Street.

Also,

Nine hundred pair of American strong made SHOES, together with sundry other articles.

Dec. 4

d1w.

FOR SALE,

SEVERAL VALUABLE BUILDING LOTS,

Near the corner of Arch and Ninth Streets.

Also,

To be Sold or Let,

A number of excellent Pasture Lots,

On the Wilkesboro road, about half a mile from the city.

Enquire at No. 30 North Sixth Street. November 15.

d&trawt