

MR. FENNO,

FROM the general approbation of the new constitution, no doubt every possible aid necessary to give it force and energy sufficient to answer all the wise and salutary purposes for which it was framed, will steadily and uniformly be given by every well-disposed citizen of the United States—and it appears to me (tho' I must confess myself no adept in politics) that the success, force and energy, of the government will very much depend on the situation and place which Congress may fix on for the general seat of government.—Various places and situations have been contemplated, and by different writers warmly recommended, and this is not only perfectly consonant with the unalienable rights of every citizen under the happy and benign influence of a free government; but has likewise a direct tendency to throw more light upon a subject, which from its magnitude and interesting consequences, cannot possibly be too clearly understood, when decided on.—Under the impression of these considerations, I flatter myself justice and candor will allow me with modesty to represent to the public, some few of the many, and great advantages which in my view, so conspicuously recommend the situation on the Eastern shore of the river Susquehanna, and at the head of the navigation, or near it, of the large Bay of Chesapeake, for this purpose.

The great number of conveniences, and advantages which would inevitably attend fixing the capital of the United States, near the mouth of such a large river, and on the head of so extensive a Bay, on which so many States lie, or are contiguous, and the conveniences resulting from this situation to the union in general, considered with its several mutual advantages—I humbly conceive will appear so obvious, upon serious and rational reflection, and accurate examination, as cannot fail of being esteemed the most weighty and powerful arguments in favor of this situation, for the transaction of the important business of the union, and for the holding the great national supreme courts.

This premised, the public will indulge me in a brief representation of the River Susquehanna, its various sources having lately been so discriminately explored by so many travellers of undoubted credibility, as sufficiently evince, that it opens a communication into an immense extent of territory where the soil and vegetation is naturally such as most indubitably prove ere long to be of inestimable value: It not only presents a number of pleasing and elegant prospects, to induce adventurers to settle it, which, when occupied, and this river is made navigable (in my opinion, as well as many others a thing by no means impracticable) all the variety of valuable produce which it appears by nature intended to yield, for some hundred of miles Northward, may by its various branches issuing from different parts be conveyed into that large stream, and by that commercial channel to this so well adapted district, for the seat of the union.—But it will likewise prove an inexhaustible supply of timber of the best quality of every kind, necessary for ship building and other work.

The great Bay of the Chesapeake is so well known, by most gentlemen who reside in, as well as those foreigners who have visited the United States, as may well apologize for but a very concise description of it here.—I will briefly observe, that this Bay is not only the largest, and the best and safest navigation in the United States, but the most central; that it is bordered by two very considerable States, and that its confines extend almost to the very verge of the Delaware State, and within a small distance of North-Carolina, while its tide flows up the Susquehanna, not far from the Pennsylvania line.—That not only Susquehanna, but the great and extensive Potomack and James Rivers, which delineate such channels of communication, and commercial intercourse with a very considerable part of the back or western country, disembogue into it—and the meanders of those large streams pass thro' several parts of an amazing fertile country, and which afford a number of most valuable productions, peculiar to those late explored regions, among which have been discovered, large bodies of excellent coal, an article, time alone will determine the real value of in the American world; all whereof claim our attention, as so many apparent proofs, that infinite wisdom and goodness have been eminently displayed in placing so many blessings within the happy domain of these independent and United States.—Now from these observations, I trust a moment's reflection will be sufficient to evince how conveniently the valuable productions of those remote parts might at a small expence be conveyed down these rivers into the Bay, and by it to the proposed situation for the federal seat.

If this situation should meet the approbation of our great national council for their district of exclusive legislation, it appears highly probable, that the east side of the mouth of Susquehanna would be the place most approved of for its beginning; and to extend from thence ten miles up the River, which will be three or four miles above the flowing of the tide, and from the River, as they may in their wisdom direct, until it comprehends a district of, or equal to ten miles square, which if square, or even nearly so, will be situated on a conflux of waters, that abound with fish of excellent quality and water fowl equal, if not superior to any upon the continent—and although the continental post road, by passing through lands of the most unfruitful soil, and least cultivated of any on those parts, may naturally induce the observing traveller to form an unfavorable opinion of this part of the country, yet in justice to it, and for the information of the public, I must observe, that not far from each side of this road, are very valuable farms, producing almost every useful vegetable of both the Northern and Southern States, and within a convenient distance, are unexhaustible bodies of lime-stone of the best quality.

As many of the members of our national council have passed through this part of the country, which nature from a combination of circumstances has rendered so very interesting: in order to represent the internal conveniences and advantages of this district, it may suffice briefly to observe that, exclusive of a variety of fine mills and water works for different purposes; that there are a number of excellent farms and plantations, some occupied in agriculture, and others principally in grazing, &c. And as this district would not only be situated in a fertile part of the country, but nearly join the wealthy counties of Chester and Lancaster, wherein are several rich German and English settlements, which although at a much greater distance do now, in a considerable degree supply the markets of both Philadelphia and Baltimore. I cannot conceive the least reason to doubt, but that a Federal Town erected in this place, would be plentifully supplied with the best provisions, at moderate rates: And whoever knows how much this extensive and fertile part of the country suffers for want of a central Market-Town, upon a moment's reflection will candidly admit the propriety of this assertion.

The public will suffer me further to observe, that among many other internal advantages attending this district for the Federal Town, it will include Charlestown, which has already from its situation attracted much public attention. It rises from the shores of a pleasant tide river, so agreeably as to engage numbers of Gentlemen, when passing through it (who have not only made the tour of America, but several parts of Europe) to halt on their way to gratify the eye with the delightfulness of the prospect.—At a convenient distance from this town, Northward, and from the river Susquehanna, Southward, there is a chain of Mountains so formed by nature, as to afford a clear prospect over the town and adjacent waters as far as the eye can extend down the bay; these situations having fine springs issuing from them are well watered and adapted for elegant country seats; however if Congress should prefer a situation some distance from tide water, there are several heights and beautiful elevated situations which would probably be near the centre of this district, and not far from the river Susquehanna, some whereof may be very justly esteemed for their pure water, salubrity of air, and delightfulness of prospect, and not more than five miles Northward of Charlestown, the centre whereof is nearly in the direction of the general inclination of the bay, although at some miles distant. From the top of some of those

elevated situations, the most beautiful prospect towards the Ocean is exhibited as far as the eye can reach, when even assisted by the best of perspective glasses. What adds considerably to both the advantage and pleasantness of these situations is their direction, East and West; whence there is a gradual descent Southward, which not only affords excellent water, but an agreeable slope for indulging the most refined taste in elegant improvement.

It may with some degree of propriety be further noticed, that should Congress fix upon this situation for the permanent seat, they will not only be nearly central, but in the leading high way of communication from North to South. In this situation they will certainly avoid those evils which a popular and commercial city would expose them to, and that undue influence which cannot but be experienced by a legislature surrounded by men, whose interest, may be opposed to the community at large, and those inconveniences and dangers in this respect, were lately so justly pointed out by an honorable member of the House of Representatives,* when in a committee of the whole, the subject of funding the public debt was under discussion.

* General Jackson's Speech.

EXTRACT from an ESSAY on AGRICULTURE.

By The Baron POELLNITZ.

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IN the dark, as we are in general, about the means of nature, there is now and then a glimpse of light which shines in our eyes, and will guide us to some discovery! One great man, by seeing a pear drop from a tree, discovered the laws of gravitation; another no less renowned, by seeing a kite, the plaything of children, fly, conceived from it, and executed to command the thunder of Heaven: So will often a trifle be seized by men of superior genius, and they will make it the basis for instruction to mankind.

But the enquiry is to be, how Nature has produced wheat? Was there a previous dunghill, or is it by means of dung the produce of man's industry? A smile will be the answer; no will be the result of the question.

What are then the laws, whereby to all appearance nature fructifies the earth, and produces plants of every kind? 'Till convinced of error, by arguments grounded on physical and chymical experiments, I will be bold to say, that though there may be various concurrent ones, nevertheless, simple laws are commonly the promoters; those which I will mention stand probably foremost in rank.

I say, the influence of air, with all its different characters and vicissitudes, the sun or light, the mixture of earths carried on by strong rains and overflow of waters, are the laws and vehicles of vegetation.

How far it is in man's power to apply these principles to agriculture, I shall cursorily consider; and in this, as well as in what I have said in the former paragraph, I am warranted, by what the learned have proved by experimental philosophy, and by what I have been taught by my own small experience.

John Tull was the first who went off from the beaten tract, and put new rules of agriculture in practice; his system was in part erroneous, though part of it entitles him to our grateful remembrance. John Tull was laughed at, so was Christopher Columbus, till facts gave credit to his discovery, and proclaimed his merit. But, without going into discussions of old systems, or in all the quotations of new ones, I will come to the point.

By deep and frequent plowing, we expose the surface of the earth to more light, and to all the influences of air; hereby we help the operation of nature in that case. By mixing our soil with soils of different qualities, we obtain what nature does by rains, and overflow of waters: By those manuductions, art improves, facilitates, and amplifies the means of nature to procure vegetation, and thus wheat may be raised in any quantity.

I mean not to detract from the use of dung; putrid animal and vegetable bodies, accumulated in our dung-hills, are useful accessories to vegetation: but is the surface of the earth not also a composition of those ingredients, though therein contained, no doubt for the best, with other mixtures. Dung gives a strong additional heat, and some plants will not thrive without; but wheat can be raised independent of a dunghill.

I go farther and say, that sowing wheat upon fresh dunged land is prejudicial.—Commonly I use no dung to my wheat, but only on a previous summer fallow; and I call a summer fallow, land well dunged early in the spring, and sown in with turnips, cabbages, carrots, beans, peas, lentils, parsnips, potatoes, flax, hemp or early corn, on this I sow wheat in the fall with success, and so avoid smut, numbers of weeds and insects, promoted and fostered by fresh dung.

EDUCATION.

THE importance of manners, or graceful deportment in instructors of youth, has been too little attended to. The acquisition of scientific knowledge is an object of unspeakable consequence—but MANNERS form the man—and the future happiness and success of children are more intimately connected with a just, an easy, and dignified mode of address than they are with the bare attainments of a common school education. The WORCESTER SPECULATOR, No. 74, contains among many others, the following judicious remarks.

"I was pleased with an observation which a

“ sensible farmer made some time ago, when a number were conversing on the qualifications of school masters. He lived in a town that was noted for the neglect of schools, and for endeavoring to evade the law respecting grammar schools. It was his opinion, he said, that tho' a common man might be found capable of teaching children to spell, read, write, and cypher with exactness, yet a gentleman (as he expressed himself) tho' not more capable in these respects, was greatly to be preferred, because of the influence and skill he would have in establishing decency and order in the school, and in forming the manners of the children, and in preventing or curing any awkwardness in their way of speaking or behaving. An observation this, worthy of the consideration of those whose business it is to provide schoolmasters, or to employ them.”

FROM THE LITCHFIELD WEEKLY MONITOR.

ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

WE find in the newspapers an extract of a letter from the West-Indies, complaining of the badness of American flour, being spoiled by meal-worms and mites; and the writer wishes to know the cause of it—which every one ought to know—for which reason, I will inform, those mites are bred in hot weather, in mills and meal-rooms, and in store chests. In the month of June let the miller clean his rooms and chests of all the unmoved meal and bran—in every hole and corner, and every crack—and instead thereof strew fine salt, and make smoke in his mill—then let him dress his mill so as it may not heat in grinding, and bolt and pack the flour as soon as may be—the sooner the better, for the mites proceed from an imperceptible, winged insect, which hovers about in still weather, and meal is their agreeable habitation in the silent night.

I once put a bushel of new flour in my open meal trough and it was spoiled in a few hot nights—but the mites were there before. Flour for domestic use, will keep best in good bags in hot weather. As to the meal-worms complained of, they are not bred in the timber of the cask, as the writer is informed—if they were, the jarring of the cooper's ax and hammer, and fire and smoke would stop their progress. They breed in old meal and bran, and make their way thro' worm-holes and bad joints of the cask:—There should be made smoke in meal-rooms a little before sundown, that those winged insects, which may be seen in the rays of the sun, may go forth. When the flour is packed, wash the barrels with strong brine and lime. A LITCHFIELD MILLER.

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