

very good, yet has always been thought greatly inferior to that made in Cnehire in England. However, the Block-Island cheeses, which were carried out, in the same ship Brothers, proved, on comparison, to be no ways inferior to the English ones on board; but bore the heat of China, and the vicissitudes of the weather, equally with that imported.

It is with the greatest pleasure that a friend to American manufactures communicates these facts, which can be readily attested by all on board the ship. They will serve to show, that the supposed inferiority of those capital articles of American production, cheese and porter, is a mere designing pretence.

*A Friend to American Manufactures.*

*Critique on the different English Historians, by Dr. Goote, prefixed to the first volume of his History of England, lately published.*

HUME, as an historian, has long enjoyed an extraordinary share of popularity; and his performance seems to be considered, by the majority of readers, as the best account of the affairs of this nation. His abilities were competent to the production of an history which might have far surpassed all the efforts of his British predecessors; and if his talents had been exerted with a just regard to candor and impartiality, and with the sole view of exhibiting a fair and accurate delineation of the transactions of former days, his historic fame would have rested on a more solid basis than that which now supports it.—The spirit of philosophy which animates his work, gives it a manifest superiority over most of the English histories by which it was preceded. His style is elegant, without affectation; and nervous, without an appearance of labour. His arguments in defence of a favorite hypothesis, possess all the acuteness of sophistry, tho' their force is disarmed by the application of sound logic, and the adduction of undistorted facts.—Under the pretext of exposing the delusions of fanaticism, the weakness of bigotry, and the arts of selfish and designing ecclesiastics, he indirectly endeavors to sap the fabric of religion itself, and undermine the dearest interests of society. His political principles are adverse to the claims of freedom; and under the cloak of impartial discussion, he vilifies the exertions of the patriot, and depresses the generous flame of liberty.

The reputation of Rapin is now in the wane. The multiplicity of his errors, his want of animation, and his injudicious use of his materials, have occasioned the decline of that eminence which he once enjoyed, and which produced an unprecedented sale of his voluminous work.—His general impartiality was the original cause of the success of his history; but that quality is not so conspicuous in this author as his advocates pretend; nor, on the other hand, is his performance so defective in this respect, as some later historians have insinuated.

Though Carte is supposed to have employed more time and labour on his history than any preceding or subsequent writer, his success did not correspond with his hopes. The well known prejudices entertained by him, precluded the obvious requisite which such a work demands; and the public could not be expected to cherish a very high opinion of the sagacity or penetration of that author, who, in an enlightened age could decisively attribute the imaginary cure of the *scrophula* by the royal touch, to a fanatical virtue conferred by Heaven on anointed sovereignty. Carte, however, where his prepossessions do not intervene, is a faithful and accurate writer; but he rarely displays any portion of the graces or the energy of composition.

Guthrie was a good classical scholar, and an ingenious author. His history of England is no contemptible work; but it appears to have been written with too great rapidity, and too little attention of the mind. His remarks too frequently disgust by the vanity with which they are offered, or merit censure by the want of a deliberate examination of that point on which he confidently pronounces his sentiments.

The charge of haste and inaccuracy, which the present critic has ventured to fix on Guthrie, is more justly imputable to his countryman Smollet, as the history compiled by the latter, is solely borrowed from modern writers, whose misrepresentations he has copied, and whose errors he has multiplied. A comparison of his work with the historical labours of Rapin, Carte, and Guthrie, will perhaps convince the examiner, that he did not consult one of the original authors whom he has quoted in his margin. But his defects as an historian are in some measure palliated by that nervous elegance which often appears in his diction, and that judgment which prevents him from dwelling on occurrences of inferior moment.

Goldsmith wrote with spirit and ability; but his history of this kingdom is a mere *epitome*, and is calculated rather for the amusement of an idle hour, than for the improvement of those who aspire to a competent knowledge of English affairs.

Henry is an accurate and judicious author; but his plan is too detached and disjointed to please the general reader; and that division of his work which comprehends the civil and military history of Great-Britain, is too concise to be satisfactory.

ADVANTAGES of preserving PARSNIPS by drying.

[By the Rev. J. Belknap.]

AMONG the number of esculent roots, the parsnip has two singular good qualities. One is, that it will endure the severest frost, and may be taken out of the ground in the spring, as sweet as in autumn; the other is, that it may be preserved, by drying, to any desired length of time.

The first of these advantages has been known for many years past; the people in the most northerly parts of New-England, where winter reigns with great severity, and the ground is often frozen to the depth of two or three feet, for four months, leave their parsnips in the ground till it thaws in the spring, and think them much better preserved than in cellars.

The other advantage never occurred to me till this winter, when one of my neighbours put into my hands a substance which had the appearance of a piece of buck's horn. This was part of a parsnip, which had been drawn out of the ground last April, and had lain neglected in a dry closet for ten months. It was so hard, as to require considerable strength to force a knife through it cross-wise; but being soaked in warm water, for about an hour, it became tender; and was as sweet to the taste, as if it had been fresh drawn from the ground.

As many useful discoveries owe their origin to accident, this may suggest a method of preserving so pleasant and wholesome a vegetable for the use of seamen in long voyages, to prevent the scurvy and other disorders incident to a sea-faring life, which is often rendered tedious and distressing for want of vegetable food; since I am persuaded that parsnips, dried to such a degree as above related, and packed in tight casks, may be transported round the globe, without any loss of their flavour, or diminution of their nutritive quality.

*Asylum.*

St. JOHN, July 5.

Last night about 11 o'clock, a Smoke House belonging to Mr. Thomas Barker, on York-Point, was discovered to be on fire; the flames almost instantaneously burst out in a tremendous manner, which soon rendered it impossible to be extinguished.—The whole town was instantly alarmed, and great numbers assembled.—The engines were set to work with all possible expedition, but no efforts could prevent the flames from communicating to the dwelling house of Mr. Barker—a dwelling house, blacksmith's shop, and two other buildings the property of Mr. Thomas Jennings, which were soon reduced to ashes, when fortunately a stop was put to the threatening progress of this distressing calamity.—The united efforts of the Naval and military officers and men (who kindly afforded every possible assistance) together with all ranks of the inhabitants to prevent the conflagration from spreading, must otherwise have proved ineffectual, and the whole range of buildings, together with the Ordnance store, which contained a quantity of powder and other combustible materials would inevitably have been consumed.

Recent accounts from Quebec, brought by a gentleman who arrived at the Great-Falls, a few days since, inform us, that His Royal Highness Prince Edward, with the 7th regiment had arrived, and that the 65th were under orders for this place, to relieve the 54th stationed here, who will then embark for England.

The same accounts add, that his Excellency Lord Dorchester intends shortly for Europe.

PORTSMOUTH, (N. H.) July 27.

Arrived here, brig Elizabeth, Capt. Hooper, in 52 days from Greenock, in Scotland. At the time of Capt. Hooper's sailing, (June 2d) preparations were still making for war, the impressing of seamen in England, Scotland and Ireland, was carried on with spirit, &c. But it was generally imagined, by persons of discernment, that these preparations were only designed to divert the attention of the people from revolution principles.—The British fleet had not sailed.—The brig ABC, from the Potomac was at Port Glasgow, waiting for freight, expected to sail 15th July. The ship Duchefs of Haddington sailed 14 days before Capt. Hooper, for Boston.

CONCORD, (N. H.) July 20.

We hear from Warner, that on Thursday last, a barn belonging to Mr. Jonathan Straw, was taken up by a whirlwind, from the eills, and torn to pieces. There was a yoke of oxen in the barn at the time, but they were left standing without injury.

On Friday last, in the severe thunder storm, there was a heavy gale of wind about a mile and an half wide, which passed through the south-western part of this town. It tore up many trees, and did considerable other damage. Deacon Herrick and Mr. Sleeper had each of them a cow killed by the falling of the trees.

The earth is now well watered, and the produce on the farms appears to be rapidly ap-

proaching to maturity, with prospects of a luxuriant harvest.

Died, at Haverhill, Massachusetts, on Wednesday the 6th instant, JOHN THAXTER, Esquire, attorney at law. It is but just, to observe, that his character marked him an ornament to the profession: by his death the public are deprived of a useful man; his acquaintance, of an agreeable companion; his associates, of a sincere friend; and his bereaved consort and an only child, of a tender husband and an affectionate parent.

In 1779, when Mr. Adams was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary, to make a treaty of peace, and also a treaty of commerce with Great-Britain, Mr. Thaxter accompanied him to Europe, in the character of Private Secretary. In that situation he obtained the friendship of Judge Dana, who at that time was Secretary to the Commissioners. With Mr. Adams he resided in France and Holland: And while his taste for Literature rendered him an agreeable companion—his integrity and perfect fidelity, in the duties of his station, claimed and received the utmost confidence of that patriotic Statesman, and his great and faithful associate, the present Chief Justice of the United States.

Peace being confirmed, in 1783, the Commissioners sent him to America, with the charge of presenting the Definitive Treaty to Congress:—He was received with attention and respect.

WORCESTER, July 28.

We hear from Royalston, that on Tuesday evening the 12th inst. a barn belonging to Mr. Benjamin May, of that town, was set on fire by lightning and entirely consumed, together with about seven tons of hay, and a quantity of flax. By the extraordinary exertions of the inhabitants, the frame of another barn, 36 feet by 30, was erected on the same spot by sun-set the next day.

NEW-YORK, August 3.

The Directors of the Bank of New York, yesterday forenoon, appropriated three hundred shares of that Bank, which were unsubscribed, to be offered to the Bank of the United States. This vote of the Directors being made public, the remaining vacant shares of the Bank (about three hundred) were all subscribed in the space of twelve minutes after the opening of the Bank in the afternoon.

WINDHAM, July 23.

Died, in New-London, Monday the 11th inst. Mrs. ELIZABETH DE BRAGEONCE, widow of Mr. LEMERIEU DE COMDEMANCHE, aged 56 years. She arrived at New-London from Guadaloupe about six weeks since, in a declining state of health. In conformity to the request of the friends of the deceased, the Rev. Henry Channing, Presbyterian Minister of the first Protestant Church in that city, attended at the funeral, and officiated, reading the burial service of the Episcopal Church in the United States.—This attention to the feelings of the afflicted, in the true spirit of the Gospel, must be pleasing to every benevolent and christian mind.—ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, and ONE BAPTISM.

Philadelphia, August 6.

JAMES BARRY, Esq. is appointed Vice-Consul within the States of Virginia and Maryland, for her Most Faithful Majesty the Queen of Portugal, and has been recognized as such by the Supreme Executive of the United States.

In the Supreme Court of the United States, on Tuesday last, in the case of William West, plaintiff, in error, *versus* David Leonard Barnes and others, defendants.

Mr. Bradford offered to the court a writ, purporting to be a writ of error issued out of the office of the clerk of the Circuit Court for Rhode-Island, directing to that court, and commanding the return of the judgment and proceedings by them rendered in this cause to this court with such returns.

On motion of Mr. Bradford, counsel for William West, the said writ and papers annexed thereto, were read. Mr. Bradford then moved for a rule, that the defendant rejoin to the errors assigned by the plaintiff in this cause.

Mr. David Leonard Barnes, one of the defendants, and a counsellor of this court objected to the validity of the writ in question, and on that principle, to the rule moved for.

The arguments on both sides being heard, the Court informed the parties that they would consider the question. Adjourned.

Wednesday the Court refused to grant the rule moved for on Tuesday, in the above cause; being unanimously of opinion that writs of error to remove causes to this court from inferior ones, can regularly issue from the clerk's office, of this court.

The attorney-general of the United States informed the court that there were several persons now confined in the jail of Philadelphia, charged with crimes committed against the United States. He then read a letter on the subject, from William Lewis, Esq. district judge, to William Rawle, Esq. attorney for the same, informing, that several of those persons had been confined for a