

Bellefonte Patriot.

BELLEFONTE, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PRINTED BY W. BRINDLE.

Pye Coffee

Vol. II.

SATURDAY EVENING, October 16, 1819.

Sawdust used as powder

No. 23.

CONDITIONS.

The price of this paper is *two dollars and fifty cents* per annum—but if paid half yearly in advance, two dollars only will be charged.

Advertisements, making no more in length than breadth, will be inserted three times for one dollar; and for every subsequent continuance twenty-five cents—Those of greater length in proportion—Rule or figure work double those rates.

No subscription will be received for less than one year; nor any paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid.

If the subscriber does not request a discontinuance of his paper, at the end of the year, it will be considered as a new engagement; and the paper forwarded accordingly.

Subscribers who have their papers carried by the mail, must be liable for the postage.

Letters addressed to the editor must be post paid.

ON NEWSPAPERS.

This folio of four pages, happy work!
Which not even critics criticize; that holds
Inquisitive attention—
What is it but a map of busy life;
Its fluctuations, and its vast concerns!

Cowper's Task, 6 4.

The origin of newspapers is of very ancient date. We can trace something like their institution in the mangled remains of early Roman antiquities. This institution however was very imperfect in comparison to that of modern times; the Roman Gazetts contained nothing more than the records of public transactions and public events, and were of course extremely rare.

There is hardly any other institution in civilized nations which can claim pre-eminence over newspapers, when they are properly conducted. They diffuse over the nation a general knowledge of its political state; and this knowledge will in general be very accurate; for if one give an incorrect statement, another newspaper will shame it into a sense of its most important duty, which is impartial veracity. A man who is most occupied in business, as well as the most indolent reader, who never took up a book since he escaped from the eye of his preceptor, is never deterred from reading the paper. The subjects of ordinary conversation are frequently drawn from it, and every one feels ashamed to be ignorant on common topics. What a fund of entertainment do not the newspapers afford to the inhabitants of the country. When the papers arrive, expectation and interest are on the wing. Discussions are discussed over again, opinions canvassed and rejected or approved: and a thousand collateral reflections introduced. The affairs of the most distant parts of the nation and events which happened only a few days ago, are universally known, and commented on with that freedom of which a rational being should never be divested. The paper takes its rounds. The aged will read and discuss every thing that relates to solid ancient subjects; the young will relish anecdotes and real or attempted wit.—The farmer will accurately examine the state of domestic and foreign markets, and with an oracular visage emit shrewd prophecies concerning the ensuing year. The soldier will devour every thing that regards foreign war, and embracing one side of contending parties relate to his hearers how battles were lost and won, discant on the misarrangement of the troops that were vanquished, and demonstrate how they might have turned the scale of victory.

Of what a source of amusement were the ancients deprived! When Caesar was fighting in Gaul twenty or thirty days were necessary to convey the news of victory, and more of a defeat, to the seat of empire. And even then much time elapsed before the people were accurately informed. And of what source of amusement are not we to be deprived! For, what an accurate knowledge should we not have had of the history of past ages, now buried in oblivion forever, if newspapers had not been introduced?

This institution, I fear not to assert, is in its most perfect state in this country. I have often wondered at the conduct of the British Government on this subject. The diffusion of knowledge is certainly one of the first objects which an enlightened government ought to have in view. And yet Great Britain by laying a heavy stamp duty on papers, so that few can purchase them evidently counteracts this diffusion. This is not the case here, and I hope never will be. It is an indelible stain on any government. But this is a still less grievous evil than the tyranny of the press, which in a greater or less degree exists in the continental nations. Where there is not the liberty of the press, the people must always be held in intellectual thralldom.—A newspaper will then inform the truth which they must believe, are only truths, because the government wishes them to be so, and are strictly forbidden to believe any other thing, than that, which has received the stamp of governmental approbation. Liberty of the press is the first and the most holy of our civil rights. Without it what are we? The dupes of tyranny and bigotry: without it, all the noble qualities of nature are plighted; without it even freedom herself becomes a dangerous light like the fire that is kindled on the ocean rock, to warn the seafaring man, that its approach is peril and its contact destruction.

From the number of newspapers in our country, we may form an accurate idea of the literary information of the people.—There are far more newspapers in the U. States than in any country under heaven of equal population, I was astonished the other day at reading an account of their number in the National Intelligencer—and they increase by several hundred every year.

AN OBSERVER.

A correct definition of man has been a desideratum for some thousands of years; it appears to have been involved in as much doubt as that of the soul. He is distinguished by some philosophers as "being a reasoning animal, and capable of forming syllogisms," this however did not appear to be a sufficiently distinctive mark, as it is shrewdly suspected that dogs and elephants have sometimes been detected in forming plans, and of being able consequently of comprehending the principles of major, minor, and consequence, he has again been called an "imitative being;" but as the monkey tribe have some pretensions to this characteristic, it seems generally to be given up. Plato called him a "two legged animal without feathers;" Diogenes destroyed this definition by depriving a cock of its feathers and throwing it into the midst of the disciples, whilst the learned philosopher was in the middle of a lecture. We are led to believe that we have probably discovered a more correct definition than has ever yet entered the head of a philo-

sopher; we would emphatically call man an electioneering animal; this appellation conveys an idea of qualities which we conceive no brute animal can possibly lay claim to; the fondling of a dog has sometimes shaken our position a little: but when we consider that his caresses are always sincere, our doubts are removed; late circumstances have convinced us that the talents of electioneering are peculiar to man, and that in future he ought to be distinguished as an "electioneering animal."

Pittsburgh paper.

Cure for the Dysentery.—William Findley, Esq of Westmoreland county recommends from experience, any common purge, such as salts, jalep, or rheubarb, as an effectual cure for the Dysentery. When prepared medicine cannot be procured, the white-bark bark boiled down to a consistency to make pills, will answer as well as any other purgative. From the numerous instances Mr. Findley recites, in which this remedy has been successful we cannot doubt that it is the most efficacious and easy cure for this afflicting disease that has hitherto been discovered.

From the Democratic Press.

MR. BINNS—Though it is very well known in this city and vicinity that RYE is an excellent substitute for Coffee it may not be generally known and I wish it made as public as possible, since both health and economy are alike interested in the substitute being adopted. The Rye should be prepared by one quarter of an hour boiling—then dried and roasted—not burnt. Coffee is very apt to injure the head, causing a vertigo, in consequence of which, two of my family were obliged to relinquish the use of it, near two years since. Rye has no injurious quality. A family of 8 persons will use 2½ lbs. coffee a week, at breakfast alone; this at 30 cents per lb. gives 75 cents per week, or 39 dollars per ann. Rye is 80 cents per bushel, or two and a half cents per quart; 3 pints will serve the same family for a week, leaving a balance of 71 cents per week, or 36 dollars 92 cents per year, in favor of the Rye! Let us carry the calculation farther, and suppose there are 1,250,000 families in the United States, each of whom would save half the above sum, or 19 dollars yearly, by the use of Rye instead of Coffee, (which calculation would be considerably within bounds,) we shall have a clear gain to the people of the United States of 23,750,000 dollars per ann. The best judges will be deceived by taking the Rye for Coffee, if properly made. After this who will have the effrontery to complain of hard times and continue the use of Coffee in his family? Were Congress to lay a heavy duty on the article of Coffee, as well as many articles of manufactured goods, it would tend greatly to benefit the country.

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Gibraltar July 2.

The disputes between the British officers and those of the American, squadron have been amicably adjusted. Notwithstanding however, all the precautions and rigid orders, as well on the part of gen. Don as the American commodore, a second meeting was arranged and took place at the Pulmone, a short distance from Algeiras, between capt. Johnstone, of the 64th regiment, and lieut. Stockton, of the Erie. Capt. Girdlestone was the friend of capt. Johnstone, and Mr. Bourne, purser of the Erie

the friend of Mr. Stockton. Some disagreement took place as to the mode of firing, which produced an animated discussion among the parties, but fortunately capt. Girdlestone succeeded in making the combatants sensible that they had on a previous occasion sufficiently demonstrated their courage, and done all that was necessary on the point of honor, consequently there existed no necessity at that moment for a sanguinary contest, and he therefore proposed that in place of continuing the discussion as to the mode of firing, they should discuss the causes of the dispute, and endeavor to settle it in an amicable as well as honorable manner. Mr. Bourne assented to the proposal, and finally capt. Girdlestone convinced his friend capt. Johnstone of the propriety of his making an apology, which being made, the parties shook hands, and thus has terminated an affair which has excited here no common anxiety, because from the well known characters of all the individuals concerned, a fatal result was generally anticipated: and perhaps it was entirely owing to the intervention of capt. Girdlestone that the affair was thus arranged. This proves how much depends on the conduct of seconds on those occasions because had capt. G. been governed by the ordinary rules among duellists, he would have considered it too late to attempt accommodation after the parties had got to the ground of combat.

A curious circumstance arose out of this affair. The American Officers, fearing some interruption on the part of the Spanish Authorities, caused a boat's crew, well armed to attend them to the place of meeting. A Spanish guard immediately appeared, threatening to seize all the parties. The sailors rushed on the guard, took away their arms, and kept them under an arrest until the whole business was closed.

The Governor of Algeiras, it appears, is in a great rage at the conduct of his guard and much exasperated against the Americans for having committed, what he calls, an unpardonable insult to the Government of Spain. The plain matter of fact, however, is that we all laugh at the affair, and consider it merely a very natural frolic for sailors to perform.

Latest from England.—By the Hibernia and John Dickinson, Irish Papers, containing London dates of the 19th of August are received, by which it appears that the Reformers were flying from Manchester to their homes with all possible speed. One account says all the roads leading from this town to Ashton, Stockton, Cheadle, Stratford, Liverpool, Rochdale, Oldham, Bury, Bolton, &c. are covered with wounded stragglers, who have not yet been able to reach their homes after the events of Monday. There are seventeen wounded persons along the Stockport road, thirteen or fourteen on the Ashford road; at least twenty are on the Oldham; seven or eight on the Rochdale; besides several others on the roads to Liverpool &c. One woman died last night at Eccles, of the wounds she received.—Seven persons in all are said to be dead. Mr. Hulme is not dead, as at first reported.

The events of the meeting had caused a very great sensation in London.

Lieutenant Varuhagen, a German, has discovered that sawdust, particularly of soft wood mixed with gunpowder, in equal parts has thrice the strength of powder alone, when used in blowing rocks.