

g of a very small dog. When at some distance from its hole, which however, seldom happens, it may be easily caught, but is exceedingly fierce in the first instance; yet in a few days, it becomes perfectly domesticated, and is pleased with being carressed. It seldom drinks; it feeds on the grass which grows around its hole and remains torpid during winter. These towns are to be found in the large prairies about three hundred miles west of the Mississippi, and are frequently more than a mile in length. The situation chosen is generally dry, being on the slope of a hill, and at a distance from any water course. When a person approaches, he is assailed by the whole village with a noise, which as I have mentioned, bears a resemblance to the barking of small dogs. The animals are seen behind small hillocks at the side of their holes, on approaching within a few yards of these, the inhabitant instantly retreats to his subterranean apartments. The wolves have declared war against these curious people, and frequently commit great havoc, in their little republics.

[Breckenridge.]

AMERICAN PATRIOT.

"To speak his thoughts—
Is every Freeman's right."

BELLEFONTAINE, SEPTEMBER 7, 1816.

For the Patriot.

DANCING.

Although Dancing in the present age, is reprobated by many of the pious part of the community as sinful, it was anciently a religious exercise. In Egypt it was a principal part of the religious rites of the Priesthood, and we find many references to this practice in the religious solemnities of the Jews. It is now considered, very generally, only as a lively and innocent amusement; a harmless relaxation, more the effect of happy, joyous, animated gaiety and good-humor than any thing else; and, as a respectable author has said, "one of those indifferent things, of which the good or bad use may incline us to approve or condemn."

That there is any thing, in the least, religious in dancing; or, that the act is ever accompanied with reflections suitable to the solemn and devotional exercise of worship, are ideas not admitted by any who now make an amusement of it. It is contended, however, that among the amusements common in society, it is not more sinful in its nature than many others, the sinfulness of which perhaps are never, or seldom, questioned. It becomes immoral in its tendency, only in the manner that almost any thing else may, by excess of indulgence. Intemperate indulgence in any thing, however innocent or good it may be in itself, is ever of pernicious consequence. The most salutary medicines when immoderately used, are often the most deleterious in their effects: but it would be absurd, and the extreme of folly to condemn them, or refuse to profit by their good qualities merely because others had made a bad use of them. If dancing is, of itself, innocent, the only duty of the moralist is to warn us against a too intemperate indulgence in it.

The weightiest argument that can be adduced against dancing, is, that it is of more seducing influence than any other of the fashionable amusements of society. It, nevertheless, admits of the same degree of indulgence, without transgressing the bounds prescribed by religion and morality, that they do. Even where an unwarrantable indulgence has been extended to the practice of this amusement, we find its effects upon society, as happy and beneficial in some respects, as they are said to be pernicious in others. It enlarges the social circle, and has somewhat of a tendency to destroy, or lessen those petty distinctions in society, which other amusements, from their nature, are more calculated to encourage and strengthen than otherwise, not to say any thing of the effect which it has upon the manners, and that reciprocity of regard and interchange of good feeling, which it affords the opportunity of cultivating, and is very happily calculated to inspire.

Those who have opposed dancing thro' religious motives, have done so from the consideration, that the time thus spent, should have been devoted to pious and better purposes. All this may be correct in a religious point of view: But, while youth retain any relish for the pleasures of amusement; or until it be made manifest that this refined mean of elegant recreation, is more sinful and immoral in its nature, than any other of the amusements practised in society, it will be in vain to plead against it. When it is not forbidden by Scripture, and may be indulged in with a spirit as pure, a heart as uninfluenced by unworthy feelings, and a mind as free from immoral and impious thoughts, as are experienced in the enjoyment of other recreations.—Why, then, should it not be equally as much tolerated? It will be, by a liberal and unprejudiced people.

Algernon.

P. S. A manuscript essay, disapproving in strong terms of the practice of dancing, was a few days ago put into my hands. The arguments and observations therein contained, have given rise to the foregoing, which must be my apology for broaching the subject at the present time.

M. M.

Specie.

Silver dollars are at only 3 per cent. advance in Charleston, S. C. This indicates a pretty sane condition of the banks in that place, as dollars sometimes bear that premium when the banks redeem their notes with specie.

Plattsburg (N. Y.) Aug. 10.

A number of citizens of Canada have presented claims against our government, as appears by the abstract presented to the War Department by Maj Rees, for damages done by our army at Odletown. It will be recollected that our citizens on this frontier have immense claims against the British government for damage done by the army under Sir George Prevost, in 1814 (to say nothing of the almost indiscriminate plunder of this village in 1813, by the marauding party under Col. Murray) and not withstanding the Proclamation of Sir George promised protection to the property of peaceable individuals; yet when a representation of these claims was made to his excellency, after his return to Canada, the claimants were told that when the American government paid the citizens of the Upper Province for damages done by the American army, then, and not till then would these claims be paid.

It is worthy of remark also, that Sir George departed from this place without paying his private bill, amounting to two or three hundred dollars, where he and his suite quartered.

Dreadful War in Africa.

LONDON, July 1.

In our last paper we mentioned an account which had appeared in the Dutch Journals, of a war that was ravaging the western coast of Africa. It was transmitted by the Dutch secretary to government, at the castle of St. George, Delmina, dated the 15th of March, and expressed the opinion that our establishment of Cape Coast Castle (miscalled in the Dutch papers *Cape Cors*.) would not be able to hold out against the furious banditti who are coming down against it.

We received on Saturday a letter from a gentleman resident at that settlement, from which we have extracted the following particulars of the origin and progress of the Negro war. The letter is dated the 22d of March, seven days later than the Dutch secretary's account; and is the only communication on the subject that has yet been received in England.

"Since my last (says the writer) we have been full of trouble, alarm, and confusion, at this place and all along the Fantee coast. It appears that three or four of the island princes, having given some offence to the king of Ashantee, he made war upon them, with a vast army, and chased them from place to place, with dreadful slaughter till they came up to the Fantee territory, where they received protection for a time. But being again attacked by at least 20,000 men, it was impossible to stand against them, and after a sanguinary battle the fugitives could not make a stand, and they were routed and dispersed in all directions.

"The Ashantees having afterwards heard that they had found an asylum near this place, (Cape Coast Castle) they dispatched a part of their army hither, with an intention of destroying the town, and I am sorry to say, there has been much skin-

ning, and several heads taken off by the victors, (for since the abolition of the slave trade, it is the uniform custom of these savages to put all their prisoners to death.) Mr. White interfered as soon as he heard what was going on, and despatched messengers to the Ashantee general, who has returned a pacific answer, stating that he has no intention to molest Cape Coast. You may be sure, however, that we are not without alarm, as their army is so close to us, that while it remains, we feel as uneasy as if we were about to receive the embrace of *la Francais*! the fact is, that we place no confidence in their pacific professions. All the English for many miles round, have hurried into the castle with the utmost precipitation, where we are shut up with between four and five thousand women and children. On the other side the *Warsaw* tribe have brought an army down against Commedia so that there is nothing but war and slaughter all around us. The Annamboes, and all the tribes as far as Berrecoe, are either murdered or dispersed, and such is our critical situation, that we know not what will become of us as it seems impossible for any of us to leave the coast, as we have no ships at hand, and the Lord Mulgrave is not expected in less than a fortnight.

From English Papers received at Boston.

Barbary States.

LONDON June 28.—There is an article from Rome which states that the Reverend Father, Taylor has delivered to the Pope a memorial, claiming "the intervention of foreign powers in favor of the Irish Catholics."

Mails from Flanders and Holland have arrived. The latter has brought a Hoarlem paper in which this country is spoken of in the most disrespectful manner with respect to its conduct to the Barbary Powers. Under the head Barcelona, the 22d ult says:—

"We have here several letters from Algiers, of a later date than the second appearance of lord Exmouth before that city; but though full of minute details, they however leave us uncertain respecting his lordship's real object in this expedition. So much however is certain, that the—the—and the interest of the commercial world have dreadfully suffered. Lord Exmouth himself went on shore to prescribe to the dey (who after the treaty so lately concluded with the Neapolitan & Sardinians, could expect nothing of the kind) the condition that the Algerines should in future treat the sailors and passengers who may fall into their hands, not as slaves but as prisoners of war. It was as if one should require a people who had only one branch of industry to renounce it. In fact, the indignation of the Divan, and of the Turkish militia, whom the dey consulted successively, rose to the highest pitch. Lord Exmouth and his suit had great difficulty in getting through the crowd that collected, and reaching again the beach and their boats. The family of the english consul was fetched with much ill treatment from his country house and two officers of the same nation who lodged there, were seen brought into Algiers with their hands tied behind their backs."

We take an opportunity of replying this article to several letters we have received upon the subject of the Piratical states. It is asked what conduct are we to adopt? is not every man in the kingdom able to answer it? treaties have been made for the purpose as it should seem, of breaking them before the ink with which they were wrote was dry—can we humiliate ourselves so far as to enter into any more treaties with pirates? British vessels have seized, and their crews carried into captivity—and more than all this, British blood has been shed; and it cries aloud for vengeance. No co-operation no concert with any other power. But we should be equally surprised and ashamed, if any argument were wanting to rouse the spirit of the country, and to convince us of the folly of again treating with these barbarians. A treaty with them is so much blank paper. A title taken from the roof of the Dey's palace, and brought off, would be just as efficient a security. The pirates must be chastised all the remembrance of their fears shall give us ample security—we need no previous declaration of war, for the have long put themselves out of the pale of civilized States, or rather never were within it. Let a fleet be sent out forthwith. With the Barbary corsairs the Bonaparte maxim, "let the war maintain itself," its strict and unquestionable justice; and whoever commands on such an expedition, will effect the double purpose chastising for past injuries and pressing the whole expence of the castigation upon those whose defiance of justice and humanity provoked it.

Courier

A *Calfish* was taken by a trout line opposite Cincinnati Ohio, on Monday last, the dimensions of which, by actual admeasurement, were five feet and an half in

length, four feet girth, twelve inches between the eyes and nineteen across the breast weight one hundred and seventeen pounds! Such was the power of this fish; that the men who took him were obliged to shoot him, in order to get him to shore.

Western Spy.

Foreign.

Extracts from London Papers.

French Conspirators.

Paris June 28.

Yesterday commenced the trials of the 28 nick-named conspirators, who called themselves "Patriots of 1816." The following are their names, ages and trades: Pleigner, aged 35, carrier; Carbonneau, 14, writing master; Tolleron 20, engraver; Charles, 66, printer; Letranc, 55, formerly an architect; Victor Mayette, 27, wife of Picard, a boot maker; Desbaunes, 30 officer of cavalry, ex-garde du corps of Monsieur; Dervin, 39, formerly inn keeper; the three brothers Ozere, public writers at the palace of justice; Sourdou, 34, ex usher, poet and singer at the Montansier coffee house during the usurpation; Descubes, 30, chief of battalion; Gonneau, 57, land owner and ex-representative of the chamber of Bonaparte; Bellaguet, a clerk in the war office; Bonnassier, 22, a boot maker; Dietrich, 50, a German tailor; Lebrun 24, shawl painter; Bonnassier, sen. 51, hair dresser; Phillippi dealer in brandy Warin, 22, ex clerk in a merchant's counting house; Laseaux, 26, student in medicine; Lejeune ex-lieutenant of douanes; Duouot, 51, wine-merchant; Honxneau 40, florist; Cartier, 44, retired officer; Garnier, 55, cotton-spinner; Planson, 58, jeweller.

These miserales are accused of having entered into a conspiracy to blow up the Thuilleries, and to invite Napoleon II to the throne. They had frequent meetings; and at length agreed upon a Proclamation in which they announced, that "their object was National independence," that they wished to terminate the revolution by overthrowing the Bourbon government, and that they would invite Napoleon II to the throne on condition that the regency should accept a certain constitution.

PARIS, July 1.

The Russian troops at Nancy have received orders to march to Maubette, where the Russians are concentrating their forces. Marshal Suchet and general Celbert, who appeared at court yesterday, are expected to have immediate commands. The want of money, however, renders the French levies extremely slow.

By a private letter we learn, that a house has been taken at Toplitz for the king of Prussia, and that there is no other foundation for the meeting of the crowned heads, but this circumstance.

The lady of general Sir Robert Wilson being dangerously indisposed, we are assured that the general has obtained permission to go to the house in which she resides, on giving his parole of honor that he will not leave the house.

From English Papers received at Boston.

LONDON, July 5.

A letter from Marseilles states that the Mahometans at Bona (a post town of Algiers) on Ascension Day murdered all the christians in the place, the number supposed to exceed 300, and believed to include the British Consul. Several christian vessels cut their cables and ran to sea.

The address from the county of Kent to the princess Charlotte on her marriage was signed by 5000 persons.

Within the last two days three houses in the Manchester line have been obliged to stop payment.

Accounts from Cadiz are to June 24.—They state that commercial failures continue to take place.

On Monday the banking house of Messrs Bruce, Simpson & Co suspended their payments. They state, however, that they have sufficient property to pay all demands if time is allowed them.

The last letters from India prepare us to expect a Nepaul war. Instigated by the Mahrattas, they refused to ratify the treaty.

It is stated that in England, Scotland & Ireland there are still six millions of acres of land uncultivated.

Marshal Suchet has been put on active service by the king of France.

Marshal Davoust has received orders to retire to Flavigny.

Lieut. general Gilly has been tried and found guilty.

The duke of Wellington has come to England to use the Cheltenham waters, on account of the liver complaint.

A writer from Buenos Ayres despairs of the independence of that country from the factions that distract the revolutionists.