EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

The various laws and resolutions which were passed at the last session of Congress, connected with the duties of this Department, have received attention, and been executed, as far as the means within its control would permit.

The appropriation of the 24th of May last for the Naval Hospital Fund, has been nearly expended, on the erection of the buildings, mentioned in the last annual report, and on other objects connected with Naval Hospitals. Heretofore no houses have been erected, and no system formed, for the accommodation and management of sick and disabled seamen. Yielding constantly, through many successive years, a portion of their monthly pay for this object, they have seen no benefit result from it; and have found only temporary and uncomfortable abodes provided for them, in old age disease and distress. For the future, they may look forward to accommodations worthy of the service in which they have labored and bled. But much yet remains to be done. More buildings ought to be erected, and further appropriations made, by the justice and humanity of the nation.

Difficulties have existed in executing the law of the 24th of May last, for the better organization of the Medical Department of the Navy, arising from what is supposed to have been an error in the wording of the law. The first section prescribes the manner of admission to the rank of Assistant Surgeons, and requires an examination, by a Board of Naval Surgeons, of all candidates for that office, and an approval by the Board. It also requires a service at sea of two years, as Assistant Surgeon; and an examination before promotion, to the rank of Surgeon. These provisions of the law are in strict conformity with the previous rule and practice of this Department since May, 1824.

The fourth section declares "that every Surgeon who shall have received his appointment, as is herein provided for, shall receive fifty dollars a month and two rations a day; after five years' service he shall be entitled to receive fifty-five dollars a month and an additional ration a day; and after ten years' service," &c. In acting upon this law, the words "as is herein before provided for," have been construed to apply only to those who have received their appointments after the examination prescribed in the first section; which excluded from the increased pay all the Surgeons now upon the list. The first examinations were in 1823, and there are none who have been examined previous to their promotions, and have been five years in the service; none have therefore received the increased pay, except when at sea, and paid under the fifth section.

The act making appropriation for the erection of a Breakwater near the mouth of the Delaware bay received your prompt attention; and its execution, under your supervision, was confided to the Secretery of the Navy. Immediate measures were taken to advance the work. C. C. Biddle, of Philadelphia, was appointed the Agent for the disbursement of the money; and instructions were given for his guidance and direction.

On the 9th of June, Com. Rogers, Gen. Bernard, and William Strickland, Esq. were appointed Commissioners to select a site, and prepare a plan and estimates of the work, for the approval of the Executive, and naval officers placed under their control to make the necessary soundings and surveys. They have been employed in discharge of the duties assigned to them, and their report is daily expected, and when received will be submitted to you. William Strickland, has been appointed the engineer, to superintend the erection of the work.

Out of the sum of $30,000, appropriated by the "act making an appropriation for the suppression of the slave trade," passed the 24th May, 1828, $8,009 20 were paid to the representative of Taliaferro Livingston, under the authority of the second section of that act. Of the balance, the sum of $19,904 55 has been expended in the support in the Agency on the Coast of Africa, and on other objects.—(See paper A.)—There are claims still pending and unsatisfied, which will probably consume the residue. It was my intention to have annexed to this port a full and minute statement of all the expenditures connected with this agency, from its establishment; but, Mr. Ashmun, who has several times been the *acting* agent, and by whom the greater part of the expenditures have been made, and especially since the death of Dr. Peaco, died during the last summer, on his return to this country.

The concerns of the agency are believed to be in a prosperous condition. They are few, if any Africans, at it, who occasion expense to the government. The houses and other property are in a good state of preservation, and will hereafter require but small expenditures.

On the death of Mr. Ashmun, Dr. Randall was appointed Agent. He sailed from New-York, for the Agency, on the 12th Nov. So many of the Agents had died, and so many difficulties had arisen from that cause both in the proper care of the business and property of the Agency, and in rendering and settling the accounts, that it was thought expedient to appoint an assistant Agent, at a small salary, to accompany Dr. Randall.—Dr. Mecklin was selected for this purpose.

There are, at this time, in the U. States, only two persons coming within the description of our laws, subjecting them to removal to the Agency. These were brought into the port of Mobile, in the year 1819, & being very young, were by the then Secretary of the Treasury, placed under the care of the Collector of that Port. Orders have recently been given to send them to Baltimore with a view to their transportation under the law.

On the 30th April last, a message was sent by the President of the U. States to Congress, giving information that 121 Africans had been landed at Key West, from a Spanish slave-trading vessel; stranded within the jurisdiction of the U. States, while pursued by an armed schooner in his Britannic Majesty's service, and to which it was not believed that the law of the 3d March 1819, or any of the other acts prohibiting the slave trade, applied. No provision was made by Congress for removing them from the territory of the U. S. or disposing of them in any other manner. They still remain in the custody of the Marshal of Florida.

The law of the last session, for extending the term of certain pensions chargeable to the Navy and Privateer pension funds, has created some embarrassment, and rendered it necessary to strike many names from the list of Pensioners.—In doing this the only construction has been placed upon the law of which its words seem naturally susceptible.

For the history and condition of the privateer pension fund, I beg leave respectfully to refer to a letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the Chairman of the Naval Committee of the House of Representatives, dated 21st Feb. 1828, Doc. No. 244, and to the Report referred to in that letter.

Numerous pensions were granted and renewed under each of the acts of 1814, 1818 and 1824. There were 203 granted under the acts of 1812, and they generally expired in or before 1820; under the act of 1818, 186 were granted, and they expired in or before 1825; under the acts of 1824, 159 were granted, which will expire in or before 1830.

It will be perceived by this statement, that at the date of the act of last session, (23d May, 1828,) and for one year preceding it, there were no persons in the receipt of a pension, under the acts of 1814 and 1818; the pensions under those acts having expired two or three years preceding. Now, the 2d section of this law provides for the renewal of pensions *only* to those who received them under those last mentioned acts, viz: of 1814 and 1818, and does not provide for those receiving them under the acts of 1824. The Commissioners of the fund have consequently refused to renew any pensions which were not received under the acts of 1814 and 1818. The law holds out the expectation of a renewal of pensions to widows, and by the necessary construction of it, that expectation has been disappointed. It is not known whether the omission to recite the acts of 1824, was intentional or accidental. The effect of the omission, is to exclude widows from any further benefit from the fund; and to leave the balance which now remains for the comfort and enjoyment of the seamen, who were actually wounded, and still survive. For them it would be sufficient. It now amounts to $63,272 50; and there are but 107 of them surviving.

The Navy pension fund now amounts to about $900,652 14. By the 3d section of the act, making appropriation for the support of the Navy, for the year 1828, the sum of $10,000 was directed to be taken out of the fund, for the gradual improvement of the Navy, for the purchase of such lands as the President might think necessary and proper to provide live oak and other timber for the Navy. In virtue of this provision, purchases have been made, of several adjoining tracts of land, on Santa Rosa Sound, and in the rear of the Navy Yard at Pensacola, amounting, in all, to about 3,650 arpens, and costing about $9,080. A part of this land has been placed under the care of competent persons, and arrangements have been made to prosecute the planting and cultivation of the live oak upon it.

On the 21st of May 1828, the House of Representatives passed a resolution, requesting the President of the United States "to send one of our small vessels to the Pacific Ocean and South Sea, to examine the coasts, islands, harbors, shoals, and reefs in those Seas, and to ascertain their true situation and description;" and authorizing the use of such facilities as could be afforded by the Department, without further appropriation, during the year. To this resolution, it was your earnest wish that early and full attention should be paid.

There was no vessel belonging to our Navy, which in its then condition, was proper to be sent upon this expedition. The Peacock was, therefore, selected, and placed at the Navy Yard at N. York, to be repaired and supplied with conveniences suited to the object. Her repairs and preparations are now nearly completed, and she will be ready to sail in a few weeks.

Master Commandant Jones will command the Peacock, and other competent officers have been designated.

The resolution was understood to authorise the use of the Naval appropriations to furnish facilities for the expedition; and they have been used for all those objects which come within the terms in the bill of appropriations, as pay, subsistence, instruments, books, &c. But there are indispensable objects, which do not come within any of the items in the bill, and for which provision is required. A bill on the subject was reported by the Naval Committee, at the last session of Congress, and placed on the list of business to be acted upon, but was not reached before the close of the session. Its passage is necessary to accomplish the purposes designated by the resolution.

Several resolutions have, at various times been passed, directing the Departmeent to cause surveys to be made, to ascertain the practical facilities of Charlestown, Beaufort, Savannah and Brunswick, for naval purposes. They have been made during the three last years, and the results communicated to Congress as they were received.—They are now completed and it will be my duty to make a report upon the whole.

The board of officers appointed to examine the Navy Yards and prepare these plans, have executed their duties at Norfolk, Washington, Philadelphia, Charlestown, and Portsmouth.—Their work has been examined by the Secretary of the Navy, and the board of Navy Commissioners, and approved by the President.

The Navy Yard at Pensacola is the only remaining one, for which a permanent plan is to be formed. Its distance from the seat of Government, and the state of the Yard, have heretofore prevented, not only this, but also the examinations required to decide on the expediency of erecting a rail-way; which the President has been authorized to cause to be erected, if he considered it proper and expedient. The Yard was established only two years ago, and is at the distance of six miles from the town of Pensacola, and from all comfortable accommodations for the officers and others employed at it. It was therefore necessary in the first place, to erect buildings for their accommodation, that they might be where their duties called them, and such wharves, &c. as were required by our vessels upon the West India station, when they entered the port for repairs or other objects.—The improvements there have not progressed rapidly, but are now in a state in which it would be proper that the plan should be made. It is the intention of the Department that fit persons shall, in the course of the next month, execute this duty, and make report both as to the Navy Yard and the marine rail-way.

Our Navy is yet small in numbers, though we hope not feeble in efficiency. Including the vessels built and building, and for which provisions has been made by law, there are ships of the line, twelve; frigates twenty; sloops of war, sixteen, and four schooners. Under a wise and efficient administration, our coasts and commercial interests may always be protected by an active force, not much, if any thing, beyond fifteen ships of the line, twenty frigates, thirty sloops and smaller vessels, and ten or twelve steam batteries. Our safety lies in our peculiar position, and in having our small Navy in the most perfect state for efficiency and action. It is gratifying to add, that the best hopes are afforded by its present condition, and that a gradual advance in the improvements now making in the erection of docks, and in other respects, will enable it, with certainty, to reach that state, at a period not very distant.

In the active operations of the naval force during the year, there has been much to applaud, and but little to give pain. Health has prevailed, with few exceptions, and these not of an uncommon character. On this point, there is very slight, if any, difference in the several stations on which our vessels are employed.

Our squadrons have been kept on the footing indicated in the last annual report. They have all accomplished the purpose for which they have been maintained.

In the Mediterranean piracy, which excited the fears of our mercantile fellow citizens, and induced Congress, at the last session, to increase our force, has been diminished by various causes.—The activity of our vessels—the presence of fleets belonging to several principal powers of Europe—the restraints of the existing authorities in Greece—and the system of convoy which has been pursued, have all operated to this desirable result. Still, there is danger to be apprehended, and our squadron cannot be diminished. This danger does not arise so much from piratical cruisers, as from vessels being becalmed in the night near the shores of some of the small islands, from which attacks are made, in boats by the lawless inhabitants. Against this species of attack, it is impracticable, always, to guard by any assiduity in our naval officers.

In the West Indies, no piracies have been committed. That scourge of commerce has been entirely repressed. Occasional rumours of renewed acts of piracy have created uneasiness, but in almost, if not entirely all the cases, these rumours were founded on misrepresentation. The only unpleasant occurrences have arisen from the condition of things on the land, and from vessels wearing an acknowledged and authorized flag. The commanders of two vessels, under Mexican colors and belonging to the Mexican Navy, have used the port of Key West as a place of rendezvous, from which to carry on their belligerent operations, and, in other respects, so conducted, that they were ordered to depart; and a call was made on one of our vessels to enforce that order. Subsequent obedience rendered actual force unnecessary.

Another incident created some apprehension of injury to our commerce.

In November, 1827, the Commander of the Mexican Naval Forces issued a proclamation, inviting those who were disposed to fit out privateers to cruise against the enemies of Mexico, to apply to him for commissions; and that every vessel on board of which might be found effects of the enemy, should be conducted to Vera Cruz for Condemnation or acquittal. Our commanding officer promptly communicated with this Government, and with our Minister in Mexico, and adopted efficient means to avoid the evil likely to result from this cause. Fortunately very few commissions were issued; and the treaty subsequently formed with Mexico, by adopting more liberal principles, relieved us from apprehended inconveniencies.

The continuance of war until very recently, between Brazil and Buenos Ayres, and the system adopted by the former in sustaining their blockade, by a force, at times inadequate to the object; and requiring bonds of those who entered their ports that they would not afterwards enter the ports of their enemy have given unceasing employment to our naval force in the neighborhood of those nations. The commanding officer has been in almost daily correspondence with the existing Powers respecting our vessels and seamen.

The distance from the U. States at which all our vessels (except those in the West Indies,) cruise; and the difficulty in transmitting money to them, induced the Department to establish a credit in London, so as to enable the commanding officers to draw either on that city, or on the Department, as should be found most advantageous. This provision has, during the present year prevented any inconvenience to our squadrons on this point and produced some saving of public money.

Both in enlisting and discharging seamen, the the usual difficulties have been found. The ordinary length of our cruises is three years; but in consequence of the slow manner in which they are enlisted, it is impracticable to send a vessel, especially a large one to sea; manned with those who all have three years to serve. About one fourth of all our crews, when they leave the United States are bound to serve from three months to a year less than that period. The vessels must therefore be recalled before that time expires, or a portion of them be entitled to their discharge before its return. It is unpleasant, both to themselves and the Government, to give them a discharge in a foreign country, but when they are entitled to it, our officers have been instructed to give it, if demanded, and there is an unwillingness to enter for the remainder of the cruise. Some are always so discharged and others enlisted in their places. The only remedies are either enlisting for a longer, or recalling our vessels in a shorter period. The former would violate the law—the latter would create a large expense to the Government.

The situation of all South America, for several years past, has offered temptations to some of our seamen to leave their country for a time, and adventure in the service of another. They have uniformly had cause to regret the folly of their course. A part of them have been found by our vessels in want and distress. An uniform course of kindness to them has been prescribed to and exercised by our officers: and many have been restored to the country, and will not be likely again to desert it.

A few years since, many complaints, some of them very unjust, found their way to the public, respecting the carrying of specie in our public vessels. The subject attracted the attention of the Department, and instructions were given, in 1824, designed to correct any error or misconduct which might exist in the exercise of the right admitted, and of the duty imposed, by law, in that matter. It is gratifying to state, that during the past year, no complaint has reached the Department; and it is believed, that, in the few instances in which specie is now carried in our public ships it is equally beneficial to the country, and fair and legal in our officers.

The marine corps remains in the condition in which the former reports represented it; and no new suggestions respecting its organization and interests will now be offered. The number of our navy yards and vessels in commission is so great, that the corps cannot supply full guards for them.

The amount of pay estimated is greater than it was last year, which arises from the law increasing the pay of lieutenants, surgeons, and surgeons mates; and from the number of passed midshipmen. Those classes of officers are the most numerous, and a small addition to their pay necessarily swells the estimate more than a like increase to the other grades would do. I would respectfully suggest that these laws, just in themselves, and meeting, as they did, the approbation of a large majority of Congress, have created an inequality which ought to be remedied.—The pay of the oldest captain in the service, while in command of the largest squadron is but $2 660, of a captain in command of a frigate, but $1 930; while the surgeon of a squadron, of 20 years standing; receives $2 420; and of ten years $2 300. The youngest lieutenant receives within a few dollars as much as a master commandant; a surgeon often more. Other inequalities, not less striking, will be perceived on an examination of the law. This advanced pay of the inferior ranks, though not complained of by others, cannot fail to produce unpleasant and painful feelings. It violates the only true principles upon which compensation is made to public officers—that it should be graduated by length of service, rank, and responsibility. A proportionate addition to the pay of the other grades would increase the amount of the appropriations much less than it was increased by these laws, and is called for by justice and propriety. In no nation, not even in our own, has the pay of an officer, civil or military, been so low as that of some of the grades in our Navy. It is unequal to their services and responsibilities. No officer can support his family at home, and maintain himself upon it, without involving himself in difficulty; to avoid which, there is a strong temptation to seek stations on land.

The form of the estimates, in one respect, is calculated to lead into error, and has produced heretofore, some complaint. They embrace the least number of officers actually at sea, and engaged at the yards, &c. and all others are stated to be waiting orders, or on furlough. It is hence inferred, that large numbers of them are idle and unoccupied. Such is not the fact. It almost always happens that more are necessarily employed than are stated in the estimates, even in our vessels at sea; the lowest possible number being named. The item of those waiting orders and on furlough, embraces all who are not at sea, and at the navy yards; all the sick; those who have returned from cruises of one, or two and three years duration; those who have short leaves of absence to attend to important private business; those who are preparing for active service at sea; those at the naval school; and those preparing for, and attending, examinations, of which last number, there are, at this moment, about seventy. It will, on inquiry, be found, that, in no service are there fewer officers, who may be termed idle and unoccupied.

MANUFACTURES.

The happy and prosperous effects of manufacturing and mechanical industry, are visible in a pre-eminent degree, in the town of Paterson, in the state of New Jersey. That place, 20 years ago, was scarcely know. Situated on a soil little susceptible of cultivation, its population, in 1808, was about 300: in 1820, by the introduction of manufactures, it had increased to 1837, and is now computed at 8000; the whole of which, directly or indirectly, are sustained by the manufactories. In the town there are seventeen cotton factories, employing 30,000 spindles; one flax or sail duck factory, with 1600 spindles; one slitting and rolling mill and naif factory working annually 896,000 pounds of iron, costing $10,320, and making, yearly, 831,200 pounds of nails. The cotton factories consume annually, 2,000,000 pounds of cotton, and the flax factory 600,000 pounds of flax. There is one machine shop employing 150 hands, connected with which is an iron and brass foundry, working, annually, 600,000 pounds of iron, and 16,500 pounds of brass: the estimated yearly value of the iron and brass castings is $25,000. There are four turners' shops employing 22 hands, two millwright and three other machine shops, employing together 30 hands, one sawmill, and one establishment for making umbrella cloth. The whole amount of capital invested in these establishments is computed at more than at one million of dollars, the whole of it domestic capital. There are in the town 5 fancy dry goods stores, 2 hardware stores, 30 large, and 25 small grocery stores, 3 dry goods and grocery stores, 11 millenaries, 4 or 5 hatters' shops, &c. &c.

There are two banks in the place, viz: the Patterson Bank and the People's Bank, which together have called in about 275,000 of their capital, and which are entirely inadequate to the wants of the place, much banking business being done in other places. The price of property has risen with the increase of the town; vacant lots, 25 by 100 feet, are worth from 200 to 500 dollars, and in business streets 2000 have been paid. Within a mile and three-quarters of the town there is one machine shop, with 50 hands, and one woollen factory, with 75 hands. All these establishments flourish: the town presents the aspect of busy life; the markets are good for every article of agriculture; and plenty and prosperity reign. [True American.

From the Delaware Gazette.

The following letter from one of the large Flour and Grain dealers of Philadelphia, in answer to some enquiries made of him, being well acquainted with the trade, &c. of the District, shows the flattering prospects under which the location of Bohemia Village has been made at the western termination of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, on the South side of Back Creek River, immediately opposite, and within one hundred feet of the tide lock.

This situation has also the advantage of a large section of Grain country at its back, and every prospect of health, as there is no stagnant water, or marsh in the vicinity.

"*Esteemed Friend:*—I received thy favour of the 15th. instant, and may express my gratification at the progress made towards building up the Town of Bohemia, at the Western end of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, and I am free to confess my conviction, that no location in the vicinity of that magnificent canal, affords more rational grounds for hope of extensive business than does that of Bohemia. One of our respectable and enterprising citizens informs me, that he intends to have erected during this winter and ensuing spring, extensive ware-houses for the accommodation of the trade that will naturally centre at that place, and that it is likely Steam Tow Boats will be established to ply between that place and Port Deposite for the purpose of conveying thither the produce of the Susquehannah river, which at Bohemia, can be directed to either of the markets of New York, Philadelphia, Brandywine and Baltimore. I have little doubt but much produce from that river, as also from the neighbouring country will concentrate at Bohemia; for the purpose of ascertaining which of the aforementioned markets offers the strongest inducements to the seller, because from that point either of the three last mentioned markets can be reached, with about equal facility, after ascertaining where the best prices are to be obtained.

Wishing success to the enterprising individuals, whose exertions are using to form this important place of deposit. I remain respectfully,

NATHAN BUNKER.

"TALL TREES FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW!"

Two or three years ago, at a dinner party in Washington, Mr. C. who had been a distinguished member of Congress, sportively claimed the honour of having been the immediate cause of the late war with Great Britain. The assertion, however, was denied by one of the "universal Yankee nation" who was present, who maintained that the declaration of war was the consequence of a little Rhode-Island pig's having broken into a gentleman's garden, somewhere near Providence. The pig perpetrated some damage and a law suit was the consequence. The late eminent Mr. Burrill was engaged in the case, and by some means gave offence to the owner of the pig, who was subsequently chosen to the Legislature. Mr. Burrill was a candidate for the Senate of the United States—but lost his election by a single vote—the owner of the pig, though of the same politics, voting against him. The declaration of war passed the Senate by a majority of one vote only, Mr. Burrill's competitor voting for it; whereas Mr. Burrill himself would have voted against it, and thus the war would have been prevented. Thus it was the pig, and not Mr. C. who produced the declaration of war. Soon after the dinner table occurrence the story of the pig appeared in the newspapers. The editor of the Providence American has now revived and improved it, by tracing the election of Gen. Jackson, to the pig aforesaid, inasmuch as if it had not been for the war brought about by the pig, Gen. Jackson would not have conquered at New Orleans, and consequently would never have been thought of as President of the United States.—"What great results from little causes spring!" [N. Y. Com. Adv.

THE WEATHER.

The Montreal Gazette of the 18th inst. states the thermometer to have stood that morning, though not exposed to the full severity of the cold, at ten degrees below 0,—42 degrees below the freezing point. In the country, it must, at sunrise, have been 13 degrees below 0,—45 degrees under the freezing point. The snow near Quebec was three feet deep on the 15th inst. The navigation of the St. Lawrence was completely closed that morning by floating ice.

Our own climate presents a very different aspect. It is now within two days of the first of January, yet the weather is worm, and we have had no snow, and no ice to speak of. A little has been formed, during a few nights on shallow pools, but has quite disappeared at present. As there is no rain either, the weather is delightful; colds, however, are very prevalent, and the air is so light as to cause a very unpleasant precipitation of the smoke at night, and early in the morning.

VALUABLE RECIPE.

In the Memoirs of Count Segur (vol. I. p. 168,) there is the following anecdote: "My mother (the Countess de Segur,) being asked by Voltaire respecting her health told him that the most painful feeling she had arose from the decay of her stomach, and the difficulty of finding any kind of aliment that it could bear. Voltaire, by way of conversation, assured her that he was once nearly for a year in the same state, and believed to be incurable; but that, nevertheless, a very simple remedy has restored him. It consirted in taking no other nourishment than yolks of eggs, beaten up with flour of potatoes and water." Though this circumstance took place as far back as about fifteen years ago, and respected so extraordinary a personage as Voltaire, it is astonishing how little it is known, and how rarely the remedy has been practiced. Its efficacy, however, in cases of debility, cannot be questioned, and the following is the mode of preparing the valuable article of food as recommended by Sir John Sinclair: Recipe—Beat up an egg in a bowl, and then add six table spoonfuls of cold water, mixing the whole well together; then add two table spoonfuls of the farina of potatoes, mixing it with the liquor in the bowl. Then pour in as much boiling water as will convert the whole into a jelly, and mix it well. It may be taken either alone or with the addition of a little milk, and moist or best sugar, not only for breakfast, but in cases of great stomachic debility, or in consumptive disorders, at the other meals. The dish is light, easily digested, extremely wholesome and nourishing. Bread or biscuit may be taken with it as the stomach gets stronger.

CAMBRIDGE, Dec. 27.

☞DREADFUL CATASTROPHE.

We have just understood that the store of Mr. Charles Smith, Jr. in the vicinity of New Market, with its contents, was consumed by fire on Thursday night last. We regret to add that the particulars are of the most painful nature—that the scene was truly heart-rending, and that the ocurrence has terminated the existence of two of our citizens, and dreadfully lacerated the body of the third—so much so, that his recovery is despaired of. What aggravates the event, is its origin—the firing of crackers—one falling into a keg of powder, caused an explosion, so powerful and instantaneous, that the tenement was literally torn from its foundation, and Messrs. Chas Smith Sen. and Wm. Thomas were killed and Mr. —— Chaffinch injured as stated above. There were we believe, but four persons in the house at the time—Mr. C. S. Jr. the owner of the store, alone escaped unhurt.

May this sad dispensation—this stern rebuke—of Providence serve as a salutary warning to those who would pursue a practice so nugatory, culpable and dangerous as that of *firing crackers*.

PROPOSALS

FOR PUBLISHING VOLUME FIRST OF

A National Gallery of Portraits,

BY GEORGE H. RICHARDS.

THIS volume will consist of about 500 octavo pages, to be printed on good paper, with good type, and published as soon as the subscription will warrant, at $3, payable on delivery.

It is the object of the author to perform a national work: not to offend taste by adulation, nor gratify malignity by detraction. Every nation, in every age, has, necessarily, its *relatively* great men: every enlightened nation, especially in an enlightened age, almost necessarily produces its *intrinsically* great men. The converse of this proposition would contradict the language of history, reverse the operations of society, and annul the laws of human nature.

Favored by soil, climate, geographical position; by liberty, religion; by an unique form of Government; by minor institutions, multiplied beyond precedent, for social, moral, intellectual intercourse; by an atmosphere of emulation created around us, and inspired into us, from the constant influences of our diversified state of society, both in its civil and political organization; by a new world for our theatre, and the old worlds for rivals or spectators; it would be an inexplicable phenomenon, if our country were deficient of truly illustrious characters.

It has long been the author's opinion, that the nation should erect a pantheon or gallery for the statues or paintings of its most distinguished men, whether in public or in private life—for its scholars, poets, artists, and eminently successful inventors, as well as for its statesmen and heroes. *This will be done.* Glory *will* have its apotheosis. But, 'longo intervallo,' let my humble hand chisel the block—fashion the features—and fix the statue. Let it spread out the canvass—and, with whatever skill, draw the outlines, apply the colors, and catch the distinctive expression.

The portraiture of character, with accurate delineations and discriminative traits, needs not to be an invidious task; but it requires a delicate taste, a fine perception, and a critical acumen—together with a free, bold, and happy execution—not only to body forth the prominent features, but to seize the light tints, the varying shades, and mark where they commingle. A man will scarcely be recognised by the definition of 'bipes implumis,' every man's character is identical. To seize that identity, and save the trouble of a label, is the point.

There are two divisions of character: personal or moral, and intellectual. The defects, as well as excellencies of the latter, it will be necessary, to the truth of the portrait, to designate and develope. Over the defects of the former, should any exist, national honor requires that the shades be gathered, while the lights of the pencil illustrate and eternize its virtues.

It is unnecessary to state, that none can be admitted into the Gallery, without the sanction of public services or high-wrought talent. The names of those who will compose the first volume, are sufficiently indicated by the public opinion. The following, among the number, are arranged in alphabetical order, not expressive of the author's judgment of their comparative merits: Adams, Calhoun, Clay, Crawford, Everett, Gallatin, Jackson, Lafayette, Livingston, McDuffie, McLean, Macon, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, Van Buren, Van Rensselaer, Webster, Woodbury. As it is not intended to compose biographies, but to sketch characters and pains from the life, some may be despatched with a few strokes from the palette, while others will justify a more elaborate filling-up.—The politician will be dissected, and his policy rigidly analysed by his measures, their operation and compatibility with the constitution.

Some volume of the work is designed to comprehend the pictures of our illustrious deceased, the founders of our Empire, and champions of our liberty—Sages, heroes—philosophers, statesman—patriots, philanthropists. This portion of our history is a casket of jewels—apples of gold in net-work of silver. To change the figure—in the writer's laboratory the cerements are all prepared, steeped in gums and spices, ready to wind round his subjects, and embalm them for posterity.

Having a personal acquaintance with most of the distinguished men, now living, of his own country, and with many of those of foreign countries, he will be better enabled to form his judgment, both absolutely, and in comparison. This personal and political acquaintance has already furnished him with ample material for the proposed work; but he respectfully invites the friends of all, who are entitled to a niche in the Temple of our Nation's fame, to favor him with their own opinions, and with illustrative anecdotes, incidents, descriptions, and productions of their pen or tongue, in print or manuscript. Such communications, delivered in person, or free of postage, will be received with gratitude and particular attention.

Booksellers in the United States are invited to act as agents, with the customary commission on sales.

dec 23 w

©Maryland State Archives, msa_sc3923_scm2846-0229