NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

VOL. V. | WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. | NO. DCCXLII.

FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM. | FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1805. | *PAID IN ADVANCE.*

Rapine, Conrad, & Co.

On New Jersey Avenue Capitol Hill,

HAVE just received and offer for sale, at a low price, a quantity of PERUVIAN BARK by the pound and smaller quantity.

They have also, lately received an addition to their former assortment of books and stationery.

July 10—

SHELL LIME.

WELL burnt with sound wood, at 16 DOLLARS the hundred bushels, a less quantity will not be sold at this price. It will be delivered in any part o the city or George Town at from 17 to 20 dollars per hundred, the price to be paid on delivery, apply to

CO N CONI GHAM, at the Brewery in Funks Town, C. W.

N. B. Application must be made within ten days from this date.

July 10—3t

Fifty Dollars Reward.

RAN away from the subscriber living near the Bowling Green on the 23d inst. a Negro Man named PETER, between thirty and forty years old, about five feet ten inches high, he is black and rather spare made, had on when he went off a light drab colored coat, a red striped waistcoat, corduroy or thicksett breeches and dark mixed stockings, has lost the greater part of all his toes on the left foot, and when spoken to is very apt to appear surprised, I will give the above reward if taken out of the state of Virginia, and thirty dollars if taken in the state and out of this county, and ten dollars if taken in the county or confined in any jail so that I get him, or if brought home all reasonable charges paid.

JOHN G. WOOLFOLK.

Caroline July 10—ep3w.

CHARLES H. VARDEN,

MERCHANT TAYLOR.

Has received from Philadelphia

a handsome assortment of FALL goods, consisting of the best London and French superfine cloths, cassimeres, patent Bennet's cord, toilenetts, fancy and white Marseilles, black and figured silk, moleskins, fancy silk, Marseilles, constitution cords, velvets, Genoa cord, silk and sattin Florenteens, superfine coating, knapped cloths, with a variety of other articles suitable for the winter season.

N. B. Ladies habits, regimentals, and navy uniforms made in the first stile of fashion.

New Jersey avenue near the Capitol,

December 10.—tf

RAGS.

The highest price, in *Cash* or *Books*, will be given for any quantity of clean Linen and Cotten RAGS, by Rapine, Conrad and Co. Capitol Hill.

June 24—

RAGS.

THE highest price CASH, given for clean RAGS, by EDGAR PATTERSON, George town, and SAMUEL STETTENIUS, near the Centre market, Washington

March 8—tf.

In the case of John Thomas Frost, an insolvent debtor.

SIX months from and after the first day of July next is limited and appointed for the creditors of the said Frost to bring in and exhibit their claims to the trustee. It is ordered that this notice be published in the National Intelligencer and Washington Federalist three times in each paper prior to the first day of August next.

By order of the hon. Wm. Cranch, esq.

URIAH FORREST, Ck.

July 5—

The subscriber being appointed trustee in the above case of John T. Frost, requests all persons having claims against him to exhibit them without delay. Also all persons indebted to the said J T. Frost prior to his taking the benefit of the act of insolvency, are requested to make immediate payment to

JAMES KENNER.

July 8—3t

PUBLIC VENDU[illegible].

TO be sold at public vendue, at the late dwelling house of JOSEPH HODGSON, deceased, on the 15th day of July next, at 11 A. M. all the personal property belonging to the estate of said Hodgson, consisting of parlour and kitchen furniture, fine and coarse hats—hats of various kinds—hatters' wool, and a good set of hatters' utensils, consisting of kettles, blocks, &c. &c. likewise one good milch cow. The terms of sale will be, for all sums under twenty dollars, *cash*; and for all sums over twenty dollars a credit of six months will be allowed,—by the purchaser's giving bond bearing interest with approven security.

REBECCA HODGSON, *Adm'x*

Washington city, June 29, 1805.—5t

N. B. The convenient dwelling house, garden, and out-houses to be let on moderate terms, which is now occupied by Mrs. Hodgson.

PUBLIC SALE.

IN virtue of an order issued from the hon. court of Calvert county, will be offered at public sale, on the 28th day of August next. (if fair, if not, the first fair day thereafter) at the late mansion of Benjamin Ward, deceased, at the hour of 12 o'clock, a valuable plantation, containing 184 acres of Land, lying on the Chesapeake Bay, in Calvert county. The improvements are a small dwelling house, kitchen, tobacco house, corn house, and other out houses; a large orchard of fine fruit. This fertile spot has every advantage, it abounds in heavy timber, and has a great proportion of rich low ground, capable of being made into meadow at a very trifling expence. The soil is extremely rich—tobacco, wheat, rye, and Indian corn, grow with little labour—the neighbourhood affords a society of very genteel and friendly people—places of worship surround it—convenient to mills and a ware house for the inspection of tobacco within two miles of the premises. This Land will be laid off in small parcels, or sold all together, as may best suit purchasers.—Bond with approved security will be required, carrying interest from the day of sale, payable in two equal payments, the first in 12, and the last in 18 months from the day of sale.

WM. M. CARCAUD,
DAVID L. WEEMS,
CHAS. WILLIAMSON,
Commissioners.

July 3—ep8w.

On a liberal credit.

THE subscriber will dispose of at private sale, his estate called Chichester, lying on he eastern branch, immediately opposite the city of Washington. This tract of land containing 697 acres is laid off in lots from 83 to 144 acres for the convenience of purchasers. Plats of the estate and the terms of sale are in the hands of colonel Hanson at the navy yard, and Charles Wayman of George Town. The lots will be shewn by Mr Wedden, living on the premises, near the Eastern Branch bridge

ANTHONY ADDISON.

Barnaby, 12th June 1805—tf

TO BE SOLD,

AT PUBLIC VENDUE,

At Gadsby's Hotel, in Alexandria, on Monday the 16th day of September, at 12 o'clock at noon,

ALL that TRACT of LAND late Presly Thornton, Esquire's situated in Northumberland county, Virginia, lying immediately on the Potomac river. The following description is given of this property by persons well acquainted with it.—"It contains 2 500 acres, 1700 acres of which are the most valuable low grounds on the river, between 3 and 400 acres heavily timbered, and the remainder very high land extremely productive. The soil of this tract is equal to any in the state for the cultivation of corn, wheat, tobacco, timothy, and small grain of all kinds. On this tract are a large commodious Brick Mansion House and two Offices, a large Brick Stable, valuable Barn, Cow House, and many other out houses. The Orchards and Garden contain a variety of valuable fruit trees, and the waters abound with excellent fish and oysters. It is situated about a day's sail from Baltimore Alexandria and Norfolk. There are two good mill seats for grist and saw mills on the estate, and plenty of cedar and chesnut timber, for which an excellent market may be found at the city of Washington."

The terms of sale are—one fourth cash one fourth in one year, one fourth in 18 months, and the residue in two years from the day of sale. The payments to be secured by bonds, with mortgages on the premises, and to be on interest from the day of sale.

For further information, application may be made in behalf of the subscriber, Thomas Robinson, to Richard Peters, jun attorney at law in the city of Philadelphia, or to William Lewis, in the same city, (Philadelphia.)

THOMAS ROBINSON,
W. LEWIS.

June 29—eptSep.16

STELLE's HOTEL & *CITY TAVERN.*

THE Subscriber takes this method of thanking his friends and the public for their favors whilst on the Capitol Square and begs leave to acquaint them that having purchased and now occupying the tavern, late Tunnicliff's hotel; which he has commenced enlarging and improving—he respectfully solicits a continuance of the patronage of his friends and the public, assuring them that 'tis his full determination to fit up his present hotel, and so to conduct it, as to merit, he hopes, the preference of the public travelling, as well as those coming to the permanent seat of the Government of our Land of Liberty.

PONTIUS D. STELLE.

Washington City, March 25—tf

ADAM KING, & Co.

AT their wine Store in High street George Town, have in addition to their stock of old wines, laid in a large and general assortment of all kinds of Liquors and Groceries suitable to the present season; where bills of any description, in their line, will constantly be filled up on the shortest notice and they flatter themselves, from the quality of their wines, &c. they will be able to give general satisfaction to all those who may think proper to favor them with a call—where all kind of commission business as usua will be attended to with the utmost attention

George Town, November 5—tf

To the Editor of National Intelligencer.

The politics of a neighbouring state among other topics of discussion, presents one of the first rate magnitude. What is the best mode of altering constitutions, or of submitting them to revision, is a question, in the solution of which every freeman of America is deeply interested. Feeling this interest myself, I have taken the liberty of offering you my ideas on this point, without the most remote idea of dictating to, or interfering with the peculiar concerns of Pennsylvania. I believe that the citizens of that state have sufficient wisdom and patriotism to manage their own concerns, and that they will, on this, as they have on other occasions, combine prudence and vigor in their ultimate decisions.

A deliberate, and I think dispassionate reflection has convinced me that the most advisable plan for submitting constitutions to revision is by periodical conventions, distinct from ordinary legislative bodies, and, elected at periods considerably distant from each other.

My reasons in favor of this plan are embraced in the following remarks:

It is essential to the correct understanding of this subject, to form definite ideas of constitutions as contradistinguished from laws.

When men enter into political association for their common good, it becomes necessary to lay down the principles on which they associate; to designate the powers which shall be exercised by governments; the manner in which those governments shall be formed, and the powers invested shall be exercised. This is the peculiar province of a constitution. Without these provisions every thing would be left to legislative discretion, and no man would feel secure in the enjoyment of his property or rights, as they might, at any moment, be invaded by those appointed to administer the government.

Laws are provisions, formed by the government thus established, enacted in a prescribed way, in virtue of some delegated power.

As it is an opinion, universally received in the United States, that political rights are most secure, when, instead of being dependent on mere legislative will, they are defined and guaranteed by constitutional compacts, it would be useless to adduce arguments on this point. The whole people of the United States, in forming the federal constitution, and every section of them in establishing state constitutions, have sanctioned this opinion. It is true that in two or three states there has been an omission to form new constitutions of government; but, notwithstanding, the systems of government in being, however incorrectly formed, are considered as of constitutional validity, and alterable only by the people, not by the legislature.

This broad distinction between constitutions and laws is founded on two principles; first, that the former require a comparative permanency, and secondly, that they are better framed by men distinct from those who administer the government.

Let us apply these principles, and others, which in the prosecution of our enquiry will naturally occur to the different modes in which constitutions may be formed in the first instance, and afterwards modified.

All agree that no other body than a convention, charged with the sole duty, is the proper one for the formation of a constitution. A concise discussion will shew that no other body is competent to the alteration of a constitution once formed. The principal reasons in favor of a convention in the first instance are the superior talents of those who compose it, their greater exemption from improper feelings and views, and their capacity, from having but one object to attend to, to devise a system the best suited to the advancement of the general interest.

That the talents of those who are deputed to a convention will be superior to those of ordinary legislators is proved as well by the reason of things as by actual experiment. Great objects necessarily require proportionate talents, which, while they delight to employ themselves in arduous and difficult duties, will not stoop to the relatively humble task of legislation. He, who forms a constitution creates a monument to his fame, which may endure for ages, while laws, however beneficial, are generally destined to [illegible] a short existence. The sacrifice of time too, in the one case, is extremely moderate, while in the other it is generally so great as essentially to interfere with his personal concerns. Hence it is a fact, that, while in our legislative bodies there is frequently but a few men of great talents, and often not a single one, there is always seen a galaxy of genius and learning in our conventional bodies. The people, believing that every thing that is dear to them, depends on the form of their constitutions, as in a time of danger, select with vigilance their greatest men. All local jealousy and envy of superior merit are sacrificed to nobler motives. Talents and virtue are alone looked to; and each section of a state is ambitious of out doing the other portions by delegating its best men.

Let us contrast this picture with that of an ordinary legislative body. In the latter are generally to be found plain men, with a few individuals of superior though moderate powers, fully competent to the purposes of common legislation, but altogether incompetent to the formation of a political system, in which a proper degree of power shall be bestowed, and correctly distributed. The former requires but little knowledge, while the latter requires, not only a wide experience, but likewise the rare talent of foreseeing the effects of radical principles upon the government and the people.

It may be, nay it often so happens, that in a legislative body, there is one man, who, from talent or intrigue, has become the leader of the body. This man will rarely have acquired his superiority, without long and sharp contests with his colleagues. He will have embodied around him a party, who, from mere confidence or an union of interests or opinion on common points of legislation, always vote as he dictates; while on the other hand, there will be a minority, exasperated by disappointment, always in opposition, and eager to seize every opportunity of gratifying their hostile sentiments. Is such a body competent to form a constitution, the proudest offspring of human genius? This petty leader, trusting to his flexible adherents, and the omnipotent power of a majority, will be at little pains laboriously to devise the best system in his power. His circumscribed mind will be almost entirely limited by his own contracted experience; and he will be swayed almost exclusively by the desire of introducing such provisions as will enable him the more easily and securely to gain his little objects. The opposition he meets with will make him more tenacious of his own projects, and his jealous ambition will be sure to damn the advice of an enemy, however good. Who does not see that a constitution, thus formed, would want all the great features of wisdom, impartiality, and caution, without which it would be the instrument of oppression instead of advantage to the community.

From these improper feelings and views the members of a convention would be generally exempt. Coming together with minds, not pre-occupied with prejudice, with feelings uninflamed by personal collisions, neither inspired by the ardor of victory, or humbled by the mortification of disappointment, selected for a great object, not originating with themselves, it may be presumed, and experience verifies the assurance, that their deliberations, conducted with candor, enlightened by learning, and guided by patriotism, will issue in the best and purest systems. Not mingling the duties of common legislation with the higher duties of forming a constitution; uninfluenced by the selfish view of so shaping the constitution as the best to administer to their paltry schemes of personal aggrandisement; and confined to a single object; it may be expected that they will devise a system, whose objects shall be neither temporary or personal, but alone calculated to advance the permanent and general interests of their fellow-citizens. Why should they go astray? The system once established, their political existence is at an end. Would they, by devising a bad system, impair the purity of their characters, and become candidates for popular odium? No. The idea is too absurd; and accordingly all experience tells us that conventional bodies have been the most virtuous as well as most wise that have ever convened among us.

Can the same be said of legislative bodies? Have they not in some instances become the victims of misguided passion; in others the instruments of intolerance and oppression? Have they not, in some cases, been wantonly prodigal, and in others shamefully penurious? Have they not even some times been corrupt? And are these the bodies, in whose hands, we shall repose our lives, our liberties, our property, all that renders life a blessing? As well might we open our apartments, warmed by a blazing fire, to the raging tempest, and suffer the devouring element thus enfuriated to involve in common ruin ourselves, our wives, our children and our property.

Every argument in favor of a convention for the original formation of a convention applies with equal if not increased force, to any alterations which may be made in it. Arduous as the formation of a constitution may be, it is extremely questionable, whether it doe not require greater talent judiciously to alter it. The several provisions of which it is composed are so intimately connected with each other, that it is always difficult to determine what effect would be produced on the operation of the whole structure by an alteration of any part. One thing is most certain, that if changes be authorised by the legislative body, there will be the greatest risque of their being made on light and superficial views, as well as from impure motives. For this purpose, therefore, of giving consistency and security to all measures which may be adopted in relation to the alteration as well as the formation of a constitution, it is highly desirable that the whole should be the result of conventional deliberation.

NUMA.

(To be continued.)

LEXINGTON, (KEN.) JUNE 18.

Books are now opened in this place, by Messrs. John Jordan, jun. Alexander Parker, and John Bradford, commissioners for receiving subscriptions of shares, for opening a CANAL at the Falls of Ohio. The liberal spirit evinced by the citizens of Lexington for the public good, it is hoped will be as conspicuous on this, as on former occasions.

The party of discovery, under the command of captains Lewis and Clark, left the mouth of the Missouri on the 19th day of May, 1804. An express with dispatches from their winter quarters, which left them the 14th April, has returned to St. Louis. By the express, letters were received from captain Clark to his correspondents in Kentucky. A gentleman from Jefferson county, has obligingly favored the Editor of the Kentucky Gazette with the following account, which he obtained from one of the men who returned with the express, and from letters from some of the party. They fortified themselves in November last, on the bank of the Missouri, 1609 miles from the mouth, by actual admeasurement, in lat. 47, 21, north; called then Fort Mandane, after a nation of Indians who reside in the neighborhood, and who have been very friendly to them. On their passage up, they were delighted with the beautiful appearance of the country for about 200 leagues, or to the mouth of the river La Plate, which comes in from the south; after which, to their winter quarters, it is described not to be so fertile. The person who brought the dispatches, speaks of the opening made by the river, being about one mile wide with high cliffs on each side. The bed of the river occupies about a fourth part of it, the remainder of the bottom entirely composed of coarse sand covered with cotton wood. This bottom is continually giving way either on one side or the other, and gaining on the opposite side. The cliffs in some places are covered with red cedar, which, with the cotton and a few small black ash trees, is the only timber described to be in that country. From the height, there is not a tree or twig to be seen, as far as the sight can extend, or as they have explored. Out from the river the land goes off perfectly level, with but few exceptions—and their plains covered with grass. They passed the mouths of a number of streams, the most of which had names given by the French—One they have named Floyd's river, to perpetuate the name of a young man, of their party, named Charles Floyd, who died much regretted on the 20th August. They represent the Indians to have been friendly, with but a few exceptions. The Sioux are the most numerous, are organised in bands bearing different names, move about from place to place, from the banks of the river out to the