National Intelligencer.

& WASHINGTON ADVERTISER

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

There is an intrinsic correctness as well as seasonableness in the following observations, extracted from the *New York Public Advertiser*.

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The moment of danger, is unfortunately the moment of expediency, with all nations as with individuals, and cure is preferred to prevention. Never is public spirit, general exertion, or individual charity wanted, when public danger or private distress, within immediate view demand it. Thousands are lavished or bestowed to redress evils, which owe their origin or progress to a want of timely provision. It cannot be doubted that the general and state governments would be followed by the districts, cities, towns and villages of the union, as well as by individual exertion, to repel insult, to protect persons and property against foreign aggressions. The public purse of the nation, would in such case be supported by voluntary contribution, and a voluntary submission to privations concomitant on a state of hostility would secure ultimate success.

The hurry and rudeness of exertion would however create an additional loss and expence, without the possibility of additional advantage. To prevent or lessen such difficulties, as well as to prepare against every exigency, it is only necessary to apply, before absolutely called for, a proportion of that general spirit and individual philanthropy which would in the day of danger flow from the patriot and the soldier.

Our most vulnerable point is the ocean; our strongest the land. The former is the most difficult to defend, the latter is impregnable. To put the greater part of our property afloat on the ocean, is to create an object, easily assailable by an enemy; to foster and encourage national manufactures is to create a situation in which our wants would be few, and not dependent on foreigners, nor at all assailable by them. The proper preparation, would be that which, with least inconvenience, would enable us to call home our shipping and live independent of those foreign powers, who cannot, being less favorably situated, live without us.

Public sentiment is already in favor of *Domestic Manufactures*. The general and several of the state governments have advocated the principle. Manufacturing societies on large scales have been formed, and our Chief Magistrate, by appearing in cloth of domestic manufacture, has shewn an example worthy the imitation of every individual; it will not be a derogation from merit to endeavor to influence a preseverance in it. The recording of it will be holding but an example, deserving of general adoption. In all our departments and meetings, from the first magistrate of the people to the humblest laborer; from the general government to the smallest town meeting, the principle ought to meet general support.

An increase of import duties on some or all foreign articles, clothing the army & navy with domestic fabric, using American hemp and sail cloth in the navy, extending the inland navigation, rearing of sheep, multiplying cotton jennies, carding machines and other machinery for lessening manual labor, encouraging manufacture of hats, leather, stockings, &c. These properly attended to would soon prove that we can keep a balance of trade against every commercial country in the world.

This subject shall be closed with some remarks relative to the state of N. York.

West of the Hudson river lies a tract of country, containing nearly one hundred thousand square miles, more than a fourth part of which is in this state, which, for fertility of soil or natural advantages, is not exceeded perhaps by any tract of equal extent on the globe. Remarkably favorable for the rearing of cattle, particularly sheep—the low lands are of the first quality and produce the best hemp and flax, while the entire stands unrivalled for producing the various grains necessary for human sustenance. Thousands of acres are now covered with sugar maple trees of the richest kind, and the salt springs of Onondaga and Cayuga are inexhaustible, as are the coal and iron mines—and there is much reason to expect other mines in proportion, as the country becomes known—The woods will supply an inexhaustible fund of lumber, pot and pearl ashes, &c. while the fishery of the immense lakes, and the fur trade, may become an object of great national importance. An inland navigation connecting the Hudson river with the lakes Ontario and Erie, will secure a large proportion of the trade of this immense tract to New-York, which must otherwise seek markets elsewhere, and in some instances, in ports foreign to the U. States. An early attention to this great object; a judicious survey of the line, and an annual appropriation from the state, as well as general government, would at no very distant day make the Hudson river as rich in trade as that of the Thames, and the city of New York exceed in extent and opulence that of London.

RUSSIA.

Extracts from Oddy's European Commerce—Concluded.

"It must naturally be supposed that a country of such vast extent as Russia, must have nearly all the variety of soil that is to be found in the world, which, being under a variety of different climates, produce all the necessaries and luxuries of life, and that both will increase as civilization and population extend.

"The northern regions afford articles of traffic, as well as the southern and middle. The produce of Russia, for export, consists in iron, hemp, flax, cordage of all kinds, tallow, hides, fir and oak timber in planks and deals, battens, balks, spars, bowsprits and masts; pitch and tar, grain of all sorts, particularly wheat; hempen and flaxen linen manufactured for the use of the table, flems, ravenducks, and other sorts for general purposes, and sailcloth of various sorts, bees-wax, honey, bristles, and tallow candles; isinglass, cavier, butter, soap, leather, train oil, hempseed, linseed, and their oils, and latterly tobacco from the Ukraine."

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In order to detail the whole trade of Russia, and to bring it into a narrower compass, as well as to shew the unprecedented rapid rise it has experienced in its commerce, and the pitch at which it has already arrived, the following statement is given:

The total imports and exports of Russia.

Years.	Imports.	Exports.
1742	3568085	4567422
1745	3898674	5249366
1750	6013371	7152829
1755	6641561	8182770
1760	7358951	9875013
1765	9200464	13098824
1770	11374259	14989134
1775	12469372	18557279
1780	15447113	19656714
1785	16432542	25873592
1790	31132267	32754733
1791	35113194	34290225
1792	37521115	40596733
1793	36118765	43481089
1794	34529757	45474330
1795	36652091	55772284
1796	42878565	67670464
1797	34931701	56683560
1802	56530094	63277759

"Though it is easy to see that many mistakes are committed by the Russian government in its endeavors to forward commerce, yet those endeavors are incessant and have already produced great effects; its immense extent, the line of politics that has been followed, and the opening of ports on the Black sea, will tend to civilize the interior of the country, which, together with the canals that are carrying on, must in a few years produce great changes.

"When we look at the past, we may anticipate the future. The rise of Petersburgh, the general increase of commerce, and the vast augmentation of power; the rapid rise of Odessa, and the numerous efforts made to hasten the progress towards prosperity, leave no doubt, as to the important part that nation will soon act on the theatre of Europe."

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New-York Free School. We insert the following article with lively satisfaction. It merits and will reward a very attentive perusal. The object of education transcends in its consequences every other social institution, and so far as it regards the poor, rests upon the footing of a perfect right. It is to be regretted that the statement does not specify the precise time of education, as well as the number of children educated, with the necessary expences arranged under suitable heads.

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"The trustees of the free school society of New-York are again called upon to make their annual report upon the situation of the school under their charge; and it is with increased pleasure they are enabled to look back upon the improvements of the last year, and to trace the result of their exertions for the diffusion of useful knowledge among a class of poor children who have been hitherto entirely neglected. To observe the progress of our nature, from a state of ignorance and ferocity to that knowledge which humanizes and refines the heart, is a most interesting employment; and to mark out with a clear line the steps which lead to the suitable improvement and use of those faculties with which the all wise Creator hath endowed us, is worthy the exercise of our best judgment. The education of youth has claimed the attention of the wise in all ages of the civilised world; and the present period is marked with many improvements in this great art. The celebrated *Lancaster* deserves a conspicuous rank among those whose persevering genius has succeeded in simplifying the rudiments of education, by uniting, in an eminent degree, great economy and rapid improvement. Every community is now enabled to bestow upon the poorest of its members, a sufficiency of useful knowledge, to enable him to fill his station in society with respectability. This is a very desirable thing in every country; but more especially so where the government itself is fixed upon the basis of virtue and information in the great mass of the people. This system has been adopted in the New York Free School, and with the same encouraging success that has crowned it in England. The school has been visited by a deputation from Philadelphia: the result of which has been the establishment of a school upon the same principles in that city, and the same good effects have already arisen from it. The trustees, impressed with the importance of the subject, cannot but recommend it to the serious consideration of all who have the charge of the early education of youth; and, desirous that it should be extended as widely as possible, they look forward with pleasing expectation to a period when the funds of the society shall enable them to take advantage of the munificence of an individual of this city, who has appropriated ground for the erection of another school house, in a part of the city where the unhappy objects of such an establishment are very numerous.

The trustees invite their fellow-citizens to the participation of the pleasure that must be experienced on the review of children, accommodated in one spacious school room, formerly used as an arsenal, but which is now appropriated to the use of the New York Free School, in consideration of an agreement with the corporation to educate the children of the Alms house. The alterations in the building demand large expenditures & will require all the funds of the Society; but, trusting to the cause in which they are engaged, they have reason to expect every thing from the discernment and liberality of the public.—The expences of tuition, it is true, are trifling: but no system of education, however economical, can build spacious school rooms. These, once established, our claim upon the public purse will be but small, and we shall always be sure of their patronage.

The school at present consists of 200 boys, and 40 girls

The following statement of the Treasurer's account, exhibits the situation of the funds of the Society:

Free School Society of N. York, in account with Leonard Bleeker, Treasurer.

1808 Dr.	Dolls.	Cts.
To cash paid Treasurer	1198	36
To do. sundry accounts	438	75
To do towards new buildings	879	41
To balance in treasury	5972	53
	8492	05

Dr.	Dolls.	Cts.
By balance from old account,	1631	94
Cash received in donations	163	[illegible]
Do. in subscriptions	254	
Do. from Legislature	1000	
Interest on stock	410	81
Amount of bond and mortgage	5000	
	8489	05

N. B. Amount subscribed, but not yet collected, 649 dolls.

DE WITT CLINTON, President.

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The Circuit Court of the United States for the Pennsylvania district, April Session, 1809, before Judges Washington and Peters.

ODLIN vs. INSURANCE COMPANY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

This was a case for the opinion of the court. It stated that on the 31st of December 1807, the plaintiff caused insurance to be made on the schooner Hazard, valued at 3580 dollars, at and from Philadelphia to Havanna.—The vessel, with a valuable cargo on board, cleared out at the Custom House of Philadelphia on the 21st of December, 1807 and sailed on the voyage insured, but owing to head winds was obliged to stop at Reedy Island, in the river Delaware, and while lying there waiting for a wind, she was arrested, stopped, detained and prevented from proceeding by the officers of a revenue cutter, acting under the authority of the President of the U. States in pursuance of an act of Congress, entitled an act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels, &c. passed on the 22d December, 1807, which act was promulgated by the collector of the port of Philadelphia, on the 24th December, 1807. The said officers took away all the ships papers, The vessel was ordered and returned to Philadelphia and was regularly abandoned by the underwriters.

The question for the opinion of the court, was: Whether, in the facts stated the plaintiffs are entitled to recover for a total loss or a partial loss; or whether the defendants were entitled to judgement.

The case was argued on the 12th and 13th inst. by Hopkins and Dallas, for the plaintiff, and by Rawle and Lewis for the defendants. The same point has occurred in the case of King vs. Delaware insurance company, and was argued by Charles Ingersoll and Tilghman for plaintiff and Condy and Rawle for defendants.

On the part of the plaintiff it was contended that the detention under the embargo was a loss insured against under the words "arrests, restraints, and detainments of all kings, princes and people of what nation, condition or quality soever." These words are general enough to embrace the case; and it must therefore lie on the defendants to shew how or why it is excepted. That an embargo by a foreign power authorises abandonment cannot be denied, and the words equally embrace the case of a domestic embargo, and no reason exists why it should be excluded. They further contended, that though the case had never been expressly decided in England or in our own courts, yet the inclination of the judges as well as that of the elementary writers, appeared clearly to be in favor of the insured right to abandon, in case of a domestic as well as a foreign embargo.

For the defendant, it was contended that the words of the policy did not embrace the case—that if they did, such a contract would be void, as being against the public policy. An insurance is in the nature of a wager.—A wager which is to give a party an interest different from the general interest of the community is void—Wherever a contract of insurance makes it the interest of either party to obstruct a measure, or to prevent the passage or enactment of a measure which the government thinks necessary, and for public good, it is void.—Moreover, an act of Congress is the act of every citizen in the community—the plaintiff himself is one of the framers of an act for which he now claims to recover a large sum of money from the defendants.

The court held the case under advisement, and April 25th, a very able opinion was delivered by the presiding judge Washington, in favor of the insured—That the detention under the embargo being a loss within the words or meaning of the policy, authorized an abandonment; and that the plaintiff was entitled to recover.

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From the Virginia Argus.

THE WHEEL—

OR THE OLD PROVERB DISPROVED,

"*That there is nothing new under the Sun*"

To afford some recreation to our readers from the tedious and monotonous round of politics, we will amuse them with a late discovery upon the round of a wheel, which has excited more enthusiasm and discussion than any of the great political events which have occurred for a long time. The great variety of little clubs in the streets, the ardor of debate, the astonishment of some, the jests of others, and the pursuit of all, was never more striking than upon this rare occasion. It is in truth impossible to conceive what other cause could have produced such a general commotion in every department of the town, from the highest to the lowest. The talents of the divine and the lawyer, the merchant and the huckster, were displayed with equal warmth upon this interesting theme.—If any of the great leading principles of science which have been established for ages, had been seriously denied and contested, it would have interfered very little with the usual routine of business, but as all this discussion was about a *cart wheel*, there was not a mouth which was not open with this question—

"*Does the upper part go faster than the lower?*"

Such was the invincible novelty attached to the position of one part of the wheel going faster than another, that it was many hours before it was possible to get them to listen with the least composure. The famous edict of the king of Thebes, who promised an immense premium for an answer to the question—"What animal is that which goes upon four feet in the morning, upon two at noon, and upon three at night?" could not have occasioned more anxiety throughout Greece than the Cart Wheel has done in Richmond. There never was a subject which drew forth so many and such warm disputants, and purely from this cause, that every body thought, to be sure, they had a right to talk about a cart wheel.

If the question had been addressed in an abstract form, there would have been comparatively perfect silence. But the Cart Wheel has certainly the credit of turning over the secrets of philosophy.—"From little things great effects arise." It was the hammer of a smith that discovered music to Pythagoras, the fall of an apple, gravity to Newton, & a bad Italian Drama gave birth to Paradise Lost. With these examples before us, we cannot doubt but that the Cart Wheel will likewise become the cause of some great discovery, to use the words of Dr. Wallis, in the geometry of motion.

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The following interesting communication from the pen of a gentleman of the very first order of Science, has induced us to forbear from indulging in our own speculations.—His mind seems already to have aspired to some new knowledge of the structure of the Universe, and if his theory should prove true, he will no doubt make some important addition to the *stock of knowledge*. It is entirely to minds of this bold and towering character, that the world is indebted for the most useful and splendid discoveries.

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For the Virginia Argus.

A question in Mechanical Philosophy, has for a few days been a subject of general discussion in this city; which however, trifling as it may appear, yet may lead to very important consequences.

The proposition is this—that the lowest point of a wheel moving along a plane, will for the first ninety degrees of its motion, proceed with less velocity than the highest point, or that which is diametrically opposite.

The simplest principle upon which this proposition may be demonstrated without the assistance of a mathematical figure or diagram, is the following:

The motion of the upper point of the wheel, is compounded of two motions, the rotatory motion of the wheel about its axis, and its progressive mo-