tion along the plane The motion of the lower point, is composed of the rotatory motion about its axis, and a less progressive, which I shall call retrograde motion; because while the upper point revolves forwards, the under point revolves backwards.

Therefore since the rotatory motion of both points is equal, that point whose motion is compounded of a rotatory motion and a retrogade motion, will move slower than the other, whose motion is composed of the same rotatory motion and a progressive one.

The retrograde motion of the lower point continues for a quadrant of a circle, or ninety degrees; and the progressive motion of the upper point continues during the same arch of a circle; but afterwards the lower point becomes progressive, and the upper point retrogade.—Therefore the lowest point of the wheel will for the first ninety degrees, move with less velocity than the highest point.

This proposition, however simple it may seem, appears to have escaped the notice of all our philosophical writers; but a most important corollary may be deduced from it, viz. That one half of the globe during its diurnal rotation moves with greater velocity than the other half. For the motion of the earth round the sun, is precisely the same as that of a wheel along a plane.

The earth has two motions, a diurnal motion round its axis, and an annual motion along the plane of the ecliptic.

The diurnal motion of the earth is similar to the rotatory motion of the wheel, and its motion along the plane of the ecliptic, answers to the progressive motion of the wheel.—This similarity was first suggested to me by a friend in conversing upon the subject, from which I started an idea, however chimerical it may be supposed; yet I feel persuaded that a theory not very unplausible may be founded, to prove that the inequality of the tides, and those phenomena which have been attributed to the moon; principally proceed from a difference of velocity in the two hemispheres of the earth, during the diurnal rotation round her axis.

The greatest discoveries in physics have been made from the simplest phenomena in nature. Sir Isaac Newton formed his system of the gravitation of the planets towards the sun from observing the accidental fall of an apple from a tree, and by that trifling circumstance overturned all the several systems of astronomy which had preceded him; nor should I be astonished, if in like manner his theory of the tides, which for a century has attracted the admiration of the philosophic world, and called forth the ingenuity of Euler, McLaurin and the Bernouillis to support it, should fall prostrate beneath the simple rotation of a Cart Wheel.

J. W.

FROM THE NEW YORK EVENING POST.

Shipwreck and miraculous escape.—We stated in a former paper, that the ship Monticello, from the Lima fell in with the wreck of a vessel at sea, on which was found a man, the last of the crew, who had preserved a precarious existence for a number of days by feeding upon the bodies of his comrades.

This statement was in the first instance considered too extravagant to be true; but it is now well known to be a fact. It was also said that the crew cast lots which of them should die, to sustain the lives of the remainder; but this is not confirmed by the narrative of the survivor. He admits, however, that when any of his comrades died from hunger or thirst, he was driven to the necessity of existing upon their remains.

When the captain of the Monticello took this wretched man on board his ship, he gave him a change of clothes and linen, and would not suffer him to take much sustenance at one time. The first nutriment he gave him was two cups of coffee and a small piece of toast, and by adhering to this system, in the course of a few days, the man was quite restored to health. He proved a most excellent sailor, and was a great acquisition. But it is a curious fact, that not one of the crew of the Monticello would, for a length of time, associate with him, on account of the diet he had fed upon: hoping to cure them of their prejudice, the captain kindly invited the unfortunate seaman to his table; but this had not the desired effect; on the contrary, those persons who usually messed with the captain deserted his table. Time, however, and the general good conduct of the man restored him to the society of his shipmates. In relating to them his sufferings on board the wreck, he abstained, as much as possible, from mentioning the manner of his subsistence; but the crew themselves had witnessed his food hung up in the shrouds, at the time he was taken from the wreck.

Particulars given by the wrecked mariner are these: his name is Thomas Moorhead, a native of the country of Durham; he served his time to the seas in the coal trade; the ship in which he was wrecked was the Acorn, captain M'Leod, of Stockton, to which they were bound from America, when, on the 20th October, a severe gale of wind came on, in which the ship made a great deal of water, and finally filled and overset, in lat. 51, long. 48; by misfortune, the carpenter and a black man, were drowned. In about ten minutes the sea carried away her mainmast and she righted again. At this period the sea made a clear passage over the ship, but she could not well sink, being laden with timber. The master, Andrew Brass and John Simpson, a boy were washed overboard, but at day light the master was washed on board again, having been for some hours clinging to the pieces of the wreck. All hands next proceeded to the foretop, and in five hours time two more of the crew died in consequence of the inclemency of the weather. Soon after the timber-man Francis Bradly, Christopher Baly and Thomas Bales, boys, nearly the whole of the remainder of the hands, were frost bitten. In this deplorable situation they all remained in the top four days, when not a fragrament of the cabin was to be seen. Every thing was washed out of the cabbin windows, except three pieces of meat, which were found in the stern sheets. The ships rudder parted on the 12th of Nov. Thomas Charlston, and the boy Charles English, died on the 23d. The master prolonged a miserable existence to to the 12th of December on which day he died. William Pearson fell a victim to thirst. All the casks of water were swept off the deck when the vessel upset on 31st; the little moisture they procured was from the rain that fell, and which they caught in their hats, &c. in the foretop. The Monticello fell in with the wreck of the Acorn, in lat. 41, long 25, when the Captain humanely sent a long boat for Moorhead. He was taken out of the top where he had been *fifty one* days, and towards the latter end expecting to share the unhappy fate of his companions.

RESOLVED, by the First and Second Chambers of the City Council of Washington, That the Treasurer of the city shall on, or before the first day of August next, collect all monies now due to the Corporation, or shall take all legal measures to recover the same, and shall likewise on or before the said first day of August, render a full statement of his accounts to the City Council, and in default thereof the Mayor is hereby requested to put his bond in suit.

GEORGE ANDREWS,
President of the First Chamber.
E. B. CALDWELL,
President of the Second Chamber.

Treasurers Office, May 15, 1809.

IN pursuance of the above Resolution, and in order to carry the same into full effect, the subscriber will (ten days after this notification) enforce by distress and sale of the property of delinquents, the amount of taxes due the Corporation of the City of Washington without respect to persons.

HENRY WHETCROFT, *Treasurer of Washington City.*

District of Columbia, Washington County, to wit,

ON the petition of ISAAC NORRISS an insolvent debtor confined in the prison of Washington country aforesaid, for debt. Notice is hereby given to the creditors of the said Isaac Norris that on the 29th day of May inst. at the hour of nine o'clock A. M. at the Court Room at Long's tavern the oath prescribed by the act of Congress entitled, "An Act for the relief of insolvent debtors within the District of Columbia," will be administered to the said Isaac Norriss and a Trustee appointed, unless sufficient cause be then and there shewn to the contrary.

It is ordered that this notice be published in the National Intelligencer and Washington Federalist three times a week before that day.

By order of the honorable Wm. Cranch, Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia.

WM BRENT, Clk.

May 15—3t.

INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, APRIL 27, 1809.
(ORDERS.)

ALL Officers of the Army who are on furlough or absent from their respective corps or stations, will report themselves without delay to the Adjutant and Inspector of the Army, Maj. Nicoll, at the city of Washington; stating on what authority they are absent and the period for which their furloughs were given, and all Officers who shall hereafter be absent from their respective corps or stations, will report themselves monthly as herein directed

By order of the Secretary of War,
A. Y. NICOLL, Adj. & Inspector.

☞ Those Printers who are authorised to publish the Laws of the Tenth Congress of the United States are requested to insert the above twice a week for three weeks, and transmit their accounts to the Accountant of the War Department for settlement.

April 28—taw3w

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17.

A ridiculous attempt is made in a number of the opposition prints to derogate from the virtues, talents and services of Mr. Jefferson. We trust, and believe, that the envenomed shafts of malice will fall harmless at the feet of that illustrious man, and will only serve to excite his pity for the abject debasement to which the human character is sunk by indulging the passions of disappointment and revenge. It is his glory, while in office, to have commanded the respect and affection of his countrymen in as high a degree as can ever be expected during the rage of party, and to have retired from office amidst the benedictions of the nation. It manifests a stability and purity of public sentiment, rarely to be found in any country, that the same confidence still attends him in his retirement. The spirit of enmity or envy that now strives to obscure the lustre of such a character will have but an ephemeral existence, and the calumnies that disgrace so many of our presses will soon be either totally forgotten, or be only remembered as testimonials of the depravity of the human heart. Let not these remarks be mistaken or misapplied. They are only applicable to those who criminally impeach the motives of our late President, and basely prostitute truth to answer party ends. They do not apply to the open and honorable adversary, who has all along disapproved the leading policy of his administration, and has uniformly opposed it by fair argument. Many such there are, who would despise to enlist under the banners of falsehood and detraction. For them candor requires that we should make a due indulgence, and admit that in the ardor of discussion they may occasionally overstep the limits of temperance and decorum. But, however their passions may hurry them into unguarded expressions, they will scorn to avail themselves of falsehood on any occasion.

To the honor of these men, it may be said, that they have received the late prompt and decisive measures of the administration towards a reconciliation with England with an unqualified expression of approbation. They have refrained from ascribing these measures to impure or selfish motives, from putting Mr. Madison as Secretary of State in array with Mr. Madison as President of the U. States, or from heaping honors upon him at the expence of his predecessor and friend. Correctly, too, appreciating the dignity of the American character, they have taken no delight in overwhelming with praises a foreign government with a prodigality only equalled by the denunciation of their own government.

The truth is, that nothing can be more preposterous that this attempt to set off the fame of Mr. Madison, by ascribing to him principles as President, which he so ably refuted as Secretary of State. Such an imputation implies that in the latter character he sacrified the independence of his mind to the will of Mr. Jefferson, and exerted the best faculties of that mind in support of principles which in his heart he disapproved. A grosser libel could not, consequently, be cast upon his patriotism.

It is, moreover, as destitute of truth as it is flagitious. There will be found to be no difference between the principles so strenuously maintained, and so ably defended by Mr. Madison as Secretary of State, and the measures recently pursued by him as President of the U. States. The principles maintained by him as Secretary of State were those which uphold neutral rights, grossly violated by the outrage committed on the Chesapeake, and by the British orders in Council. In his character of Secretary of State, an unlimited renewal of commercial intercourse was offered to England, as soon as she made reparation for the first, and revoked the last. This she *then* refused to do, in consequence of which the interdiction of commercial intercourse continued. This she has *now done*; and Mr. Madison, as President, in perfect consistency with the course pursued by him as Secretary, renews the commercial intercourse of the two nations. Ascribe the reparation made by England for the outrage on the Chesapeake and the revocation of her orders to what cause we may, and there will be found to be the same consistency in the conduct of Mr. Madison, as Secretary of State and as President. It has only been ascribed to one or other of three causes and there are none other to which it can be ascribed. These are, 1. The embargo. 2. The reverses in Spain. 3. The passage of the non-intercourse act.

If the Embargo was the genuine cause, Mr. Madison as Secretary of State, from all that appears before the public, approved this measure, and continued to approve it as President. We know of no intimation to the contrary.

If ascribable to the reverses in Spain, Mr. Madison, either as Secretary or President having no influence over them, this cause is one over which he could not have the least control.

If the passage of the Non-Intercourse act was the real cause, that was the measure of Congress, and may, for any thing known to the public, be as conformable to the sentiments of the late, as of the present President. No evidence is, indeed, before the public of its correspondence with either. At any rate, it is clear that as it was enacted before Mr. Madison assumed the Presidency, it cannot mark any hostility between his conduct as President and Secretary of State.

The opposition then are welcome to their triumph at the alleged change which his political sentiments have undergone since his accession to the Presidency. If he has become thus suddenly regenerated, it is by a miracle (if the language be admissible) of their own creation! We, however, say, and the people will say, "judge him by his measures." If these are sound, they will have the justice to ascribe them to upright motives, until other motives are shewn to have dictated them.

But, however reprehensible it may be to charge Mr. Madison with inconsistency, or to trace measures pursued by him, which are admitted to be wise, to selfish or sordid motives, we confess that we feel still stronger indignation at the disgraceful attempt to disturb the repose of Mr. Jefferson by heaping upon him the grossest libels couched in the lowest terms of ribaldry. If these libellers are deaf to the voice of gratitude, are they totally regardless of national character? What must the civilized world think of the malevolence which pursues a distinguished and venerable citizen, long clothed with the richest honors of a happy and approving nation, into the bosom of his retirement, with the renewal of calumnies which have been refuted a thousand times and which can now answer no other end than to gratify a vindictive spirit? Shame upon such atrocity!

At one thing we may rejoice. Let this malignant spirit continue to shed its venom, however copiously, it will only serve to increase, if possible, the ardor of that esteem and respect which has been long felt by the American nation for the sage of Monticello. In vain shall the mean passions of grovelling minds strive to destroy or undermine the fabric of his fame. A grateful country, an enlightened world, will shield him the more firmly with their love and respect. They will remember that he was among the earliest advocates of liberty, and continued to the last moment of his political life its open and able defender; they will trace to his penetrating and fearless genius many of the brightest reforms that distinguish our political institutions; they will look to him, in the occupancy of the highest office that can be conferred by man, as to a model of dignified republican simplicity; they will view him as the powerful and inflexible champion of neutral rights; and without excluding others from a large participation of honor, they will acknowledge that the harvest of peace and prosperity hitherto enjoyed by his country, and likely to continue, s preeminently owing to him.

We perceive by papers received from different parts of the U. States, that the militia held in requisition under the law authorising the calling out 100,000 militia are disbanded.

It appears also that general orders have been given for dismantling the gun boats of the United States, in the various ports, and transferring the seamen to the larger vessels ordered by the law passed last session to be put in service.

Several vessels have arrived in various part of the United States full of French passengers, from Havanna, the unfortunate sufferers in late popular tumults at that place.

The London Gazette of March 18, contains an order in council, dated the 15th inst. for the further suspension of two acts of the 45th of the king, as to duties on certain articles the produce of friendly contries, or coming from ports or in ships in amity with Great Britain As also an order, dated the 16th, for permitting the importation in G. B. of hides, horns, tallow, goat skins, and other articles in foreign ships, on paying the same duties as if imported in British ships, until three months after the ratification of a definitive treaty of peace.

A letter from a merchant in Kingston, Jamaica, dated April 15th, received by a commercial house in New York, says—"Since the American vessels have been allowed to clear out from the States to Spain, Portugal and their dependencies, this market begins to be glutted with flour by vessels from Cuba, and those blown off the coast. A meeting of the inhabitants was called on the 21st ult. and sundry resolutions as to the expediency of petitioning government to exclude American vessels in the event of the embargo being removed, were sent to the mayor: but no person attending to move or second the resolutions, they fell to the ground. Instead of recommending the measure of exclusion, the legislature, that is to meet the 25th instant will, on all American produce imported in American bottoms, impose duties which will produce a considerable revenue. Lumber continues in demand, and white oak staves, with heading for rum puncheons pay extremely well. Pickled fish is scarce & meets with ready sale. Irish provisions are in great plenty. Superfine flour 18 dollars per barrel."

The schooner Clarissa, Wm. Smith, master, from New York bound to St. Jago de Cuba, was on the 2d of April captured by a French privateer commanded by captain J. Forrest, carried into a bay, on the north west part of the island of St. Domingo, where she was robbed of 73 barrels of flour; a British ship heaving in sight prevented these picaroons from taking as much as would load the privateer; the captain of the privateer has shewn his orders from General Berque, (commander in chief of the city of St. Domingo) authorising him to take all kind of provisions he could find, that the French government would be answerable for the same.—He has likewise furnished a receipt, stating the quantity taken, and that the same should be paid for according to the market price at St. Jago de Cuba.

History of Virginia.

The fourth volume of this interesting work, left unfinished by the death of *John D. Burk*, is now in the hands of the author, *Skelton Jones*, Esq. and we understand the manuscript will in a short time be ready for the printer. The delay in the publication of the last volume, has arisen from some unexpected difficulties in the collection of facts and materials; a considerable stock of which, it was generally supposed, was left by Mr. Jones's predecessor, but upon investigation, it appears that Mr. Burk did not leave behind him, either in manuscript or print, one single document, relative to Virginian History, of a later date than the attack on Norfolk, in 1775. The task, therefore, which Mr. Jones had to perform, was, the labor of collecting materials for an entire work, commencing with the revolutionary war. It is with pleasure we inform our readers that the most formidable obstacles have already been surmounted, and that but little now remains to retard the final completion of the work. *Petersburg paper.*

New York, May 5.

The ship Two Marys, Riley, of this port, and the brig Edward of Philadelphia, with their cargoes, were condemned by the Council of Prizes at Paris, on the 21st December, 1808. An appeal was made for the Two Marys, to the Gouncil of State, who have confirmed the decision, and both vessels and cargoes were definitively condemned about the first of March last.

Charleston, May 6.

By the brig Eliza, captain Taylor, arrived yesterday morning in 10 days from St. Bartholomews, we learn that the British troops under General Beckwith, and the naval forces under Admiral Cochrane, after having taken Martinico have proceeded against the island of Guadaloupe. The Saints, two fortified islands near Guadaloupe, were the first object of their attack.—A French squadron, consisting of three ships of the line and five frigates (part of the fleet which lately escaped from Brest) were lying there at anchor.—About the 17th ult. the British commenced the bombardment of the Forts, which were surrendered to them on the 19th or 20th. The French squadron finding that the whole island must ultimately surrender, departed in the night; but as Admiral Cochrane's force, consisting of four sail of the line, three frigates and four brigs, were lying at anchor close in with the harbor, the Frenchmen were not expected to escape. The French Admiral on passing Admiral Cochrance, poured a broadside into his ship; the British squadron immediately gave chase, when the French frigates effected their escape into Point Petre, but the line of battle ships stood out to sea. The last information which reached St. Bartholomews respecting them, left Admiral Cochrane in chase, while one of the British brigs had gained so much on the French s