National Intelligencer

& WASHINGTON ADVERTISER

VOL. IX. | WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. | NO. 1401.

FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, | MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1809. | PAID IN ADVANCE.

THE *National Intelligencer* is conducted by SAMUEL H. SMITH, and JOSEPH GALES, Jun. and printed at the office of the *former*, to whom subscribers and correspondents are requested to address themselves.

The annual price, payable in advance, is *Five Dollars*.

ADVERTISEMENTS, not exceeding one square in breadth, are inserted the first time at *fifty cents*, and for every subsequent insertion *twenty-five cents*. If inserted less than three times *a Dollar* is charged. If inserted but once a week, an addition of one-fourth part is made. Other advertisements charged in the same ratio.

FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS.

Lazaretto, Sept. 21.

Dear Sir—Through the politeness of an officer of the St. Domingo garrison, I have obtained an official statement of the prices of provisions shortly before the capitulation of the French troops in that city to the Spanish and British army. I transmit you a translation of the maximum of prices in the month of April. It furnishes data whereby may be amply estimated the extreme sufferings of the French troops during their eight months siege.

Maximum of the prices in St. Domingo, in the month of April 1809; the most critical period of the siege of that place, both by sea and land, in consequence of the excessive scarcity of most articles of food.

Wheat Flour,	per pound	$1 00
Do. bread	30 ounces	6 00
*Manioc root,	per bag	60 00
Do. made into bread, per cake		1 00
Starch, procured from Guyoaca*	per lb.	50
Rice	per lb.	50
Corn	do.	60
Rum	per bottle	6 00
Negro rum,	per demijohn	60 00
Inferior wine (there being none of good quality)	per bottle	2 00
Sugar,	per lb.	3 00
Coffee,	do.	62 1-2
Sweet oil,	per bottle	6 00
Fresh meat, beef or pork,	per lb.	2 00
Fresh mules flesh,	per lb.	75
Do horse	do. do.	1 00
Do. dogs	do do.	75
Cats*	per individual	2 00
Domestic parrots,	do.	1 50
Common fowls	do.	10 00
Turkies	do.	20 00
Eggs	do.	37 1-2
Spanish hides†	do.	1 50
Dog skins	do.	1 00
Do. do. cooked and prepared in the manner of a cheese, and other forms,	per pound	50
Salt pork, sold by parcels	per bl.	700 00
Ham	per pound	2 00
Butter and lard	do.	3 00
Dogs fat	do.	2 00
Fish	do.	1 50
Cheese	do.	2 00
Candles	do.	6 00
Candles (wax) made in the island,	lb.	3 50
Soap per square (about 5lbs.)		12 00
Plaintains (banana's)	per dozen	2 00
Beans	per pound	1 00

The French inhabitants of the city who had established gardens at the commencement of the siege, sold other vegetables at a moderate price. The supplies however, thus afforded, proved insufficient; and the grass which grew along the streets was eaten. With regard to the articles of provisions not enumerated in the above statement, we may assert that they were entirely wanting, or confined to very few families.

We, the subscribers, certify the above maximum of prices, to be correct. Certified by us, the Mayor of the city.

(Signed) GAZAN.

Conet Monteroy, The President of the Supreme Court.

Chambai Feneyrol, Imperial-Attorney-general.

☞ The articles marked thus (*) are tuberaceous productions, which when eaten in their crude or natural state, are deleterious—It is in consequence of a certain mode of treatment alone, that they become esculent.

* Rats were not sold, but were eaten by those who had the good fortune to catch them.

† This article would have been sold at a much higher price, but for the generosity of M. Boulard who had about 1200 in his store house, before the commencement of the siege, and sold them at the rate mentioned.

FROM THE COURIER.

[*Published at the request of the Agricultural Society of South Carolina.*]

To the President and Members of the Agricultural Society.

BELVIDERE, *February* 1, 1809.

GENTLEMEN,

As every discovery which may tend to promote the interests of our country, by the application of its vegetable productions, to beneficial purposes, must be a subject of importance to, and come within the view of a society established for promoting the agricultural concerns thereof, I take the liberty of communicating to you an account of some experiments which I have made, and which I think have completely succeeded.

Knowing that the Palmetto trees, which had been hitherto used only as logs in the construction of wharves, resisted the attack of those worms which are so injurious to all other kinds of wood under water, and that it did not decay, but, on the contrary, acquired, in that element, a degree of solidity capable of resisting the stroke of an axe; it occurred to me that if it could be made use of in the form of boards it might be applied to many valuable uses, particularly in protecting the bottoms of our ships, trading in southern latitudes, from the ravages of that destructive insect; but, being, apparently, of a loose spungy texture within, I was doubtful of the result. I, however, determined to make the experiment, and accordingly sawed a number of boards, sufficient to sheath a small rowing boat, which I kept moored through the whole summer of 1792, in a situation exposed to their attack. In the following winter she was examined by several persons of judgment, concerned in shipping and commerce, who decided in favor of the experiment; the sheathing was found to be perfectly sound, and had not been injured by the smallest degree by the worm. I also, at the same time, sheathed a two inch pine plank with a Palmetto board 3-4ths of an inch thick, and moored it near the boat; it was taken up in the winter and examined, when the Palmetto was found to be as free from worms as the day it was put into the water, but the pine was perforated in a variety of places, and almost entirely destroyed; this boat was lost about five or six years after having been sheathed, during which time nothing was done to her bottom, except paying it once a year.

In the latter end of the summer of 1806, I sheathed with these boards one of my mill boats, of 100 bbls. of rice burthen, from which time she was constantly employed between the mill and Charleston, until last December, when she was put upon the Hard and graved; her bottom was found to be very foul, with large oysters, barnacles and weeds upon it, but was perfectly sound and tight: and during the whole period of two years, in which she was constantly employed (without being scraped or graved) in carrying rice from the mill to Charleston, or in transporting from the mouth of the creek to the mill the cargoes of rough-rice, principally in bulk, brought there by the coasters; she did not injure a bushel of it. I also sheathed, with these boards, all the wooden works about my mill exposed to the worm, which sheathing has fully preserved them from injury, and I am now employed in doing the same to all my flats and boats, of every description, and in short, to every thing within the reach of this pernicious insect.

I understand that pine sheathing will not last, with the greatest care, more than two years, that copper of the best sort, upon sea vessels, will be worn out in about four or five years, and that it cannot be used at all upon vessels liable to touch the ground, as coasters are; whereas the Palmetto will be as sound as the day it was put on, when the vessel which was sheathed with it shall be entirely decayed; and that it is not more liable than pine to injury from the grounding of the vessel.—The expence of this sheathing, in the first instance, will, I suppose, be less than that of pine, as the boards will not cost much more than pine, and it is not necessary to put any sheathing-paper between it and the skin of the vessel—the expence of sheathing with copper is about [illegible] times as much as sheathing with pine. It appears, therefore, that after a vessel is sheathed with Palmetto there is an end of all expence upon this score, but if pine or copper are made use of, the former must be renewed every two years, and the latter every four or five, when the same expences as at first must be again incurred.

If the society shall be of opinion, that any further experiments should be made to ascertain the superior advantages of this kind of sheathing over every other at present in use, I will undertake them with pleasure. I have, however, to request that they will appoint a committee to examine in the strictest manner the experiments that have been made, to decide upon the merits of the discovery, and whether it possesses those superior advantages that I suppose it does. I present the society specimens of the boards.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
THOMAS SHUBRICK.

P. S. I omitted mentioning in its proper place, that the abovementioned mill boat, which I sheathed in the latter end of 1806, was then so leaky from being worm-eaten, that I must have given her an entire new bottom if I had not sheathed her.

The Committee to whom Col. Shubrick's letter relative to the useful purposes to which Palmetto plank may be applied, was referred,

REPORT:

That they visited the Colonel's plantation of Belvidere, and accurately examined one of his mill-boats carrying 100 barrels of rice, which had been sheathed with Palmetto plank, the latter end of the summer of 1806, from which time, till December, 1808, though in constant service in salt water, she had neither been graved or paid with any kind of stuff. Your committee had the sheathing dubbed in their presence in the part most liable to the attack of the worm, and found it solid, in good order, and not injured by the worm. They did indeed on a scrupulous search perceive a few, and only a few, very small holes which they thought, but are by no means sure, had been made by the worms, but they had penetrated but a very little way in the sheathing, and your committee attributes their having penetrated at all (if they did penetrate,) to the omission of graving and paying the vessel for the space of upwards of two years, whilst vessels sheathed with pine are usually graved and payed at least twice a year. These small holes were so few and so shallow that they did not appear at all to have injured the Palmetto; and the committee were confirmed in their opinion, that these minute holes were entirely owing to the omission of graving and paying the vessel, from their dubbing and examining of the Dolphin, another mill-boat of the same burthen, belonging to the Colonel, part of whose Palmetto sheathing in the most exposed situation had been put on above five years ago, but having been regularly graved and payed, your committee after the most attentive scrutiny, could not observe the appearance of any hole in it. Your committee also examined some other works appertaining to the Colonel's mill, in which Palmetto plank had been used, and they were found altogether free from the worm. Your committee altogether coincide in the opinion which the Colonel has expressed in his letter of the great advantages which would result from the use of Palmetto plank in salt water, and to the cases enumerated by him, they beg leave to add the advantages arising from its great pliability, which would render the expence of steaming unnecessary to bend it to the bows and sterns of vessels.

Your committee desirous in a matter of so much utility, to obtain the best assistance in their inquiry, requested captain George Cross, late captain of the United States frigate John Adams, to accompany them in this investigation; and in a letter to the chairman, annexed to this report, he has expressed his sentiments fully on the advantages which will result from the sheathing of vessels with this material: to which letter we beg leave to refer.

Your committee are so deeply impressed with the advantages which must arise from the application of this plank to the sheathing of vessels, and to the protection of all wooden works in salt water, from the destructive ravages of the worm, that they most warmly recommend the use of it; and are of opinion that the first gold medal of this society, (when struck agreeably to a former resolution) should be presented to Colonel Shubrick, for his discovery of the valuable and economical purposes to which Palmetto plank may be applied.

CHARLESTON, AUG. 19, 1809.

Gen. Charles C. Pinckney.

SIR,

In answer to your favor of yesterday respecting Col. Shubrick's plan of sheathing vessels with Palmetto, I can only form my opinion, from what I have seen, not having any previous knowledge of the qualities or substance of the Palmetto. On viewing the vessel at Belvedere, sheathed with the wood, and understanding that she had been in actual service for near three years, I was much surprised on examination, when you and Mr. Huger were present, to find the sheathing, on dubbing it where most liable to be injured, so perfect and free from the worm, it appeared to me capable of running for years to come; it is true I observed some very small holes seemingly perforated by the worm, but had not entered any depth of consequence, and when I considered, (as I was informed) that the said vessel, had not been graved or paid, with any kind of stuff, since being sheathed, which which is usually done at least twice a year, I think I may say with safety that there is not any other kind of wood sheathing known in this country that would have lasted one third of the time, under the same circumstances, I have known several cases, where ships have been new sheathed, have taken a cargo on board, and prepared for sea, but, owing to different causes, have been delayed, not more than six or seven weeks, when they have been so much wormed, or worm eaten, as to occasion the vessel to unload her cargo and repair again before she could proceed on her voyage, therefore I think the advantage of sheathing with the Palmetto must be evident to all those concerned in the coasting trade particularly. In respect to vessels employed on long voyages, where the friction is more constant than laying in still water, every precaution ought to be used, for fear of the nails working out and the plank dropping of, I would therefore recommend that the boards should be sawed early, and well seasoned and plained, before they should be made use of and that the nails should be something longer than the common kind used, so as to have a good hold in the main bottom, and the heads should be such as are termed rose; copper would be much better than iron, particularly if there should be any acid in the wood.

It is out of my power to say more on this subject, but I think from what I have seen, that the Palmetto sheathing is well worthy of trial.

I am with great respect,
Your most obedient servant,
GEORGE CROSS.

Extract from a note written by Samuel Wragg, Esq. accompanying a piece of Palmetto given to him by Mr. Marsh a ship carpenter.

"The piece of Palmetto sent was taken up by Mr. Marsh, the ship builder, from the bottom of the wharf, and is supposed to be one of the original pieces put down by General Gadsen—On a re-examination of it, it appears that the worms only attempted the bark, but as you will see invariably stopt at the fibrous part of the wood—It furnishes then an additional proof that the Palmetto board cannot be eaten by the worms."

N. B. The holes in the bark of the Palmetto were not made by the worm which is so destructive to all kinds of wood in salt water, but are lodgements made by a shell fish, as plainly appears by the remains of some of them now there.

The Society having paid great attention to the above letters and report, unanimously vote that a *Gold Medal* of the Society shall be presented to Col. Shubrick.

JOHN CHAMPNEYS.
President.

Agricultural Farm,
18th September, 1809.

From the (Boston) Anthology.

INDIAN SPEECH.

[*In the summer of 1805, a number of the principle Chiefs and Warriors of the Six nations of Indians, principally Senecas, assembled at Buffalo Creek, in the state of N. York, at the particular request of a gentleman missionary from the state of Massachusetts.* The missionary being furnished with an interpreter, and accompanied by the Agent of the U. S. for Indian affairs, met the Indians in council when the following talk took place.*]

FIRST, BY THE AGENT.

"*Brothers of the Six Nations*; I rejoice to meet you at this time, and thank the Great Spirit, that he has preserved you in health, and given me another opportunity of taking you by the hand.

"*Brothers*; The person who sits by me, is a friend who has come a great distance to hold a talk with you.—I will inform you what his business is, and it is my request that you would listen with attention to his words."

MISSIONARY. "*My Friends*; I am thankful for the opportunity afforded us of uniting together at this time. I had a great desire to see you and enquire into your state and welfare; for this purpose I have travelled a great distance, being sent by your old friends, the Boston Missionary Society. You well recollect they formerly sent missionaries among you to instruct you in religion, and labor for your good. Although they have not heard from you for a long time, yet they have not forgotten their brothers, the Six Nations, and are still anxious to do you good.

"*Brothers*; I have not come to get your lands or your money, but to enlighten your minds, and to instruct you how to worship the Great Spirit agreebly to his mind and will, and to preach to you the gospel of his son Jesus Christ. There is but one religion, and but one way to serve God, and if you do not embrace the right way, you cannot be happy hereafter. You have never worshipped the Great Spirit in a manner acceptable to him; but have all your lives been in great errors and darkness.—To endeavor to remove these errors, and open your eyes, so that you might see clearly, is my business with you.

"*Brothers*; I wish to talk with you as one friend talks with another; and, if you have any objections to receive the religion which I preach, I wish you to state them; and I will endeavor to satisfy your mind, and remove the objections.

"*Brothers*; I want you to speak you minds freely; for I wish to reason with you on the subject, and, if possible, remove all doubts, if there be any on your minds. The subject is an important one, and it is of consequence that you give it an early attention while the offer is made you. Your friends, the Boston Missionary Society, will continue to send you good and faithful ministers; to instruct and and strengthen you in religion, if, on your part, you are willing to receive them.

"*Brothers*; Since I have been in this part of the country, I have visited some of your small villages, and talked with your people. They appear willing to receive instruction, but, as they look up to you as their older brothers in council, they want first to know your opinion on the subject.

"You have now heard what I have to propose at present. I hope you will take it into consideration, and give me an answer before we part."

[*After about two hours consultation among themselves, the chief commonly called by the white people, Red Jacket* rose and spoke as follows:*]

"*Friend and Brother*; It was the will of the Great Spirit that we should meet together this day. He orders all things, and has given us a fine day for our council. He has taken his garment from before the sun, and caused it to shine with brightness upon us. Our eyes are opened, that we see clearly; our ears are unstopped, that we have been able to hear distinctly the words you have spoken. For all these favors we thank the great spirit; and HIM *only*.

"*Brother*; This council fire was kindled by you. It was at your request that we came together at this time. We have listened with attention to what you have said. You requested us to speak our minds freely. This gives us great joy; for we now consider that we stand upright before you, and can speak what we think. All have heard your voice, & all speak to you now as one man. Our minds are agreed.

"*Brother*; You say you want an answer to your talk before you leave this place. It is right you should have one, as you are a great distance from home, and we do not wish to detain you. But we will first look back a little, and tell you what our fathers have told us, and what we have heard from the white people.

"*Brother*; Listen to what we say.

"There was a time when our forefathers owned this great island. Their seats extend from the rising to the setting sun. The Great Spirit had

* Rev. Mr. Cram.

* His Indian name is Sagu-yu-what-hah, which interpreted is Keeper awake.