he was so well begun, and we shall consider it our duty to give notice to the public of the progress and completion of the work, that those who may be desirous of benefiting themselves and their country may obtain every information, that can enable or stimulate them to exert themselves with effect :—

—

We have the pleasure to inform the lovers of domestic improvements, that a satisfactory experiment, at which we were present, was lately made in this city, by Mr. Thomas Leiper, of the great utility of rail-ways, for the conveyance of heavy burthens—an improvement which was a few years ago introduced in England, and some other parts of Europe, as, in many cases, a cheap and valuable substitute for canals.

In the above experiment, a rail-way was laid of two paralel courses of oak scantling about four feet apart, supported on blocks or sleepers about 8 feet from each other. On this rail-way which had an ascent of one inch and a half in the yard, or 2° 23', a single horse, under the disadvantage of a path of loose earth to walk on hauled up a four wheeled carriage, loaded with the enormous weight of 95 1 2 hundred, or 10,695 pounds.

We are informed, that Mr. Leiper is about to lay a rail-way at Crum Creek, in Delaware county, for the conveyance of stone, from his quarry to the landing ; a distance of about one mile.

R. PATTERSON,
*Professor Math. University of Pennsylvania.*

CALLENDER IRVINE,
*Supt. U. S.*

JOHN GLENN,
*Agent for Thos. Leiper.*

—

*Being called on by Thomas Leiper, Esq. to view his newly made truck waggon, fixed on the rail-way of about 21 yards in length, for the purpose of making experiments, exhibited in the yard of the Bull Tavern, in the Northern Liberties—*

*I took the precise acclevity of the said rail or draught way, and found it to rise at the rate of one inch and a half to the yard.*

READING HOWELL,
*Engineer.*

*Philad. July 31st, 1809.*

## LATE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

*London, Aug. 8.*—The extraordinary Gazette gives a very clear and satisfactory narrative of the first proceedings of the grand expedition.—Every thing has been done with skill and promptitude, and the violence of the westerly wind which created considerable apprehensions here for the safety of the ships, and which might have done much damage had the troops been reduced to the necessity of attempting the landing on the western coast of Walcheren was not productive of the least injury, the fleet having been carried with distinguished skill by Sir Home Popham through the narrow and difficult passage into the Veer Gat. The enemy did not suppose that we were acquainted with the practicability of proceeding thro' this passage, and hence the landing was effected without any opposition from the enemy, and without any damage from the violence of the westerly wind. The Earl of Chatham was amongst the first that landed. The progress of the troops, from the landing and the capture of Middleburg Veer, and Rammekens and the complete investment of Flushing, it were unnecessary to follow, the dispatches having traced it with clearness. We shall only observe, that not a moment was lost in accomplishing the first object of the expedition. The troops landed on the 30th ult. and by the 3d, South Beveland, and Walcheren, with the exception of Flushing were in our possession. The reduction of Schowen and Cadsand was in the first contemplation of the projectors of the expedition. As we do not however find that any thing has been attempted against those two islands, we take it for granted that they will not be attacked, or perhaps not attacked in the first instance. This alteration may have been produced by the armistice, which has rendered it of importance to proceed to the ulterior operation of the expedition with all possible speed. The possession of Walcheren and South Baveland will probably be sufficient. Flushing will no doubt fall soon—In all likelihood it has fallen by this time—But even if the capture of it should occupy more time than we conjecture it will, it will not retard the ulterior operations. A force will be left sufficient for its reduction, and the other divisions will be moved on. This we collect from the dispatches from Sir R. Strachan, which are of a later date than those from the Earl of Chatham. They, for ... in his ... —

"When the Rammekens battery is taken, we hope to pass the lighter vessels to the Western Scheldt, for the purpose of following up the other objects of the expedition."

The transports and frigates can all be got through the Slough, and no time will be lost in sending the troops by this passage into the West Scheldt for the purpose of carrying on further operations. By the time we are in the West Scheldt by this passage, Flushing will probably have surrendered. The Marquis of Huntley whose division was originally destined for Cadsand, and which remained at the date of late dispatches in the Wieling Passage, will then push on into the West Scheldt, together with the ships of the line ; and the whole army, with the exception of the troops necessary to be left in Walcheren and Baveland, will be available "for the purpose of following up the other objects of the expedition."

Walcheren, once taken, will, we trust, be annexed to the British possessions. It makes us completely masters of the East and West Scheldt, and Bonaparte may build what vessels he pleases at Antwerp—there let them remain and rot. And that it is the intention of ministers to keep Walcheren, is inferred from the articles granted to the town of Middleburg, the capital of the island—security is, by the answer to the first article, granted, —"provided they conduct themselves as peaceable citizens and conform to such regulations as will be *hereafter established by the authority of the British government.*"

In what manner the ulterior operations in the Scheldt will be conducted, whether, while the army proceeds along the banks of the Scheldt, the ships of the line will endeavor to force their way up to Antwerp, we are as yet uninformed.—Attempts are making to alarm us with the report that our armament is likely to be opposed at Antwerp by Napoleon in person. Neither our soldiers nor seamen would have any objection to fight him in person, provided he did not bring an immense superiority against them. For instance if he would only fight them with the superiority in numbers which his general had over general Stuart at Maido, or over Sir Arthur Wellesley at Vameira. But the accounts from Vienna mention Bonaparte's departure from that city only as rumor ; we rather think that Bernadotte will be employed. He has left the army at Vienna, and is gone in great haste to France. What force has been collected in the Netherlands we know not. Jerome Bonaparte is too well occupied by his own subjects to send his army out of his own territories. Will Bonaparte detach a strong force from his army on the Danube ? If peace has not been signed, he will not weaken his force in that quarter.

In part of our impression yesterday we communicated the contents of the Hamburgh papers to the 30th, Berlin to the 26th, and Vienna to the 16th, which we received at a late hour in the morning.

They shew us the almost universal discontent which the Armistice has produced both in the Austrian army & amongst the German people—We find part of the army again occupying Dresden after the Armistice—We find the Duke of Brunswick paying no attention to it, and pursuing his operations—Above all we find the Count de Guilay, with the division of the army which he commands at Gratz, refusing to give up that Citadel, though summoned to do so by the French. We remark also that in the Valley of the Inn, the Austrians, though informed of the armistice, refused to discontinue hostilities, and made a furious attack upon the Bavarians. The Tyroleans, too, the Brave Tyroleans, pay no attention to the Armistice, but continue their incursions into Bavaria, and harrass the Bavarians wherever they meet with them. In Hanover the people are ripe for insurrection—In Hesse the same. May we indulge the hope that, seeing all these sypmtoms, Austria may yet determine not to break the heart of the Continent entirely and may renew hostilities—Such a hope we are aware will be pretty generally scouted and we confess we do not suggest it with confidence.

—

*Augsburg, July 30.*—Certain intelligence has reached us, that after the departure of the Duke of Ragusa, the Austrians almost instantly again took possession of a part of Lower Stiria ; but the province will, by virtue of the armistice of Znaim be shortly given up to the French troops. It essentially contributes, at the present moment, by its fertility, to the supply of Lower Austria and particularly of Vienna, with provisions. Gratz, the capital, is one of the most important towns belonging to the Austrian Monarchy. Marshal Macdonald's corps has been ordered to take up cantonments in the province.

# WASHINGTON CITY.

*WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4.*

Mr. *Erskine* on Monday presented his letters of recal, and took leave of the President ; and Mr. *Jackson* was yesterday presented to him.

—

*Potomac to Wappocomo No. 2, is inadmissible.*

—

*Extract of a letter from a respectable merchant in Philadelphia, to his friend in the city of Washington, dated September 29, 1809.*

"I have seen letters from Naples and Leghorn, by the Kite, dated the 10th of August, from well informed men, stating that the negociation was broken off between Armstrong and Hauterive, and that orders had been received at Naples to buy up all the colonial produce in the place."

[Other letters of co-temporaneous date, received from Naples, merely mention the foregoing as a rumor to which no credit was attached. Letters from Holland and papers from England several days later are altogether silent on the subject. Had an event of such importance occurred, we should doubtless have heard of it from these sources.]

## MARYLAND ELECTIONS.

### PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY.

| FEDERAL. | Up. Marl. | Bladenub. | Vansville. | Nottingh. | Piscat. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F. Magruder | 167 | 139 | 92 | 130 | 318 | 846 |
| E. H. Calvert | 165 | 140 | 91 | 139 | 328 | 863 |
| J. C. Herbert | 159 | 131 | 100 | 130 | 325 | 845 |
| C. S. Peirce | 157 | 132 | 90 | 147 | 312 | 838 |
| REPUBLICAN. | | | | | | |
| R. Bowie | 125 | 123 | 266 | 239 | 65 | 818 |
| W. Lyles | 124 | 123 | 262 | 222 | 95 | 826 |
| J. Cross | 128 | 131 | 270 | 224 | 63 | 816 |
| J. Kent | 119 | 126 | 265 | 214 | 63 | 787 |

John Darnall was elected Sheriff by a large majority.

In Montgomery County there was no opposition to the federal ticket.

—

*September 30, 1809.*

*At a meeting of Citizens held at Lindsay's Tavern, pursuant to public notice, for the purpose of establishing a Mutual Insurance Company.*

ROBT BRENT, Esq. was appointed Chairman ; and

N. KING, Secretary,

It was then *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to prepare and draft articles of association for a Mutual Insurance Company against loss from Fire ; and that the said committee be authorised to call a meeting of the citizens for the purpose of deciding on the same.

*The following were the persons appointed on the committee :* N. King, W. Brent, John Davidson, Edm. Law, Alex. Kerr, Joseph Huddleston, Jas. Davidson, Wm. Cooper, and George Blagden.

TEST,
N. KING, *Secretary.*

—

*Defence of the administration of Thomas Jefferson.—No. IX.*

Having closed our detailed view of the internal measures pursued during Mr. Jefferson's administration, we are naturally brought to a consideration of the *general* situation of the country. Is it prosperous or wretched ? The answer to this inquiry will conclusively decide, independently of every other consideration, the merits of his administration. For if it be prosperous, its prosperity must flow either directly from the measures of the government, or virtually from the government having abstained from every measure calculated to check the natural progress of the country.

Let the appeal then be carried to the conscience of every honest man, by requiring a true answer to the following questions.

Is there a political right dear to freemen that has been invaded during Mr. Jefferson's administration ?

Is there at present a human being who can justly affirm that he is not in the actual enjoyment of all the liberty that is compatible with a good government ?

Has the right of suffrage, in any part of the union, been abridged ?

Has it not, on the contrary, been greatly extended ?

Have the broad principles of religious liberty in a single instance been violated ?

Has the property of any one been invaded ?

Is there not, at this moment, the securest enjoyment of liberty, religion and property ?

Has there been any increase of public burthens ?

On the contrary, has there not been a great reduction of them, connected with a redemption of thirty millions of the public debt ?

Has not the quota of taxes paid by each individual sensibly diminished, so much so, that at present only one dollar and sixty cents are annually paid, while at the commencement of Mr. Jefferson's administration two dollars and eighteen cents were annually paid by each individual ?

Have not the numbers of our people increased in as rapid a ratio as has ever before been known on the face of the earth, and is not this an unequivocal evidence of prosperity ?

Has not our wealth increased in the same, if not in an accelerated ratio ?

Has the laborer, during the whole of Mr. Jefferson's administration, wanted employment, or the capitalist been unable to find objects for a lucrative business ?

Have not monied institutions, evincive of the great accumulation of riches, sprung up in every part of the union ; and have they not all prospered ?

Have not the arts that contribute to comfort risen with unexpected vigor, and those that embellish life evinced a sensible progress ?

Do we not ourselves, as well as the whole civilised world, consider our national existence, liberty and prosperity as placed upon firmer foundations than were thought to support them at the commencement of Mr. Jefferson's administration ?

Is there an American citizen, or intelligent foreigner, that will not admit that our situation, compared with that of any other nation, is happy and even enviable ?

Finally, is there an American, who can put his hand on his heart, and affirm that the situation of his country is less prosperous now than at the commencement of Mr. Jefferson's administration he expected it would be ?

These various questions admit of but one reply, which proves the existence of a solid internal prosperity, that, it may be safely pronounced, has never been the lot any other people.

A nation thus prosperous within may bid defiance to foreign injustice. Its prosperity is indeed abundant proof of its invulnerability, and, consequently, (whatever delusion may temporarily prevail,) of the impotence of the folly that sports with its feelings and tramples upon its rights.

—

*For the National Intelligencer.*

## ESSAY ON THE ÆRA OF THE WORLD.

In seeking for data by which to estimate the age of this Globe, the minds of enquirers appear to have been distracted by a variety of unavailing conjectures. The chronologies of the Eastern nations have been adverted to by some in the hope of establishing an hypothesis subversive of the Mosaic. But their researches have not been attended with any satisfactory results, and the investigation which the subject has obtained from the learned and impartial Sir William Jones fully establishes the apocryphal nature of that evidence which was so triumphantly adduced for anti-christian purposes.

Nor do the sanguine expectations of those who expected from the labors of Bonaparte's literati in Egypt, appear to be satisfied on this interesting question by the discoveries which they have made ; notwithstanding the earnestness with which that object was pursued ; for the distances of time, marked by their diagrams, fail in satisfactory disclosure, for want of a knowledge of the different periods to which they were adjusted, and which probably being confined to the priests, became extinct with the religions which cherished them.

The lavas of Vesuvius furnished to a sagacious geologist, who perforated the superincumbent stratas of successive eruptions, marking the progress of decomposition in its substance by the accumulation of earth interlaying the respective strata of lava, and from the term requisite to produce this earth fit for vegetation, deduced from the same causes operating on the surface, in a similar way, have given ground to refer to the Globe a very high antiquity, and far beyond what the Mosaic account appears to indicate.

The poetical traditions which have handed down to us the accounted fictions of a golden and a silver age should not perhaps be entirely disregarded, as poets were in fact the historians of early times ; in an age when perhaps the art of writing was unknown, he whose exuberant fancy could interest the passions in his narrative, was alone entitled to receive the attention and rewards of an audience. But, independent of this cause of historic confusion, modern ingenuity has often attempted the translation of the rude and epic ancient prose into modern verse. The coincidence between profane and sacred testimony in this respect, both representing the earlier as happier than the succeeding ages, and the references in each being made to no very distant periods, are corroborating proofs of the general correctness of the fact.

It must always be recollected that the divine books, being a compend of that religion, which embraces the eternal relations of man ; and not a mere sketch of Mundane transactions, for temporary, political or philosophical purposes, except as those stood connected with the revealed laws of the Deity ; cannot therefore be expected to be determinate in chronological dates. The allegorical style in which, many of its parts are composed, which, in the dark ages, was equally astonishing to the unlearned, and is still, with some of our co-temporaries, a fruitful source of misconception, though reason and industry have succeeded in obviating many difficulties which credulity preferred at once to attribute to supernatural causes, rather than to labor in the search of their natural ones : in the early ages the emblematic, or hieroglyphical science, the reliques of which have descended to us in the Egyptian, Grecian and Persian mythologies, and in the Hebrew theology, and this science which was the medium of knowledge to its early professors, has become the veil to hide from the view of the moderns much of the most interesting history of antiquity.

The observations made on the progress of civilization have induced many to suppose that perfection in the arts was the result of slow and repeated discovery ; and under the impression that man in his most original state was a mere savage have been predicated the opinions that a vast space of time was necessary to bring him to that state of perfection in which he is placed in some countries by the most antique testimony. But how can we assent to this supposition when we consider that both sacred and profane history represent man as having very much depreciated since his original formation, and by the monuments yet remaining of his ingenuity of indefinite antiquity, we may be led rather to suppose that he possessed in the beginning accomplishments, genius and capacities which were not transmitted in similar extent to posterity, the memory of many inventions having perished in after times, as if their comprehension and retention were no longer possible, when their effects remained still visible. This does not prove a gradual progress in knowledge and the arts, agreeably to the philosophy of the day, and the generally received opinions, but almost the reverse.

But to approach more nearly to the object of this enquiry ; for the honor of mankind it may be said, that at no preceding period has their intercourse been so unlimited, or profitable in the way of scientific research. Travellers have generally, on setting out, some specific objects in view for investigation, and though those subjects have assumed a desirable extension, it will readily be admitted that there are still many remaining unexplored.

Amongst others, it may be observed, that in countries where large rivers have, from their formation, borne the soil of their banks from their sources towards the sea, extensive alluvions have been formed, corresponding to the magnitude and rapidity of the stream, the nature of the soil of its bed, and the facilities of deposition. Along the Atlantic coast of the United States, the formation of this species of land has been much impeded by the current of the gulph, which floating off the lighter particles of soil on their efflux into the ocean, left the heavier sands to form those flats which now constitute in most parts of the Southern states, the Atlantic margin ; the former being carried on towards the banks of Newfound land by the stream of the gulph, affords additional accretions to those emerging regions.

It is not known that any remarks have been made, with views similar to the present, on the alluvions of those great rivers, the Ganges, Nile, Indus, La Plate, or Mississippi, for the purpose of forming an estimate of the time they have respectively been in forming, but such an enquiry would appear to supply very important data for ascertaining the periods of their origin, and consequently of the formation of the earth itself.

The large rivers of the Eastern and middle states offer traces too vaguely defined for a reference of this nature, but the Mississippi will be found highly favorable. Its alluvion extends from the ancient shore, (which is distinctly marked by a steep acclivity, as well as the distinctive properties of soil), to the sea, in a direct line 156 miles, and in its meandering course 255 miles ; and, is formed in two parallel ridges, divided longitudinally by the river, and sloping gently on each side towards the sea. The waters at all seasons thickened by a saponaceous earth, which it deposits as it approaches its level at the bottom of The Mexican gulph, when no longer revolved under the impetus of the current, and then becomes a part of the solid land, still receiving new additions until it attains its regularity of surface, corresponding with that by which vegetation has marked its due elevation.

About eighty years ago the building, since used for the accommodation of