which appear in the spring, and not unlike to their foot, it rises to six inches high, is distinguished from all others by it dark green color; it rises in a bunch with five notched leaves on each stalk, is smooth on both sides, it shoots to seed in last of May, grows high when seeded—the leaves on each seed stalk are more pointed than others; each branch bears three or more burrs, which will adhere to cloth when ripe; the root of the seed stalk dies with the stalk——it perhaps does not seed till three years old. The root in which the virtue lies, is fibrous and grows on all sides from a small bud, is of blackish color, has a spicy taste and smell; the root when dryed will answer the purpose. It grows in rich timbered land and never among grass.—The Mississippi and Missouri bottoms abound with it—I believe it is not bound to a certain latitude.

DAVID ROBINSON.

Fort Osage, Aug. 12th, 1809.

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13.

On the impolicy of English & French restrictions on trade—Continued.—The French government has pursued an equally unwise policy with regard to commerce. In her fruitless attempts to retaliate on her enemy she has still more deeply wounded herself. It is astonishing that a government so enlightened in other respects should have betrayed so flagrant an ignorance on this point. Such conduct is among the most striking proofs of the blindness with which ungovernable passion pursues its illegitimate ends. It is, if possible, still more surprising that the eyes of the French government have not been opened by experience. Let us hope that the day of dispassionate reflection will soon arrive, and that Napoleon will at length discern that the solid interest of his nation will be best advanced by a removal of every restriction on neutral trade, and that this will be the most terrible as well as honorable retaliation he can retort upon his enemy.

The French government in adopting the conviction that it would be able to seal the ports of the continent against the introduction of British commodities, surrendered itself to a fatal error. It ascribed to physical force a power which it does not and cannot possess. It fancied that it could carry into effect an object, repugnant to the habits and feeling of ages, by an armed force, only efficient by concentration, and even then subject to the influence of a constant corruption. By a partial enforcement of its measures, it presented the most powerful temptations to fraud by its rich reward in every instance where it was successful. It scattered far and wide the seeds of discontent by producing the impression that the existing deprivations were the offspring of French measures, and not of those of England.

Let us reverse the picture and contemplate the effects of an opposite policy.

Let us suppose that France had opposed to every British restriction on trade a new freedom or privilege; or, in other words, that she had thrown open all her ports to the whole world, even to England herself, and had induced all the nations of the continent to imitate her example.

She would, at once, have had the voices of all nations on her side; and they would have united under such banners without the shadow of coercion. Their people would have supported them heart in hand, ascribing the deprivations they suffered to the English government, against which they would have cordially united.

She would have emboldened neutral commerce to the most strenuous efforts to dispose of her produce and supply her wants, by diminishing the risques attending it and increasing its rewards.

She would have lost the profits of trade (a loss under any aspect of affairs inevitable) but she would have balanced the gains of her enemy by those of neutrals, and have completely succeeded in preventing a monopoly.

She would have retained several of her colonies by the means for their defence which she would have been enabled to gather from their prosperity, and their consequent satisfaction with their parent country.

But it may be said this is all idle, and that just as these remarks might have been some years since, they are inapplicable to the present state of things.

Were this the fact we should not have offered them. They are substantially such as ought still to guide the court of S. Cloud.

It is true that France has lost her marine and most of her colonies, and is shorn of the honors of commerce, and that most of her allies are reduced to the same condition.

It is no less true, that England has gained a great part of what they have lost.

How then is France and her associates to retrieve what they have lost, or to gain an equivalent for it?

We answer, by an eternal adieu to the system of commercial restriction in all its features.

This will still have the political effect of uniting all the nations of Europe into an indissoluble chain of interest against the despotism of England on the ocean. It will likewise knit them together into a confederacy for the supply of their respective wants among themselves.

It will remove all necessity for coercion. The enterprise of their subjects will be left free to pursue its own career. They will be contented under their governments, and so far as natural means permit, they will, as to the interchange of their commodities, be as one community. The evils they endure they will ascribe to their common enemy.

They will impart new vigor to neutral trade, which will at least share its profits with England, and more effectually than any means in the power of France, arrest her progress to a monopoly of it.

The trade which England enjoys she will pay dearly for, in the immense navies and armies it requires to protect it. By a steady perseverance in the policy recommended, England will every day have to pay dearer and dearer for it, until, finally, her own interest may teach her justice.

Let us descend to a few details.

It is proposed that France and the nations of the continent at once strike off all the shackles opposed to the most perfect freedom of exterior and interior commerce; that, without respect to external trade, they autherise the exportation of their own products even to England, and the importation of her products among themselves even in her vessels.

The effect of this total freedom will be to try the weakest point in the British system of restrictions, the *avarice* on which alone it is founded. The new inducements hereby held out to the gratification of this ruling passion will produce ten thousand infractions of the English system by English subjects, and will completely turn the tables upon her. She will be able to do nothing, but by a coercion that shall cost her more than the temptation held out to its violation. Neutral and English ships will at once swarm in every sea; the profits of trade will sink infinitely below their present value; an increased interchange of products will take place; natural advantages will be cultivated; manufactures will be extended over the face of Europe, and England will only retain one advantage over other nations, the profits of a trade, which, by their great reduction and the immense expence of her naval establishments, will soon be of but little absolute value.

That these effects would be insured there can be little doubt from the following considerations.

The principal value of the commerce of Great Britain flows from the sale of her manufactures. For the fabrication of these she would not be, under the circumstances suggested, better qualified than France, and other portions of the continent. In these countries it is well understood that the price of labor is much lower than in England, arising from their comparatively low value of provisions and freedom from taxes. It may be added, that in a compact population they have likewise, in many large districts, an advantage over England. If to all this it be added that they are never exposed to a scarcity of food, while England is periodically visited by it, we shall be satisfied that they only want a full supply of raw materials at moderate prices, and a market for the sale of the goods manufactured from them, soon to become rivals in this respect with England. The entire abolition of all restrictions will afford them raw materials in abundance at prices very little above those paid for them in England, and will enable them, from the low price of labor, cheapness of provisions, and saving of freights, to undersell, at least, in their own markets, the British manufacturer. Thus will they, by these means, at once establish the foundations of their own prosperity, and undermine those of England by cutting off that portion of her manufactures needed for their consumption; nations will become less dependant on one another; the aggregate commerce of the world will sustain a vast diminution: and England, with an abridged market for the sale of her manufactures, and reduced profits of trade, will be compelled, consulting her true interests and glory, to bring down her immense marine, which will thenceforth cease to be the scourge of the civilised world. She will realise the adage, that the commerce which requires fighting for is not worth possessing.

The world has a right to expect this wise policy from Napoleon, whenever reposing from his conquests, he shall for himself dispassionately investigate the subject.

PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION.

On Tuesday last an Election was held in the state of Pennsylvania for members of the state Legislature. The political character of Pennsylvania is well known; but we had not not anticipated a result so auspicious to republicanism as that of the election in Philadelphia city and county for a member of Congress to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Dr. Say. The votes, as far as heard from, are as follow:

	Seybert.	*Smith.*
City of Philadelphia	2548	1957
Northern Liberties and Pasyunk	1522	425
	4070	2382

INSANITY.

QUEM DEUS VULT PERDERE PRIUS DEMENTAT.

The following is from the "Independent American" of yesterday:

"The late elections in Maryland and Vermont have terminated in favor of his Imperial Majesty. The Emperor's maxim of *Divide and destroy* is working wonders in this our country. And were it not for one thing we should soon be united in bonds of concord with the slaves of the emperor and king!"

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

ON ADDRESSES.

IT is with regret that I have for some time past perused the numerous Addresses to the Chief Magistrate which have appeared in the public prints. This regret has been heightened by the quarter from whence they proceed. We must all recollect the indignant feelings excited in the breasts of the republicans by the tone of the addresses presented to Mr. Adams & his replies during his administration. It is true that that tone was very different from the spirit that characterises the Addresses of the present day. Political intolerance and rancor were the principal ingredients of the former, while liberality and good-will animate the latter. It will still, however, be recollected, that this was not the sole objection then urged to these compositions. They were considered as radically wrong; as, in the abstract, founded upon incorrect principles; as dangerous to liberty when abused, and as often productive of great mischief even when used with the utmost discretion. It is, in my opinion, time to recal the public attention to this subject, that those who undoubtedly have the good of their country at heart may not in the excess of their zeal commit its best interests.

We appreciate rules of action according to their utility, or their liability to abuse. If the observance of a principle is productive of great and general benefit, we pronounce it correct. If, on the contrary, although sometimes useful, it is much more susceptible of abuse, we consider it incorrect. Now, it will be generally admitted, that addresses, unless a nation is placed in very peculiar circumstances, can produce little, if any, good, however judiciously framed; while they may produce serious and extensive evil.

Contemplated in the most favorable light, they only serve to announce the prevalence of certain political opinions, which can be, and in fact are, indicated more accurately by the elections which occur in every state at least once a year. But if this be their sole object, it can be as well attained by the passage and publication of resolutions, without putting them into the shape of addresses, presented with the expectation of distinct and pointed answers.

It may be said, that *at present* no injurious effects can flow from addresses to the Chief Magistrate and his answers. But were this the case, (I shall shew hereafter that it is far from being so) it ought to be considered that the greatest dangers encountered by liberty have proceeded from bad precedents set in good times which have time immemorial served as the covering of the most fatal machinations against the common welfare. Thus, during the bad times of Mr. Adam's rule the acrimonious and impassioned addresses and replies with which public prints teemed, so far from becoming a precedent, served as a beacon to guard future times against like excesses, and was among the instruments of his overthrow; while, on the contrary, during the present good times, a practice then reprobated is received, if not with approbation, at best with indifference by every description of men who then condemned it. Like the natural body, which in vigorous health often bids defiance to the rudest shocks, but which, when diseased, easily sinks beneath the quackery of empirics.

The most flagrant abuse, perhaps, to which this practice is often rendered subservient, is its mischievous effect on our foreign relations. As this is the source of our principal difficulty, every thing that has a tendency to aggravate it ought to be carefully avoided. Those relations are almost always necessarily shrouded in obscurity, and perpetually shifting. The storm of one day is frequently followed by the sun-shine of the next; and if the change be not so decisive, yet the door of reconciliation may be re-opened, and a prospect furnished of renewed amity—when, at the very moment, perhaps, that negociations are pending which promise this effect, a thundering Address is presented to the President on the wrongs received from the government with whose representative friendly conferences are going on, and an Answer extorted from him, every word of which is seized with an anxiety to extract from it an intimation or sentiment favorable to the views of the Addressers. If his Answer cautiously abstain from the expression of any decisive opinion, he is exposed to the imputation of a want of patriotism or spirit; if it is made an echo to the Address, it is eagerly seized by foreign governments as a proof of hostility to them. And, however circumspectly it may be penned, the truth is that it is not within the compass of human prudence or ingenuity to form a composition, which may not be wrested from its honest meaning to one of a very opposite character, and be the unintentional instrument of delusion instead of illumination.

Further—These Addresses, altho' usually approbatory of the measures of the government, may assume the tone of condemnation, and call from the President, if the wishes of the addressers be his guide, a vindication of them. They will tell us, that the Chief Magistrate that answers one description of Addresses ought to treat the other with equal courtesy; and thus, we shall have opened in the face of the nation a political amphitheatre; exhibiting the President in conflict with every portion of the people that chuse to enter the ring. To say nothing of the total disregard of dignity evinced by such a spectacle, it will have the mischievous effects of exciting and blazoning our divisions to the foreign world who never fail to profit by them, and of exposing our President to the necessity of taking the field with very unequal weapons, or of fatally betraying the public interests, in the one instance suppressing from a sense of duty the ready means of his defence, and in the other revealing circumstances that will destroy all confidence between him and foreign governments.

The next strong objection that suggests itself to this practice is, the time it takes from the Chief Magistrate, which ought to be employed in the discharge of his official duties. All will admit, that except in very special cases, the time taken up in framing replies is at best uselessly spent. A private individual may employ his time as he pleases without accounting to any human tribunal, provided he steer clear of a violation of the positive laws of the land; though even he, if gifted with high attainments, will not fail to incur the general censure, if he omits to discharge the social duties required by public opinion. But the case of a Chief Magistrate, the field of whose constitutional duties is so extensive and arduous, is totally different. What shall we say of such a magistrate, who neglects these duties to keep up an unofficial correspondence, which, so far from being productive of public benefit, is often extremely pernicious? Does not, moreover, the constitution, in prescribing the duties of the President, virtually assign limits to them? If so, when that constitution says, it shall be his duty to see the laws executed, and to *communicate to Congress*, from time to time, such information as he shall deem conducive to the general welfare, does it not implicitly inhibit the occupation of his time in such a way as interferes with his attention to the execution of the laws, or communicating to sections of the people that information which it reserves for the whole, assembled, according to the theory of the government, by its representatives? It would really seem, as if the enlightened framers of our constitution, indignant at the abuses of addresses in the disastrous period of the Stuarts, and fearing that the same debasing scenes might be acted again in this country, had, without giving a ludicrous importance to the subject, created this restraint against its abuse.

In a subsequent number, if my leisure allows, this subject will be pursued.

LYCURGUS.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

THE NEW WORLD.

No. IV.

An enquiry into the National Character of the People of the United States of America.

To these influential foreign settlements and migrations to the present dominions of the United States mentioned in the last chapter, there remains to be added the great number and variety of persons from the European continent and the West Indies, which have come hither during the two centuries of our existence; from the year 1609 to the current year. The population of the single state of Pennsylvania, which seems to have been nearly quadrupled in thirty-three years, though constantly sending out people, is a very impressive fact, relating to this point. But, if we compute our whole population at two millions at the declaration of independence, it probably is little less than four-fold at the present time, including the Louisianians.

We proceed now to a distinct point in the formation of the mass of the North American population: and it will require the discriminating faculties and all the frankness of our readers to surmount established & ancient prejudices.

We mean to say, that it is very important to a correct estimate of the American population and character, and of the degree, in which we were actually *English* colonists, a mere emanation of English qualities, that that we should consider the other British European states as really distinct and materially different from the English kingdom.

The American provinces were taking a consistency in the year 1706, when the English and Scotch nations agreed to unite or rather to confederate. From 1603 they had been governed by the same kings, but in Scotland the predominance of the civil law, of an anti episcopal religion, of *military* tenures, of a foreign tongue and a different dialect, freedom from Saxon, Danish and Norman laws and institutions, the shepherd state, the unimproved condidition of agriculture, and that actual spirit of hostility, which never was broken down till the time of George the second, all combine to render the Scotch a people of a temper, disposition and character materially different from the English. It is correct therefore to affirm, that the derivations of men, manners, habits, principles, religion, morals and institutions from Scotland to the North American provinces have contributed to infuse qualities, really not English into the American people, economy and character.

Similar remarks arise upon the subject of the Irish nation and establishments. The Presbyterians, in the North of that kingdom, are a mixed people, with very perceptible Scottish characteristics. The Irish, on the other hand, have strongly reacted upon the Scotch. It is well known that an immense and incessant stream of Hibernian people, Presbyterian and Roman Catholics, has flowed into the middle states. The degree of similarity of the Irish Catholics to the English Episcopalians is no more than that which a conquered people exhibits when compared with their conquerors. They remain in Europe the most discordant and contrasted classes of the population of the united kingdoms. These numerous emigrants have not infused into this nation any thing material of the proper English character. The progenitors of the Scotch and Irish Presbyterians made and successfully pressed upon England the political, religious and ecclesiastical "solemn league and covenant" of the sixteenth century. Its influence was most sensibly felt in the English nation in the middle of the seventeenth century, and little indeed was it deemed congenial with the character of the Anglo Saxon inhabitants of the kingdom of England at the time of planting America.

During the most vigorous periods of the North America provinces the Irish and Scoto-Hibernian families were of very great power and weight and in every stage of the contest with Great Britain, civil and independent, they formed a strong body of influential opponents, or decided revolutionists. The institutions they aimed to establish were those of their native American compatriots. They did not desire the monarchy, the aristocracy, the hierarchy, the standing army by sea and land, nor the established Church of England.

It will not be considered as a mere refinement to estimate the Welch emigrants to the U. S. as a section of people not entirely of the English stock or character during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, in which the American provinces were commenced and matured to a separate independence. Without the limits of Scotland and Wales, the Saxons, in England proper, had vanquished the Britons, so far as to become the dominant and characterising political community. From the time of the Roman conquest of England there has never been a subjection of the Welch to the Italian empire or to any of the successive conquerors of England. The mountains of Wales strengthened the native defence, and, from their poverty perhaps, failed to attract any of the invaders. The Welch,