AMERICAN,
AND
Commercial Daily Advertiser.

Daily 7, and Gazette 5 dollars per annum.

THURSDAY, January 17, 1805.

Congress

OF THE

United States of America.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, January 11.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, presented December 20, 1803, respecting the establishment of a post road from Alexandria in said county, through Hollydaysburg and Beula to Greensburg, was referred to the committee appointed to enquire what amendments are necessary to be made in the acts establishing a post office and post-roads in the United States.

Mr. Leib presented a bill to amend the charter of Georgetown, which was read the first and second times and committed to a committee of the whole House on Monday next.

Mr. Crowningshield from the committee of commerce and manufactures reported on the memorial of Thomas Ketland of Philadelphia, which was referred to a committee of the whole house on Wednesday next.

A petition was presented from Thomas and Samuel Hollingsworth of Baltimore, (Md.) praying to receive payment for several certificates of public debt, belonging to them which were not presented at the Treasury Department, for liquidation and settlement, within the period prescribed by the acts of limitation.

Referred to the committee on the extinguishment of the debts due from the United States.

A petition was presented from Lewis Larue, a French citizen, at present an inhabitant of New York, praying Congress to pass a special act to entitle him to the benefits and privileges of a citizen of the United States.

A motion was made to refer the abovementioned petition to a select committee, but the question being taken thereon,

It was negatived.

A message was received from the President of the United States, notifying that he approved and signed the act declaring Cambridge, in the state of Massachusetts to be a port of delivery.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole,

Mr. GREGG in the chair,

On the report of the Postmaster General, concerning the memorial of Robert Henderson, of South Carolina; and after some time spent therein, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

A message was received from the Senate, notifying that the President approved and signed the act dividing the Indiana Territory into two parts, which originated in the Senate.

Also, that the Senate passed the bill amendatory of the act for imposing more specific duties on the importation of certain articles, and for levying and collecting light money on foreign ships or vessels.

Mr. Winston informed the House of the death of his colleague, Col. James Gillespie, from North Carolina; Whereupon,

A committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Alexander, Winston, Holland, Wynns, Dickson, and Winn, to superintend the funeral; and

It was unanimously resolved that the House will attend the funeral, and that they will testify their respect for the deceased by wearing crape on the left arm for one month.

Adjourned.

SATURDAY, January 12.

The Speaker was requested to inform the executive of the state of North Carolina of the vacancy occasioned by the death of Col. James Gillespie.

Adjourned.

From the KENTUCKY PALLADIUM.

TO THE EDITOR.

Frankfort, 12th December, 1804.

SIR,

No circumstance relating to the history of the western country, probably, has excited at different times, more general attention and anxious curiosity, than the opinion that a nation of white men speaking the Welch language, reside high up on the Missouri. By some the idea is treated as nothing but the suggestion of bold imposture and easy credulity:—whilst others regard it as a fact fully authenticated by Indian testimony and the report of various travellers worthy of credit. The fact is accounted for, they say, by recurring to a passage in the history of Great Britain, which relates that several years before the discovery of America, by Christopher Columbus, a certain Welch prince embarked from his native country with a large party of emigrants,—that after some time a vessel or two came back with the account that they had discovered a country far to the westward, and that they set sail again with a fresh reinforcement and never returned any more. The country which these adventurers discovered, it has been supposed, was the continent of North America, and it has been conjectured, that they landed on this continent, some where in the gulph of Mexico, and from thence proceeded northwards till they got out of the reach of the hostile natives, and seated themselves in the upper country of Missouri. Many accounts accordingly, have been published within the last 50 years, of persons who, in consequence either of accident or the ardour of curiosity, have made themselves acquainted with a nation of men on the Missouri, possessing the complexion of Europeans, and the language of Welchmen. Could the fact be well established, it would afford, perhaps, the most satisfactory solution of the difficulty occasioned by a view of the various ancient fortifications with which the Ohio country abounds, of any that has ever been offered. Those fortifications were evidently never made by the Indians. The Indian art of war presents nothing of the kind. The probability too is that the persons who constructed them were *at that time* acquainted with the use of iron: the situation of those fortifications, which are uniformly in the most fertile land of the country, indicates that those who made them, were an agricultural people, and the remarkable care and skill with which they were executed, afford traits of the genius of a people who relied more on their military skill than on their numbers. The growth of the trees upon them, is very compatible with the idea that it is not more than 300 years ago that they were abandoned.

These hints, however, are thrown out rather to excite enquiry, then by way of advancing any decided opinion on the subject. Having never met with any of the persons who had seen these white Americans, nor even received their testimony near the source, I have always entertained considerable doubts about the fact. Last evening however, Mr John Childs, of Jessamine county, a gentleman, with whom I have been long acquainted, and who is well known to be a man of veracity, communicated a relation to me, which at all events, appears to merit serious attention. After he had related it in conversation, I requested him to repeat it, and committed it to writing. It has certainly some internal marks of authenticity. The country which is described was altogether unknown in Virginia, when the relation was given, and was probably very little known to the Shawnese Indians. Yet the account of it agrees very remarkably with later discoveries. On the other hand, the story of the large animal, though by no means incredible, has something of the air of fable; and it does not satisfactorally appear how the long period which the party were absent was spent,—though Indians are however, so much accustomed to loiter away their time, that many weeks and even months, may probably have been spent in indolent repose.

Without detaining you any more with preliminary remarks, I will proceed to the narration as I received it from Mr Childs.

Maurice Griffith, a native of Wales, which country he left when he was about 16 years of age, was taken a prisoner by a party of Shawnese indians, about forty years ago, near Vosse's fort, on the head of Roanoke river in Virginia, and carried to the Shawnese nation. Having staid there about two years and a half, he found that five young men of the tribe, had a desire of attempting to explore the sources of the Missouri. He prevailed upon them to admit him as one of the party. They set out with six good rifles, and with six pounds of powder a piece of which they were of course very careful. On reaching the mouth of the Missouri, they were struck with the extraordinary appearance occasioned by the intermixture of the muddy waters of the Missouri, and the clear, transparent stream of the Mississippi. They staid two or three days amusing themselves with the view of this novel sight;—they then determined on the course which they should pursue, which happened to be so nearly in the course of the river that they frequently came within sight of it, as they proceeded on their journey. After travelling about thirty days thro' pretty farming wood-land, they came into fine open *prairies*, on which nothing grew but long luxuriant grass. There was a succession of these, varying in size, some being eight or ten miles across, but one of them so long, that it occupied three days to travel through it. In passing through this large *prairie* they were much distressed for water and provisions, for they seldom saw either beast or bird, and though there was an abundance of salt springs, fresh water was very scarce. In one of these *prairies*, the salt springs ran into small ponds, in which, as the weather was hot, the water had sunk and left the edges of the ponds so covered with salt, that they fully supplied themselves with that article, and might easily have collected bushels of it. As they were travelling through the prairies, they had likewise the good fortune to kill an animal which was nine or ten feet high, and of a bulk proportioned to its height. They had seen two of the same species before, and they saw four of them afterwards. They were swift footed, and they had neither tusks nor horns. After having passed through the long prairie, they made it a rule never to enter on one which they could not see across, till they had supplied themselves with a sufficiency of jerked venison, to last several days. After having travelled a considerable time through the prairies, they came to very extensive lead mines, where they smelted the ore and furnished themselves with what lead they wanted. They afterwards came to two copper mines, one of which was three miles through, and in several places they met with rocks of copper ore as large as houses.

When about fifteen days journey from the second copper mine, they came in sight of white mountains, which, though it was in the heat of summer, appeared to them to be covered with snow. The sight naturally excited considerable astonishment, but on their approaching the mountains, they discovered, that instead of snow, they were covered with immense bodies of white sand. They had in the mean time passed through about ten nations of Indians, from whom they received very friendly treatment. It was the practice of the party to exercise the office of spokesman in rotation; and when the language of any nation through which they passed was unknown to them—it was the duty of the spokesman, a duty in which the others never interfered to convey their meaning by appropriate signs.

The labor of travelling through the deep sands of the mountains, was excessive; but at length they relieved themselves of this difficulty by following the course of a shallow river, the banks of which being level, they made their way to the top of the mountains, with tolerable convenience.

After passing the mountains they entered a fine, fertile tract of land, which having travelled through for several days, they accidentally met with three white men in the Indian dress. Griffith immediately understood their language, as it was pure Welsh, though they occasionally made use of a few words with which he was not acquainted. However, as it happened to be the turn of one of his Shawnese companions to act as spokesman, or interpreter, he preserved a profound silence, and never gave them any intimation that he understood the language of their new companions.

After proceeding with them [illegible] five days journey, they came to the village of these white men, where they found that the whole nation were of the same colour, having all the European complexion. The three men took them through their village for about the space of fifteen miles, when they came to the council house, at which an assembly of the king and chief men of the nation was immediately held. The council lasted three days, and as the strangers were not supposed to be acquainted with their language, they were suffered to be present at their deliberations. The great question before the council was, what conduct should be observed towards the strangers. [illegible] it was concluded they were a [illegible] that they were sent to look out a country for [illegible] [illegible] to return they might expect a [illegible] powerful invasion, but that if their [illegible] were put to death, nothing would be known of their country, and they would still enjoy their possessions in security. It was finally determined that they should be put to death. Griffith then thought that it was time for him to speak. He addressed the council in the Welsh language. He informed them that they had not been sent by any nation; that they were actuated merely by private curiosity, they had no hostile intentions; that it was their wish to trace the Missouri to its source, and that they should return to their country satisfied with the discoveries they had made, without any wish to disturb the repose of their new acquaintances. An instant astonishment [illegible] countenances not only of [illegible] companions of his Shawnese companions, who clearly saw that he was understood by the people of the country. Full confidence was at once given to his declarations; the king advanced, and [illegible] his hand. They abandoned the design of [illegible] him and his companions, and from that moment treated them with the utmost friendship. Griffith and the Shawnese continued eight months in the nation; but were deterred from prosecuting their researches up the Missouri, by the advice of the people of the country, who informed them that they had gone a twelve months journey up the river but found it as large there as it was in their own country. As to the history of this people, he could learn nothing satisfactory. The only account they could give was, that their forefathers had come up the river from a very distant country.

They had no books, no records, no writings. They intermixed with no other people by marriage; there was not a dark skinned man in the nation. Their numbers were very considerable. There was a continued range of settlements on the river for fifty miles, and there were, within this space three large water courses which fell into the Missouri, on the banks of each of which, likewise, they were settled. He supposed that there must be 50,000 men in the nation, capable of bearing arms. Their cloathing was skins well dressed. Their houses were made of upright posts and the bark of trees. The only implements they had to cut them with were stone tomahawks. They had no iron, their arms were bows and arrows. They had some silver, which had been hammered with stones into coarse ornaments, but it did not appear to be pure. They had neither horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, nor any domestic or tame animals. They lived by hunting. He said nothing about their religion.

Griffith and his companions had some large iron tomahawks with them. With these they cut down a tree and prepared a canoe to [illegible]—but their tomahawks were so great a curiosity, and the people of the country were so eager to handle them, that their canoe was completed with very little labour. When this work was accomplished, they proposed to leave their new friends. Griffith, however, having promised to visit them again. They descended the river with considerable speed, but amidst frequent dangers from the rapidity of the current, particularly when passing through the white mountains. When they reached the Shawnese nation, they had been absent about two years and a half. Griffith supposed that when they travelled, they went at the rate of about fifteen miles a day.—He staid but a few months with the Indians after their return, as a favourable opportunity offered itself to him to reach his friends in Virginia. He came with a hunting party of Indians to the head waters of Coal river, which runs into New river, not far above the falls.—There he left the Shawnese, and easily reached the settlements on Roanoke.—Mr. Childs knew him before he was taken prisoner, and saw him a few days after his return, when he narrated [illegible] circumstances. Griffith was universally regarded as a steady honest man, and a man of strict veracity. Mr Childs has always placed the utmost confidence in his account of himself and his travels, and has no more doubt of the truth of his relation than if he had seen the whole himself. Whether Griffith be still alive or not he does not know.

Whether his [illegible] be correct or not, we shall probably have a better opportunity of judging on the return of Capt. Lewis and Clark, who, [illegible] they may not penetrate as far as Griffith asserted that he had done, will [illegible] [illegible] of the country to [illegible] us [illegible] whether the account given by Griffith be fiction or truth.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

HARRY TOULMIN.

From the AURORA.

In the United States Gazette we find the following paragraph.

[illegible]—Information, which we believe may be depended on, has been received in town, that emperor Dessalines has made a treaty, or at least is negotiating & likely to make a treaty, with the English, for supplies for his Island from Jamaica. Unless the government of this country are resolved by every means in their power to [illegible] the commercial prosperity of our country, we should hope that this information [illegible] have some effect upon the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] House of Representatives. [illegible]

We shall not positively deny that such information [illegible] we will state why we think it [illegible] and [illegible] unauthorized [illegible]. It is at once acknowledged that the British [illegible] compass the severance of St. Domingo from France; [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] in America, whose regard for the southern states had never been great, and whose policy was as ruinous as it was [illegible], for which among other faults they have since been "humbled in dust and ashes." It had probably, been good policy for Great Britain, in 1795, to excite disturbances in St. Domingo, in order to distract the attention of the French government; but, having accomplished their object even to a greater extent than they wished, having [illegible] France some most important branches of commerce; we conceive that, in 1804, it is not her policy to encourage and foster a government established in the manner that of Dessalines has been, we conceive that the British ministry already heartily deplore the policy of 1795, since the most [illegible] consequence must be the deprivation to England of her rich and [illegible] possessions, for that this will at no distant day result, there is every reason to believe.

But, recollecting that commercial interests, or the aggrandizement of a few merchants, has not unfrequently the policy adopted by that government, whose care should have been extended to the whole nation, and admitting that for the purpose of present wealth, a trade will be encouraged, which [illegible], it is to be apprehended, will be [illegible], and misery; let us enquire whether the above information can be true or probable from the very nature of things.—We were [illegible] that it would be the case, and it is now [illegible] as having come to pass, that England [illegible] cut us off from our trade, it is said England is negociating to *supply* St. Domingo, but what is the nature of those supplies? is the question—mad and interested as the English may be, they will not furnish *arms and ammunition*, which might be employed for the destruction of the British whites of the other islands—the supplies, then, must be such as we now furnish, flour, beef, pork, live stock, and lumber, but will the writer of the above inform us if such supplies can be furnished by the English on as good terms as by the Americans? and if the English islands are not supplied with such articles in a great measure, by us?—the answers must be, to the first question negatively, to the last, affirmatively. But it will be said, the English will become the carriers of our produce—here the whole matter comes to issue and the true meaning of the above paragraph is:—

"Gentlemen, of congress, you are about to pass a law restraining American armed vessels from committing violence on the ships of nations with whom we are at peace; we beseech you not to pass this law, and for these reasons; the blacks of *Hayti* have declared the island independent, and to shew their freedom they have butchered thousands of innocent whites, men, women, and children; the use of sabres, and of powder and ball, has been so great that the blacks will give us [illegible] for those articles. Now as [illegible] vessels will prevent us from [illegible] such articles, we beseech you to [illegible] our vessels and force the trade, [illegible] so lucrative that we can [illegible] hazard their lives in carrying it on.—Moreover the blacks will be supplied by some means or other, and it is better that we should make our fortunes than British merchants who are negociating with [illegible]."

In fact, we consider the paragraph we have [illegible] too gross to [illegible].—The pro[illegible] as no man [illegible] great merchant [illegible] are obnoxious to none but those who [illegible] their own emolument at a higher rate than the peace and honor of the nation.

Away with the [illegible], the candid [illegible] country that the present [illegible] to the real commercial [illegible] is an assertion as [illegible] it is that [illegible] different from that of the English [illegible] not sacrifice [illegible] East and West [illegible] merchants and [illegible] government, the [illegible] peculiar circumstances of our [illegible] opposed to the adoption of a [illegible] entailed on the [illegible] of misfortune that has [illegible] other people, [illegible] it has been [illegible] advantage. [illegible] general think [illegible] a deputation [illegible] avail as much [illegible] the ministry [illegible] at Great Britain, [illegible] compared with [illegible] contemplate the present [illegible] of these states, and [illegible] right to sway [illegible] of national [illegible].

[illegible] due praise and [illegible] great importance [illegible] to be promoted [illegible] those the position [illegible] receive a greater [illegible] interest.

[illegible] the clearance [illegible] Domingo—the [illegible] be free as at [illegible] St. Domingo [illegible] vessels, the [illegible], and none of [illegible] as—such will [illegible] shall not be entitled [illegible] placed upon [illegible].

[illegible] why a law to [illegible] why this clause [illegible] arms, without [illegible] arming, at a [illegible] dangerous than [illegible].

[illegible] Domingo, that [illegible] an vessels are [illegible], *as they are be* [illegible].

BOSTON, January 8.

St. Domingo.—We have been favored with the following extract of a letter from a St. Domingo planter, now residing at Baltimore, to his brother in this country, dated Baltimore, August [illegible].

"A Senate, a tribunal, a legislative body, and a council of state, will be established at St. Domingo, by the constitution [illegible] variations, is [illegible] in France. [illegible] the proposal: [illegible] the Roman [illegible] will [illegible] religion of [illegible] Hayti. The [illegible] Captain Turner, [illegible], and is to [illegible], or rather [illegible] which is Franklin [illegible] at Nantes, [illegible] of Dessalines favorite privy [illegible]. [illegible], to propose [illegible] some cardinals [illegible] regulating the affairs of religion, and to assist in the ceremony of the [illegible] of Dessalines, which, [illegible], will take place on the first of January. Christophe, and [illegible] other black generals, are [illegible] have each of [illegible] plantations to keep up their new rank with lustre. A certain number of cultivators have been allotted over to these [illegible] labourers, to work their lands, which [illegible] a momentary mutiny among the [illegible] in garrison at Port-au-Prince, in the beginning of July, where General Petion, the commander of [illegible], [illegible] order, and sent away, under [illegible], to the different plantations [illegible].

They say, that he intends to dispatch Christophe to England as his minister, and that he has demanded a passage for him on board some British man of war, which caused conference. Mr. Barry, who left the Cape on the [illegible] of July, says, that the negroes [illegible] from their negociations with the English, though, at the same time, they do not behave with more justice, or show more regard to British traders, than to those of other countries. He says, that nothing is more ridiculous than the puerile vanity of these negroes, whom Dessalines has made members of his legion of honor. They wear their stars upon a red and white riband round their necks, even when naked, or with no other covering but a coloured shirt. Upon the star is an enamel urn, surrounded with wreaths of laurel with these words—"*Toussaint assassinated by Bonaparte,*" and under it, "*We swear vengeance.*" The star is of a larger size, and of gold, for the grand officers and commanders; but of silver gilt for the legionaries.

NEW-YORK, January 14.

Attempts we understand, were made on Friday evening to set fire to the College, and to the Methodist Church in Duane street. The trustees of the College, in consequence of the attempt to fire that building, resolved, at a meeting on Saturday, to appoint a watch to guard the