FOR THE FEDERAL GAZETTE.

No. VI.

THE FIXED VEGETABLE ALKALI.

THIS saline substance, which is so generally used in some arts, seems to be neglected in those most interesting to mankind—the reason of this perhaps is, that a sufficient attention has not been paid to all its properties, and instead of being employed in its natural state of pure alkali, in treating disorders, it is seldom employed, except when saturated with acids, in a state of neutral salt, and then its properties are only operative and gently purgative, or if it has other qualities they are owing perhaps to an imperfect saturation, which, leaving a superabundance of free alkali, gives to this portion the power of combining itself with the decomposed humors, to nuetralise them, and to produce, by that means, favorable effects, attributed improperlyt o the neutral salt. It is well known that this saline substance has the virtue of combining itself with acid, oily, greasy, earthy matters, &c. It is also known that its dissolvent quality is very great, since it even dissolves metals; and if employed seasonably it has, by its alterant properties, the power of quickly changing the state of a disorder, and, by that means, of being one of the greatest curatives.—Mention has been made in the preceding numbers of many of its properties, which have been proved by a series of facts repeated during a number of years. It is proper to remark here that in the observations which have been made in an indigested and unconnected manner, not the least intention has been formed of instructing persons of the art, who do not want light in this regard, but of assisting and comforting suffering humanity in giving it a participation of what experience has taught; it is then to it, and above all to the poor, that this is directed, and to those who by feeling, by choice, by circumstances of fortune and condition; are induced to succor it, and especially to that precious part who engaged in rustic labors, are not in a condition of procuring medical assistance.

To all these it is observed, that Providence has every where placed within reach the remedy which is spoken of, I mean the fixed vegetable alkali; that all the vegetables furnish it, that the ashes of them all contain identically the same alkali; that the only difference is in the quantity, which is greater or less in some than in others, but not as pure, however, in its quality as that of tartar. It has nevertheless been proved by numberless facts, that it equally succeeds; it is called fixed alkali in opposition to volatile alkali, which evaporates by the heat of the fire, whereas the other resists its action and is not sublimed.

To make this alkaline liquor it is sufficient to put in a bottle holding about a quart, one table spoonfull even measure of the best ashes taken from the hearth, free from coals, and to fill the bottle with pure water, shake it and and let it stand some hours, until the water becomes quite clear again; the alkali, which is very dissolveable, mixes perfectly with the water, and the terreous, ferruginous and all heterogenious substances, which have but a feeble adherence with the alkali, separate and sink to the bottom of the bottle, and when the alkaline water is clear pour it off for use. In order to know its degree of strength, pour in a glass about a tea spoonfull of this water, and drop about 5 or 6 drops of oil upon it, which, by shaking it a little, mixes with the alkaline water, and renders it perfectly lacteous; if it should appear a little thick, it would be well to add to it about a seventh or eighth part of the quantity of water first put in, then the alkaline water is in a degree proper for use.

Two or three table spoonsful for an adult, mixed with a little spirit in the case of a suppressed perspiration, and in the case of imprudently drinking cold water in great heat, taken in due time, will prevent the bad effect of it, which are the principles of many dangerous diseases, and it will more infallibly produce this effect, if a tea spoonfull of mineral gas is added to it. [See the preceding numbers in this respect.]

☞ The printers in general are desired to continue the insertion of these numbers.

NEW-YORK, August 22.

By the fast-sailing ship Atlantic, from Liverpool, we have received London papers to the 5th of July inclusive, and have made several extracts from them, as well as from Rotterdam papers, by the ship Shepherdess, captain O'Brien. The papers are barren of news. The last London paper is filled with accounts of the reception of Bonaparte at Amiens, Cherbourg, &c.

LONDON, July 2.

Our readers will see by our Dover letter than an unusual firing has been heard there supposed to have been in consequence of an attack made upon vessels of some description or other on the French coast, at or near Calais. It may, however, turn out to have been only a salute to the first consul on his arrival in that port.

We have likewise received Brussels Journals of the 27th. They announce the intention of the chief consul to visit Flushing also before his return to Paris.

The French army in Italy is marching to take possession of Capua and other Neapolitan ports.

July 3.

Our present military force in Great-Britain comprises sixty three battalions of the line, and eighteen regiments of Cavalry, independent of the troops in Ireland.—The militia of the empire amounts to ninety-seven thousand men; and a few weeks will add fifty thousand more to our ranks---these, with our volunteer and other supplementary force, will constitute an army of nearly three hundred thousand men.

The first consul is upon his long projected journey, but he had not arrived at Calais at ten o'clock on Thursday night. On Saturday at eleven A. M. he reached Campeigne, and alighted in the palace court, where he was received by the prefect of Oise, and all the constituted authorities; on the following day he visited the different manufactories. At Montdidier he stopped to change horses, and likewise received the adulatory protestations of the inhabitants. He passed through Amiens at seven o'clock on Saturday, where he found 30,000 of the inhabitants assembled to offer him their congratulations. All the streets through which he was to pass, were decorated with the produce of the manufactories of the town. On Sunday he mounted his horse at six in the morning and surveyed the ramparts of the place; at nine he embarked on the Somme, and returned to breakfast.

The adulation lavished upon the consular party at the different towns through which they passed, is greatly disgusting. The prefect of the Somme concluded his address in the following words:—"Father of the country, continue through our abundant fields, through our embellished cities, amidst universal joy, thy pacific and triumphant march; but let England tremble! Let the English, abandoned to the feebleness and arrogance of its ministers, to the folly and audacity of its orators, contemplate with affright the hero of France, advancing to punish pergery, to impose on the pirates of the sea the yoke of peace, and to proclaim on the ruins of Albion the commercial independence of France!!"—That of the bishop of Amiens was equally ridiculous; but the climax made by the prefect is certainly the most striking piece of irony ever offered to the shrine of prostitution. Addressing himself to madame Bonaparte, he says, "Exalted by your august husband to the highest rank, you have placed happiness by the side of glory. Glory! Happiness! rare association, reserved for the hero of France, as the wisest of men, and formed by you, madame, by you who have become a model to all women. Every attribute of your sex which embellishes the life of man, personal graces, mental fascinations, sweet and sympathizing tenderness; these, and all other gifts, you have received from nature; you have cultivated them with care, and each day you employ them to the noblest ends!!!"

An article in the Brussels papers, from the Hague, dated the 23d, states that some discontented persons at Rotterdam, and some other towns of the republic, had endeavored to excite the sailors and marines to revolt, and enter the English service.—The government has ordered the subject to be investigated.

It appears that the army under general Desolles is speedily to quit the Batavian territory: their route is supposed to be towards Osnaburg.

All the ships of war belonging to Genoa are immediately to be equipped, and placed at the disposal of the French.

The messengers who lately arrived from the continent are understood to have bro't dispatches of great importance relative to a negociation, under the auspices of Russia and Prussia. Ministers preserve the greatest secrecy on this subject.

Private letters from Holland state, that the number of small craft collected in the different ports for the invasion, amounts to nine hundred.

The following article having appeared in the Hamburg Correspondent, is considered as a proof that the French will not occupy that town.

"A declaration has been made to all the foreign ambassadors now at Paris, signifying, that although the French government has found it necessary to occupy the electorate of Hanover, the French troops have, however, strict orders not to pass beyond the limits of that electorate, and to remain only on one side of the Elbe."

The celebrated Pichegru is in London, and about to be employed by our government.

Advice was received on Friday, of the failure of a great banking house in the north, the effects of which will be severely felt in all the manufacturing towns.

The Longitude.—Mr. E. Hewlings is said to have effected the great and important discovery of the longitude at sea. His plan he executes without the aid of trigonometry, of geometry, of logarithms, or of time pieces. It is performed by an instrument and tables, by inspection only, which direct the course to steer, and what distance the seaman is from his intended port, when driven out of his course by storms, when carried by a current, when he has lost his reckoning, or by any other accident.

Count Cobentzel has been ordered to present a note to the French government, relative to the invasion of Hanover. The English ambassador still remains at Vienna, and is treated with great kindness: he was to quit that capital on leave; but his journey is for the present suspended.

Considerable military preparations are making in Denmark, the frontiers of which are to be covered with troops. Telegraphs are now erecting along the coast. Accounts from Copenhagen mention that a general increase is about to be made of the army.

The report that the French insist on occupying all the Neapolitan ports, is fully confirmed by letters received at Vienna, from Naples. In consequence of this measure, a great activity prevails in the correspondence between the Neapolitan government and the Imperial court, which, on its part, sends frequent couriers to Petersburg.

The Prussian minister at Hamburg has given positive assurances on the part of the French government, that the neutrality of the Hanse-towns shall be respected. The Hamburgers therefore expect the French troops to remove from Ritzebuttel.

The Porte has sent a large fleet to the Archipelago and the Mediterranean, to protect its neutrality.

The order for suspending the assembling an army at Deventer, has been countermanded; and troops are marching thither with all expedition.

According to letters from Florence, all the English merchants in that country have been obliged to give their patrole of honor not to quit it.

Accounts from Verona, of the 7th inst. say, the French army of Italy has entered the Roman state. The left wing, commanded by general St. Cyr, arrived at Ancona on the 4th instant. It will proceed towards Abrozzo, and occupy the Neapolitan ports on the Adriatic; another division will advance along the Western shores to occupy the Neapolitan ports on the Mediterranean.

Letters from Bayonne, of the 12th, announce the arrival of several Spanish ships at Cadiz, Corunna, and St. Andero, with 12,000,000 dollars on board.

A contribution of eight millions has been imposed on the electorate of Hanover. Of this sum there has already been paid 80,000 crowns.

July 4.

The chief consul was saluted with a little thunder while at Boulogne; as one of our men of war lay to off that place, and fired several shots into it.

On Thursday afternoon it was understood by our cruizers, that Bonaparte had reached Calais; and a frigate, supposed to be the Immortalite, with sir Sidney Smith on board, ran close in, taking soundings all the way, and at length got near enough to throw several shot into the town.

Bonaparte was expected to leave Calais on Saturday at noon for Gravelines, and to proceed from thence to Dunkirk. The chief consul is closely attended by his Mamelukes.

A lady of distinction is arrived from Paris, who saw a very extraordinary Placard in the streets of that capital, and in most of the towns and villages through which she passed in her journey. It is an invitation to the people of France to join the army of England; and after a number of the usual falsehoods against this country, it concludes with a promise of universal pillage to the invaders; and that the booty may be the more rich, it assures them that no quarter is to be given to those base English who fight for their perfidious government; that they are to be put to the sword, and their property distributed among the soldiers of the victorious army!!!

July 5.

A report yesterday prevailed in the city of the Island of Elba, in the Mediterranean, having been captured by a British force from Malta. It could not, however, be traced to any athentic source. It probably originated from the circumstance of the blockade of the island alluded to, as well as the port of Leghorn, having been commenced on our part. The fact is announced in the last Paris Journal; and we are happy to find that a system so vigorous, and from which the most important advantages may be expected to result, has been so extensively adopted by his majesty's government.

Last Monday, letters from Hamburg and Bremen, dated the 19th ult. were received in Hull, by several respectable houses, stating the arrival there of the Joseph, Beaty, Louisa and Jonge Margaretta, from that port, without any other interruption by the French than till they had paid the duty at Stadt, which formerly was received by the elector of Hanover. These letters further stated, that the inhabitants of these ports were assured that their neutrality would be strictly observed; and that English goods in neutral vessels would be allowed to enter as usual. In consequence of this assurance, neutral vessels began loading there on Wednesday, for Hamburg and Bremen, and the demand for colonial produce consequently greatly increased. Other letters which have since been received, dated the 21st ult. corroborate the statement above given.

We received this morning the *Moniteurs* to the 2d instant. They contain a very long and pompous account of the fete and illuminations which took place at Amiens, in honor of the chief consul. The inscriptions upon the triumphal arches, the designs on the various transparencies, were all expressive of the most slavish adulation to the first consul, and of the most rancorous hostility against England. Upon the door of the hotel of the prefecture was a transparency, representing the vessel of the republic in full sail: a star appeared in a point of the horizon; it was the star of Bonaparte, with this inscription—"*It enlightens and directs France.*" Upon the house of citizen Grenier was a Latin inscription, stating that the whole world had proclaimed Bonaparte to be a great hero, but that to France he was a Tutelar Deity. Upon another house was the following inscription—*France loves him, England fears him, and the universe admires him.* Another transparency contained the following quotation from Horace:

——— Præsens divus habeitur
Augustus, adjecti Britannis
Imperio.

Another house displayed the following inscription: *The god of war is become the god of arts: it is the wish of his liberal and magnanimous soul.* Upon the tri coloured flag of a vessel on the river was inscribed, *A good wind and thirty-six hours*, &c. &c.

The Moniteur complains very bitterly of the capture of the French fishing vessels, which is termed an act of piracy worthy of the Barbarians of the North. It states that ten of those vessels belonging to Boulogne, and four belonging to Calais, each worth from 5 to 600 livres, and having on board 126 men, have been already taken. But the Moniteur very prudently omits to state, that these poor innocent fishermen, while suffered by the liberality of England to pursue their occupation in safety, occasionally amused themselves by capturing any defenceless English ship that fell in their way.

The departments of France seem to vie with each other in voting money for the construction of ships of war; and innumerable addresses are pouring in from all quarters to the first consul.

Letters from Milan state, that a division of the French army has entered the Neapolitan territory.

There are none who observe with more concern than ourselves that lethargy which still subsists throughout the nation, so little suited to our real situation. Wherever any little exertion is made, it is eagerly communicated to the minister, and is erroneously looked upon as a specimen of general ardor and alacrity. We shall really be ashamed of our countrymen, if we do not see them more alive to their true interests. Do they doubt the inveterate hostility of the first consul of France to us? Do they doubt that while we are asleep, he is actively engaged in maturing his plan for our subjugation and disgrace? They cannot doubt these things, and yet with all this before their eyes, that dangerous torpor of which we have spoken still prevails; and we see no adequate means employed to rouse the people from their disgraceful apathy and indifference.

Look at the reign of queen Elizabeth and at former periods of our history when we were threatened, as we are now, with invasion!—There was a general emulation in all ranks of people striving which should shew itself most eager for the preservation of the constitution, and to ensure the safety of the country—the rich gave bounties for the levy of men, and the poor in numbers volunteered their services—all was spirit and animation—we wish we saw some some symptoms of the same patriotic feeling now----never was there a sovereign upon the throne more justly beloved than his present majesty----never had the people more cause to be attached to any form of government than that with which this nation is blessed----yet the nation is supine----and we really fear we shall see more petitions for the repeal of taxes, than addresses for the prosecution of the war.

But do ministers really see and represent our situation in its true light? We do not want to alarm the country, but want them to shew us our real danger as it is, neither diminished nor exaggerated. With precaution, with foresight, with determination, that danger is nothing---without these, it is imminent indeed. In times like the present, they should of their own accord bring forward measures of vigor and energy, not lose the most precious moments, and wait till such plans are suggested by others. If Mr. Pitt had been minister, we are convinced that the bill for the defence of the country would have passed *six weeks ago*, and the measure itself would have been executed by this time---perhaps even now without his aid and assistance it would not have been proposed at all. If ministers fear the unpopularity of those measures which our present circumstances demand for the general safety, until they see that others are disposed to share the odium with them, they cannot fulfil their duty to the country. In fine weather and in calm seas any man may steer the vessel, but in the difficult navigation, and in the tempest, the most experienced and most skilful should be placed at the helm. We are at a loss to account for the exclusion of the greatest talents, the best experience, and the soundest wisdom from the councils of his majesty at so critical a juncture as the present, and that listlessness of which we have complaint, we can only refer to that circumstance. The spirit of Englishmen is not extinct; if it be exerted we have nothing to fear; but if that spirit be not usefully called forth by vigorous measures---if such measures are not directed by those in whom the nation has confidence, we shall too certainly experience misfortunes which necessity does not impose upon us, nay, indeed, we may possibly perish with the means of preservation and triumph unemployed in our hands.

YARMOUTH, July 1.

This morning Mr. Liston and family, with lord Burghersh and servant, and Mr. Dressens, king's messenger, and two Neapolitan messengers, embarked on board the Amethyst frigate, and sailed for Copenhagen.

PLYMOUTH, July 3.

In the beginning of war, perhaps a more gallant business has not been performed than was atchieved this week by the boats of La Loire, of 48 guns, capt. Maitland off the Isle of Bas on Tuesday last—La Loire was dispatched about a fortnight since from this port on that station, to intercept any vessel on that part of the coast of France: cruizing in shore, capt. M. saw a fine gun brig at anchor under a battery, and finding La Loire draw too much water to go near her with effect for her destruction, had all hands turned up, and asked who would volunteer to cut her out. Immediately 70 seamen and royal marines pushed aft to offer their services. A launch and a cutter were immediately manned and armed, under the command of lieuts. Temple and Bowen. The boats pushed in briskly, and were fired at by some heavy guns from the French brig; the shot passed over them, on which the boats crew gave three cheers; on nearing her another round was fired, which also passed over their heads a second time: the jolly tar and royal marines gave again three cheers, were soon alongside, and after a terrible conflict on both sides, lieutenants Temple and Bowen, with the boat's crews, boarded the gun brig, fought and pushed their way aft, and having killed 3 men and wounded ten, our gallant lads struck her colors; on the part of La Loire's boats four British seamen and royal marines were wounded; they are now in the royal navy hospital for cure, and will receive every attention incident to that establishment. The 1st and 2d captains of the brig were killed, and many officers wounded. La Loire, arrived yesterday with her prize, which is a very formidable vessel of her class, being a gun brig of four long 18 pounders, and six 36 pounders, is manned with 80 men; is called the La Venteaux. She went up the harbor immediately.

CUXHAVEN, June 16.

Our town has been taken possession of by the French troops. A few days before the arrival of the French, the English pressed a great proportion of the sailors. They carried on the press with the greatest vigor and authority. Among the rest, a great number of American sailors were pressed. In this neighborhood, as at Hamburg, Bremen and Hanover, there prevails the greatest indignation against the conduct of England. There is no man of reflection who is not convinced that the repose of the continent depends on the repression of the insolence of that turbulent government. It is further to be noticed that the influence of the English in the north is weakened. All the bills of exchange which have been presented from England have been protested.

PARIS, June 25.

Chaptal, minister of the Interior, has addressed a letter to the prefects, of which the following is the substance:—

In the position in which France is at present with the kind of enemies with whom we have to combat, the bravery of the French would remain fruitless on the shores of the Ocean, if the means of reaching their enemy were not furnished them by numerous vessels. It is to the construction of vessels, therefore, that all our efforts ought to be directed: commerce, agriculture and industry, will suffer the less, the more speedy the execution. A flat-bottomed boat of the first kind will cost 30,000 franks (1200l.) one of the second from 18,000 to 20,000; and one of the third from 4000 to 6000. Two feet water are sufficient to carry a flat-bottomed boat not armed; there are but few towns, therefore, that cannot execute an enterprize of this nature. These boats will be distinguished by the names of the towns, and the departments which have constructed them. The government will accept with satisfaction from a ship of the line down to the smallest transport. If each department and each large town, by a general and rapid movement, put vessels on the stocks, the French army will soon go and dictate laws to the British government, and establish the repose of Europe, the liberty and prosperity of commerce, on the only basis by which their duration can be ensured.

HAGUE, June 21.

At the sitting of the legislative body, this day, a message was read from the government, announcing, that this republic is obliged as an ally of France, to take part in the war: that it now only remains for us to put our trust in divine protection and the justice of our cause. It then announces that it has satisfied the desires of the first consul, and placed the Batavian army under the order of the French commander.

From the Merchant, a Rotterdam paper, received from captain O'Brien, of the Shepherdess.

ROTTERDAM, June 17.

To say any thing of commerce at this moment, would be repeating the observations which we made in our last. If there be any alteration worth mentioning, it is with respect to coffee, which continues to mount. The funds are still dull; the Batavian rescriptions are noted at 41 3-4 a 42 1-4 per cent.

The French tiers have had a rise within these few days: they are now at 47 per cent. occasioned, it is said, by the receipt of several considerable orders from England. The 5 a 4 per cents. were done at 69 3-4, but left off at 69 1-4.

A report has been current here for some days, that the court of England harbored hostile intentions towards his Prussian majesty. This intelligence, however could not be traced to any genuine source; and it fell into discredit, when it was found that his majesty's consul in this city had not received the smallest intimation of the kind, and that Prussian vessels continued to enter our ports without molestation from the English cruizers. A letter from Frankfort, dated the 12th, however states, that a courier had arrived the day before from Berlin at Hanau, where the royal family then were, with intelligence, that the English had blockaded the port of Dantzig; in consequence of which the letter states, that their majesties immediately proceeded for their capital.

In consequence of the late decree of our government, for arresting all Englishmen in the land or sea service of his majesty the king of Great-Britain, the gates of this city were yesterday noon beset by French soldiers, who refused to let any one go out of the city, not even the Dutch laborers to their respective occupations in the suburbs: but after an unimportant search had taken place, the gates were again abandoned to the use of the citizens. This rigid measure, however, seems to have arisen from a misconception between the magistrates and the French commandant.