FROM THE REGISTER.

TO THE

MECHANICS & MANUFACTURERS

OF THE UNITED STATES.

YOU have already witnessed how far the present administration of the general government is *voluntarily* disposed to promote your interest. Were further proofs on that head necessary, they may be found in the statements, which have lately appeared in the public prints, on the subject of the trade with the Indians, as it is now carried on by the agents of the government, to whom the law limits the management of that intercourse, thereby placing the whole of the articles obtained in barter, and collected throughout the United States, in their disposal. You may derive further evidence of their disposition to promote your interests from Mr. Jefferson's Notes on Virginia, where he says, "*Our work-shops had better remain in Europe—and that he never wishes to see our citizens at a work-bench.*" And if any further conviction of their determined purpose be required, you will find it in the annexed extract from the "National Intelligencer," Mr. Jefferson's official paper, where the most contemptible sophistry, prevaricating evasion, and mean pretexts of economy are employed to sap your interests.

Having nothing, then, to expect from the executive, your only hope must rest on the interposition of the legislature.—The interests of your several trades, for it equally concerns them all, will dictate in what degree that interposition ought to be requested, and how it may be most effectually obtained. No time, however, should be lost in concerting the means that will, in all respects, be most proper. Perhaps an understanding on the subject will be best promoted by an interchange of opinions between the manufacturing towns throughout the United States.

A FRIEND

to American Mechanics & Manufacturers.

FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER OF AUGUST 21.

"The conductor of the Political Register has undertaken to destroy the popularity of the administration, by shewing their deadly hostility to the "agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing interests."

"For this purpose, two powerful batteries are opened; the one against the alleged acts of the government; the other against the speculative opinions of the president.

"The exportation of a small consignment of Peltries, not exceeding seven thousand dollars in value, by the agent for Indian affairs, is represented as evidence of a deliberate purpose to depress and destroy our own by preferring foreign manufactures. A few of the hatters of Philadelphia have been induced to come forward, and to express *their* sense of this measure, and, as might be expected, they deeply deprecate its tendency. Facts have been grossly distorted: a mountain of misrepresentation has been raised; but a short disclosure of the truth has reduced it to a mole hill. Mr. Davy, whose veracity is unimpeachable, has declared that, previous to the exportation of the peltries, he offered them for sale in the Philadelphia market, and that he only exported them because he could not get a reasonable price for them; and it further appears that the standing instructions of the war department are not to export what can be advantageously sold at home.

"From these facts it follows that the only difference between Mr. Davy and the hatters must have been as to the price of the peltry. He thought he could get more for them by exporting them; and they knew they would stand a better chance of getting them low, provided a greater stock was retained in the United States than the demand required, while by the exportation of a part, that part would by being carried to the great European market, sell for its full price, while the part retained in the United States would, likewise, from its diminished relation to the demand, sell for its value. Thus a good and reasonable price would be received for the whole, and the government would correspondently be the gainer.

"On the other hand, by systematically withholding the exportation of peltry, the natural effect would be its accumulation here beyond the demand, and its inevitable diminution in value. By this, the government and the whole people would be losers. If our manufacturers succeeded in monopolising the raw materials, they could afford to sell their fabrics cheaper; but would they do it? That they would not, is evident from the consideration that they regulate their prices, not by the intrinsic worth of their articles, but by the price of similar imported artcles. Now the monopoly in the home market, by diminishing the supply of the foreign market, and rendering the raw materials there scarcer, would necessarily make them dearer, and proportionally elevate the price of the manufactured articles of which they are made. Thus, while our manufacturers could afford to sell their fabrics cheaper they would be enabled to sell them dearer. Is it then at all surprising that they should aim at monopoly; or that they should do what has always been attempted by manufacturers in like circumstances? It would, however, be truly surprising if the agents of a government apprised of these effects should for the purpose of unduly fostering the interests of a few manufacturers, injure the interests of the whole people and duminish the national revenue.

"We are very much inclined to believe, from the irrational clamor attempted to be excited, that the general interests have heretofore been extensively sacrificed to those of a small class of individuals; and that the reform, *now* commencing, has spread alarm lest the sources of monopoly should be dried up. It would be an interesting view to contrast the prices paid in the United States, for ten years past, for peltries sold by the government, with the prices current in Europe. This would enable us to see whether the interests of the whole community have not been sacrificed to the gain of a few; and whether the future prevention of similar injustice does not require other expedients than those heretofore used, and whether among these, an occasional resort to exportation is not necessary.

"These animadversions may be considered harsh by the class of individuals to which they refer, but they are surely too enlightened, not to know, that it is the duty of the government to consult the general interests; that, consequently, it is the duty of their agents to get the best price they can for the articles they sell: and that it is not with any executive officer, without the express sanction of law, to allow either virtual or direct bounties on manufactures.

"So much for this branch of the new attack on the administration. In our next we will say a little on the strictures on the speculative opinions of the president."

BY THIS DAY's MAILS.

BOSTON, August 22.

A correspondent suggests that the twenty-four quires of dispatches said to have been sent from Spain, to our government, was a peice of profound policy, which does honor to the shrewdness of the doughty Don. They were calculated to arrive at midsummer, anticipating with prophetic sagacity, that the president and heads of departments, would be scattered through the various districts of the United States. Before they could be collected and the reading of the twenty-four quires of dispatches fairly dispatched, the Don would have time very leisurely to secure his own, together with a goodly portion of American property.

It is believed that though war with Spain is pretty certain yet that *actual hostilities* will not commence for some years. The leading maxim of our vigorous administration seems to be, never to fight or even prepare to fight, so long as an hostile power will negociate. If therefore quires and reams and volumes of *notes and ultimatums* of *sine qua nons, preliminary bases dispatches, and manifestoes* are to pass and repass with the usual rapidity, with which negociations of this sort are conducted, the Spaniards and Americans may safely calculate, that several years will elapse before they are conducted to the *bloody arena*.

NORFOLK, August 21.

The following is a translation of the sentence pronounced in the case of the schooner Iris, mentioned in our last. We publish this sentence with pleasure, as honorable to the judges, who pronounced it, and as affording a hope, that the suffering commerce of our country will experience some amelioration. The justice & impartiality of the tribunal, deserves more consideration, as the vessel that captured the Iris, was a national vessel.

"The committee of administration has declared, and declares, that, without having respect to the pretext alleged in the verbal process of capture, the prize made of the American schooner Iris of Norfolk, captain Samuel Pearson, by the state dispatch Le Musquito, captain Brouard, is *void* and of *none effect;* and, in consequence it ordains that the product of the provisory sale which may have been made of the said schooner, her rigging, apparel, utensils, and cargo, at the instance of the said Sieur Brouard, in virtue of a decree of the committee of Justice, in date the 5th Floreal last, shall be delivered to the said captain Samuel Pearson, or to his agent duly authorized—and considering the debarkation of the said captain, and the impossibility of conveying it to him, that a copy of the present decision be, by the colonial inspector, addressed in triplicate, to Monseigneur the minister plenipotentiary of France at the United States, to be transmitted to the commissary of commercial relations of France at Norfolk, with a request to make the same known either to the said captain, or to Messrs. James Dykes & Co. the freighters of the said schooner.

"Ordains further, That, in consequence of the natural and legal recourse which the captain, freighters, or assurers of the said schooner have against the government for damage resulting from the capture, illegally made of the said schooner by a national vessel; the amount of the liquidations and reparations to be made in favor of the captain, officers, and crew, of the said dispatch Le Musquito, from the prizes condemned in their favor, up to this day, shall be placed, under the title of deposits, in the chest of the Invalids of the Marine, until after the definitive judgment of the council of prizes, on the merit of the reclamations and on the indemnities to be accorded to the said captain and freighters of the schooner Iris.

Reserving to Monsieur the colonial inspector, the ample authority and exercise of his prerogatives, in law and fact, to make complaint, and prosecute on the information relative to the violation of forms, and of the rights of men and usages of war, by the ill treatment of the mate and sailors of the schooner Iris. For the said information availing himself of the result of the examinations of the captured sailors, closed and addressed to his excellency, Monseigneur the minister of the marine and colonies, to be by the council of prizes determined, according to the 97th article of the law of the 2d Praireal, year eleven.

Done and judged, at St. Domingo, the day, month and year above written. Signed, Wives, Minuty, Huet, Lafaille, and Le Roy. A true copy.

(Signed) LE ROY.

Yesterday anchored in Hampton Roads, the United States frigate Adams, captain Murray.

PETERSBURG, August 20.

We understand that orders have been received from the governor, by the officers of militia in Petersburg and its neighbourhood, requiring them to organize and discipline their respective companies, and also to be in readiness to march at an hour's warning.—The Volunteer companies more especially are expected to be foremost in alacrity and subordination, and the first to oppose any insult or outrage, from whatever source they may come.

RICHMOND, August 23.

The governor of this state has issued *general* orders to the commanders of the Militia to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning. The same orders, it is believed, have been given by the governors of the other states. What it has been demanded is the occasion of these military preparations? One federal paper (the Nor. Herald) has even pronounced that the present is a "squally" season, while another "the Public Ledger" has indulged some insinuations against the secrecy which our federal cabinet has hitherto trown over its measures.

The editors have suppcsed that there was some connection between these general orders and our relations with Spain. The militia they may suppose are to be held in readiness to march at a moment's warning against the Spanish possessions. Should such be their conclusion, they are greatly deceived. This call upon the Militia is intended to carry into execution, a law of the last congress making provisions for the "more effectual preservation of peace in the ports of the United States, & to the waters under their jurisdiction."—Before we leave this subject, we would barely ask whether the plan of defence, proposed in the last paper, of artillery on the land and heavy gallies on the water, is not a more effectual defence, than the one adobted by the law of congress. That plan, because it is the suggestion of a sage and experienced head, is perhaps entitled to some degree of attention.

Richmond Enquirer.

FEDERAL GAZETTE.

TUESDAY, *AUGUST 27.*

The *convention-mania*, has at length reached the state of Kentucky. A Mr. Matthews Flournoy, (we believe a member of assembly in that state) has boldly come forward with a proposition to call a convention for altering the constitution of Kentucky, and has affixed his name to the performance. Contrary to our conventionalists in Pennsylvania, who wish to have the senators elected yearly, one of Mr. Flournoy's objects is to have the whole legislative body to meet but once in every three years. We have little doubt, but that if Duane and his malcontents were in Kentucky, and thought it would promote their interests, they would take part with Mr. Flournoy. *Change* is all they want, and provided it is *change*, it is of little moment to them what kind of a *change*. [*Freeman's Journal.*]

The Convention or Constitution-mending mania is not peculiar to Kentucky, Pennsylvania or New-York: We have a number of Political Tinkers in this state, who are equally resolved to make business for themselves. Harford and Cæcil are their principal shops, and Messrs. Montgomery and Sheridan are said to be the head workmen. To whom we are to give the credit of penning the address *to the citizens of Cæcil county*, now circulating in handbills, from which the following extract is taken, is not yet known.

"That a long continuance in power is dangerous to liberty, appears to have been the opinion of those men who formed the bill of rights of this state; for in that instrument it is declared, that all persons invested with legislative powers are the trustees of the people, and, as such, accountable for their conduct; and that elections ought to be free and frequent."

"Yet in direct contradiction to this declared right, we find one branch of the legislature (to wit the senate) established almost independent, and out of the power of the people: that in the place of having elections free and frequent, and of giving to the people the immediate choice of their rulers, the senate is chosen in a very indirect manner—are chosen for the term of five years, with the more extraordinary and unprecedented power of filling up their own vacancies. Strange, indeed, that in a government formed upon the authority of the people, such an aristocratical power as this is permitted to continue; that one complete branch of the legislature is made up of men, in whom the people have no confidence—a number of them men in whom the people have neither directly nor indirectly any possible choice—men whom they do not know—men whose interests are very different from the interests of the people at large—men under no responsibility to any power on earth. From men thus fixed in power, what can be expected? Not that they will study the interest of the people at large: This, I say, cannot be expected, unless it is at the same time their own interest: and this, from their peculiar situation in life, will seldom, if ever happen. Men, I say, under such circumstances, having no responsibility to the people, to whom they do not view themselves beholden, have no peculiar incentive but that of self-interest, which, from the calling of a considerable part of that body, is well known to be their ruling passion.

"The principles upon which our senate are placed in power, have long since been a subject of uneasiness among the people. By turning back to the election of 1800, it must be remembered how the people were then alarmed, at the known desire of the then senate to place the power of choosing the electors of the president and vice-president of the United States in the legislature; which would have been done, could the governor have been prevailed on to have convened the assembly at that time; and then where would you have found redress? A president would have been elected contrary to the will of the majority of the freemen of this state, and perhaps the right in the people to elect a president and vice-president in future, have been altogether taken from them—and this from the undue influence of the senate."

"These evils and dangers were at that time publicly and industriously proclaimed among the people, who were urged to exert themselves, in the choice of men of different political principles. The exertion by the people was made and crowned with success; in return for which they were promised by those men most active in the change, that if they would elect a majority of republicans, the first thing they would do would be to remove the dangerous power of the senate—that the choice of the senate should be given immediately to the people—that a senator should be elected by the people, one for each country in the state—and that the term should be shortened.

"At the then ensuing election, those very men, who as before observed were most active in bringing about a change, were generally elected. What has been the consequence? Has any alteration been made? No: Has it ever been attempted in the house of delegates? Never that I have heard of; and I think I dare assert it never was, and but feebly in the senate—&, strange to tell, some of the same men being then in the senate, who before had made most noise, and gave the greatest alarm, as to the danger to be expected from continuing the senate on the then principles. These men, I say, having got into the senate themselvs, were most industrious and made the greatest opposition to the alteration. Such is man and such is the difference of men *out* of and *in* power. How necessary is it, then, to trust no man with power without making him at the same time responsible for the abuse of that power.

"Four years having passed over, and nothing having been done, I conceive nothing can be expected while we continue the same men in power; although the whole senate, and a considerable majority in the house of delegates, were taken out of that set of men from whom, agreeably to their public declarations, the most was to be expected. Nothing, as before observed, is done, as to a change in that part of the constitution.—*Query:* Would it not be necessary to try what can be done by a change, at least in part? Perhaps no evil would arise if the whole were changed; for nothing can possibly tend more to rob people of their liberty than continuing the same men too long in power, especially in power without responsibility—a frequent change of power being the only true method of securing liberty, which I shall endeavor to shew in my next Number."

"A VOTER."

We have noticed, in a recent number of our Gazette, the rapid strides which our city has made within a few years past on the road of improvement. In a literary career, she bids fair to equal her other pretensions to celebrity; as is evinced by the following description of a late examination at the French seminary—an institution, which, though in its infancy, has produced examples of genius and discipline not unworthy the brightest days of Athenian glory.

We copy from "The Companion," a literary work of much originality and no small merit.

Quid munus reipublicæ, magnus aut melius afferre possumus, quam si juventutem bene erudiamus? CICERO.

MR. EASY,

The examination of the students of St. Mary's College under the conduct of the Catholic clergy, which had lasted a week, ended on Monday. I was not present, but I am informed they did honor to themselves and teachers, in Greek, Latin, Spanish, French and English; algebra, mathematics, composition, rhetoric, and all the various branches of education, which are taught in this seminary of learning.

On the succeeding evening I had great pleasure in witnessing the annual exhibition. From the satisfaction which was experienced at the last, public expectation was much excited; nearly six hundred ladies and gentlemen assembled and were received in a large hall fitted up for the occasion with a stage, and benches, ranged amphitheatrically. The exhibition was opened about 4 o'clock by the president, who informed the company, that there were specimens of drawing for their inspection in an adjoining room. Here the walls were hung round with productions of the collegians which drew forth the strongest expressions of approbation. In both these arts the president has been fortunate in procuring adepts for instructing. Mr. Forster's pre-eminent penmanship is too well known to need an eulogium; and to discriminate the productions of Mr. Shwartz's pencil is to extend a high estimation of his talents. Though it be the highest, yet I think it a just encomium on the pupils of Mr. F. to say that some of them have strong pretensions to emulate his own superiority; and from the pieces of drawing that were exhibited, we have the pleasing reflection, that at some future period, we may vie with the nations of Europe—How much are the gentlemen of the College entitled to the thanks of their fellow citizens for their attention to these accomplishments, when it is considered, they have hitherto been regarded as unworthy associates of the learned languages and the liberal arts.

After this treat, masters Trigants, Digges and M'Henry, spoke an appropriate dialogue, in which was demonstrated, the superiority of a collegiate over a domestic education, concluding with a general outline of this institution and the reasons of its peculiar regulations. The dialogue was an elegant composition, chaste, easy and spirited; each argument seemed to grow out of the subject, and every answer out of the argument; reasons followed cavils, and confusion succeeded raillery. So admirably were the different parts sustained, that it had all the nature of three skilful disputants advancing their sincere sentiments, and so judiciously were the characters balanced, that while every objection was urged, all appeared impressed with the truth of the author's real opinion. The effect was happy. Delight enlivened every visage. Attention was enchained, the souls of the audience seemed to mix in the ceremony, and every pulse to beat in unison. The elegant author, in this offspring of his pen, has given the most decisive proof of his critical knowledge in this difficult species of writing.

The young orators did all justice to the merit of the composition. It is related of a famous personage, that hearing a bungler read a piece of his composition, he indignantly snatched it from him—How different must have been the sensations of the author of this dialogue! From the masterly manner in which it was delivered, I have no doubt, beauties were suggestd to him, which, from reading it himself, he did not perceive. When we go to see an exhibition, we expect little more than to see a boy, "sawing the air with his hand" repeat by rote a Roman speech. "To be or not to be," or something else, which after the first word or two, has no other title to please, than that it will soon be over. But who can suppress his delight, when he hears a youth of fourteen speak for an hour, with all the correctness of memory, manly confidence, distinct enunciation, just emphasis, and easy grace, of mature age and long practice! When the dialogue was concluded, master Wilson, whose infantine talents had particularly attracted the attention of the professors, spoke with much spirit the soliloquy of Cato.

The president having invited the mayor of the city to invest the crowns, proceeded to read the names of those to whom they had been awarded. The first in their class, were crowned and presented with some appropriate "premium;" the "accesserunt" were distinguished with a chaplet only.—when the laurels of literature were dispensed, the distinctions of amiable behavior, and diligent study were conferred. That the ceremony from its length might not be monotonous and tiresome, the mind at intervals, was agreeably diverted with interludes of music, by the collegians and some gentlemen of the city.

These rites being over, the company were much delighted with a ballat by the students, in which they proved, that proficiency in the grave and more important branches of education, can be conciliated with excellence in the elegant accomplishment of dancing. The *crowned heads* were then conducted to another apartment, where they were regaled with an elegant supper spread for them alone.

It can never be too often remarked, how much the public are indebted to the amiable gentlemen by whom this institution is conducted. Mr. Wm. Du Bourg is the president and founder, a gentleman of great learning aad talents, who having devoted his life to the acquisition of the most valuable treasure, now wishes to bequeath it, "a rich legacy" to posterity.

In the republics of Greece, the education of youth was a matter of public cognizance and considered the most sacred trust. None could aspire to those enviable functions, but such as had been honored with the most signal distinctions, and whose morals had been refined in the crucible of probation—and Greece was the sun, that illumined the world of barbarism. How lamentable is the fact that in the republic of America this most important of trusts is thought to be of trival consequence, and of course has sunk beneath its own intrinsic majesty. We either do not reflect that the youth of the present day are at some future period to hold the destines of their country, or, that young minds cannot be moulded by the plastic hand of education. But I hope this just ground of complaint will be in some measure removed by as liberal and generous a patronge of this institution as its undertaking is laudible and noble. It appears to me to be conducted upon principles which cannot fail to produce the most sanguine success. The professors are not content, to go the beaten road, and