[From the (Philad.) American Sentinel.]

COMMUNICATION.

THE WHEAT MOTH OR VIRGINIA FLY.

Many Farmers in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, may remember that this insect did much damage to the grain, in the years 1802, 3 and 4, and as it has appeared again last summer, and threatens to spread widely in this district, too much care cannot be taken to prevent its destructive effects, for which purpose the following account of it, published at the period abovementioned, is again committed to the press.

The inhabitants of a considerable part of the province of Angoumois, in France had for a period of 30 years, sustained an immense loss by the ravages of this insect. It appeared at first only in a few hamlets, but soon made so rapid a progress as to spread to the lands of upwards of two hundred parishes. In the year 1755, Messrs. Duhamel and Tillet were deputed by the academy of sciences at Paris, of which they were members, to inquire into the nature of this insect, and the means of preventing and curing the dreadful calamity occasioned thereby. The description given of it by these gentleman is so minute and particular as to leave no room for doubt of its being the same we have in America. It resembles the moth which preys upon woollen clothes, and is of the class of four winged *phalenæ* or night butterflies. In this state, however, they do not take any food, nor do they destroy the grain during that time, for they have not organs capable of doing it even the least injury. Their only function then is to propagate their species. They couple in the manner of the silkworm butterfly, and as soon as the female is impregnated she lays her eggs in great numbers, in heaps of 60, 80, or 90 together. They are accompanied with a viscous matter which makes them stick to the places they are laid in, and this cohesion soon becomes very strong. They are so extremely small that one of them would drop through a hole made in a bit of paper with the point of the finest needle. The female butterflies which are upon the ears of grain in a field, endeavor to place themselves in such a maner as to lay their eggs close to the joining of the grain to the stalk. In six or seven days each of them produces a caterpiller, in appearance like a bit of hair about the twentieth part of an inch long, at first reddish but afterwards almost white.

As soon as the caterpillars are hatched they set about making their way into the grain in order to feed upon its flour. If the eggs had been laid in the granary, after harvest, and upon the grains themselves, they generally creep into the furrow of the wheat and there weave a slight web. They then tear a hole in the skin, or rind, range round them the particles of bran thus separated, and wriggle themselves into the mealy substance which is to be their food. The hole through which the caterpillar entered can then no longer be perceived but by a little heap of bran which lies upon it, and which may easily escape the notice of those who have not observed it before, but when once known is easily distinguished. When the eggs are hatched upon the ears in the field, the young caterpillars soon find means to glide in between the chaff and the grain, and in that situation they pierce the latter, as was said before, generally, in the furrow, but sometimes at the pointed end, which is a little hairy. As the husks of barley are harder and stick much closer to the grain than those of wheat, it is almost always at the point that these caterpillars enter, by means of a small opening perceptible in that part. Notwithstanding the industry of this insect it seems highly probable that the young ones meet with great difficulties in their attempts to get into the grain, since very many of them die before they can effect a lodgment in the mealy substance. But considering the vast fecundity of the females, if prodigious numbers of them did not perish, it would be hardly possible to save a single grain of any kind.

The people of Angoumois were strongly of opinion that the mischief occasioned by this insect was peculiar to the grain of their country, and that what was brought to them from other places always escaped unhurt. To clear up this point, Messrs. Duhamel and Tillet put into different glasses, wheat of the growth of other provinces, and, with grains in each glass, some of these butterflies actually coupled. They soon saw the female lay her eggs upon these grains, and afterwards the catterpillars hatch and make their way into them. Their further observations proved that the principal cause of the spreading of this evil is, that the insect itself, which multiplies exceedingly, is conveyed to other parts with the grain in which it is enclosed. Whenever a grain was opened in which the caterpillar was not fully grown, a deal of flour yet remained; but when full grown, nothing was left but the skin or bran so destitute of flour as not even to discolor clear water.—Hogs would not touch these hulls when given to them unmixed. The length of the caterpillar when full grown is very little more than the twelfth part of an inch, and its thickness is at most equal to half the circumference of the grain that contains it. Its body is smooth and entirely white, it is thickest towards the head, in which one may perceive its mouth, two large eyes and two kinds of hair, the head is a little browner than the rest of the body. It has sixteen legs, of which the eight intermediate and membranous, are only small prominences so minute as not to be distinguished even with the help of a Microscope, unless the insect be laid upon its side.

The caterpillar exactly inclosed in its grain, before it is changed into an aurelia makes therein a small trap door which remains shut. The butterfly being entirely formed in the aurelia, breaks the skin of it at the end, opens with its head this little trap, and comes out at the hole which was covered and shut by it.—As soon as the butterflies are out of the grains which contained them, they couple, and the females lay their eggs in the manner before related. This insect, like all others of the same species, remains a longer or shorter time in its different states according to the temperature of the air. It will continue three months in the state of an aurelia if put into an ice house, and the butterfly does not in that case come out till after it has been removed into a much warmer air. The coming out of the butterflies is generally denoted by a great heat in the heaps of grain or in the sheaves according as it is laid up in one or the other. This heat certainly accelerates the hatching of the insects, for prodigious multitudes of butterflies issue out of the heated grain in a few days after the ferment has taken place. When the harvest is cut, and warm rains fall at that time, this heat comes on very soon, and then these insects make an extremely rapid progress. A hot and dry season which hardens the grain may defer the evil and perhaps lessen it a little, but this is all. These caterpillars inclosed in their husks and sheltered in barns and granaries are screened from the vicissitudes of the air, and when circumstances are favourable, again make their appearance.

At harvest time butterflies were seen to come out of some grains which were already empty and entirely consumed before they were reaped. Probably these first butterflies couple and lay their eggs upon the other unreaped ears, and part of these eggs are destroyed by the action of the flail when the grain is threshed and cleaned soon after its being cut; but as the caterpillars are hatched very speedily in hot weather, and many of them enter into the grain that is reaping and shelter themselves there, they will do all their mischief if speedy care be not taken to stifle them. Grain reaped and piled up, heats, and then the transformations of the insects inclosed in it are the sooner effected. When the sheaves are stirred, vast numbers of butterflies come out of them and the grains from which they issue are empty of flour and absolutely spoiled. The moment these butterflies are out of their prison they couple and lay their eggs upon the ears which they find in the barn. Part of these eggs and the young caterpillars may certainly be destroyed by the flail and winnow if used speedily. Floating the grain does not effectually separate the damaged from the sound; for that in which the caterpillars have not eaten much of the flour will sink along with the good, and the insect will remain to finish its work which is facilitated by the softening of the grain in the water. To grind the whole produce of the crop immediately after harvest, were it practicable, would be attended with inconveniences; and though the friction of the millstones should destroy almost all the insects, it is not certain but that some of them may escape and go through their metamorphoses even in the flour itself. From what is laid up in granaries issue multitudes of butterflies which couple and lay an immense quantity of eggs, from whence proceed caterpillars which get into the grains and devour their inside during the whole winter. Numbers of live caterpillars have been found in them at that season, many aurelæ towards the end of May, and prodigious multitudes of butterflies issue from them as soon as the weather begins to be hot. Thus it seems there are two flights of them, one which appears from harvest time till the weather grows cold in October, and the other which appears in June and lasts till harvest. Those of the summer flight remain in the barns and granaries attached to the grain laid up there, upon which they couple and lay their eggs. It looks as if they knew that there is no longer in the fields any grain fit to feed their posterity. On the contrary, those of the spring flight endeavor to get out of the granaries, and do in fact get out in vast numbers through the window to spread in the fields and lay their eggs upon the yet green grain. That this is really the case, and that these insects are a species of night-moth, appeared evidently from several very accurate observations made by Messrs. Duhamel and Tillet. They went at different hours of the day, into granaries infected with them. While the day lasted they perceived a multitude of butterflies which stirred a little upon the heaps but did not quit them. When they returned into the same granaries a little after sun-set, they saw those butterflies rise and fly to the walls where they settled for a while after which they took their flight in vast numbers through the windows. As these little insects fly very swiftly and rise to such a height that the eye cannot follow them long, especially when the dusk of evening comes on, Messrs. Duhamel and Tillet were obliged to try several methods before they could be certain what became of them. The caterpillars found in the standing ears made them conclude that the butterflies, when out of the granary, flew directly into the green grain and laid their eggs upon it while yet tender; but none of the country people of whom they inquired had ever observed them in the fields, or could give any satisfactory account of them. They searched all the neighbouring fields, and beat even the surrounding hedges at all hours of the day to no purpose—not a butterfly could they find excepting a few dead and dried ones entangled in spider-webs. This very circumstance led them to the discovery they were in quest of; for rightly reflecting that these insects, which neither they nor any other persons had been able to find in the fields in the day-time, must certainly be of the phalenæ or nocturnal kind, they without further delay set out with a candle and lanthorn, repaired to one of the fields they had visited in the afternoon, and soon descried a great number of the very butterflies they were seeking for, upon the beards of the ears of wheat. They returned to the same spot early the next morning, and could not then find a single one.

It was proved by the following experiment, that it is possible the caterpillars may live under ground, pass the winter there inclosed in the grain with which they are sown, and even undergo their several metamorphoses in the earth, so as to arise from thence in the form of butterflies in the spring. A wooden box was divided into three partitions and filled with common mould taken out of a kitchen garden. Wheat, known to be infected, was planted an inch deep in one of these partitions, two inches deep in another, and three inches in the third. All of them were then covered with a glass frame, and butterflies soon appeared in each of the divisions, but they were far the most numerous in that where they had been buried but an inch deep. In another trial a number of infected grains were covered with a still stiffer earth, wetted and pressed down, and not any butterflies appeared there. From hence Messrs. Duhamel and Tillet concluded that though some of these insects can, and certainly do come out of the ploughed ground which has been sown with infected grain their number is comparatively small, and that mills and granaries are the great source of their increase; for the grain which contains a young caterpillar will grow if its germ has not been damaged, and as its mealy substance is consumed by the plant, the caterpillar must die for want of food; besides as is proved by the experiment above-mentioned, the butterflies cannot pierce through a close and hardened earth, which generally is the case of ploughed land that has been exposed to the winter rains. It is not agreed whether these insects prefer wheat, barley or rye. The observations made by Messrs. Duhamel and Tillet, seem to prove that they attack indifferently whichever lies most convenient for them; and that they do not spare Indian corn when stripped from its stalk, and laid up in a granary where they can come at the soft inside part of the grain. Even oats, when mixed with wheat, barley and rye, in a glass vessel into which some of the butterflies were put, were damaged by caterpillars as much as any of the other grain, though it is certain that they do but little mischief to oats in the granary.

To preserve the grain from farther injury after it is reaped, it should be threshed out as soon as possible, and such part of it as it is wished to preserve either for seed or grinding, should be dried in an oven or kiln in which the heat should be strong enough to kill the caterpillars without destroying the vegetative principle. This will be effected by 124 degrees of heat of Fahrenheit's thermometer. Or the seed grain may be better prepared by being soaked in a strong lye of wood-ashes and quicklime heated to sech a degree that the finger can just bear it. Let the grain, contained in a basket, be stirred in this lye, and the grains skimmed off that float on the surface. When it has been thus soaked for about two minutes, the basket which contains it should then be lifted up and suspended by two poles till the lye is drained off. The grain should then be spread very thin on a floor to dry, while a second basketful is prepared in the same manner. When thus steeped and well dried, it will keep a year and continue fit for sowing.

In France, mills and granaries where large quantities of grain were deposited, seem to have been considered as the chief sources of the evil. But in this country it cannot be the case, at least not to so great an extent. No large quantities remain on hand when the warm season approaches, and kiln-drying might destroy any caterpillars which might then exist. It appears that the severity of a hard winter cannot be depended on for this purpose, but that a sufficient number may survive, even in the grain sown, to cause considerable mischief. The roller may however be of service to prevent the fly from making its way out of the ground.—The principal danger seems to exist in the spring barley, which having been kept under cover during winter and afterwards sown in fresh-ploughed, and consequently light soil, will, if at all infected, be sufficient to spread the evil far and wide. If attention be paid the ensuing spring to the kiln-drying of the grain that remains on hand, to the rolling of that which is coming up, and the pickling of the seed barley, we may hope to put a stop to this distressing calamity, or at least to prevent its spread; but let it be remembered, that the remedy in order to be *effectual*, must be *universal*.

[From the National Journal.]

"TOMB OF WASHINGTON," AND JUDGE WASHINGTON.

In reply to a letter of Judge "Bush, Washington," of the 18th inst., addressed to Messrs. *Snowdon & Thornton*, Editors of the "Alexandria Gazette," we state, that we had no intention to "misrepresent" the conduct of the Judge upon the occasion alluded to. The subject was much talked of, and excited some feeling in the public mind at this place, and as we heard it, we gave it. Our respect for Judge Washington as an individual, and the near relative of the great Father of our Independence whose name he bears, would not permit us to do any act to intentionally "misrepresent" him. We beg him to be assured of the truth of this declaration.

Since the publication of Judge Washington which attributes to us "misrepresentations," we have taken the trouble to ascertain the facts in this case, the substance of which we give to the public without any comment, and for the truth of which we vouch.

About thirty members of Congress, feeling a desire to visit the "Tomb of Washington" at Mount Vernon, hired the steam-boat "Enterprise" on the 14th inst. to take them to that place, rendered dear to every American who is proud of his country. It was the only leisure day that they could take from their arduous duties, which were drawing to a close, to pay a devotion to the memory of their country's best friend. The occasion was calculated to draw forth not only the tenderest and most grateful feelings of the human heart, but carried with it those moral reflections inculcated by the sublime doctrines of the christian religion. With these sentiments the visit was undertaken, and the day assisted to inspire those reverential and religious feelings, without which, the "Tomb of Washington" ought never to be approached. The steam boat had proceeded some distance when the passengers were informed, (only two of them ever having heard of such a thing,) that the proprietor of "Mount Vernon" would not permit passengers to land from on board of steam boats. A consultation was immediately had, when it was determined that the boat should anchor off "Mount Vernon," and that a committee of three of the members of Congress should go on shore and ask permission of Judge Washington to visit the "Tomb."—The committee landed, and walked up to the house, and after waiting a few minutes upon the pavement, and having knocked at the door, Judge Washington came out, and advanced to where they stood. They were introduced to the Judge by their names and stations in public life. The Judge appeared much exasperated. One of the committee observed:—"About thirty "members of Congress are on board of the "steam boat at your landing, and having under-"stood that you had prohibited passengers "landing from steam boats, on your shore, they "have deputized us to wait upon you, and to "respectfully ask you to permit them to land, "and to pay their respects to the memory of "your deceased relative at his tomb." Judge Washington replied:—"I will not; I have forbidden persons to come here in steam boats, and if they land I will sue them; I will at all events sue the captain of the steam boat for bringing them." The Committee answered:—"We are sorry to have occasioned your displeasure—we came with the best of feelings, and regret your refusal. We assure you, upon our honors, that no injury shall be done to your property; and if you will permit our company to land, they will go directly to the "tomb," and return immediately. As to suing the Captain, he is not answerable; he has not landed; the Committee are the only trespassers, if their friendly and respectful visit can be considered as such; and they are ready to make any atonement, if an injury be done by them or the captain of the steamboat to your property." Judge Washington then remarked—"I want no atonement from you; you have so far done me no injury; but I will sue the Captain. As to permitting your company to land, I will not: I would not permit the President of the United States and his Secretaries to come here in contravention of my positive orders and publications made." The Committee then stated—"we do not wish you to sue the Captain; he is not in fault. If any has been committed, our company must be made answerable—they will not let him suffer. We never saw your publication—we highly disapprove of the improper conduct of many who come here, nor ought parties of pleasure to be permitted to visit these scenes. Such is not our party—we come with very different feelings, and we do think that our characters and our standing in the country ought to shield us from such an imputation. We wish you good morning, sir. We have discharged our duty, and have given you our names: we must now return to our friends to communicate this unexpected refusal." During the whole of this time, the gentlemen who composed the committee stood upon the pavement in front of the house, where they were at first received by Judge Washington, and were never asked to go into the house, or to take a seat. The manner of the Judge was violent, and very different from that which we consider the gentlemen were entitled to expect. A refusal in calm feelings and a polite manner, with gentlemen like those who composed the committee, representing the respectable company they did, ought to have been made. The committee then returned to the boat, and informed the gentlemen of what had been said. Before their return, a few gentlemen had gone to the water's edge in a boat, to be ready to land, and whose feelings were so excited at the refusal, that they went direct to the tomb, and gave their names to Mr. Herbert, (a gentleman who was at Mount Vernon,) to be used as Judge Washington should think proper. We are authorized to say "that in the interview between Judge Washington and the committee," the word "Sunday" was not named. The objection was to landing from on board "steam boats."

Further extracts from English papers.

ALARM OF THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.

The result of Lord Amherst's war with the Burmans may be the annihilation of the trade of the India Company with China. It appears, that the Head of the Celestial Empire has taken alarm at the advance of the troops of the former, and ordered fortifications to prevent the violation of his frontiers. The Tartar cannot hear of conquests in his vicinity without sensible apprehension. The following appears in a late Sydney Gazette. "The Emperor has issued a Proclamation which states that a curious document has reached this country (meaning Sydney,) in reference to the Burmese war. It is a Proclamation of the Emperor of China, grounded on a dispatch from one of his Governors of the Province of Yun-nan, bringing under his attention the state of the frontiers. The Governor states, that the Burmese are engaged in a war with the English, and have been defeated in most engagements. He recommends that, on the frontiers towards the Burmese territory, there be erected fortifications and towers, to prevent the violation of the Chinese territory by either of the parties. This proclamation is from the Pekin Gazette, by the Asiatic Society."

Port of London.—The trade of London employs 35,00 ships, the cargoes entering the Port being not less than 13 500; on an average, 1,100 ships are in the River at the same time; together with 3,416 barges and other small craft, employed in lading and unlading them; 2,228 barges and other craft engaged in the inland trade, and 5000 wherries or small boats for passengers. To this active scene, which the port of London exhibits, are to be added about 8000 watermen actually employed in navigating the wherries and craft, 4000 labourers lading and unlading ships, and 1,200 Revenue Officers constantly doing duty on the River, besides the crews of the several vessels. This scene occupies a space of six miles on the Thames, from two miles above to four miles below London Bridge and Limehouse.

Missolonghi.—The following is given as a correct statement of the combined Turkish and Egyptian forces before Missolonghi:

Mamelukes	1,200
Disciplined troops of Ibrahim, including the Artillery commanded and directed by French Engineers	8,600
Light troops of Ibrahim, Egyptians, Candiots, and others	3,400
Albanians in the pay of do.	2,200
Cossacks of the Captain Pacha	500
Officers of Health, Commissariat, &c.	350
Troops remaining of the army of Redshid Pacha	10,000
Total	25,150

Against this force, supported by a naval armament of nearly one hundred vessels, manned by at least 6,000 seamen and marines, the Greeks had nothing to oppose but a garrison of 1,800 brave men, and the co-operation of their fleet, but ill provided, and already exhausted by repeated efforts.

Honesty.—A short time ago, a saddler, at Cambray, having contracted to equip a regiment, bought all the old equipments. To his astonishment, whilst ripping up an old saddle, he discovered a considerable sum of money in gold, bearing the effigy of almost all the Princes of Europe. Upon inquiry, he found that it had belonged to an old Quarter-master, who had made every campaign for twenty-five years, and who died at the hospital of Saragossa, during the last war. Like an honest man, he sought out the family of the deceased, and divided with it the treasure which chance had thrown into his hands.

CIRCULAR TO POST MASTERS.

Post Office Department, 27th May, 1826.

SIR: Complaints have been lately made of the delay and sometimes loss of Newspapers sent by mail. These may be attributed in some cases, to the careless manner in which papers are prepared for the mail, but, in others, they are believed to arise from the inattention or design of Post Masters. It is feared that some of them are so forgetful of their duty, as to consult the convenience of contractors on horse routes, by retaining a part of the packets when the mail is so large that the usual number of bags cannot contain it. Others, it is said, being more culpable, retain newspapers to read them. A moment's reflection must convince every Post Master, guilty of these charges, that he trifles with the obligation imposed by his oath of office, and should be held responsible for such gross violation of duty.

Publishers of Newspapers and their Subscribers, as well as Post Masters, are requested to report to the Department, all irregularities in the reception of papers forwarded in the mail, and an assurance is given, that where the irregularity shall be proven to have been produced by the negligence or design of any contractor, Post Master, or clerk, the most effectual steps shall be taken to prevent its recurrence.

It is often of as much importance to the public, and always as essential to the reputation of the mail, that Newspapers should be as speedily and as safely transmitted, as Letters, and an individual who is inattentive to the former, is unworthy of being trusted with the latter. He is a stranger to that high incentive to duty, which arises from an ardent desire to elevate the character of the department, by giving the utmost efficiency to its operations.

In the Post Office law, it is provided, that, "if any person employed in any Department of the Post Office, shall improperly detain, delay, embezzle, or destroy, any Newspaper, or shall permit any other person to do the like, or shall open or permit any other person to open, any mail or packet of Newspapers, or shall embezzle or destroy the same, not being directed to such person, or not authorized to receive or open the same, such offender shall, on conviction thereof, pay a sum not exceeding twenty dollars for every such offence."

At all offices where Newspapers are mailed, Post Masters should see that they are properly put up and directed. None should be forwarded in the mail, except such as are secured by a substantial envelop, and have a legible superscription.

If this injunction were strictly observed, the number of failures would be greatly reduced.

Under no circumstances, should any part of the mail be left on a route short of its destination. This may always be avoided, by Post Masters at the important offices, keeping one or more extra mail bags.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient serv't,
JOHN McLEAN.

☞Printers will confer a favor on the Department, and probably promote their own interest, by publishing this Circular.

COTEMPORARY FEMALE GENIUS.

At no period of our history has female genius triumphed more than in our own days. At the present time there are living not less than twenty-four ladies of pre-eminent talent, as writers in various departments of literature and philosophy.

Mrs. BARBAULD, distinguished during 50 years by her elegant productions in verse and prose.

Miss HANNAH MORE, for nearly an equal period, for various moral and controversial writings; not inferior for style and energy of mind to any produced by the other sex.

Mrs. RADCLIFFE, who, as a novelist, may be ranked among the first geniuses of the age and country.

Miss EDGEWORTH, a distinguished writer of novels, moral composition, and works of education.

Miss CULLEN, the amiable and ingenious authoress of Morton and Home, novels distinguished for their benevolent sentiments and spirited compositions, honorable alike to her heart and head.

Mrs. OPIE, whose various works in verse and prose are distinguished for their originality, good taste, ingenuity, and elegant composition.

Mrs. INCHBALD, who, as a dramatist and novelist, has produced various works, which will ever rank high among the classics of our language.

Miss HUTTON, respectable as a novelist, powerful as a general writer, and able as a philosophical geographer, as proved by her recent works of Africa.

Miss H. M. WILLIAMS, who, though long resident in Paris, may be claimed as an English woman, and is an honor to the genius of her countrywomen, in history, politics, eloquence, and poetry.

Mrs. CAPPE, a lady whose strength of understanding and powers of diction have led her to grapple with subjects of the highest order, as she has published several works on theology, education and biography.

Miss PORTER, a novelist of the first rank in the powers of eloquent composition, whose Thaddeus of Warsaw and other works, will long be the standards of the language.

Mrs. BENGER, who figures with equal distinction as a novelist, historian, and critic.

Miss GRANT, who has distinguished herself in morals, philosophy, and the belles lettres.

Mrs. MARCET, who has proved her powers of mind in her conversations on Natural Philosophy, &c.

Mrs. LOWRY, who writes and lecture with great ability on mineralogy and geology.

Miss OWENSON, [Lady Morgan,] whose eloquent writing, moral and political reasoning, are not surpassed by any author of her time.

Mrs. WAKEFIELD, compiler of many useful and ingenious works for the use of children and schools.

Mrs. IBBETSON, whose discoveries with the microscope on the Physiology of plants, rank her high among experimental philosophers.

Miss HERSCHELL, whose ingenity and industry in astronomical observation have obtained her a splendid reputation throughout the civilized world.

Miss AIKIN, niece to Mrs. Barbauld, who, soaring above productions of mere taste and fancy, has in her memoirs of Elizabeth, proved her powers in history and philosophy.

Miss GRAHAM, the able writer of several volumes of travels which are distinguished for their sound philosophy and enlightened views of society.

M. D'ARBLY, (Miss Burney,) whose Evelina, Cecilia, Camille, and other novels, place her among the first and most original writers of any age.

Miss BAILLIE, whose plays on the Passions and other productions are highly esteemed by every person of good taste.

Besides others of less celebrity, but perhaps equal merit whose names are not present to the recollection of the writer.

Few persons, till they behold this enumeration, will have suspected that our days could boast such a galaxy of genius in the fair sex; and it may also be questioned, whether the other sex can produce a list, in many respects of superior pretensions.

WILMINGTON, (Del.) May 26.

OFFICES TO BE FILLED.

In Delaware there will be to elect in October next, a *Governor*, and a *Representative to Congress*—and in consequence of the death of Mr. VAN DYKE, the next Legislature will have to choose TWO *Senators*, as Mr. CLAYTON'S term will expire in March.

Messrs. Reybold & Clark, Contractors for that portion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal which extends from the River Delaware to St. Georges, say that they hope to have the Canal navigable to St. Georges by the Fourth of July next; so that the stone for the Lock at that place, which they have also contracted to build during the season, can be directly transported there in shallops, and thereby save the great expense of land transportation. Since these gentlemen contracted for the work in October last, they have had employed a force exceeding an average of 800 men for the whole time—and sometimes exceeding 1000.

[Wilmington Watchmen.

TOO SEVERE.

A monthly critic, in his notices of Kelly's Reminiscenses, observes that 'almost every individual of whom he speaks was his 'best of friends,' 'the kindest,' 'pleasantest,' 'noblest,' 'most excellent person that ever breathed.' He is a perfect counterpart of that celebrated Recorder of a country borough, who on being asked how he liked the Mayor, answered that his worship was a most agreeable, gentlemanlike Magistrate. And the Aldermen? The wittiest, the most hospitable, the most jovial fellows he ever met. And the Grand Jurors? They were all fit to be members of Parliament; their wisdom and their knowledge of the laws were unequalled. The Constables? The politest of officers, the most eloquent of peace keepers—they were models of Constables. The witnesses? There never was such witnesses; they would every man of them die sooner than tell a falsehood. The prisoners? The honestest prisoners, and the most respectable men that ever entered a gaol. The hangman? It was a pleasure to be submitted to his care; he tied the noose so mildly, and sent a man to the other world with such tender assiduity.

The following extract is from the Richmond Enquirer of the 26th inst.

"The papers of N. Carolina complain of the extraordinary drought which has raged for several weeks. It is the same case in Virginia.—The oldest inhabitants do not recollect to have witnessed such a season. The Warrenton (Fauquier) Gazette of the 20th, observes that "the Hessian fly is committing dreadful ravages on the wheat, and the earth is so extremely dry that the plant scarcely vegetates" The wheat in this part of the country is not ravaged by the fly; and is much less injured by the drought than might have been expected. We were blessed, however, by a very heavy rain on Wednesday night; and there is every prospect of the "long season" in May coming on. Another singular circumstance of this spring has been the appearance of great numbers of the dark-looking locusts. They swarm in many of the woods of various sections of the State. The Fauquier, Charlottesville, and Petersburg papers mention their appearing, in the neighborhood of those towns, in myriads. They are employed in penetrating the bark of trees and depositing their eggs."

PLANTING POTATOES.

Gentlemen:—As this is the season for planting potatoes and as there is a variety of opinions on that subject, the following remarks, which are the result of practical observation, may not be uninteresting to some of your readers—Potatoes should never be planted whole, whatever may be their size, as they all produce the same number of shoots, almost invariably 5, which is too great a number to be together in order to make a good crop. As the whole potatoe, however many eyes (or buds) it may have, never produces more than five shoots which are all from the end adverse to the stem care should be taken that they are cut longitudinally, which when halved, or quartered, is likely to devide the productive buds among the several parts. One third of the stem end should be cut off, which is without a bud; that will not produce a shoot, but is valuable for the table or stock, and of no service to the planted part. It is therefore a saving that ought never to be omitted. Thus prepared the potatoes should if planted in rows, be from eight to ten inches apart, if in hills, three or four peices in each. Great care should be observed not to have the trenches for planting deep. Hills, in which they are seldom planted below the surface of the earth, generally produce the finest potatoes.

[Nat. Intel.

SURGICAL OPERATIONS.

Dr. McClelland, of Philadelphia, was in this place last week, and performed numerous operations for the relief of persons afflicted with diseases of the eye. On Thursday he took up the carotid artery of ADAM FREY, a lad labouring under a paralytic affection caused by the pressure of a tumor on the brain. This delicate and dangerous operation was very successfully performed, and is followed by favourable symptoms of ultimate beneficial effects. The fortitude with which the pain was endured by the patient, is highly applauded by those who witnessed it. [York Recorder.

According to some records in possession of a clergyman in the neighborhood of Boston, seventy years ago there was no rain from the 16th of April until the 10th of June.

It has been ascertained that twelve hundred young gentlemen were prepared for the profession of medicine, six hundred for law, and five hundred for the ministry, the last year, in the United States.

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