reaches the polar circle, and never passes the tropic.

The European stands aghast with fear at the calamities it produces in Grand Cairo. This city is computed to contain from eight to nine hundred thousand inhabitants—They are so crowded that 200 citizens occupy less space than 30 at Paris. The streets are very narrow, and always full of people, who crowd and jostle each other; and the passenger is sometimes obliged to wait several minutes before he can make his way. One person with the plague will communicate it to an hundred. The Mahometans die in their houses, public squares and streets, without one of them endeavoring to save himself. The Europeans, who shut themselves up, and avoid communication, alone escape the general disaster.

All do not die who are attacked; but I have been assured that the plague sometimes carries off 300,000 people from Grand Cairo.

The Turks use no precautions to prevent the plague; they say it is fate; nor is quarantine performed at one single port.

Parallel between Fontenelle and la Motte, extracted from Aitkin's translations of D'Alembert's Eulogies.

Agreement in temper, in cast of genius, and in principles, had formed that solid union between our two academicians which does so much honor to their memory. Perhaps it may be interesting to examine in what these two writers, so similar in various respects, differed in others. Both of them, replenished with judgment, knowledge and good sense, constantly display a superiority to prejudices, as well philosophical as literary; both attack them with that modest timidity under which the wise man will always shield himself when combating received opinions; a timidity which their enemies termed hypocritical gentleness because hatred gives to prudence the name of cunning, and to art that of falsehood. Both of them carried too far their decided, though apparently moderate revolt from the gods and laws of Parnassus; but la Motte's free opinions seem more closely connected with his personal interest in supporting them; and Fontenelle's with the general interest he took in the progress of reason in all departments. In the writings of both are to be found that method which is so satisfactory to correct minds, and that artful ingenuity which gives so much delight to the delicate judges; but this last quality in la Motte is more developed: in Fontenelle it leaves more to be guessed by the reader. La Motte, without ever laying too much, forgets nothing that his subject offers, makes use of the whole, and seems to fear that he should lose some of his advantages by too subtile a concealment of his meanings; Fontenelle, without ever being obscure except to those who not deserve that an author should be clear, gives himself at the same time the pleasure of reservation, and that of hoping to be thoroughly understood by readers worthy of understanding him.—Both, too little sensible of the charms of poetry and the magic of versification, have sometimes become poets by the force of ability; but la Motte somewhat more frequently than Fontenelle, though he has often the double defect of weakness, and harshness, while Fontenelle has only that of weakness; but the latter is almost always lifeless in his verses; whereas la Motte sometimes infuses soul and interest into his. Both were crowned with distinction at the lyric theatre; but Fontenelle was unfortunate on the French theatre, because he was absolutely destitute of that sensibility which is indispensable to a tragic poet, and of which nature had bestowed some sparks on la Motte.—

Fontenelle and la Motte have both written in prose with great clearness, elegance, and even simplicity; but la Motte with a more natural, Fontenelle with a more studied simplicity; for this quality may be studied, and then it becomes manner, and ceases to be a model. What renders Fontenelle a mannerist in his simplicity is, that in order to present refined, or even grand ideas, under a more simple form, he sometimes falls into the dangerous path of familiarity, which contrasts with and trenches upon the delicacy of grandeur of the thought; an incongruity the more sensible, as he seems to affect; whereas the familiarity of la Motte (for he, too sometimes descends to it) is more sober and measured, more suited to its subject, and on a level with the things treated of. Fontenelle was superior in extent of knowledge, with which he has had the art to adorn his writings, and which renders his philosophy the more worthy of being recollected and quoted; but la Motte has made his reader sensible that, in order to be equal in wealth and value to his friend, he only wanted, as Fontenelle himself said, "eyes and study." Both received from nature a flexibility of talent which fitted them for various kinds of writing; but they had the imprudence, or secret vanity, to try their powers in too many. Thus they weakened their reputation by attempting to extend it too far; but Fontenelle has solidly established his glory by his immortal "History of the Academy of Sciences," and especially by those interesting eulogies, full of refined and profound sense, which inspire the noble emulation in rising genius and will transmit to posterity the name of the author with that of the celebrated society whose worthy organ he was, and of the great men whose equal he rendered himself in becoming their panegyrist.

To conclude the parallel of these two celebrated men, it would be useless, after having displayed them in their works or in the society of those of their own class, to paint them as they were in common society, and especially amid those two classes of it which demand the greatest caution, in order to avoid giving offence—the sometimes formidable class of the great, and the always troublesome class of fools, so copiously diffused among all the others. Fontanelle and la Motte, always reserved, consequently always dignified, with the great, always on their guard before them without shewing it, never displaying more wit than was necessary to please them, without shocking their self-consequence, "saved themselves," according to Montaigne's expression, "from undergoing effectual tyranny from them, by their care in not making them undergo talking tyranny."—Sometimes, however, in this society, as in their style, they gave way to a kind of familiarity; but with this difference, that la Motte's familiarity was more respectful and reserved; Fontenelle's more easy and free, yet always so circumspect as not to tempt any one to abuse it. Their conduct with fools was still more studied and cautious, as they too well knew that this kind of men, internally and deeply jealous of the splendor of those talents by which they are humiliated, never pardon persons of superior understanding, but in proportion to the indulgence they experienced from them, and the care taken to conceal this indulgence. Fontenelle and la Motte, when in companies not made for them, never gave way to absence or disdain; they allowed the freest scope to folly of every kind, without suffering it to fear a check, or even to suspect it was observed. But Fontenelle, never forward to talk, even among his equals, was contented with listening to those who were not worthy to hear him, and only studied to shew them a semblance of approbation, which might prevent them from taking his silence for contempt or weariness; la Motte, complaisant, or even more philosophical, recollecting the Spanish proverb, "that there is no fool from whom a wise man may not learn something," took pains to discover, in persons the most void of parts, the favorable side, either for his own instruction, or the consolation of their vanity. He put them upon topics with which they were the best acquainted, and thus without affectation, procured them the pleasure of an outward display of all the little they possessed; whence he derived the double advantage, of not being wearied in their company, and of rendering them happy beyond their hopes. If they were satisfied with Fontenelle, they were enchanted with la Motte. May this example of philosophical charity serve as a lesson to those stern and untractable men of wit, whose intolerant pride is not satisfied without treating fools with humiliating disdain; while this unfeeling mode of teaching them what they are, still leaves them understanding enough to seek and to discover the means of revenge.

NEW BOOKS.

JUST received by the sloop Highland, capt. Hand, from Philadelphia, and now opening at the store of Rapine, Conrad and Co. corner of south B street and New Jersey, Avenue; a very handsome assortment of books, amongst which are,

De Valcourt, by Mrs. Bennett, author of Welch Heiress, Beggar Girl, &c. &c.
Nocturnal Visit, 2 vols by Maria Regina Roche, author of the Children of the Abbey, &c.
The Girl of the Mountains, 2 vols. by Mrs. Parsons, author of "Women ast hey are."
Rash Vows; or the effects of enthusiasm, by Madame de Genlis.
The Farmer's Boy, a rural poem, by Robert Broomfield.
The life of Catharine the Second, Empress of Russia, 3 vols.
Dawin's phytologia; or the philosophy of agriculture and gardening.

Also a general assortment of law books and miscellaneous history, stationary, writing and wrapping paper, &c. &c. all which they will dispose of on the most reasonable terms.

N. B. Bookbinding in all its branches, with neatness and dispatch.

Washington, May 15.

GEORGETOWN, (S. C.) August 5.

The following is col. SENF's report relative to the canal proposed to be cut through North Island, furnished by him at the request of the committee appointed by the inhabitants of Georgetown and its vicinity to obtain information appertaining to said canal:—

—

Georgetown, April 15th, 1801.

GENTLEMEN,

Agreeable to your request, I have examined that part of North Island, where you have it under consideration to make a new inlet. In my humble opinion, the situation is very favorable for the purpose. The small survey and level I have been able to make, joined to the chart of Georgetown entrance and harbor, which judge Waties took last year with a great deal of trouble and accuracy, will, I hope, give every explanation.

The distance from high water mark, (A.) to the other, (B.) is only fifty-five chains. On the sea shore the low water leaves a beach one chain and a half broad, and on the river two chains. At the course recommended, the ground is level, the greater part of it marsh, and the rest of it a loose sandy soil. The sand hills on the sea shore at that place are 400 feet broad and 8 and 10 feet higher than the level. By all appearance, I do not suppose any impediments under ground. I beg leave to recommend, to dig a straight canal, as marked on the plan, as deep as the low water mark, which is only seven feet, and at some places only five feet, (or dig it deeper if the water will permit it.) Two hundred feet on the upper part and one hundred and thirty feet at the bottom, (refer to the section C. D.) The ground or sand to be carried out on each side and formed into straight banks, which will be agreeable to the quantity of ground to be moved, forty feet on the upper part and eighty feet on the lower, and nine feet high. At each end the canal is to be deepened by the currents of the water, it is necessary that it should be wide, and the banks have a considerable slope, (as here, 5 to 1) otherwise, the current would make at once two steep banks; they would cave in and turn the current from one side of the canal to the other: it would of course become crooked and unsafe for vessels, and form banks or bars immediately at the mouths of the canal.

Adopting the proposed plan, about 186,000 cubic yards of ground must be dug and removed, as before mentioned. Rating the cubic yard at sixpence, the digging and removing the ground would be £4650

For tools, wheelbarrows, overseers wages, and for huts, &c. 350

£5000

As laborers for such work can only be hired in this country by the year, I would recommend to engage two hundred negroes for the year, and when the work is completed, towards the end of the year, these laborers may be employed in other works, public or private, to reimburse some of the expences.

The practicability of this work is certain, if begun with activity; the currents of the tide are favorable; the soil is promising.

The inconveniences and dangers of the present bar are well known. If even with considerable expences it could be improved, it would only be temporary. As the shoals are always changing, the currents and the sediments of Santee river will always oppose improvements. The currents of the tide can make but little progress over a bar which is above four miles broad, from eighteen feet water inside, to eighteen feet water outside, and the channel at first wide and then divided into four different branches on the shallowest part. The New come Shoal, marked on the chart, is a proof that these shoals are increasing. At the intended inlet, the distance from 18 feet water inside, to 24 feet water at sea, is only one mile and a half; with what a superior force will the current not soon make through this confined passage a better and a safer channel, where every aid can be given if required.

As long as the lower currents, (the strongest) do not go thro' the intended inlet, the present bar will certainly remain as it is; and whenever that takes place, it will be a happy exchange.

If the currents of the four rivers, which join near Georgetown, were diverted in part, another course, the sea water would flow higher up the bay; but by making this inlet only a mile nearer, it does not diminish the opposition of these currents; on the contrary, will increase them, and comparing it with the present channel, which is above a mile wide, the difference of the flow of salt water can be little, if any.

I wish gentlemen, I was able to explain myself better on this subject in writing; however, when I return from the northward, I shall with pleasure give every assistance I may be capable of, and on my journey make enquiry about similar works, and inform you of it when I shall have the pleasure to meet you next November, at Columbia. I have the honor to be, with respect, gentlemen, your most obedient and humble servant.

CH. SENF.

To Joseph Blyth, Paul Trapier, Erasmus Rathmahler, Savage Smith, Robert Grant, Samuel Wragg, and John Shackelford, esquires.

Bag of Feathers mislaid.

IN December last JAMES MITCHELL received from Messrs. M'Culloch and Birkhead, at Baltimore, a Bag of Feathers, directed to Samuel H. Smith, Washington, which he engaged to deliver to Mr. English, George-Town. Mr. Mitchell did not deliver the Feathers according to their direction, owing, as is supposed, to the obstruction of ice. In the spring he was at Baltimore, when he stated that he still had the Feathers.

The Feathers belong to the subscriber, who requests Mr. Mitchell to forward them to him, or to Mr. English, George-Town.

The subscriber will feel grateful for any information respecting the residence of Mr Mitchell.

SAMUEL H. SMITH,
City of Washington.

September 25.

This day is Published
BY
RAPINE, CONRAD & Co.
Corner of south B street and New-Jersey Avenue, near the Capitol.

SELECT NOVELS, vol. 2d & 3d.

EXECUTED in a superior style, and each volume containing two handsome engravings—Price to Subscribers, one dollar per vol.

Nocturnal Visit—A tale in 4 vols. by Maria Regina Roche, author of the Children of the Abbey, &c &c.

Acts passed at the second session of the sixth Congress, began and held at the city of Washington, on Monday the 17th of November 1800.

Also just received,

A very handsome assortment of NEW NOVELS, of the first merit, with a good collection of LAW, and miscellaneous HISTORY, and a very elegant assortment of Ladies' and gentlemen's POCKET BOOKS, of various prices and qualities.

R. C. & Co. Have always on hand a general assortment of stationary, such as writing and letter paper, quills, wafers, sealing wax, ink-powder, pen knives, slates, parchment, playing cards, blank and account books, inkstands, black lead pencils, &c &c. All which they will sell at the most moderate prices. Almanacs for the year 1802, just published.

Sept 16, 1801. tf

DISTRICT OF POTOWMAC, To wit:

(L. S.) BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the thirty first day of August, in the twenty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America, AUGUSTUS B WOODWARD, of the said District, hath deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as author, in the words following, to wit: "Considerations on the Substance of the Sun"; in conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, "An act for the encouragement of "learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, "and books, to the authors and proprietors of "such copies, during the times therein men-"tioned." Witness GEORGE DENEALE clerk of the DISTRICT of POTOWMAC, the day, month, and year aforesaid.

GEORGE DENEALE, Clerk.

September 9, 1801. w5t

FOR SALE,
A good and convenient Lot and House,

BEAUTIFULLY situated on the South-East corner of Square No 973, in the vicinity of the Navy-Yard, commanding an extensive view of some miles down the Potowmack. The house is two story high, fronting 42 feet on 11th street east, and 42 feet on South G street, adjoining the south front is a commodious kitchen, with oven and other conveniencies. A large frame stable, carriage-house, with a hay loft 50 feet by 25, and a pump of fine water near the back of the kitchen. The lot will extend ninety one feet on 11th Street East, and 139 on South G street. The purchaser may have a preference of the south half of the Square.

Also, a number of LOTS, eligibly situated in various parts of the City. The titles to the whole are indisputably free of every incumbrance, the terms moderate and convenient, which may be known by application to the subscriber, occupying the premises first mentioned, possession of which may be given within 30 days after purchase.

THOMAS TINGEY,

Who will also sell one whole and four half pipes, London particular Madeira wine, of excellent quality.

Washington, 10, April 1801. eF.tf

For Sale or Rent,

Two three story brick houses in Alexandria, completely finished, on King and Columbia-street, with sundry valuable property near the same; possession whereof may be had immediately. The situation for the flour and grocery business is equal to any in Alexandria.

For terms apply to Henry Thomas Moore, Alexandria, or to the subscriber.

NICHOLAS VOSS.