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From the Independent American.

POTOMAK TO DELAWARE.
No. II.

DEAR BROTHER,

Compliance in every particular with your esteemed favor No. 2, will ever be productive of great pleasure to me. At the same time I must remark that you are not aware of the task you have laid on me. You desire I would *order* my people to the purpose of improving their leather. My dear Delaware, it is evident you are not acquainted with them. They are a brave, generous, & also a kind people, when humored, and their darling passions untouched. One of those predominent with them is love of liberty. The superabundance of this inestimable blessing, with that of every other the unlimited bounty of Providence can bestow on mortals for their good, has been and appears like to continue to be shed upon them. This rare state of happiness seems to be the very reason for some of their great mistakes and forgetfulness. Many individuals, nay whole communities appear to be actually spoiled by too much indulgence. Every separate interest is so fond of its own will, that whoever and whatsoever, even in a slight degree, appears to interfere with such will, is in danger of very harsh disapprobation, or worse; long before a sound understanding is suffered to prevail. Dexterous management will produce, from a new contrivance, the like over again. Nay, he who complains of it the most, will be apt to do the same thing, without seeing it in himself, and wonder he is not allowed to do as he pleases, however injurious that may be to others, who think themselves entitled to similar privileges. By sad experience I have found it a dangerous thing to *order*, or even to *advise* the very boys to things not more my interest than theirs. They are often impatient under any sort of opposition to their will, and yet, many of them are as tractable as sheep. They can be cheated by a silver-tongued fellow of their own, who knows how to manage them, and to make them believe, even for a moment, that it is they who command and he obeys: the moment being passed, the cheat discovered, opinions obtruded, enough of those who deliver such opinions are found to support their own dear infallible will until it becomes too late to acknowledge the error—if indeed it ever would be acknowledged; so few are there who have understanding to see their own faults, or courage to own them, still less to make amends for them.

Please do not understand me as attempting to say this is general. No, far from it. There are here those who are an ornament to human nature, eminent for whatever is estimable among men; those who can charm the soul of eloquence and of song; and those who are equal to striking a blow in the world to resound from pole to pole. You will therefore, my dear Delaware, rather increase your disposition to universal good; send many of your people to be delighted here, those of the upper regions of science, or who aspire to it, or who only may be capable like myself of admiring in still silent rapture, gazing at those who have attained an eminence in talents rarely granted to mortals; and from such, down to those whose happiness is comprised in the useful mechanism of sawing marble. All might here be gratified, more perhaps than any where else from north to south, from east to west.

I was imperceptibly led on thus, to touch ideas I never intended before to speak upon, because knowing myself incapable of other than wronging them with my feeble expression. I was led on, first by the wish to gratify you, to give you a fair view of some of my difficulties, and to shew you how much I shall be in want of your assistance to improve.

In order to convince you that I am in earnest, and that I will use my best endeavors to conform to your enlightened and benevolent instructions, my illustrious brother, I send you a copy of the general order I have this day issued. It will I hope obtain more speedy solutions to your valuable questions. In talking upon the affairs of these mortals, you know, we must use their language, unintelligible jargon as most of it will appear to be notwithstanding. Men of business seldom read such things as these. Others do not, unless you make them laugh. The wise are very wise in their own conceit. The fool has full as much obstinacy. Time, long time, therefore, will pass, my dear Delaware, before I can expect to beat into sufficient attention, without great assistance.

The following is a copy of the general order:—

UNITED STATS OF AMERICA.
From the Admiralty Office, at the Three Rocks,

POTOMAC sends, greeting, To his dearly beloved children and friends, to wit:

To the river Annacosta or Eastern Branch;

To Tiber, Rock, and Foxall's creeks;

To Occoquan, Hunting, Four Mile & Difficult Creeks;

To my beautiful Shenandoah, Opickon and Wappocomo, on my right, and on my left, Conococheague, Antietam and Monocassy;

To all my well beloved children and friends, who are too numerous to be more particularly named at present, but who also have SEERS near them;

BE IT KNOWN, That my illustrious brother DELAWARE, in his letter to me, No. 2, by the National Intelligencer of the 6th, and Independent American of the 9th inst. has been pleased to propound sundry questions of great importance to us all; and, for as much as it seems expedient to call forth every nervous and suitable aid speedily to those purposes, you are, my beloved, hereby instructed forthwith to communicate satisfactory information upon the several matters and things contained in the said letter No. 2, directing all your dispatches to me, under cover to Edgar Patterson, Esq. Georgetown, Ptk. who will transmit them to the Admiralty Office aforesaid, to be recorded. For brevity sake, and for the better illustration of every separate part, it is expected that each of my beloved children & friends will please to advise upon what he is master of; abstaining as much as possible from unnecessary words, and adhering to those in use among mortal men, for whose benefit we are struggling in this, as well as in other ways: for example, my beloved Shenandoah can dilate upon the formation and properties of malleable iron, steel, and small arms, as well as on other important articles of his vast possessions: Wappocomo is famous, wherever known, for the best land and beef. My good Monocassy, I particularly upon you and your SEERS, to enable me, with speed, fully to gratify my illustrious brother. My beloved children and friends, above the head tide water and below it, may, at their pleasure, send their letters by any of their boats, to the admiralty, as foresaid, or be transmitted by the medium of well-disposed printers, in their gazettes. It is hereby requested of my beloved children and friends, to make it known, that I will not receive at my admiralty offices, newspapers or any thing else under foreign influence, known to be liars, vile slanderers, calumniators, and, as far as they can go, disturbers of every good, public and private. Let the whole herd stand off and keep out of my way.

Done at the Admiralty office, aforesaid, the 12th Sept. 1809.

POTOMAK.

Having issued such general order, it will, I presume, obtain attention. By report, very generally believed, many of my sons possess great advantages. It seems proper, therefore, to hear themselves in describing their resources. It would relieve me from the humiliation of confessing, immortal as I am, that I cannot give such descriptions as well as they ought to be able to do. Water is said to be a conductor of sound, that is, such as is made by captain Cassin, of my navy yard, in the tremendous noise he makes, endeavoring in vain to burst the cannon made from my iron, by the general of artillery, Foxall. Though water may be a conductor of sound, such as this, I do not know that knowledge glides upon it, in the same way: for example my beautiful son Shenandoah, sends boats 200 miles on his waters, & into mine, without having condescended to send me a knowledge of one half of the riches abounding on every side of him.

Should any of my sons prove refractory, and withhold the explanations you require, much will be furnished by the tractable and well disposed. A few of these overbalance all the others. We must therefore forgive, though we cannot always forget, injuries. Happy to be employed to any good, as it were, in spite of much evil.

I am longing to speak to my original object, to which I did intend to confine myself, until your benevolent interposition was pleased to notice my humble endeavors, and call forth views of great importance. For a while I wish to let my sons speak for themselves. I would however say a few words upon some unfinished business in my last letter to you.

It is not probable the U. S. will be able for a long time to furnish iron, steel, castings or cannon to supply our own wants. If otherwise, the foreign demand will forever render it among the first objects for the employment of capital for men of ability and wealth. I must therefore be correct in every sense to invite,

"*To waft thee welcome to this friendly shore.*"

and to recommend to all whom these presents shall come, to make every and whatever exertion can be brought into activity, to the purpose of making cannon, and forming multitudes of horse artillery; which would in all probability operate to the aggrandisement of such exertions, and to that of our country. The makers of cannon in the U. States are not numerous. I am afraid they never will be adequate to the occasions and requisitions for them. The free exportation of cannon and small arms ought to prevail almost at all times, to stimulate the means of producing them.

If objection be made to the exportation of cannon for conscience sake as instruments of war, I answer the proof of facts, and every experiment of whatever has descended to our time from antiquity, that the waste of life was much greater before than since the use of great guns. It is not with all men, nor at all times, to be prodigal of life, even when duty commands. The roar of cannon terrifies. Efforts are made to cover from their effects; when the cover is destroyed or disabled, that is, the wall, the rampart, or floating castle, the vanquished yield and shake hands with a brave victor. Both ascribe its due to the fortune of war, to the necessity of the case, and are no longer enemies, where mutual extermination is not the prevailing disposition on both sides. This is forbidden by the use of cannon. Exclusive of its terror, when it preponderates, decisive measures soon prevail and havoc subsides.

Without adverting to distant or remote transactions, the thing seems so evident, that it is really astonishing to find an objection. For example—on this side of the Atlantic, wherever horse artillery was duly provided, the very knowlege of such provision would deter an enemy from attempting to invade, because he could make no impression without he brought adequate horse artillery with him, the expence of which must be enormous; and his success doubtful; in the country, provision would be made, traveling forges and furnaces annexed to horse artillery, for heating shot, &c. so as to be certain not only of driving the enemy into the sea, but also of sinking his ships before they could retire, if not before they could land much of their means for annoyance. Hencefar from being founded in a sanguinary disposition is a desire to promote the use of cannon. The reverse is the fact. To send cannon to S. America, is to save life, both in the people there, and whoever may attempt to invade them. It is also to promote the production of them here.

If my farmers were under any restraint in doing as they pleased with their wheat, they would not have two hundred thousand barrels of fine flour to spare every year. I contend, therefore, that hardly any state of things will ever occur in the U. S. which would make it proper to restrain the exportation of great guns. I am told there are means not far from me for the production of brass, and therefore I could also in due time furnish if required,

"*His brazen tubes, the last resort of Kings.*"

I pray you, then, my dear Delaware, you who can give your fine ideas in so beautiful language, to recommend to the Potomac Company, at their next meeting, to proceed upon measures to purchase certain portions of land on both sides of me, which must one day be converted to important uses:

1st. For the free passage of boats up as well as down upon me and my canals at all seasons, and at all hours, day and night.

2d. For the purposes of iron works, mill seats, and the requisite water from the canals; and

3d To promote irrigation, particularly in dry seasons like the present; and

"*Tame their wild floods to fatten still the land!*"

If the Potomac Company will not do so in time, from my immortal admiralty office at the Three Rocks of the three Sisters, where I intend to have an iron bridge erected, at the upper side of my Georgetown, I forewarn that some of your princes of merchants, of overgrown fortunes, gained from the facilities you presented to your imperial city of Philadelphia, that some, perhaps one, of these will come and purchase these scites, if not the whole stock of the Potomac Company.

It must be acknowleged with gratitude, that a great deal has been done towards making me navigable throughout and at all times. Much however remains to be done. If any avoidable errors have taken place, it is high time to endeavor to correct them, and hasten into useful practice the most material of those valuable objects. Congress will soon I hope bestow some attention this way.

I remain truly
Your affectionate brother,
POTOMAK.

P. S. Not having my scribe at hand, nor any aid whatsoever, though I asked for it, until I hear from my sons, as my faults, will, I hope, be excused; well as those, also involuntary, by the printers, who can with ease translate a bark gliding on my surface, to a lark, soaring aloft above the clouds.

From the Independent American.

CHAIN BRIDGE.

Believing as I do, that it will afford you pleasure to communicate useful knowledge generally, as well as to your particular friends—And well knowing that one letter in the hands of consideration and influence will have more useful effect than a thousand newspaper advertisements—has induced me to take the liberty to address you, on the subject of the CHAIN BRIDGE. Supposing that you, or some of your friends have seen that at the Little Falls of Potomac, three miles above the city of Washington, or that of the Schuylkill, five miles above Philadelphia, I shall not trouble you with a general description of this new and invaluable invention; but merely contrast the cost of other sorts of Bridges with this. For instance, the span of a chain bridge now in use at the Little Falls, cost only five thousand dollars, and replaces a wooden arch which cost 23,000 dollars, and did not stand seven years from the time of its erection before it rotted and fell into the river.—The chain bridge at the falls of Schuylkill cost only 20,000 dollars, including two abutments and two piers of hewn stone, while the Market street Bridge over the same water, and of the same length, cost 300,000 dollars.—Both bridges have two butments and two piers each, but the piers of the Chain Bridge are built on solid rock, while those of the lower bridge are built with the assistance of coffer dams, in deep water and mud.—But allowing that those two piers cost 80,000 dollars, then add 20,000 dollars, the cost of my bridge at the falls, and deduct the amount from 300,000 dollars, will leave 200,000 dollars in favor of the chain principle—the chains and uprights will last a couple of hundred years—the first being painted, and the latter covered with a roof—there will be of course only the flooring and raising of the bridge, subject to decay—the renewal of which will amount to a mere nothing.

The bridge at the Little Falls has but one span, and is 130 feet long on a straight line; the one at the falls of Schuylkill has three spans, two of which are 153 feet long, and could have been extended much farther.

The price of the patent right is now one dollar per foot between the faces of the abutments on a line.

There are five of these bridges in use, not one of which has failed in the smallest degree.

I have a concern in the original patent right, and am sole agent of the patentee for the sale of patent rights throughout the United States, and patentee for the improvements on the chain bridge.—Any one wishing to construct this species of bridge, will do well to transmit to me (post paid) a description of the scite of the contemplated bridge—say the width of the water, the depth, and what sort of bottom it has, whether mud, gravel or sand, the heighth of the banks, and whether they overflow—and particularly, whether the water to be bridged is subject to high and rapid freshes—the price of iron, foundation stone, & lumber, from which a calculation of the probable expence, can be made, and sent by post—and then I will, if required, either go on, and superintend the construction, or build the bridge or bridges on contract.

I am, sir,
With sentiments of high respect,
Your humble servant,
JOHN TEMPLEMAN.

MERINO SHEEP.

The following History of Merino Sheep is taken from Lord Somerville's Memoir, addressed to the Bath Society, in 1802; containing also some important observations on the use of salt for Cattle and the preservation of Hay.

I received from Mr. L. Seyrie, together with a most polite letter, his history of the introduction of Merino Sheep into different parts of Europe, lately published. His exertions in tracing the different properties of sheep in Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Saxony, Prussia, &c. &c. are unexampled; his knowledge has obviously been obtained in the sheep fold, and the fluency and correctness with which he details the various diseases of sheep, and their remedies, declare him to possess a Shepherd's knowledge of a flock. In his commencement of the subject, he expresses himself thus:—

"The different governments of Europe had long acknowledged the advantages that would be derived to agriculture and commerce from the introduction of fine wools into their respective states; but their views meeting opposition in the ignorance and prejudice of the times, a considerable number of years elapsed before they set about realising an idea, which at first seemed chimerical; at length there appeared men, equally commendable for their patriotism and knowledge, who have labored with zeal and perseverance, to enlighten their fellow citizens, by producing facts to prove, that nature, far from opposing itself to the preservation of fine wool sheep in certain climates, seemed, on the contrary, to lend itself complacently to the exertions of industry. I believe I have demonstrated in my treatise on sheep, that the fine wools of Spain depend neither on the voyage, nor on the soil, nor the climate, nor the pasture, but that they depend on other causes, and that it is possible to have in France and elsewhere, wool of the same quality as that of Spain. My travels in the north of Europe have offered facts and observations, which have afresh demonstrated this truth. I have found, in the far greater number of the flocks I have examined, wool, which, judging from the eye or the touch, equals in beauty and fineness that of Segovia and Leon; so much so, that in my opinion no doubt can remain, that we can obtain superfine fleeces in every part of Europe, where pastures are to be found, and where we can depend on winter food, on which sheep can be supported. These wools make cloths as fine, as silky, and supple, as those manufactured of Spanish wool, as attempts made in France and other countries prove. But were it true, that the food, climate, and other local circumstances had a certain influence on the intrinsic qualities of wool, such as the elasticity, the strength, the softness, &c. &c. it would not be the less proved, that, at all events, cloths, fine and beautiful enough to satisfy persons the most difficult on this point, can be obtained; and that a nation can easily do without the fine wools of Spain, and feed its finest manufactures with those drawn from its own proper soil. Nevertheless, as these truths are still held in doubt by some persons, and lest these doubts should have a considerable influence on our agriculture and our commerce, I thought it my duty to publish these facts, which must give a new degree of force and certainty. I here present to view the actual state of Merino flocks, naturalised in Europe."

He says that a Merino flock came into Sweden, in 1723; that from the year 1740, to the year 1780, a bounty of seventy-five per cent. was allowed to those, who sold fine wool; in 1780, these bounties were reduced to 15, & in 1789, to twelve per cent. and in