

## INDIANA PALLADIUM.

As some curiosity has been excited by the appearance of a comet, for several evenings, above the horizon, our readers will no doubt be amused, if not instructed, by the following essay on that subject.

FROM THE DELAWARE GAZETTE.

### COMETS.

As a comet is to make its appearance in a short time, for which our friends the Bostonians are upon the lookout, it may be necessary to write a little concerning those harbingers of war, pestilence, famine, &c. This monster of superstition will probably be seen a few hours before day, but should it come with its sweeping fiery tail in the evening, it will render its visits more convenient to the augurs, fortune tellers and knowing old women. Of the whole catalogue of celestial bodies, none have excited so much speculation, foreboding and wonder, as the comets. The vulgar have ever looked upon them as objects of terror, which is heightened into superstition by the idea that they foretell direful scenes of blood and carnage. They were long looked upon as fiery meteors in the atmosphere until the mammoth mind of Tycho Brahe, arose and placed them among the planetary worlds. Sir Isaac Newton examined the one which appeared in 1680, and from his observations he concluded that comets are a species of planets, whose motion is in very eccentric ellipses, and that they are opaque bodies receiving their light, like the moon, entirely from the sun. Mr. Locke calls them opaque bodies, but he says besides the light which they have from the sun, that they appear to shine with a light that is nothing else but an ascension which they receive from the sun, in their near approaches to it, in their respective revolutions. Sir Isaac corroborates this when he says that if a comet is seen in two parts of its orbit, when the distances are equal from the earth but unequal from the sun, that that part shines brightest which is nearest to the sun.

Comets are of various magnitudes, and fly with different degrees of velocity. Their motion is much more irregular than that of the planets, because their velocity is far greater in their perihelion than in their aphelion, but in the planets there is very little difference. The comet which appeared in 1531, 1607, 1682, 1759, and I suppose will appear again in 1835, goes in its aphelion according to Mr. Wesley, more than four times as far from the sun as Saturn does, and Saturn according to Mr. Locke, is distant from the sun's centre about 777,000,000 statute miles, each 5280 English feet, and 4943 French. That extraordinary appearance which we call the tail of the comet, is nothing more than an illumination of the atmosphere, which is thrown off by its immense velocity, and it is always directed towards the sun. The tail of the comet, which will soon appear, will be found to point towards the south, as the earth is leaving the sun in that direction. The comet which appears every seventy six years, or nearly, and which will appear in 1835, must be, at its greatest distance from the sun, an inconceivable distance from us. The sun is supposed, or computed to be ninety-seven millions of miles from our earth, and it is said that a cannon ball, flying with the same velocity as from the mouth of a cannon, would require twenty-five years to reach our earth, but how are we lost in thought, when we are told that the great comet which appeared last, in 1680, goes fourteen times as far beyond the sun as Saturn, which is the most remote planet. Now according to the calculation which I have made, and which would occupy too much space to be inserted here, that comet of 1680, in its aphelion distance is about 140 times the mean distance between the earth and the sun. Then multiply 97,000,000 of miles by 140, and we have the distance of the comet from the sun, which is thirteen billions, and five hundred and eighty millions of miles. According to the same calculation, the comet which will appear in 1835, is about 36 times as far from the sun as the earth, which when multiplied makes three billions and four hundred and ninety-two millions of miles. The comet of 1680, cannot appear before the twenty-second or twenty-third century, but we may calculate with certainty, that the one which appeared last, in 1759, will be along, about 1835. The one which the Bostonians are now looking for is of inferior magnitude, and a mere meteor in comparison with the first mentioned, which called out the telescopes of all the celebrated philosophers then existing in Europe. MILFORD BARD.

From the Maysville Eagle.

**THE WEEVIL.**—The inquiry of almost every farmer is, 'How shall we preserve our wheat from the weevil?'

We answer—thresh it immediately, clean it from the chaff, spread it in a barn or open room, and if it acquires the least warmth, stir it daily.

The wheat which we received about the

first of this month, which then had some weevil in the grain, we found heated in a few days. We spread and constantly stirred it for about two weeks, those then in it ate their way out—none have since bred in it—it now lies in bulk without heating, and we consider it greatly preferable to that which we are daily receiving from the threshing floor.

We have now several thousand bushels of wheat on hand, which was threshed from the shock and from the stack before the weevil commenced their ravages. It has been lying in garners near sixty days, and has been kept cool by frequent stirring; the weevil has not touched it—and we have no hesitation in saying, let their ravages be what they may in the stack, wheat thus cleaned and kept cool, will in all cases be free from the flying weevil.

We are now receiving a lot of a thousand bushels, which was threshed in July and early in August, run through a fan and spread in a large barn. It is perfectly cool, and has not received the least damage. All small lots threshed and cleaned at about that time, and kept cool, we find in the same good order. It is also said that some who threshed and penned their wheat in the chaff before the weevil were visible, have preserved it; but of this we speak with some doubt.

We now hear many speak of threshing and stowing away in chaff. But those we would advise to be cautious; there is scarce a stack of wheat in the country entirely free from the weevil, and that which contains but a small portion, will heat if packed away in the chaff. We have heard some wild theorists recommend this mode to heat the wheat, which they say 'will kill the weevil and destroy the egg from which they hatch.'

This reminds us of the story of the Dutchman who set fire to his barn to divest it of rats; for we know that wheat thus heated will never afterwards grow, nor will the flour made from it reward the miller for his labor of grinding.

It is not our design to enter into the natural history of this insect. We are desirous that the farmers should preserve their present and future crops of wheat from destruction; and being willing that they should profit by our short experience, we freely tell them 'that which we know.'—This much, however, we will add, as mere opinion: We believe they are produced from an egg, which, after being laid in the grain, requires a certain degree of heat to produce animation. That portion which is produced by the straw in the stack, during the summer and fall, appears to be nature's choice. It is against that portion of heat we would have the farmers to guard, when we advise them to thresh and keep their wheat cool. Whether the egg is deposited in the field or in the stack, we pretend not to say, but we have rather concluded in the latter: but we can with safety say, that the wheat now on hand, which never went through the sweat, or which never attained that heat to which nearly all wheat in the stack is subject, whether it contains the egg or not, has produced no weevil; and that which we have recently received from the stack, ceases to hatch or in any wise produce them, so soon as we can get it perfectly cool.

On these and other observations, too numerous for insertion, we advise those who would preserve their present crops, to thresh and clean them immediately; and those who would hereafter effectually guard against the flying weevil, to thresh from the shock, or before the wheat takes the sweat.

N. & N. HIXSON.

The Ohio Steam Mill,  
Maysville, Sept. 20, 1825.

From the Boston Patriot.

**WAR IN AFRICA.**—Sanguinary and bloody contests often occur among the hostile tribes of Africa, waged frequently from no other motive than to make captives, which the victorious party sell to the slave traders on the coast. We find it stated in the Sierra Leone Gazette of the 25th June, that an engagement had taken place between a considerable force of the Sherbro Bulloms and a strong party of Kussoos, who had entrenched themselves on an island on the Deong River, called Peyparra, near a small town of the same name. It appears that the Sherbro Chiefs, with the Caulkets at their head, have been a long time mustering their forces for this attack, while the Kussoos have lately contented themselves fortifying their post at Peyparra, with the determination of making a stand there during the rainy season. The Bulloms, who were sanguine of success, were repulsed with great slaughter, having failed in their attempt to break through the barricade, while the inhabitants of a town in their rear, upon whom they depended for assistance, turned against them, and cut off a great number of their party. Some hundred of lives have been lost, and a large supply of victims for the slave market have thus been obtained. The former is the natural consequence of such a sanguinary warfare, but the latter is the primary cause and grand stimulus to those avaricious and de-

signing chiefs, who, by their immediate intercourse with Europeans, and superior cunning, are enabled to protract the war for the sake of the vile gain which accrues to them; while the inhabitants of the whole country, together with its legitimate commerce are involved in one common ruin.

### LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

It is stated in the Morning Chronicle, on "the most unquestionable authority," that an arrangement has been concluded with Lord Cochrane, by the Greek Deputies and Committee, by which a large sum of money is to be immediately placed at the disposal of his lordship, to be expended by him in whatever way he may think most advisable for the successful prosecution of the war with the Turks. His Lordship had left town for Scotland, whence he would return and immediately proceed to Greece. It is further said, that a military force of 3,500 men was to be procured and placed under the command of Sir Robert Wilson, to act in co-operation with his Lordship. His Lordship has left it to the committee to settle the amount of the recompense to be awarded to him for his services; but he expressly stipulates, that the auxiliary expedition shall be placed under his whole and sole control—the trammels in which his Lordship repeatedly found himself while in South America, having tended greatly to impede, and even endanger the success of his naval operations.

The above intelligence had occasioned great excitement in the stock market, and it is stated as certain, that one eminent banking house in the Strand had purchased through their broker, 59,000 pounds of Greek Scrip.

LONDON, August 20.

In a supplementary sheet, the Journal des Debats has published the address of the Provisional Government, and Ecclesiastical Chiefs of Greece, to the Pope. The object of this address is to solicit his Holiness to point out to the Greeks a Prince of Royal blood, and belonging to the Catholic Church. When the kingdom shall be established, Greece will be ready to adopt such laws as may be judged useful and beneficial, both as to her own internal welfare, and the general interests of European politics. The address afterwards beseeches the Pope to espouse the Greek Church, which, since the martyrdom of Patriarch Gregory, has been in a state of widowhood. The Patriarch, since appointed by the Sultan, is declared to be intrusive and illegitimate. The address predicts that the union of the Roman and Greek churches will be followed by the adhesion of the filial churches of Bulgaria, Servia, Moldavia, and even of Russia. The document is altogether of a very singular nature, and if authentic, as it purports to be, it may lead to important consequences in the Christian world. It was presented to Prince Barberian, the Papal Chamberlain, on the 24th of May, and on the 6th June an answer was returned to the Greek Commissary, that the Pope had received it on the day on which it was delivered to his Minister.

**Free Masonry among the North American Indians.**—Those signs of Free Masonry, which modern travellers have found, are also thought to be of Welsh origin. Travellers describe certain private societies among the Indians, which apparently resemble our lodges of Free Masons. Their rules of government and admission of members are to be nearly the same. No one can be received as a member of the fraternity except by ballot, and a concurrence of the whole is necessary to a choice. They have different degrees in the order.—The ceremonies of initiation, and the mode of passing from one degree to another, would create astonishment in the mind of an enlightened spectator. Is not this practice of European origin? In the early periods of English history, the knowledge of Free Masonry was mostly confined to the Druids; and Wales was more fruitful of this description of men than any other part of Europe. They were almost the only men of learning in those days; they executed the functions of priests, historians, and legislators. Those in Wales, in particular, animated by their countrymen to a noble defence of their liberties, and afforded so much trouble to the first Edward, that he ordered them to be barbarously massacred. This ferocious tyranny was carried into effect about the year 1822. Few only of the bards survived to weep over the miseries of their country.

But a similar institution, it is said, prevails among our Iroquois. These have never been suspected to be of Welsh extraction. Still they may have derived the signs from those who were. We receive the information from governor Clinton, to whom it was communicated by a respectable Indian preacher, who received the signs of the mystery from a Menonie chief—the institution, therefore, must be prevalent among the Menonies, as well as other Indians. In this secret institution among the Indians, the members are very select. Among the Iroquois, the society consists of five Ongidas,

two St. Regis, six Senecas—they are said to have secret signs, and pretend that the institution has existed from eternity. The period of their meetings is unknown; but they assemble once in three years, as deputies, under pretence of other business.

Masonic Mirror.

NATCHITOCHES, Aug. 23.

### Trade with the Mexican States.

The largest *Mulade* or drove of Mules perhaps ever driven through this place, arrived here a few weeks ago, and left here last Tuesday, part for New Orleans and part for Natchez.

It is composed of twelve hundred Mules, all in prime order, and was brought in under the care of about 80 men *caporals*, *drivers* or *swimmers*, commanded by A. A. de la Lata, one of the proprietors and a citizen of the State of Tamaulipas, from whence the Mules are imported. In performing the laborious task of driving that immense number of Mules through such an extensive wilderness, they had every night to erect a temporary enclosure to secure them from being carried off by the *Estampilla*, or gangs of wild horses and mules. In the swimming of the many rivers that intervene, the greatest hardships and dangers were encountered and completely overcome by this hardy band of adventurers. Of the number of twelve hundred, only about twenty five mules had been lost on their arrival at Natchitoches, either in the swimming of rivers or in consequence of fatigue.

Besides this considerable branch of commerce with the Mexican states, of exchanging our goods for their mules and horses, bullion or dollars, which has long since been carried on by this town, another has lately opened. The inhabitants of the state of Texas, which has united its provincial or state government with that of Tamaulipas, have commenced the importation to Natchitoches, of their cotton, of which they raised last year a considerable quantity, which will doubtless, from the rapid settlement of that country, increase at every crop in a double ratio for many years.

If, however, the increase should become such as to induce the government to establish a Custom House here, and exact the duty of three per cent. per lb. on imported cotton, the inhabitants of Texas could no longer cultivate it in competition with our planters, and would have to ship it from their own ports, which would be impracticable for many of them, or cause it to be carried through our territory exempt from duty, by means of *drawback*. In the latter case it might no less be an object for our commercial operations.

According to the last news from Mr. Austin's settlement on the Brazos, this colony is in a thriving condition. The news of their having been distressed by an inundation and reduced to great want in consequence, seems to have had no foundation. The settlement is represented to consist of about three hundred families; to be now exempt from epidemical disasters, and as to the crops, we have been assured, by a gentleman now in this place, that their corn surpassed any thing he had seen on the richest Mississippi and Red River soils, and that the cotton, equal in quality to the Red River, was totally exempt from rot.

**Hayti.**—From a conversation held with a gentleman recently arrived from Jeremie, we learn that great discontent existed throughout all Hayti in consequence of the terms of the treaty of independence negotiated with France. The dissatisfaction is said to have testified itself in various ways; and our informant adds that the late arrest of persons at cape Hayti for an alleged conspiracy originated from the strong opposition evinced by individuals to the provisions of the treaty. The non-publication of the treaty in the papers of the island is attributed to the prevailing dissatisfaction in relation to it.

Balt. Amer.

General Atkinson has received discretionary orders from the war department to continue the force under his command in some favourable position on the upper Missouri, to protect the fur trade from the encroachments of the British traders. It is suggested by General Brown that the extreme north bend of the Missouri, approaching as it does most nearly to the British boundary and settlements, might afford the most favourable position.

Il.

A most extraordinary instance of preservation was discovered a few days since, in repairing some vaults of St. Martin's church, in this city. On opening a lead coffin, wherein were deposited, 85 years ago, the remains of the Rev. Mr. Heron, rector of the parish, the body was found as perfect as when it was deposited in the tomb, the flesh yielding to the touch, and recovered its smoothness when the finger was removed; a napkin wrapped round the head, and the shroud covering the corpse, were as white and uninjured as if they had just come from a draper's shop. Plymouth & Exeter Gaz.