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Messrs. I. Riley and Co. of New-York have issued proposals for publishing

"A VOYAGE

To the Eastern part of Terra Firma, or the Spanish Main, in South America, during the years 1801, 1802, 1803, and 1804. Containing a description of the territory under the jurisdiction of the Captain-General of Caraccas, composed of the provinces of Venezuela, Maracaibo, Varinas, Spanish Guiana, Cumana, and the island of Margaretta; and embracing every thing relative to the discovery, conquest, topography, legislation, commerce, finance, inhabitants and productions of the provinces, together with a view of the manners and customs of the Spaniards, and the savage as well as civilized Indians.—BY F. DEPONS, late agent of the French government at Caraccas—in three volumes—with a large map of the country, &c. translated by an American gentleman."

Those who have perused this work pronounce it the most correct and comprehensive account of these provinces extant. It is indeed the only modern original work which we have that principally relates to them. It is probably to the pen of Humboldt, among the most scientific travellers of the age, and animated as he is by the noblest enthusiasm chastened by a rigid devotion to truth, that we shall be *ultimately* indebted for the best account of a part, if not the whole of the Spanish provinces in this quarter of the globe. Sensible as he must be of the impatience of the literary world to be possessed of the fruits of his arduous and persevering exertions, we trust he will not much longer withhold a work, which will, if we are not grossly deceived, be an imperishable memorial of his talents, his labors and his virtues. In the mean time the work, announced by Mr. Riley, can scarcely fail to be highly interesting. In what degree it will be so our readers may be enabled to form a tolerable judgment from a perusal of the following extracts from the "Introduction."—

"THE work which I offer to the public has no other foundation than truth, nor any ornament but that which is derived from correctness. My object in undertaking it was to place in the annals of geography and politics, countries hitherto unknown, where nature spreads her bounties with a prodigal hand, and where she displays all her magnificence, unknown, as it were, to the rest of the globe.

I have no hesitation in maintaining that no part of America, in whatever latitude, can be compared for the fertility, variety and richness of its productions to that which forms the captain-generalship of Caraccas, that is to say, the provinces of Venezuela, Varinas, Maracaibo, Cumana, Spanish Guiana and the island of Margaretta, which extend from the 12th degree of north latitude to the equator, and from the 62d degree of longitude west of the meridian of Paris to the 75th.

I designate this country by the new title of the *Eastern part of Terra Firma*, to distinguish it from that part of Terra Firma which is situated further westward and is dependent on the vice-royalty of Sante Fe; having for boundaries on its northern extremity, Cape de la Vela to the east, and the isthmus of Panama on the west.

All sorts of colonial produce are raised in this *land of promise*, without exception, in greater abundance than in any of the Antilles, and they are of a far superior quality. It is perfectly well known that the cocoa of Caraccas brings a price in commerce twice as great as that which grows in the islands of the Mexican Gulfs, without even excepting St. Domingo. It sells for 15 or 20 per cent more than that which is raised in the same latitude upon the banks of the celebrated river Magdalena, which runs through a considerable part of the new kingdom of Grenada, and empties into the sea not far from Carthagena. The cocoa of Cuayaquil, on the shores of the South Sea, almost under the line, is not worth more than half as much as that of Caraccas and its dependencies.

The indigo of the eastern part of Terra Firma is inferior to none but that of Guatimala. The difference is not more than about 8 or 10 per cent.

Tobacco cultivated and prepared in these provinces, is worth as much again as the best which the United States afford. This single article, which is exported on the king's account, neats yearly to the treasury about four millions.

The sugar and coffee of these regions are finer than in the rest of the Torrid Zone, although the processes of art do much less for them here then they ought.

Besides the present products of these provinces, there is a great variety of others, which the soil of eastern Terra Firma offers to its inhabitants without requiring from them any advance, or subjecting them to any other trouble than that of collecting them and bestowing on them a light and easy preparation.

In this numerous class may be ranked: 1. Vanilla, the fruit of a climbing plant, which like the wild-vine or ivy attaches itself to trees, and brings in trade as much as one hundred francs a pound. Vanilla grows abundantly in the woods of St. Philip and Truxillo, upon the borders of the river Tuy. It requires uncultivated grounds, that are moist and covered with large trees.—The province of Venezuela itself might afford ten thousand weight a year, notwithstanding the neglected state of its culture, and the quantity could be easily doubled by the smallest application of industry. For there is nothing more necessary towards the rearing of this valuable plant, than to stick in the ground cuttings of the Vanilla vine at the root of trees. There they grow, and climb with the greatest ease and quickness. A more sure though less convenient method of guarding against the death of the plants, is to insert them within the bark, or graft them upon the trees, about 20 inches from the ground. This interesting object of commerce is for the inhabitants of Terra Firma, a mere matter of curiosity. There are not more than two hundred pounds of Vanilla sold yearly. All that is collected is sent as presents, from the agents of government and those who solicit offices, to their friends and patrons in Spain. The rest of it spoils upon the trees, or is eaten by the monkeys who are very fond of it. The trifling quantity collected, receives but an imperfect preparation, the carelessness of which deprives it of the superiority which it naturally possesses over that of Mexico.

2. The wild Cochineal may be put in the same list with Vanilla. It exists in Terra Firma, and in great quantities at Coro, Carora, and Trujillo. All the use they make of it is for dyeing colors on the spot. The success of the trial has never induced them to think of making it an article of commerce. To evince its importance, it would be simply necessary to apply to it the processes lately published in Paris by M. Brulley, a planter who is as commendable for the number of his ingenious observations, as for the exactness and happy results of his experiments.

3. This same country could also supply dyers with many woods, barks and plants, capable of making the most lively and permanent colours. At present none of these articles make any part of their commerce, because they are not brought to market; although the advantages derived from them on the spot is a sure evidence of what they would afford to manufactures. The port of Maracaibo, is almost the only one, where they export a little Brazil wood. The dyeing arts of Europe might be made tributary to the eastern part of Terra Firma for more than 500,000 francs a year, without doing the smallest disservice to the raising of the other produce, by the labor necessary for their coloring materials.

4. Gums, rosins, balsams, and medicinal oils, might make a conspicuous figure in trade, if the carelessness of the inhabitants did not make them prefer ease to profit. The jurisdiction of Coro, Carora, Qucuyo, and Upper Guiana, contains tracts of high land, which nature has covered with aromatic plants, to indemnify them for the power it has denied them of producing those articles, which demand a greater degree of moisture.

5. It would be too long, or to speak more correctly, it would be impossible for me to enumerate all the herbs, roots and barks, which the eastern part of Terra Firma offers to medicine; they are innumerable and disseminated over the different provinces, according to the temperature and exposure which nature has assigned them. There is more Sarsaparilla here than all Europe can consume. Sassafras and liquorice are particularly plentiful in the neighborhood of Truxillo; the Squill in the parish of Sagunetas; Storax in the jurisdiction of Coro; Cassia almost every where; Gayac on the shores; Aloes in Carora; a species of Quinquina on the mountains, &c. &c.

6. A peculiarity worthy of remark is, that there are few or no useless trees found in the numerous and extensive forests of the eastern part of Terra Firma. They are either fruit trees, or they are adapted by their hardness, bulk, or length, to all the purposes for which man has need to apply them. There are more than twenty sorts fit for inlaid work of the most exquisite finish; the colors are so various that when they are aided by polishing, they make a more beautiful appearance than the finest laborer in mahogany can form, with the nicest grain and the neatest spots that timber can furnish. Among these woods there is one called *Chacaranday*, which surpasses all the rest in beauty; it is found on the mountains of Perija in the province of Maracaibo. Half Europe might find in the forests of Terra Firma, wood enough for all its luxurious furniture and equippage. It is true, they are not equally easy of exportation, on account of their distance from seaports and navigable rivers. But there is a sufficiency of them near enough for exports to the amount of several millions.

7. Commerce might draw something considerable from the animal kingdom, provided the police and the people would seriously turn their attention to the subject. My chapter on commerce will teach how much the mass of exports owes to this source of local wealth. I need now do no more, to fix the attention of my reader than to tell him there are in Venezuela and Barcelona, Spanish Guiana, the western side of Lake Maracaibo, &c. 1,200,000 neat cattle; 180,000 horses and mares; & 90,000 mules, scattered over the plains and vallies; sheep are innumerable; and deer are abundant, particularly in the jurisdictions of Coro, Carora, and Qucuyo. This branch of the products of the country would amount to five millions of francs,* reckoning living animals exported to the neighboring colonies, and the deer-skins and ox hides carried to other places.

This sketch, which is rather below than above the truth, proves that there are few regions to which nature has been so lavish of her favors, as to the one I am describing. In the eyes, and in the estimation of every reasonable man, both Mexico and Peru lose by the comparison; for as I have often had occasion to say, the mines which are daily becoming worse, are very far from insuring to the trade and navigation of the mother country, so many advantages as can be derived from those productions which each year will renew; and which ages will but augment.

Notwithstanding, a country in which all the elements of the greatest prosperity are united, where agriculture heaps her stores, where the soil every where yields crops corresponding to the different temperatures and exposures which it derives from its particular situation; in short, a country peopled by 728,000 inhabitants, is almost entirely unknown, both to the literary and commercial world. No Spanish writer has described it. And the ideas which our most celebrated modern geographers have given of it, are so incorrect, that to have written nothing would have been better than to have treated the subject as they have done.

In no part of the habitable world, is man so little embarrassed for subsistence as in the province of Venezuela. If he will labor, he is sure to grow rich—or if he is lazy and vegetates along, he has only to stretch his hand and bend his back, that he may gather from the soil, a vastly greater quantity of food than is necessary for his support.

How has it happened that the statistical account of a country so rich, extensive and near to Europe as Terra Firma, is to this day so imperfect, while that of regions the most distant and difficult of approach, affords all the particulars that history can desire? It is because no nation repels with so much vigor from its possessions beyond the seas, every thing which is not of its own blood or descent as the Spanish. No stranger can tread in the districts of the Spanish possessions, especially on the American continent, far less become a resident in them, without an express permission from the king. This is very difficult to obtain, except for excursions which have no other object than to enlarge the domains of natural history. On the other hand, the eastern part of Terra Firma not working any mines, no Spaniard has been found willing to devote his talents and his vigilance to the description of a country which the whole nation, greedy of mines, considers as but an indifferent possession.

It required just that concurrence of events which carried me to Terra Firma, to secure me an asylum there. But in this even I have experienced some difficulties. I however overcame them by the same principles which have always served as the ground work of my conduct in foreign countries. They consisted in never ridiculing their ancient prejudices, in respecting their usages, and in conforming to local customs.

In spite of all these precautions, it must not be supposed that I have not had many difficulties to encounter while I was procuring the materials necessary to my purpose. The Spaniards are, literally speaking, more than any other nation, jealous of every foreign observer. There are very few who will frankly aid his enquiries into their political and domestic regimen. But there are a great many who, under the veil of zeal and affection, give him seriously and upon the greatest subjects, information diametrically opposite to the truth. How often have I received confidential accounts upon the correctness of which it appeared ridiculous to entertain a doubt, though the falsity of them was but too apparent afterwards. Without a residence of eight years, which I had made in the other Spanish dominions, previous to my arrival in Terra Firma; without a residence of nearly four years in the place which I have described; without the means I have employed to obtain access to registers; finally, without the rule which I rigorously imposed upon myself, to examine every thing with my own eyes, all my watching, my labors and my expences would only have led me to conclusions more injurious than beneficial to geography and natural history.

It is besides not sufficient to have collected all the information proper for an exact description. It was necessary to give them a methodical arrangement; so that by this means, the same impressions might be made upon the minds of my readers in looking over my pages, that my own received in travelling and studying the eastern part of Terra Firma. I flatter myself the distribution I have made of my materials will be found to have this effect.

(To be Continued.)

* *Five Francs are about equal to one dollar.*

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

"*On eagle's wings immortal scandals fly,*
Whilst virtuous actions are but born to die."

Although it is chimerical to suppose that party spirit will ever cease to exist in this country, or that the most virtuous and enlightened administration will ever be without its opponents, still at a *crisis* like the present, it might be expected that the *amor patriæ* would have a preponderance over the *demon of faction*. The critical state of our foreign relations, which has been produced by causes and events which the Executive could not control, has nevertheless been seized with avidity by the *opposition party*, and has long been made the subject of *scurrilous and malignant* attacks on the President. A brief review, however, of the measures which have been pursued, since the change of administration (as respects our external concerns) will, I trust, be sufficient to convince every candid and unprejudiced person, that these denunciations against the Executive are base, illiberal and unfounded. On Mr. Jefferson's elevation to the executive chair, the U. S. were at peace with all the world, except the bashaw of Tripoli, who notwithstanding the presents which he had occasionally received from the two former administrations, was committing depredations on our commerce in the Mediterranean. For the purpose of chastizing this pirate, as well as for the protection of our commerce, a squadron was dispatched to the Mediterranean. The result of this spirited measure is well known. The bashaw, although in possession of 300 of our citizens (which accident threw into his hands) was compelled to sue for peace; to relinquish all ideas of a tribute being paid him in future, and to restore our captive citizens for a trifling ransom.

Our dispute with Spain next merits attention. It is well known that during the late war, a number of American vessels were captured by French privateers, and carried into Spanish ports where they were condemned by French tribunals. The Executive with a view to indemnify our citizens for these losses, directed the minister of the U. S. at Madrid to open a negociation with the court of Spain, on the subject of these illegal condemnations. After various delays a convention was concluded (in 1802) whereby the Spanish government became responsible for the abovementioned losses sustained by American citizens in the ports of his catholic majesty. But before this convention was ratified, the Spanish intendant at New Orleans, by an arbitrary decree, prohibited our citizens from using the port of New Orleans as a place of deposit, a privilege which was secured to us by a former treaty with Spain.—About this time it was generally known that Spain had retro-ceded Louisiana to France, and from a desire to prevent having so formidable a power for a neighbor, as well as to obtain this valuable province (through which flows the Mississippi, the only outlet for the produce of our western country) a negociation was set on foot by the Executive, for the purpose of securing to the U. S. this important territory, in which he fortunately succeeded. The court of Spain, however, viewed this transaction with a jealous eye, and from that moment began to evince an unfriendly disposition towards the U. S. She has refused to ratify the convention of 1802, and has likewise withheld from us a small but valuable part of Louisiana. These and other acts of injustice have excited much indignation among our citizens. During the late session of Congress, it is well known, that some were in favor of an immediate declaration of war—A large majority, however, were for previously resorting to negociation, and an appropriation was made to enable the Executive to treat for the purchase of the Floridas (that is, for such part thereof as we have no claim to) which if obtained would render our territories compact, and remove all future disputes respecting the boundaries of Louisiana. The Executive has accordingly opened a negociation with the courts of France and Spain on this interesting subject. Various causes have prevented this negociation from progressing as rapidly as the impatience of the public seems to require; & although the result is still uncertain, a short delay cannot prove injurious to the U. S. as government has not neglected any measures within its power to place the frontiers in a state of defence; which precaution may be necessary, in case the negociation should terminate unfavorably.

The unjustiable conduct of G. Britain in capturing our vessels and impressing our seamen, has not been viewed with indifference by the executive. Some time before the meeting of the late Congress, our worthy minister at the court of London, made spirited remonstrances against these outrages, and although they were ineffectual, it was not considered expedient by our national legislature to resort to hostile measures without another effort to obtain justice by negociation. The indisposition of Mr. Fox, the British minister of foreign affairs, has retarded this negociation. Commissioners however have lately been appoined to treat with our ministers, and there is reason to believe that our differences with G. Britain will soon be amicably adjusted.

From the above statement of facts it must appear evident to every person (except those whose jaundiced eyes view every measure of the Executive through a false medium) that the President has on all occasions supported with firmness and dignity the honor and interests of his country. Every virtuous & patriotic citizen of the U. S. is therefore called upon in the name of his country, to rally around its constituted authorities, and should an appeal to arms be rendered necessary either to vindicate our rights or to avenge our wrongs, we cannot fail of being victorious.

FRANKLIN.

Hartford, Oct. 15.

Last Thursday the Hon. General Assembly of this state convened at New Haven. The House of Representatives made choice of the hon. *John C. Smith*, esq. for their Speaker, and *Lyman Law* and *Uriel Holmes*, jun. esqs. clerks.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Gentlemen of the Council,
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.

IN a former communication, which I had the honor to make to the legislature, I took the liberty to recommend, to their attention, our statute provision of Work Houses, for the correction and punishment of vicious, disorderly and idle persons, whose crimes and misdemeanors are difficult to be reached by other means. This subject has several times been under consideration, but not matured into system. It is a subject of much importance to the welfare of the community, as well as salutary mean of preserving the morals and good conduct of that class of persons, who by their follies and vices become fit subjects for such correction. It is much to be wished, and would I trust be very acceptible to our constituents, that some plan, either on an extended or more limited scale, should be adopted by the legislature, for the attainment of this object.

The liberal bounty of the state which has been extended to the important institution of Yale College, has been employed by the corporation, for the improvement of that seminary, in its buildings and accommodations for the students, and for the furnishing it with a valuable library, and apparatus for the instruction of the youth of our citizens. This disposition of the monies of the state, will I trust prove a lasting monument to their generosity, be highly useful to the future instruction of our children in the various branches of science, and remain a durable blessing for many generations to come. The chemical apparatus particularly which has been lately obtained through the personal agency of the ingenious Professor in that Branch, will, it is hoped, among other useful discoveries, be attended with peculiar benefit in our agricultural pursuits by extending our knowledge of the principles of vegetation and the various admixtures of substances for the amelioration of our different soils, and their preparations for the several crops most suited to their respective qualities.

The flourishing condition of our state in its agriculture, navigation, trade, fisheries, manufactures, arts and various improvements, is matter of gratitude to the Great Author of all our favors, and of special gratulation to the citizens of the state. Our wish and endeavor will be to afford our aid, so far as may fall within our power, that these sources of our wealth and happiness may be continued and extended with increasing improvement and benefit.

The time of service in Congress of Mr. Tracy, one of the senators from this state in the senate of the U. S. being nearly expired, the legislature will probably think it expedient to make a new appointment during the present session, to supply the vacancy which will take place in March next.

In order to complete the provisions of the act passed at the last session, making a new organization of the supers