

A HINT—VERY INTERESTING.

FROM THE VIRGINIA PATRIOT.

Mercy is like paying the Printer for Newspapers, The quality of mercy is not strained— It droppeth like the gentle dew of heaven— It bleaseth him that gives and that receives.

Thus speaks Shakespeare through the mouth of Portia in the Merchant of Venice. More about mercy the long-robed fair one delivers, but what cannot now be remembered, nor quoted: for alas, the writers for newspapers do not wallow in wealth: the patrons of newspapers are much unmerciful paymasters, and those who furnish amusement or instruction from the press, are seldom able to keep a library, and not even nature's captain and the bible's lieutenant, a Shakespeare. The merciful patron of newspapers pay readily and willingly. The quality of his payment is not strained.— "It droppeth like the gentle dew of heaven." A printer's income pours not in showers: it droppeth. Reader, thou hast seen the parched earth suffering from the want of rain. After a long dearth a cloud passeth over it. Perchance a few scattering drops fall; but not sufficient to lay the dust. Every six months the printer expects a shower: a few "strained" drops only fall. He opens his mouth to catch enough to allay thirst: his wife does the same, and his children; his editor, (if he is not his own) his foreman, (if not too poor to have one) his pressmen, his clerk, (if not his own) his journeymen; his boys, and carriers; and wider than all, HORRIBLE VISU! his paper-maker. The printer's devil, or runner, returns with a few "strained dollars." They have lifted up their eyes in torments, but no cup of water has cooled their tongues.

It is one of the most distressing scenes in the world, yet such as often occur. And, if trials and tribulation, patience and long-suffering under injuries, fit us for a better state hereafter, Old Nic has but few subjects in his kingdom who are printers of newspapers. The other day money was wanted for the paper-maker. Bills were sent out in the neighborhood to the amount of 400 dollars. The runner spent the day; returned at night with ten dollars and seventy-five cents. The crimes which we occasion in others must be atoned for at the last day by ourselves: For the printer's sins of unavoidable blasphemy how many patrons of newspapers will have to account. Who can behold such scenes and not feel wrath? Who can suffer in such scenes "and keep the natural ruby of his cheek, nor have it blanch'd with cursings?" After long meditation on the subject we are fully convinced that punctual payment for papers, if it covereth not, preventeth "a multitude of sins." How many have been ruined by the want of payment? How many, connected with a printing office, from the absence of cash to purchase good clothes that they might go regularly to church, and keep good company, have forsaken the house of worship, been shut out from respectable society, have associated with the most disreputable, become perhaps hard drinkers, turned vagabonds; been guilty of theft or suicide, or have died in a poor house: all which evils would have been prevented by punctuality in payment for newspapers. The soul sickens at the thought of so many evils brought upon society, which might have been so easily prevented.

Some of our patrons, alas for them and for us too few—let the glaring truth stand in Capitals—TWO FEW—have reciprocated with heart-rooted utterance the pleasures of payment—

It bleaseth him that pays and that receives—such know the best feelings of existence—their bosoms are never rent with the distress of being dunned—They anticipate the claims of justice. They know beforehand and prevent the possibility of enduring the grating sound of "pay me that thou owest." Such know how to live: know wherein consists the genuine enjoyments of human nature.

Sometimes we are asked, "Has Mr. such a one paid you for this year's paper?"—What is our reply? Why we turn it off with a laugh, "Poh, why do you ask such a question! dont you know he is ABLE, has a due sense of JUSTICE, a regard for his HONOR and a regard for the promotion of virtue and federalism?" Thus do we say, being tender of the reputation of our patron, though perhaps he owes us for half a dozen years subscription; and has put us off with—"I'll call shortly and settle my account"—a year afterwards—"In a few days I shall be in funds and will honor your bill"—two years afterwards—"why really have I forgot so long to pay for the paper? Well well, the account shall be discharged without delay"—two years after that—"eternally dunning me for money. This is vile treatment—I was one of his first subscribers—Stop the paper, I'll take it no longer, when I have money to spare I'll pay the account."

Just so it is with advertisements—"What—ten dollars—two years ago, for one advertisement."—But it was in thirty or forty times—"I did not order it so"—"You ordered it till forbid; you stopt it yourself; you knew the price of advertising."—"It is too much—it can't be recovered by law—I'll pay you two dollars."

But what are we about? It is a fact, full well known to the parties concerned, that there is due to the proprietor of this paper, sums not inconsiderable for several years subscription from some persons; from how many no mention shall be made, for we are desirous of having it believed that our patrons are punctual paymasters.—Many of them dwell at a distance. If a dunning letter full of politeness is sent to them, they are so angry at paying the postage of the dun, that they think it quite enough to pay that and the postage of the papers without paying for the paper itself: but we printers differ in opinion from them on this subject.

Some who are indebted for several years are seriously called upon by their honor and honesty their ability to pay, and our own necessity, to settle their accounts

to the first of September inst. or we may lose our temper and give them over to be buffeted by lawyers, sheriffs and constables.

It is time every man had paid this year's subscription.—Smile not, nor think to quiet our claims by saying that we know how to dun. If there are magistrates and officers in the land such smilers will smile at their own cost, if they

Smile, and smile, and be—BEHIND HAND.

LONDON, August 20.

French papers to the 15th inst. have come to hand, containing some further accounts of the operations of the armies in the Peninsula. We are concerned to find that Montserrat has fallen into the hands of the enemy, after a defence by no means commensurate with the natural strength of the place, or such as the present aspect of the patriotic cause in Catalonia peculiarly required. We fear that we shall shortly have to announce that Figueras also has reverted to the enemy.

The Paris Journals contain a copy of a pretended intercepted letter from the allied army in Portugal, on the subject of Lord WELLINGTON's retreat across the Guadiana. It is stated in this fabrication, that the Spanish Generals strongly opposed the measure of a retreat, and predicted the most disastrous consequences from it. The best evidence of the wisdom of the measure, in our judgment, is the labored attempts of the enemy to prove that Lord WELLINGTON was in fault.

A gentleman has arrived from St. Petersburg, who left that capital on the 24th ult. The information he transmits is peculiarly interesting, on account of the obstruction to the intercourse with Russia, from the causes we have already explained. He had frequent opportunities of ascertaining the sentiments of that Court, and he distinctly asserts, that in the Cabinet of ALEXANDER hostilities with France are considered inevitable, and that in the persuasion of this event, preparations had been long going forward to repel any sudden aggression of this new enemy. Among those precautions, the latest adopted by the War Office had been the calling out of the Militia, which was assembled in every district of the frontiers ready for immediate service.

The same gentleman is provided with passports to depart from and return to Russia at his own time and pleasure. He is also, we are told, by peculiar favour, furnished with several passports of a similar description for the accommodation of his friends, in direct opposition to the policy hitherto adopted by Russia, at the instance of M. LAURISTON.

From another quarter, of respectable authority, we have learned, that the point immediately under discussion between France and Russia is the possession of the ports of Riga and Revel. BONAPARTE is stated to have demanded them precisely on the same plea on which he seized Stettin, Colberg, and the other Prussian ports, as being necessary to the completion of the "Continental System;" and without which England would never be compelled to accept a maritime peace, so necessary to the repose of the world. BONAPARTE's application to the Russian Emperor on this head was accompanied and enforced by a statement of what he himself had accomplished—that he had shut out the English from the ports of the Adriatic—from the Elbe and the Weser. English commerce was entirely excluded from all the ports of his own dominions, and those of his confederates, in a certain degree to the temporary detriment of his own subjects; and it now only remained for the Emperor ALEXANDER to affix his seal to this vast plan by closing his ports in the Baltic, the only inlets, he regretted to say, which were at present open to the English.

All this General LAURISTON was instructed to press upon the attention of the Court of St. Petersburg; and also to say, that his Master by no means doubted the good-will of the Emperor, but rather the ability of his Government, which was too weak to carry into execution the full intentions of his MAJESTY. On this ground it was, that the French Government sought the possession of the two ports in question, and also as a guarantee that the system of exclusion should be followed up to its utmost extent.

A compliance with these demands would have been equivalent to entire submission; and that Russia has rejected them is evident. It now remains to be seen whether the enemy will attempt to carry them into effect by force.

Such was the confidence with which the Russian Government had inspired Sir JAMES SAUMAREZ, that the British Admiral had permitted 200 ships, principally laden with the produce and manufactures of this country, to proceed to the port of Cronstadt, and some of them were entering the Nera. We are sorry to say that the market for these commodities were overstocked, but the great deficiency in the interior will soon relieve it, and the superabundance of Russian produce will afford articles in barter on terms very advantageous.

Perhaps the most direct indication of war between Russia and France is, the rapid and unexpected advance of the exchange to 15½, a situation in which we have not seen it during a very long period, notwithstanding the efforts of the Government to support it.

We have one additional fact which is tolerably explicit. The gunpowder, lead, and other ammunition, accompanied by sealed orders, to be opened at Anholt, it is now directed should be sent with all possible despatch to the port of Riga.

It is stated in a Morning Paper, that "Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK carries out instructions to Sicily, which will enable our Commanders to act with more decision than they have done hitherto. In all the political circles of the Continent, the squeamish forbearance of our Cabinet is made the topic of severe animadversion.—They say that we waste our blood and treasure in fighting for folly and ingratitude. In the instance of Sicily,

our readers will perceive that it is now come to the *stipula non*. We must take care of ourselves. Placards of the most unequivocal sort have been stuck up in Messina—and but a limited time given for a conclusive answer."

The Cortes, it is said, have agreed to accept the mediation of the British Government in reference to the disputes between that body and the Spanish American colonies. We fear, however, that the spirit of alienation in the colonies of Spain is not likely to be removed.

Sunday afternoon the PRINCE REGENT and Duke of CUMBERLAND arrived at Windsor, and dined with the QUEEN; afterwards they accompanied her to Frogmore.

Lieutenant MACKWORTH, the eldest son and heir of the Baronet of that name, has been taken prisoner by the enemy at Albuquerque, which he went to reconnoitre.

THE KING.

The following is the Bulletin issued this morning:— "WINDSOR CASTLE, AUGUST 20.

"The KING not better this morning. His MAJESTY has passed another sleepless night.

(Signed) "H. Halford, W. Heberdeen, R. Willis."

The following are extracts from the Morning Papers of this day:—

"The King, we are assured, may be considered as exceedingly ill; and those who attend him, particularly Dr. WILLIS, are apprehensive that the continued violence of paroxysms may put a speedy period to his sufferings. Within the last seven days his MAJESTY has wasted more than during any former period of his malady. He is, indeed, in a state of constant coercion; or, should it be relaxed, he avails himself of his liberty to proceed to acts of personal violence. Within the last fortnight his person is so much altered that he looks many years older. It is now ascertained that the violence of his agony proceeds principally from the pressure of water on the brain; for, when he stoops, he experiences the most violent pain, from which he is never free, except when supported in an erect posture. What afflictively aggravates the calamity, is the circumstance of his MAJESTY being perfectly unconscious as to the individuals who are in attendance on him; and, in short, he has now never for a moment a lucid interval. All hopes, not only of his intellectual recovery, but of any return of physical strength, may now, it is greatly apprehended, be finally relinquished, even by those who are most zealously and most affectionately anxious for any favorable change. His MAJESTY is now said to have become possessed of an excessive but false appetite, which unhappily is only symptomatic of the greater violence of the disease."

"Our readers will see by the Bulletin that His MAJESTY was yesterday worse; in fact, he is now chiefly sustained by the fever. If his pulse were to fall, the Physicians would despair of his life, for the only sustenance he takes he has not the power to digest, and it is by medical means that he swallows it. He has also lost the power of distinguishing by the voice the persons about his person."

The prorogation of Parliament was taken into consideration, when it was farther prorogued from the 22d inst. to the 4th of October next.

AUGUST 22.

Within the last ten days an alteration has been observed by our cruisers to have taken place among the enemy's ships in the Scheldt. It is ascertained that twelve sail of vessels, including two-deckers, sloops, brigs, &c. have proceeded up that river, from the situation in which they had previously been discovered.—Whether this movement has taken place for the purpose of inducing our ships to relax in their vigilance is not known. A three-decker which has been some time building at Antwerp, is now completed, and will speedily be launched.

The Hawk, 18, Capt. Bouchier, arrived on Wednesday at Portsmouth, with three French prizes, a sloop, a brig, and a galliot, laden with naval stores. The Hawk fell in with a convoy, consisting of 50 sail, all laden with naval stores, going into Cherbourg; she captured five of them, and the remainder were driven on shore, or much damaged.

A gentleman lately arrived from Bordeaux, states, that on a recent census of the inhabitants of that City, it was found to contain only 72,000 souls, though its population was formerly estimated at 110,000. Though no troops had lately passed through Bordeaux for Spain, yet since the commencement of the Spanish war, the inhabitants had suffered most grievously from the numbers of troops, on their march to the Pyrenees, that had been quartered on them.

It will be seen from the following information, that the statements lately published, of desertions amongst the Portuguese troops, have been grossly exaggerated.

ARMY IN PORTUGAL.

The total establishment of the Portuguese regular army is computed at fifty thousand. On the first of July last there were 41,000 men, of whom 28,000 were "present" fit for duty; there were 6000 detached on duty; and 10,000 under the head of "sick, recruits, prisoners, and absent without leave;" of the latter there were not more than 200. Of the 28,000 men present, fit for duty, 21,000 were with Lord Wellington, incorporated with the British army. The cavalry is stated to be reduced to 1000. This is also false. They amounted to 4000; but of this number there were some sick. There were 2000 of them with Lord Wellington. Of the militia there were upwards of 35,000, armed and fit for duty. To these are to be added the ordenanza.

From this statement it appears that there are 6000 men wanting to complete the regular army. A decree of the 8th of May last ordered 9000 men to be raised, and they were to be at the depots about the end of July. Six more battalions of light troops, amounting to 3600 men, were also ordered to be raised; of these they