

POETRY.

[FOR THE COURIER.]

Cold winter is swiftly departing,
Its white fleecy mantle can't stay;
On it the bright sun beam is darting,
His sojourn's the life of a day.

Though a favour to man some esteem it,
That the sleigh-bell may rattle and ring,
For myself, to freeze up I can't deem it,
A blessing to subject or king.

Our wise and cheering Creator,
Both the summer and winter hath made,
'Tis a shame erring man should be greater,
For to measure what wisdom decreed.

Though the frosts of December do pinch us,
And in March we feel sorrow and chill,
Still the blessings of summer convince us,
That this pleasure, His subjects don't kill.

Our Autumn's the full horn of plenty,
And oftentimes seeds peace to the cot;
Agriculture, with appetite dimly,
Looks forward and blesses his lot.

He tells you he sowed in the season,
And in season does reap his reward;
He is sanguine and not without reason,
Yea feels 'tis the hand of the Lord.

Though some don't acknowledge his favour,
But in heathenish ignorance remain;
To be virtuous, dishonest or clever,
To such is precisely the same.

Our snowy cold subject we'll finish,
And no more for the present will sing,
May our benefits never diminish,
Until hope us to heaven doth bring.

St. John, February 18.

HISTORICAL.

POLAND.

POLAND signifies "level country," and in effect it has no mountains except those which separate it from Hungary; all the other elevations being only little hills. It contains forests well stocked with excellent game—marshes—few large rivers—plains extremely fertile of corn—in general all the productions of nature—mines, especially one of salt, unique in its kind, and inhabited like a town; but, notwithstanding the abundance of every thing, the commerce is small through the pride of the nobles and indolence of the plebeians: it is almost entirely carried on by the Jews, who are so numerous in the country, that Poland is called the Jews' paradise. The Poles are the only people of the universe who have by an express law prohibited the formation of a marine establishment.

There are few nations who enjoy in so high a degree bodily strength and the vigour of health—advantages which may be ascribed to the temperature of the climate, the sobriety of the people, and their constant habits of exercise. The use of the cold bath is said also to contribute to the same effects. The nobles are affable, liberal, hospitable, polite to strangers, harsh toward their vassals, delicate on the point of honour, vain, fond of show, magnificent in their dress and equipages. They are from their infancy instructed in literature, and all speak Latin, though not very correct. Passionately enamoured of liberty, they readily enlist under the banners of faction. As to the commonalty, they are ignorant, mercenary, indigent, slaves in the full extent of the term, being liable to imprisonment, sale, barter, stripes, even death itself, at the will of their masters.

In speaking of Poland, we indiscriminately designate it by the title of "kingdom" or "republic." The principal revenues of the crown are the taxes on the towns and on the Jews, together with the salt-mines, of which it has lately been deprived. A king of Poland, if not rich by his own private fortune, would be one of the poorest sovereigns in Europe, amid a circle of nobles more opulent and powerful than exist in any other country. The law by which the nobles are ruled is the *sabre*: the peasantry are governed by the cudgels of their lords, and may deem themselves happy whenever they experience from them equity and indulgence.

During the lapse of eight or nine hundred years, which is the period known to history, we find nought but wars undertaken on occasion of the election of the kings. We see them chosen from the nation, from foreign countries, sometimes voluntarily, at other times by compulsion: we see them expelled, we see them recalled. Now the son of the deceased monarch succeeds him: in other circumstances the nation invites to her sovereignty a nobleman with whom she is unacquainted. No fixed rule prevails in that respect. Happy the government which, wisely using that liberty, should place merit on the throne! But the choice has almost ever been the work of faction; and factions are rarely just or actuated by pure intentions.

The noble Polisher peruses with avidity the voluminous records of those sanguinary contests, in which he beholds his ancestors make a conspicuous figure. As to the plebeian throng, if they were to read, how indignant would they learn under what oppression they have ever been made to groan! and what would they not attempt for the sake of bursting their chains?

The infancy of Poland is destitute even of those illusions which have hovered round the cradles of the other nations of the north—the fairies and magic feats, preserved by oral tradition in the songs of the bards, who are to be considered as the annals of those foreign regions. We see Poland suddenly stand forth in the state of adolescence, in the year 559, under the reign of Lech, her first duke or king of whom we have any knowledge, and who, according to the Polish historians, was descended in a direct line from Japhet the son of Noah. Like Alexander of Macedon, he left his kingdom to "the most worthy." That "most worthy" was Viscimir, an illustrious warrior, who carried his arms into almost all the neighbouring countries. On his death, the nation, exhausted by her victories and ruined by her conquests, made trial of a different form of government. She placed herself under the regimen of twelve great lords, whom she styled palatines or waiters—grew tired of them, and returned to the dual or regal government.

Captivated by the great qualities of Vanda daughter to one of their kings, the Poles conferred on her the crown. The princess possessed in the highest degree the attractive charms of her sex, which she enhanced by a superior intelligence and masculine courage. She was just, temperate, eloquent, and her affability secured those hearts which her beauty had enthralled. A Teutonic prince named Rithogar demanded the honour of her hand, threatening Poland with all the calamities of war in case of a refusal.

Vanda's pride, which might have yielded to the bland insinuations of love, revolted against a desire thus imperatively expressed. She accepted the challenge; and Rithogar, defeated in battle, killed himself through shame and despair. Vanda, the historians add, saw him at the moment when he plunged his sword into his bosom; when, struck with the noble features and graceful charms of the expiring Prince, she determined not to survive him, and accordingly drowned herself in the Weissel.

After her death the Poles revived the aristocratic form of government. They were harassed and plundered by the Hungarians and Moravians, and ill defended by their own chiefs who were not in accord with each other. A simple wainwright, by name Premislaus, placed himself at their head, and merited the throne by his victories. He was a great prince, a friend to the arts, and fond of peace, though indebted to war for his exaltation. In the choice of his successor, the Poles left the decision to a sort of chance, by promising their crown to the man who, starting on horseback from a determined spot, should first reach an appointed goal. One of the competitors caused the ground to be clandestinely planted with iron spikes, reserving only a path in which himself ran. This stratagem succeeded with him in the race; but a young peasant detected the fraud, and was chosen in his stead.

He assumed the name of Lech III. In all public ceremonies, he caused his former rustic garb to be carried before him: nor was this an act of empty ostentation; for he ever retained the memory of his pristine state; and that recollection acted upon him as a stimulus to every virtue. He transmitted his virtuous qualities to his two immediate descendants; but his great-grandson Popiel degenerated from them. Too complaisant to his wife who was a cruel and cunning woman, he administered poison to his three uncles, excellent princes, who had been his guardians. From their dead bodies, lying exposed to the injuries of the weather, a swarm of rats are said to have issued, which devoured Popiel and his wife and children. In him about the year 860, ended the first race of the dukes or kings of Poland.

The title of duke, which till this period had been as it were convertible with that of king, totally ceased under Popiel's successor Piastus. This man had, like Premislaus, been originally a wainwright; and for his elevation to the regal dignity he was indebted to a miracle similar to that of the widow of Sarepta. Like her, he had received from two heavenly messengers an inexhaustible vessel of oil, which he generously distributed during a season of scarcity. The grateful nation conferred on him their crown. On the throne he was the comfort of the widow, the guardian of the orphan, the tutelar angel of the poor and the unfortunate. He was neither a politician nor a warrior; but his virtues supplied the place of talents.

He appeased several domestic commotions, and the nobles, however dissatisfied with the choice of so ignoble a chief, were afraid openly to revolt against a prince who seemed to live for the sole benefit of his subjects. He gave an excellent education to his son Zeimowitz, who did not degenerate from his virtues, which were inherited by the children of his children. One of them, by name Zienomislaus, who died in 964, was called the "Eye of Christianity." His successor Miecslaus, though enjoying in his kingdom all the attributes of royalty, did not conceive himself sufficiently authorised to assume the title of king unless he obtained it from the Court of Rome. He unsuccessfully solicited that honour: but the Pope conferred it on his son.

Boleslaus is famous for his exploits. He seized on Bohemia and Moravia, and subjugated Pomerania, Saxony, Prussia, and Russia. When age, and the satiety of conquest induced him to lay down his arms, he laboured to secure for his subjects the advantages of his victories, and to render happy that people whom he had rendered powerful. The conquered princes again rose in arms, and, disturbing the peace of his old age, obliged that respectable sovereign to cover his hoary locks with a helmet. In his last expedition he displayed marks of clemency little usual at that time: it was the custom to reduce prisoners of war to the condition of slavery; but he granted their liberty to those whom he had captured, and dismissed them without ransom, penetrated with esteem for his virtues.

Gratitude to the memory of the father called his son Miecslaus to the throne. He experienced however some opposition to his elevation; but he surmounted it. The peace which he afterwards enjoyed left him at liberty to indulge in debauchery, of which the excesses abridged the period of his existence. His reign, however, was not undistinguished by martial glory.

The Poles now chose his son Casimir, yet in the years of adolescence, and vested his mother Richsa with the regency. She governed ill, was expelled from the kingdom, but did not quit it in poverty. She had sent before her into Germany considerable treasures, the fruits of Boleslaus's conquests, which had not been entirely dissipated by her husband Miecslaus. Young Casimir, being involved in the punishment of his mother's faults, was also compelled to flee. He took refuge in France, and, whether thro' devotion or the embarrassment of his circumstances, became a monk in the abbey of Cluni. The youthful king was here so completely unknown, that, when the Poles, weary of the anarchy which desolated their country, sought him for the purpose of reinstating him on the throne, they had much difficulty to find him.

The Pope granted him a dispensation from his monastic vows; but he obliged entire Poland to purchase that favour by establishing the tax called "Peter-pence," which was a tribute annually paid to the sovereign pontiff. From the reign of Casimir we may date the authority of the Popes in Poland. In his youth, that Prince had frequented the schools of the university of Paris; during his whole life he retained a taste for the sciences, and endeavoured to disseminate it in his kingdom. He gloriously practised the pacific virtues, without neglecting to exhibit proofs of courage and firmness whenever circumstances called for their exertion.

Casimir left three sons, of whom Boleslaus the eldest received the crown. He made war on the king of Bohemia, subdued the Hungarians, but directed his efforts chiefly against Russia, of which he determined to achieve the conquest. In these times a battle usually decided the fate of a kingdom, because the victor rarely met on his way any towns sufficiently strong to oppose a barrier to his sudden and rapid career, especially to the irruptions of the Polish cavalry. Boleslaus, however, was stopped in his progress by Kiow. He besieged it and took it after a long resistance; but, instead of punishing the obstinacy of its inhabitants according to the usual mode of that barbarous age, he applauded their courage, and recompensed their brave exertions by saving the town from pillage from and the insults of his army. Kiow was the most opulent and voluptuous among the cities of the North: the Poles suffered themselves to be infected by the contagion of pleasures; and an army of rough hardy warriors degenerated into a mob of effeminate debauches. Boleslaus himself, who till then had worn the crown with dignity, abandoned himself to the most sensual indulgences; and the prince, as well as the soldiers, took such delight in this life of luxury, that they all seemed to have forgotten their native country.

This army is said to have remained seven years absent and forgetful of their home. The Polish women, meanwhile, irritated by their husband's indifference to them, and by their preference of the ladies of Kiow, resolved to take signal vengeance, and unannouncedly admitted their slaves to all the privileges of husbands. At the news of this resolution, which must appear equally extraordinary for the unanimity with which it was adopted as for the object in view, the husbands abandoned their monarch, whom they loudly accused as the cause of their dishonour, and hasted back to Poland, threatening to wash out their disgrace in the blood of their faithless wives. But the women had anticipated their intentions, and armed their servile paramours against their husbands. A sanguinary conflict ensued, in which the women, goaded by despair, fought beside their slaves, fought their husbands in the thick of the battle, and fancied they could obliterate their crime by plunging their swords into the bosoms of the men who were interested in avenging it.

While the combatants were yet engaged, Boleslaus arrived at the head of an army raised in Russia, and indiscriminately assailed the women, their gallants, and the soldiers who had deserted his banners. This sudden attack united the wives and husbands and slaves, who desperately sustained several obstinate battles against their sovereign. Poland was inundated with the blood of her inhabitants; and, to fill up the measure of her calamities, the schism which rent the church, caused also a division in Poland. There arose, moreover, a contest for riches and power between the king and the clergy; on occasion of which, the impetuous Gregory VII. hurled against the monarch the thunder of excommunication. Abandoned by his subjects, and no longer finding personal safety in his dominions, Boleslaus was soon compelled to flee into Hungary with his son Miecslaus. The hapless monarch is said to have been afterward reduced to such distress, that, either for the purpose of concealment or of gaining a subsistence, he exercised the humble functions of a cook in a convent in Carinthia, where he died.

It was not till after much entreaty that the Pope consented to grant the title, not of king, but barely of duke, to Uladislaus the brother of Boleslaus. The sovereign pontiff divided his favours between the kings of Poland and Bohemia, and fired them with mutual jealousy by conferring the regal dignity now on the one and now on the other.

In hope of obtaining that honour, Uladislaus aggravated the burden of the tribute paid by the Poles to the See of Rome; yet he enjoyed only the title of Duke. This prince's want of energy proved the source of discord in his family and disturbances in the state; he suffered his natural son Shigenes to contend for the authority with his legitimate son Uladislaus. The latter gained the preference in the competition for the crown: but he was harassed during almost the whole time of his reign by the intrigues of his brother.

Boleslaus III. is represented in history as a hero, and compared to Boleslaus Chrobri, surnamed the Great. He was victorious in forty battles, and died of chagrin for having lost one. He divided his duchy among his four sons.

The principal share, together with the title of duke, fell to Uladislaus II, surnamed the Driveler. He was too obedient to the counsels of his wife, who embroiled him with his brothers, and inspired him with the ambitious desire of depriving them of their portions. But, by attempting to grasp at all, he lost all, and was deposed. Boleslaus IV, who was chosen in his stead, ceded to him Silesia, as a matter of favour. The new Duke lived in good understanding with his two other brethren, Miecslaus and Casimir. He did not envy them the enjoyment of the states which their father had bequeathed to them; and they, on the other hand, assisted him in repressing the efforts made by Uladislaus to re-ascend the throne. Boleslaus thought himself sufficiently well secured in the possession of it to risk a visit to the holy land. He there reaped successes and suffered reverses. The latter induced him to return to Poland, where he was soon after attacked by the emperor Barbarossa, at the instigation of Uladislaus's wife, who was his kinswoman. Boleslaus repelled the German invaders by the assistance of his brother Miecslaus, who in the sequel was rewarded with the sceptre when death had taken it from Boleslaus's hand. The sons of Uladislaus disputed it with him; but he gained it by the choice of the assembled states.

A worse choice they could not possibly have made. Miecslaus was surnamed the Old, because he was elevated to the throne at an advanced age. He was prodigal, oppressive, cruel. A trait which distinguished him from other men of similarly atrocious disposition, is, that, for want of criminals on whom to exercise his barbarity, he caused tortures to be inflicted on animals of the brute creation. He was deposed—a punishment too mild for such a monster, and at the same time ineffectual to reclaim him. The last of the four brothers, by name Casimir, was of a quite different character, mild, humane, scrupulously virtuous, inasmuch that, when the crown was tendered to him, he hesitated to accept it, through an apprehension of violating his brother's property: nor did he consent till moved by the following argument which was urged to him in the assembly of the states—"The ceremony of election supposes a compact between the king and the people. Miecslaus has broken through the conditions

which were prescribed to him at the time when we gave him the preference to the sons of his brother: of consequence, he is legitimately deposed."

Casimir did every thing he could in his brothers' favour; he granted him lands and domains; but Miecslaus yet remained unsatisfied. Rather than expose Poland to the calamities of a civil war, Casimir offered to resign to him the crown: but the states, refusing to place themselves again under the government of a prince whom they had rejected, opposed Casimir's abdication. Miecslaus continued to harass his brother, at one time by secret conspiracies, at another by open hostility, and the reigning prince, equally brave and merciful, ceased not to conquer him, nor was weary of granting him repeated pardons. This struggle was not terminated till the death of Casimir, who left behind him the reputation of being the mildest and most liberal and just and affable monarch that ever reigned over Poland.

The contest was re-commenced with Casimir's son Lech, surnamed the Fair. Miecslaus succeeded in obliging his nephew to yield him possession of the throne, to which he carried back all the vices which had before caused him to be degraded from it. He would have been again dispossessed, if death, accelerated by his debaucheries, had not anticipated the interference of his subjects. He held it as his maxim that a "sovereign is not bound to observe his oath, except when neither his safety, nor his advantage requires that he should violate it." The Poles restored the crown to Lech, who did not enjoy it in peace, being incessantly distracted by domestic disturbances and foreign wars. The latter were unfortunate under his reign. The Tartars made a destructive irruption into Poland; neither age nor sex nor quality found any favour from those merciless barbarians, who ravaged with fire the provinces through which they passed, and massacred all the inhabitants whom they were unable to bring away into captivity. Of those who escaped their rage, the nobles fled into Hungary, and the plebeian class sought an asylum in the recesses of the forests and the most inaccessible places. Lech was assassinated; though we are not informed of either the cause or the manner of his death. It is presumed that he fell the sacrifice of a faction.

(To be continued.)

SELLING OFF.

VERY LOW, FOR CASH.

THE Subscribers intend closing their Co-partnership business on the 1st day of May next, therefore the public are respectfully informed that they will sell their remaining

STOCK OF GOODS,

at very reduced prices, until Tuesday the 5th day of April, when all that remains will then be sold at public Auction.

All persons indebted to the subscribers, are requested to call and settle their accounts.

KEATOR & SANDS.

N. B.—They have a quantity of Valley and Cumberland BUTTER on hand, at 5d. St. John, Jan. 29, 1831.

RUM.

10 PUNCHEONS high proof JAMAICA RUM, which has been in store for some time—for sale by

Feb. 5.—45 GEORGE E. FRINK.

TOBACCO.

80 KEGS assorted Qualities—just received from New-York, via Eastport—for sale by

January 29, 1831. E. DEW. RATCHFORD.

AT PRIVATE SALE:

6 SHARES of the Capital Stock of the "St. John Marine Insurance Company;" 1 Trunk fashionable London Millinery; Cognac Brandy; Irish Pork; Tens; Candles; Crates Earthenware, and Blue Dinner Sets, complete; Stoves;

Anchors, Chain Cables, &c. &c. JOHN V. THURGAR.

ANTIGUA MOLASSES.

18 PUNCHEONS choice Antigua MOLASSES, now landing ex schooner Ploughboy, for sale low for Cash.

Dec. 11. E. DEW. RATCHFORD.

MACKEREL.

400 BARRELS best Fall Mackerel, in excellent order either for exportation or home consumption, just received and for sale by

I. & J. G. WOODWARD.

February 5, 1831. 3d.

SOAP, CANDLES, RICE, &c.

The Subscriber has just received, per Schr. Frances-Arm, from Boston—

50 BOXES best MOULD CANDLES—

short 6's and 8's; 9 do. Sperm Candles; 8 Tierces new RICE; 50 Barrels TAR and PITCH—All of which will be sold low.

Also, on Consignment:

30 Boxes Yellow SOAP.

Jan. 8. E. DEW. RATCHFORD.

COD OIL.

10 BARRELS COD OIL—For Sale by DANIEL & LEWIS SMITH.

1st January, 1831.

FOR SALE,

FRANKLINS of different sizes and patterns.—ALSO—

40 Tons BIRCH TIMBER.

27th Nov. HENRY BLAKSLLEE.

PORK AND BEEF.

JUST received—A few Barrels of Nova-Scotia and Irish PORK; do. do. BEEF—all of excellent quality, and for sale at very lowest prices, by

Jan. 15. E. DEW. RATCHFORD.

MACKEREL.

250 BARRELS No. 1 & 2 inspected Prime Fall MACKEREL—for sale for Cash, by

Jan. 8. D. & L. SMITH.

No. 4, South Market Wharf.

RUM AND MOLASSES.

Just landing from on board the brig ROSEAU, from Dominica—

50 PUNS. fine flavoured RUM;

5 do. choice retailing Molasses, For sale very low by

December 18. JOHN V. THURGAR.

JUST RECEIVED,

Per Brig Joseph Anderson, from Liverpool, and for Sale by the Subscriber—

200 P. PIECES 9-8 wide white COTTON,

200 ditto 9-8 Grey ditto, 1 Bale Canvas; 40 Barrels Coal Tar, 1 Pipe each boiled & raw Oil; 110 boxes Soap.

November 20. JOHN ROBERTSON.

CORN MEAL.

The Subscriber has just received from the Chamcock Mills

100 BAGS Fresh Ground CORN MEAL,

50 Bags Coarse Ground CORN MEAL, suitable for horse feed.

GEO. D. ROBINSON.

July 31, 1830.

JANUARY 15, 1831.

On Hand, and for Sale:—

25 PUNCHEONS Windward Island and Jamaica RUM.

10 Puncheons Molasses and 20 Barrels Sugar, 250 Bbls. superfine Flour; 50 ditto Rye ditto, 100 ditto Indian Meal; 50 ditto Navy Bread, 15 Tierces Rice; 20 dozen Brooms, 100 Barrels Irish Mess Pork, 50 do. & 15 Tierces Beef; 14 cwt. Irish Bacon, 50 Cwt. New-Brunswick Oatmeal, 30 Bags ditto common and Pearl Barley, 50 Firkins Butter; 100 kists spiced Salmon, 50 Bags & Bbls. East India and Jamaica Coffee, 50 Boxes Soap and Candles,

50 Crates assorted Earthenware,

50 Crates do. Glassware,

400 Boxes do. Crown Glass,

250 Bolts bleached and unbleached Canvass,

50 Coils assorted Cordage,

200 Casks fine wrought Nails; 100 do. Cut do.;

500 Kegs London White Lead,

100 ditto Green and assorted ditto,

3 Casks and 40 Jars Boiled Linseed Oil,

25 Bags Corks; 100 dozen Woollen Socks,

10 Chests Tea; 1 chest Indigo,

Assorted Bar Iron and Copper,

Best Madeira and Sherry Wines,