

THE ADVERTISER.

COLUMBIA UNITED; THE LAND OF FREEDOM, THE CLIME OF PEACE AND THE GRAVE OF TYRANTS.

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SELECTED FOR THE ADVERTISER, From Kett's Elements of General Knowledge, vol. 1.

THE MAGNIFICENCE OF THE CITY OF ROME, AND THE WIDE EXTENT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

THE prospect of Rome, at the period of its greatest power, cannot fail to impress our minds with astonishment. At the time when the virtuous and warlike Trojan filled the imperial throne, the Romans had reached the summit of dominion and magnificence. The metropolis of the empire and its suburbs extending beyond the seven celebrated hills, were bounded by a circumference of fifty miles. More populous than Babylon, Ninevah, or Thebes, or any capital of modern Europe; the number of its inhabitants amounted to twelve hundred thousand. (The only capital in the known world more populous than ancient Rome is Peking, in China, which Du Halde reckons at three millions.) It abounded with mansions remarkable for height and spaciousness; it was interspersed with gardens and groves, and was decorated with every edifice which could contribute either to the use or ornament of individuals, or of the public.—Fountains, baths, aqueducts, bridges, markets, obelisks, squares, courts of justice, porticos, palaces, amphitheatres and temples filled the august prospect. The temple of Ops was enriched with the gold of subdued monarchs; the rostra was decked with the naval spoils of a long succession of ages; and upon the lofty arches were described in the most exquisite sculpture the various and splendid triumphs of the conquerors of the world. Among the public buildings were more particularly observed by the astonished spectator, the elegant form of Trojan, the ample theatres of Marcellus and Pompey, the temple of Neptune, the wide circumference of the Circus Maximus, the Capital rearing its majestic structures above the Tarpeian rock; the Imperial Palace, from the magnificent portico of which, the emperor could overlook the whole city; the temple of Apollo, distinguished by the colossal statue of that deity, erected on Palatine Hill in the centre of the city; and the dome of the sublime Pantheon, eminent for its incomparable symmetry and regular proportions. All these buildings presented the solid style of the Tuscan, or the more elegant orders of Grecian architecture; and were adorned with the most beautiful productions of painting and sculpture.—Above these stately edifices arose a lofty pillar of white marble, exhibiting in the most lively images of sculpture, the Dacian victories of Trojan, whose colossal figure crowned the summit.—The extent, the variety and the grandeur of the buildings proved that this city was the residence of the masters of the world; as the ingenuity, the productions, the arts, and the riches of all countries conspired to aggrandize and embellish it.

Twenty thousand select troops, either distinguished as regular patrols, or praetorian cohorts, watched both night and day, over the security of this populous and spacious city. To this seat of supreme power ambassadors were sent from the most remote regions to lay the diadems of kings at the feet of the emperor. From hence marched the proconsuls, lieutenants and praetors surrounded by numerous trains of attendants, and escorted by cohorts of foot and squadrons of horse, to take the command of their respective provinces. They travelled over straight and spacious roads, which intersected the empire in every direction, and which were so solid and durable as to remain in many places unimpaired by the ravages of time, after the lapse of more than seventeen centuries. The ready communication between one pro-

vince and another was equally secured by sea and land; and the fleets, which anchored in the port of Ostia, were prepared to carry the imperial arms to the most distant coasts. Upon the banks of great rivers such as the Rhine, the Danube and the Po, in the vicinity of populous cities, or on the frontiers of hostile nations, were stationed the camps of the Legions. At the first alarm of insurrection they were ready to take the field; no plot of the enemy could escape their vigilance, and no force was sufficient to repel their formidable onset.

Many of the temperate and fertile countries which now compose the most powerful kingdoms of Europe, were enrolled in the register of tributary states. The imperial eagle stretched her wings over the fairest portions of the ancient world. The empire was extended more than two thousand miles in breadth; from the wall of Antinomus in Britain, and the northern limits of Dacia, to Mount Atlas in the west of Africa, and reached in length more than three thousand miles, from the Western Ocean to the Euphrates. It was supposed to contain above sixteen hundred thousand square miles, for the most part of fertile and well cultivated land. It included Spain and Portugal, Gaul and Britain, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Transylvania, Thrace, Macedonia, Greece, the provinces of Asia, Minor, Pontus, Bithynia, Cilicia, Syria, Phoenicia and Palestine, Egypt, Mauritania and Dacia. The most of these countries abounded with large and opulent cities, every one of which attested the progress and influence of the arts, as well as the dominion of the Romans, by the grandeur and variety of its public works. The population of the empire was equal to its extent, as it was reputed to contain not less than one hundred and twenty millions of subjects, a number far greater than was ever united under one European government, either before or after that period.

Such is the sublime prospect of the metropolis, the naval and military force, and the extensive and formidable sovereignty of ancient Rome in the meridian of her glory. A survey so remarkable for the variety and splendor of its objects is the most distinguished which history has presented to the contemplation of man. It will appear the more extraordinary if we contrast the empire so extensive and flourishing under Trojan, with its present state, consisting of a small colony of shepherds and adventurers, originally planted by Romulus on the banks of the Tiber, and forming one of forty independent cantons, which altogether occupied a space only of fifty miles.

But notwithstanding the external magnificence of the city of Rome, the prodigious extent of the Roman Empire, during the reign of Augustus & his immediate successors, the manners of the people were gradually changing; the state contained within itself the causes of its own decay, and the poison of desolation preyed upon its vitals; it became at length as abject and degraded as it had ever been great and powerful. The most extensive, powerful, and splendid empire in the world sunk into a humiliating condition; and its downfall may be attributed to the extinction of patriotism, the prevalence of luxury and vice, and the neglect of the ancient modes of education.

Extracts from Capt. Porter's Journal.

GALLAPAGOS TORTOISE.

The possession of these vessels, besides the great satisfaction it produced, was attended by another advantage of no less importance, as it relieved all our wants, except one, to wit, the want of water. From them we obtained an abundant supply of cordage, canvass, paints, tar, and every other article necessary for the ship, of all of which we stood in great need, as our slender stock brought from America had now become worn out and useless; and besides the articles necessary for the ship, we became supplied with a stock of provisions of a quality and quantity that removed all apprehensions of our suffering for the want of them for many months, as those vessels, when they sailed from England, were provided with provisions and stores for upwards of three years, and had not yet consumed half their stock; all were of the best quality; and, were it only for the supplying our immediate wants, the prizes were of the greatest importance to us. We found on board of them, also, wherewith to furnish our crew with several delicious meals. They had been in at James's Island, and supplied themselves abundantly with those extraordinary animals the tortoises of the Gallapagos, which properly deserve the name of the ele-

phant tortoise. Many of them were of a size to weigh upwards of three hundred weight, and nothing, perhaps, can be more disagreeable or clumsy than they are in their external appearance.

Their motion resembles strongly that of the elephant; their step slow, regular and heavy; they carry their body about a foot from the ground, and their legs and feet bear no slight resemblance to the animal to which I have likened them; their neck is from 18 inches to 2 feet in length, and very slender; their head is proportioned to it, and strongly resembles that of a serpent; but, hideous and disgusting as is their appearance, no animal can possibly afford a more wholesome, luscious, and delicate food than they do; the finest green turtle is no more to be compared to them in point of excellence, than the coarsest beef is to the finest veal! and after once tasting the Gallapagos tortoises, every other animal food fell greatly in our estimation. These animals are so fat as to require neither butter nor lard to cook them, and this fat does not possess that cloying quality, common to that of most other animals; and when fried out, it furnishes an oil superior in taste to that of the olive. The meat of this animal is, the easiest of digestion, and a quantity of it, exceeding that of any other food, can be eaten without experiencing the slightest inconvenience. But what seems the most extraordinary in this animal, is the length of time that it can exist without food; for I have been well assured that they have been piled away among the casks in the hold of a ship, where they have been kept eighteen months, and when killed at the expiration of that time, were found to have suffered no diminution in fatness or excellence.

They carry with them a constant supply of water, in a bag at the root of the neck, which contains about two gallons; and on tasting that found in those we killed on board, it proved perfectly fresh and sweet. They are very restless when exposed to the light and heat of the sun, but will lie in the dark from one year's end to the other without moving; in the daytime, they appear remarkably quick-sighted and timid, drawing their head into their shell on the slightest motion of any object; but they are entirely destitute of hearing, as the loudest noise, even the firing of a gun, does not seem to alarm them in the slightest degree, and at night, or in the dark, they appear perfectly blind. After tasting the flesh of those animals, we regretted that numbers of them had been thrown overboard by the crews of the vessels before their capture, to clear them for action; but a few days afterwards, at daylight in the morning, we were so fortunate as to find ourselves surrounded by about fifty of them, which were picked up and brought on board, as they had been lying in the same place where they had been thrown over incapable of any exertion, in that element, except that of stretching out their long necks."

HAYTI, OR ST. DOMINGO.

From St. Domingo it is reported that the present Lords of the soil are not unprepared for an attempt by the French to recover that important Island. The fortifications of Cape Francois are not neglected. Besides, a retreat is secured to mountains, which are inaccessible when fortified. Malouet, in giving the condition of St. Domingo, and comparing the defence of Martinico and of Cuba at one point, proceeds to observe, "but at St. Domingo we have eight good harbors upon 200 leagues of sea coast. Near all these are our riches and our cultivation, and if all are not of the same importance to the enemy and to us, those of the Cape, of Fort Dauphin, of Artibonite, of Port au Prince, of Leogane, and of St. Louis, may be separately attacked and laid waste. The enemy at each of these points would find a harbor and a conquest. What then can we do, with six or ten thousand men, if a landing be effected. All these forces could not be united at one point, and notice being given of the descent, a part of our troops must be defeated before a junction could be made.—What can we do? What I have found generally approved. We can retire into the interior, into the mountains, and have a post of defence. But if the enemy have command of the sea and coast, what could this retreat avail? How could we live in the mountains? How transport our supplies of any name? Where are we to find them? One year in advance would be sufficient, and manioc would be all we should want." The difficulty arising from this defence from the inability to provide for the slaves will disappear in the contemplated war with the present inhabitants; and what the govern-

ment anticipated at the beginning of the century for a different purpose, has arisen to the thoughts of the present Government, with better opportunity to make the project successful. We have nothing positive respecting the purposes of France, but the friends of Christophe leave nothing to the mercy of their enemy. It is said a new policy has been observed in Cuba, and that the Island is shut against all foreign commerce. The British have made a free use of this island in all their operations in Florida and Louisiana, which would be a full vindication of all the favors we could have received in European ports. The disposition of the Spanish and French Courts respecting their American claims, remain for explanation. Our States are at present alarmed by no preference which has been given.—Essex Reg.

ALGIERS.

The Editor of the Federal Republican, speaking of the expedition preparing against Algiers, observes, that "the Navy will do itself credit on every occasion where a navy can act; but how it is to reduce the city of Algiers, is not quite so clear—a naval force cannot carry on land operations," &c. &c.—We find however, in looking into Blythe's History of the War between the United States and Tripoli, that Admiral Nelson was able to make some impression at least upon the fears of the Algerines. The account is thus concisely related.—Salem Gazette.

In August, 1803, an Algerine fleet met an English frigate near Malta, and summoned her to bring to, but having received several broadsides, the frigate escaped and gained the port of Malta. On receiving this information, 2 ships of the line and 2 frigates set out without delay in pursuit of the barbarian squadron, which they overtook, and sunk several of their vessels. On the news of this disaster, the Dey of Algiers ordered all the British subjects to be thrown into prison, and their property confiscated. Admiral Nelson, when informed of this barbarous reprisal immediately sailed for Algiers, with a squadron of several men of war. He then ordered the squadron to advance, and in the middle of the night commenced a brisk fire of bombs and heated balls, which spread fear and desolation through the city. The Dey sent a message to Lord Nelson, who replied that he could give no answer for several hours, during which time, the bombardment continued without intermission, in such a manner as to cause the most dreadful ravages. On a second message from the Dey, with new propositions, Lord Nelson demanded that all the English agents should be set at liberty, and a complete indemnity made for the losses they had sustained, with the release of all the captives. He exacted besides the sum of 50,000 sequins, with a promise that the Dey would never again make captives of the Tuscans or Neapolitans."

From the Gleaner.

A HINT.

Our army is about to be, in part, disbanded, and many of our soldiers will return to their homes. The whole country is filled with acclamations of praise and songs of glory to the brave generals who have led our gallant troops to victory. It is right: they have indeed deserved well. The laurels which deck their brows were nobly won, and they shall bloom in immortal verdure.

But our generals have not gained our victories alone. Where would have been the laurels of Brown, of Gaines, of Scott, of Macomb, and of Jackson, without the common soldier, whose name is not inscribed on the rolls of fame? Who has borne the burden of the day? Who has stood sentinel during long nights of December, on the frozen plains of Sackett's Harbor, or on the icy hills of Niagara? Who has made the ground his bed, while the Heavens alone were his curtains? Who has marched through wet, and cold, and heat, hunger and tired, without the hope or being mentioned in General Orders, or the strong incentive of public approbation? And who, in the day of battle, has wrested the trophies of glory from the muzzle of a brave, disciplined and determined enemy's cannon? These, fellow-citizens, are the Common Soldiers. Let them then be remembered with honor and gratitude. Let their return be welcomed by those generous expressions of affection and respect which are so dear to the noble and feeling mind of the honorable and virtuous soldier. And if any assistance can be given in restoring them to the business which they left, let the ready hand of every one assist them.

The Soldier's Friend.

Copy of a letter from Com. Patterson to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

NEW-ORLEANS, March 17, 1815.

SIR—Inclosed I have the honor to transmit, for your information, a copy of a letter from Lt. Thomas Ap' Catesby Jones, giving a detailed account of the action between the gun-vessels under his command and a flotilla of the enemy's barges, on the 14th December, 1814, which, after a most gallant resistance, terminated, as stated in my letter of the 17th December, in the capture of our squadron.

The courage and skill which was displayed in the defence of the gun-vessels and tender, for such a length of time, against such an overwhelming force as they had to contend with, reflects additional splendor on our naval glory; and will, I trust, diminish the regret occasioned by their loss.

I have the honor to be, with great consideration and respect, your obedient servant,

DAN'L T. PATTERSON.

Hon. Benj. W. Crowninshield, Secretary of the Navy.

NEW-ORLEANS, 12th March.

SIR—Having sufficiently recovered my strength, I do myself the honor of reporting to you the particulars of the capture of the division of the United States' gun-boats late under my command.

On the 12th December, 1814, the enemy's fleet off Ship Island had increased to such a force as to render it no longer safe or prudent for me to continue in that part of the lakes with the small force which I commanded. I therefore determined to gain a station near the Malheroux Islands as soon as possible, which situation would better enable me to oppose a further penetration of the enemy up the lakes, and at the same time afford me an opportunity of retreating to the Petite Coquilles, if necessary.

At 10 A. M. on the 13th, I discovered a large flotilla of barges had left the fleet, (shaping their course towards the Pass Christain) which I supposed to be a disembarkation of troops intending to land at that place. About 2 P. M. the enemy's flotilla having gained the Pass Christain, and continuing their course to the westward, convinced me that an attack on the gun-boats was their design. At this time the water in the lakes was uncommonly low, owing to the westerly wind which had prevailed for a number of days previous, and which still continued from the same quarter. Nos. 156, 162 and 163, although in the best channel, were in 12 or 18 less water than their draught. Every effort was made to get them afloat by throwing overboard all articles of weight that could be dispensed with. At 3 30 the flood tide had commenced; got under weigh, making the best of my way towards the Petite Coquille. At 3 45 the enemy dispatched three boats to cut out the Sea-Horse, which had been sent into the Bay St. Louis that morning to assist in the removal of the public stores, which I had previously ordered. There finding a removal impracticable, I ordered preparations to be made for their destruction, least they should fall into the enemy's hands.—A few discharges of grape shot from the Sea Horse compelled the three boats, which had attacked her, to retire out of the reach of her guns, until they were joined by four others, when the attack was re-commenced by the seven boats. Mr. Johnson having chosen an advantageous position near the two 6 pounders mounted on the bank, maintained a sharp action for near 30 minutes, when the enemy hauled off, having one boat apparently much injured, and with the loss of several men killed and wounded. At 7 30 an explosion at the Bay, and soon after a large fire, induced me to believe the Sea-Horse was blown up and the public store house set on fire, which has proved to be the fact.

At about 1 A. M. on the 14th, the wind having entirely died away, and our vessels become unmanageable, came to an anchor in the west end of Malheroux Island's passage. At daylight next morning, still a perfect calm, the enemy's flotilla was about nine miles from us at anchor, but soon got in motion and advanced rapidly towards us. The want of wind, and the strong ebb tide which was setting through the Pass, left me but one alternative, which was, to put my vessels to the most advantageous position, to give the enemy as warm a reception as possible. The commanders were all called on board and made acquainted with my intentions, and the position which each vessel was to take, the whole to form a close line abreast across the channel, anchored by the stern with springs on the cables, &c. &c. Thus we remained anxiously awaiting an attack from the advancing