

# FARMER'S REPOSITORY.

CHARLES TOWN, (Jefferson County, Virginia,) PRINTED BY RICHARD WILLIAMS.

Vol. III.]

FRIDAY, March 8, 1811.

[No. 154.]

## THE RIDGE ROAD, OR NATURAL TURNPIKE.

In a tour which I took in the months of May and June last, to the Falls of Niagara, I had the pleasure of seeing the great curiosity, called the Ridge Road, or Natural Turnpike; and I was the more agreeably surprised, as I had never before heard of it, although I had resided within 30 miles of it for 12 years.

The western end commences at Lewistown, on Niagara river, seven miles below the Great Cataract, and the same distance from the American fort. In passing from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, by the falls, it may be proper to observe, that the country is a dead level till you come within a mile of Lewistown, when emerging at once from a forest of gigantic oaks, you find yourself on the brow of a hill, where opens to your view a prospect the most beautiful and sublime which the mind can conceive. Here Lake Ontario first presents its boundless bosom to the eye till it meets the distant horizon beyond—Immediately before you, and almost under your feet, on the opposite side of the river, are Lewistown and Queenstown; where commences, at the foot of the mountain, an immense champaign which extends to the lake in front, and to the east and west as far as the eye can stretch, intersected by the river, which is boiling and wheeling and foaming through its narrow channel, on the left, and stretching away before you, till it gradually widens, slackens, and subsides into a placid stream, which, moving majestically along, till it empties into the lake—leaves the village of Niagara and the American fort on the right, with Newark and that of the British on the left. The banks of this great outlet of the lakes are under high cultivation, and seemingly alive with farms, and flocks and herds, while industry is plying the oar, and lifting the sail, on the bosom of its waters. This wonderful combination of such immense objects opening at once upon the view, while the tremendous roar of Niagara Falls is still thundering in your ear, and the solid mountain trembling beneath your feet, is calculated to produce emotions which no pen can describe. The mind is absolutely overwhelmed for the moment, and lost in amazement, in contemplating such a scene of beauty, sublimity, and grandeur.

The descent of the hill to Lewistown below, which by turnings and windings among the rocks is made gradual, is about 170 feet; being the perpendicular height of the banks of the river, from the falls to this place. This hill was probably once the boundary of Lake Ontario. It stretches along in a circular line, from right to left, as far as the eye can reach. And at its base, from Lewistown below, commences the Ridge or Natural Great Turnpike, running due east eighty miles with this mountain on your right, and the lake on the left, through an extent of flat country, but little above the level of the waters. It is generally from 6 to 10 feet high and from 4 to 3 rods wide. It is a bed of gravel, such as is found on the shores of the Lakes, intermixed with small shells, and so firmly compacted, that the hoof of a horse, or the wheel of a carriage, makes but little impression. Indeed it is like a solid pavement. Where the land is low, the ridge rises, so as to leave its surface nearly all the way a horizontal plain. In one place it runs through a low sunken marsh, about half a mile wide, where the ridge is thrown up 20 or 30 feet high, is about 8 rods wide, and as straight as a line could be drawn. The ridge is generally covered with large spreading oaks, whose foliage protects the traveller, in summer, from the rays of the sun, and frequently af-

\* Here were once the Falls of Niagara. They commenced at the brow of this mountain. By the constant attrition of the waters, a channel has been cut through solid rock, till the cataract has retreated about 7 miles towards Lake Erie. It still continues to retreat, and may one day disappear—after draining Lake Erie and leaving only a rapid river between Lake Ontario and Huron. Above the falls the river is from 3-4 to a mile wide; below, for 7 miles, through the channel cut in a rock, it is no more than 60 or 70 rods in any place. Truly, indeed, could Knickerbocker say, "Nature works on a prodigious great scale in this country." [Washingtonian.]

ford this thinly inhabited country a temporary shelter from the inclemency of the storm.

Here is little underbrush to be seen; the earth is covered with rich herbage, and Nature, as if to give variety and interest to the prospect, here and there presents an extensive prairie, or natural meadows covered with wild grass, which variegates and beautifies the scene.

That the waters of this Lake once spread over this ridge, and a vast extent of country, now covered with timber, is evident from its being so nearly on a level with them—from the hill before mentioned—from the dead level of the land,—and (what places it beyond all doubt) from the soil, which is found to be alluvial.

The inquiry will naturally arise—"How was this formed?" It has no appearance of having been the work of man. Nature alone could accomplish so grand a design. It has been supposed, by some attentive observers, that this was formed by the waters of the lake, that when they were receding from their limits, they have made a bold stand, and, in process of time threw up this ridge, by "their foaming fury."—But can this be true?—Instead of being left straight, would it not have often varied its course and been sometimes indented by bays?—But this question is submitted for naturalists to decide. S. C.

### A BOOK

Bound in boards, containing the executors bonds for this county, has been taken either from the court house during the sitting of the court, or from my office, I suppose by mistake. If any person has such a book in possession, I will thank them to return it. And if it has been feloniously taken away, I will give Fifty Dollars reward for its restoration and the conviction of the felon. GEO. HITE.

Feb. 15.

### Twenty Dollars Reward.

RAN AWAY from the subscriber's farm this morning, Negro Harry—he is about forty years old, small of stature, light complexion, bushy hair, and a little bow-legged—he was bought several years ago from the estate of Mr. Triplett, near Alexandria, where, having connections, it is suspected he will endeavor to go. The above reward will be given if taken out of the county of Jefferson, or ten dollars if taken within and brought home to me; together with all other reasonable charges. H. S. TURNER.

February 15, 1811.

### House and Lot for Sale.

Will be offered for sale, on the 2d day of March next, the House and Lot now occupied by Robert Russell, in Shepherd's-Town. This property is in the centre of the town, the lot is 39 feet front, and 206 back, the house is of brick, 36 by 29 feet, two stories high, with a cellar under the whole, a convenient kitchen, smoke-house, and bake oven, stable, &c. all of which are in complete order.—There is also a well of never failing water in the yard. The terms of sale will be made known on that day, by the subscriber. GEORGE BISHOP, sen.

February 15, 1811.

### FOR RENT,

### A Grist Mill & Saw Mill,

IN Berkeley county, on the road leading from Martinsburgh to Williamsport, known by the name of Lite's mill. Both mills are in excellent order, with sufficient water in the driest seasons. A lease for three years and nine months will be given, and possession may be had on the 15th of April next. For terms apply to the subscriber in Charles-Town, or to Robert Worthington, in Shepherd's-Town.

THO. BRECKENRIDGE.

January 11, 1811.

### NOTICE.

APETITION will be presented to the Legislature of Virginia at their next session, for an act incorporating a company for the purpose of turningpike a road from the bank of the river Potomac, at Harper's Ferry, to the west end of the main street in Charles-Town, in the county of Jefferson.

January 18, 1811.

### DR. REETZ

REQUESTS all persons indebted to him, for medical services to come forward and make immediate payment, otherwise their accounts will be put into the hands of proper officers for collection.

He has for sale a young healthy NEGRO WOMAN, an excellent house servant. Shepherd's-town, Feb. 1, 1811.

### FOR RENT.

THE subscriber will rent for a term of years his property in Charles-Town, which has been occupied by Mr. John Anderson for some time past. This property consists of a brick building, containing five rooms, a garret and a ten feet passage; a frame house containing four rooms, a bar room, and passage, all neatly finished, store house and counting room; also a kitchen, pantry, two stables, smoke house, &c. The above improvements are on a corner lot, on the main street, and on the square adjoining the public buildings. It is the best stand in this place for a store and tavern, and may be rented separately, if necessary. Possession will be given on the 2d day of April next.

Also, a house & lot on the main street opposite Mrs. Muse's, and a large and convenient house and lot, handsomely situated, well inclosed, and has all necessary buildings for a private family, adjoining the Presbyterian meeting house lot. Possession may be had immediately of the two last described houses. For terms apply to the subscriber, in Charles-Town.

JOHN KENNEDY.

February, 1, 1811.

### House & Lot for Sale.

THE subscriber offers for sale the House and Lot he now occupies, on the main street in Charles-Town, and within a few yards of the Court House. The house is two stories high, and well finished inside, with a convenient cellar under it, and kitchen adjoining.—There is also a good stable on the lot, and an excellent garden.—For terms apply the subscriber.

CURTIS GRUBB.

January 25, 1811.

### Estray Horse.

GOT out of a stable, in the town of Smithfield, sometime last month, a small gray Horse, the property of the subscriber. He is about 14 hands high, has a white face, will be five years old next spring, slender made, and paces remarkably well, his tail has been bobbed square off, but has nearly grown out again. I will give a liberal reward to any person who will take him up, and give me information thereof, and all reasonable charges if brought home.

MATTHEW RANSON.

Charles-Town, Jan. 11, 1811.

### A prime collection of FALL & WINTER GOODS

JUST RECEIVED,  
And are now opening at the subscriber's store,

All of which have been selected with the utmost care and attention, from the latest fall importations. They deem it unnecessary to particularise articles, as their assortment is quite complete, consisting of almost every article called for; all of which they offer at cheap rates for cash or suitable country produce. All those who are desirous of purchasing cheap goods, are invited to pay us a visit. We have also received an additional supply to the Apothecary department, consisting in part of the following valuable medicines, viz.

- Refined Camphor,
- Tincture Steel,
- Bateman's Drops,
- Stoughton's Bitters,
- Godfrey's Cordial,
- Essence of Lavender,
- Essence of Burgamot,
- Paregoric Elixir,
- Venice Turpentine,
- Iceland Moss,
- Ipecacuanah,
- Anderson's and Hahn's anti-bilious Pills,
- And also that efficacious medicine Apociddoc, &c. &c.

And are now ready to serve their customers and the public generally, to whom they return thanks for the liberal encouragement they have received since their commencement in business.

PREBLEY MARMADUKE, & Co. Shepherd's-Town, Nov. 16, 1810.

### Trustee's Sale.

BY virtue of a deed of trust, executed to me to secure a debt due Hambleton Jefferson, I will sell, on Tuesday the 12th day of March next, before the door of Mr. Robert Fulton's tavern, in Charles-Town, for cash, a Coach, two Horses, and some household Furniture.

S. SLAUGHTER, Trustee. February 8, 1811.

### CAUTION.

THE public are hereby cautioned against taking an assignment on a bond given by the subscriber, of Washington county, state of Maryland, to a certain Wendal Glaze, formerly of the county and state aforesaid, now of Jefferson county, Virginia, for one hundred and thirty three pounds twelve shillings and six pence, dated the 25th day of September, 1806, and payable on the first day of April, 1811, next ensuing—as I am determined not to pay the same until compelled by law.

WILLIAM EASTON, January 24, 1811.

### More New Goods.

By the Market-House in Shepherd's-Town.

THE subscribers again respectfully inform their customers at a distance, as well as those immediately in the neighbourhood, and the public in general, that they have recently commenced opening, and shall continue to open as occasion may require, a great variety of articles suitable to the present and approaching seasons. We shall only mention a few articles, which have been scarce for some time past, viz.

- Ladies Super Extra Long White Kid Gloves,
- ditto Habit ditto,
- ditto Long White and Black Lace Sleeves,
- Lace Caps, Handkerchiefs, Veils and Silk Hose,
- Milk-White Sattin and Mantus, Black Lutestring and other Silks,
- Large assortment Fashionable Ribbands and Trimmings,
- Black, White and Fancy Coloured Ostrich Feathers,
- Fashionable Flowers and Wreaths, ditto Bonnetts,
- Irish Linens, Long Lawns & Linen Cambric,
- Cotton Shirting, Cambric Muslin, Dimities, Cotton Hosiery and India Muslins, &c.

They have on hands, a large quantity Bar-Iron, Steel, Castings, Wrought & Cut NAILS, Paints & Medicines, &c.

Being largely concerned in the Tanning business, we will constantly have for sale PRIME SOAL and UPPER LEATHER, CALF, KIP, HOG and SHEEP SKINS, HARNESS, BRIDLE and COLLAR Leather, BOOT LEGS, FAIR-TOPS and ROUNDINGS, &c. &c.

Farmers, Boot and Shoe-Makers, Saddlers, &c. may rely on getting Leather of the first quality; as we have an experienced and most capital workman, who conducts and carries on said business; we will pay the highest price in cash, for any number of

### HIDES AND SKINS,

And wish to contract for a large quantity of the following kinds of BARK the ensuing season, viz.

Chesnut-Oak, Spanish, White & Black Oak Bark.

Those who live on the Potomac River, will find a sure and certain market, with us, for either of the above kinds of Bark, as well as the Farmers in this neighbourhood. We tender our sincere thanks to our punctual customers, and assure them, it will be the height of our ambition, to serve them at all times, on the best terms, with such articles as they may want, and feel happy we have it in our power to do so, out of the abundant assortment we have on hands. We hope those in arrears, will use the present their respective balances of the Old Year, without putting us to the trouble of calling or sending to them.—We need scarcely inform them, that it really is as necessary for them to pay, for punctuality is the very life of trade.

JAMES S. LANE, BROTHER, & Co. Shepherd's-Town, February 8, 1811.

### Blank Bonds

TO BE HAD AT THIS OFFICE.

### CONDITIONS OF THIS PAPER.

The price of the FARMER'S REPOSITORY is Two Dollars a year, one half to be paid at the time of subscribing, and the other at the expiration of the year. No paper will be discontinued until arrearages are paid.

Advertisements not exceeding a square, will be inserted four weeks, to subscribers, for three fourths of a dollar, and 18¢ cents for every subsequent insertion; to non-subscribers at the rate of one dollar per square, and 25¢ cents for each publication after that time.

### DOCUMENTS

Communicated by the President of the United States to the House of Representatives, on the 19th ult.

[CONTINUED.]

Extract of a letter from Mr. Pinkney to Mr. Smith, dated London, Nov. 7, 1810.

I inclose a duplicate of my letter of the 5th instant, in which was transmitted a copy of my note to lord Wellesley of the 3rd, concerning the orders in council.

I have little more to say in addition to what is contained in that letter, than that it is my intention, in case lord Wellesley gives me an unfavourable answer to it, to enter at large into the whole subject in my rejoinder, and in case he delays improperly, his reply, to take as strong notice of that impropriety as I can.

As soon as the king recovers, I mean to mention again the subject of a minister plenipotentiary to the U. States, (which lord Wellesley notwithstanding his written and verbal pledges seems to have forgotten) and if satisfactory assurances are not renewed and acted upon, to announce my determination to return to America, and leave a charge d'affaires, in the choice of whom, however, I shall have considerable difficulty, unless you should furnish me in season with the expected secretary of legation. I presume, that in taking this course, I shall fulfil the wishes of the president, and I can assure you, with great truth, that I shall consult by it my own inclinations.

Mr. Pinkney to Mr. Smith. LONDON, Nov. 14, 1810.

SIR, I have finally determined not to mention to lord Wellesley (as I had thought of doing) the subject of a plenipotentiary successor to Mr. Jackson. I think, upon reflection, (and shall act accordingly) that I ought, after what has passed, to leave him without further enquiry or notice, on my part, to shape his course upon it; and that, if an appointment should not be made as soon as the king's health (which would seem to be improving) will permit, I ought at once to send in an official note, announcing my resolution to return to America, and to leave some suitable person as charge d'affaires.

My letter of the 23d of July informed you that after lord Wellesley's written assurance of the 22d of that month (which was in conformity, as far as it went, with his assurances in conversation) that it was his intention immediately to recommend the appointment of an envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from the king to the United States. I did not think myself authorised to take the step which the instructions contained in your letter of the 23d May, in certain circumstances, prescribed.

My opinion was, that whether the prospect which then existed, of bringing to a conclusion the affair of the Chesapeake, were taken into the account or not, it was my obvious duty to remain at my post, most irksome as it was every day becoming, until it should incontestibly appear, that those assurances were not to be relied upon. Before a sufficient time had elapsed to warrant so harsh a conclusion, I received from lord Wellesley, on the 25th of August, a farther casual intimation, reported to you in my letter of the 29th of the same month, that the recommendation of a minister would, as

he believed, be made in the course of that week or the next.

In the meantime, the repeal by the government of France, of the Berlin and Milan decrees, had produced a posture of affairs which whatever might be lord Wellesley's forgetfulness of his own declarations, or the inattention of his government to what he might advise in consequence of them, rendered my stay in England for two or three months longer, indispensable.

In fine, the effect of that consideration had not ceased when the illness of the king made it impossible that I should depart.

Upon the king's recovery, I shall have every motive for bringing this matter to an issue, and none for the least hesitation or reserve upon it. Several months will have been allowed for the performance of an act which might have been completed in as many weeks.

I shall have done every thing in my power on the subjects connected with the revocation of the French edicts.—And the British government will be in a situation to admit of such proceedings on its own part, and on mine as the occasion will require.

From lord Wellesley's intimation to me on the 28th of August, (mentioned above) it is perfectly clear, that he had not then executed the intention, so positively announced in his note of the 22d of July. Five or six weeks had passed, and that which he had both said and written he meant to do immediately, he was not yet sure that he meant to do in another fortnight.—The presumption seems, nevertheless, to be quite unnatural, that lord Wellesley continued up to the commencement of the king's malady, to be negligent of a pledge, which he chose to rest, not merely on his official but his personal character—a pledge, of which he knew I could neither question the sufficiency nor doubt the sincerity, and by which, as he also knew my conduct on an extremely delicate point of duty was wholly determined.

On the other hand, if lord Wellesley has been mindful of his pledge, and has recommended a minister in compliance with it, how has it happened (how can it have happened) that this recommendation has not been followed by an appointment.

In the midst of all this doubt, which lord Wellesley might dissipate if he pleased by an explanation apparently necessary for his own sake, there is, as I believe, no uncertainty as to the course which, in the actual state of my instructions (or, on the score of general propriety) I ought to pursue; especially, as I must infer from your silence since the arrival of Mr. Morier at Washington (if I had no other reason for that inference) that no such communication was made either by or through that gentleman to you, as ought in the judgment of the president, to have any influence upon my conduct on this occasion.

I have the honor to be, &c. (Signed) WM. PINKNEY.

Extract from the postscript, dated the 15th, to Mr. Pinkney's letter of the 14th of Nov. 1810, to Mr. Smith.

P. S. November 15. I hear nothing from lord Wellesley, and not much from any other quarter, concerning the orders in council. I have not lately sought any interview with him on that or any other occasion. It is impossible for me to look back upon the past, and to place much value upon conferences.

I am particularly anxious to get from lord Wellesley, in case the British government persists in declining to repeal the orders, a distinct statement in writing of the motives of its conduct.

Thus far I have taken for granted the manifest and incontrovertible justice of our expectations; believing that there could in the first instance be no sufficient inducement for anticipating difficulties and objections in so plain a case; that if any existed they ought to be, and would be, avowed; and that when avowed, I could meet them with more advantage than while they were only conjectured. Should, however, a studious ambiguity continue to be preserved on a subject, which now touches more nearly than ever (in my

opinion vitally) the character and rights of our country, I shall very soon think myself called upon to suppose for this government reasons which it will not declare, and to examine them with fullness and freedom in a letter to lord Wellesley. It is unnecessary in the mean time to trouble you with the view which that letter will contain. I have not lately received any thing from France, which enables me to put the repeal of the French decrees in a stronger light than could otherwise be done. Mr. Russell has written me two letters, the first dated the 26th of September, and received on the 3d of October, the other dated the 10th of October, and received the 13th of November. This last enclosed a letter to me from General Armstrong, of the 29th of September. He had written me a short note from Paris, dated the 13th of September, but not received till long afterwards, which inclosed a copy of the French minister's letter to him of the 12th of that month, already received from Mr. Russel, in his letter of the 26th of September.

Such use as could be made of these different communications I have made. Of course it could be very little. A *Moniteur* of the 9th of September, containing the Duke of Cadore's letter of the 5th of August to Gen. Armstrong, (which I got through a private channel) is much more likely to be of service (if any thing can be of service) here, where that journal is considered as equivalent to the London Gazette; and I have accordingly referred to it in my note to lord Wellesley of the 3d instant.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Pinkney the Secretary of State, dated London, November 19, 1810.

My third letter to lord Wellesley concerning the French decrees and the British orders in council, will be presented much sooner than I had at first intended. I shall, I think, present it in a few days. Upon the other subject of my letter to you of the 14th inst. I need not add any thing to what is there said upon it.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Pinkney to the Secretary of State, dated London, November 21, 1810.

An American vessel (the Fox) has within a few days past, been brought into Plymouth as prize to a king's ship (the Amethyst) for an imputed attempt to go to Cherbourg in France, in violation of the unrevoked British orders. I have requested that the case may be represented in proper form to me; and I mean to use it as the best ground for my intended letter to lord Wellesley.

Extract of a letter from Wm. Pinkney, Esq. minister plenipotentiary of the United States, in London, to the Secretary of State, dated London, December 14, 1810.

On the 4th instant, I received from Lord Wellesley a note, of which a copy marked No. 1, is inclosed, respecting the repeal of the French decrees. The conference to which it invited me took place on the 5th; and in the course of it I explained to him, at considerable length, my view of that subject, and of the points immediately connected with it. Lord Wellesley heard me in his usual manner; but confined himself to such general remarks and professions as I need not repeat to you. He proposed that our conference should be renewed on the 7th, and engaged in the mean time to report to his colleagues what I had said, and at our next interview to make me acquainted with the result.

He introduced, of his own accord, the two subjects of a minister plenipotentiary, and the Chesapeake.

On the first, he professed to entertain the same disposition and intention as heretofore, and declared that the delay which had taken place arose altogether from some obstacles, of a personal nature, to obtaining the services of the person whom he particularly wished to send to America; that he hoped these obstacles would soon be removed; that he had another person in view, if it should be otherwise; that he had not supposed that delay could be considered as of any moment by my government, after the assurance contained in his note to me in July last; that these

temporary inequalities were common, and when not meant to be offensive, were never held to be so, &c.

On the second, he informed me that he had not sent me a paper which he had prepared upon it, because he thought it would be well that the new minister should carry out the adjustment, and consequently, that it should be postponed till he was appointed.—He repeated that we should have no difficulties upon it. I give you these verbal explanations as I received them.

On the 6th inst. I received from lord Wellesley another note, of which a copy, marked No. 2, is inclosed, requesting me to recapitulate in writing, my verbal communication of the 5th. With this request I complied, as you will perceive by the enclosed copy, marked No. 3, of my letter to him of the 10th.

I could have no motive for going to him on the 7th, and had therefore no interview with him on that day.

As the case of the Fox was rather pressing, and I was not sure that I could prepare my letter on the general subject in season, I sent in a separate note upon it on the 8th. A copy of that note, marked No. 4, is inclosed. I have no reply to it, and did not expect one; but I understand that the case has been and will be postponed.

A newspaper copy of the President's proclamation of the 2d of November, arrived in London on the 11th instant, and produced a good deal of sensation. It gave me pleasure to find my letter to lord Wellesley so supported. I hope soon to receive an official communication of it.

What will be done here on the affair of the orders in council, &c. I cannot yet say. The general impression seems to be that they will do nothing. My letter to lord Wellesley was written (as my verbal communication had been given) under a persuasion that they will do nothing if they can help it. A very firm tone ought now to be assumed with this government.

(No. 1.)

Foreign Office, Dec. 4, 1810.

SIR—After the most accurate enquiry I have not been able to obtain any authentic intelligence of the actual repeal of the French decrees, to which your notes of the 25th of August, and 3d of November refer, or of the restoration of the commerce of neutral nations to the condition in which it stood previously to the promulgation of those decrees.

If you should be in possession of any such information, I should be happy to receive it from you, and for that purpose I request to have the honor of a conference with you at this office to-morrow, at two o'clock.

I have the honor to be, Sir, With the highest consideration,

Your most obt. & humble servt. (Signed) WELLESLEY. William Pinkney, Esq. &c. &c.

(No. 2.)

Foreign Office, Dec. 6, 1810.

SIR, The importance of the verbal communication which I had the honor of receiving from you yesterday, induces me to request that you will have the goodness to commit the substance of it to writing, at the earliest time which may suit your convenience.

As soon as I shall have received such a written statement from you, I shall be anxious to return an official reply in the same form.

Under these circumstances it may perhaps be unnecessary that you should take the trouble of calling at this office to-morrow.

If, however, you should be desirous of seeing me, I shall be ready to have the honor of receiving you between two and three o'clock.

I have the honor to be, &c. (Signed) WELLESLEY. William Pinkney, Esq. &c. &c.

(No. 3.)

Mr. Pinkney to Lord Wellesley. Great Cumberland Place, December 10, 1810.

MY LORD, In compliance with the request contained in your note of the 6th inst. I proceed to recapitulate in this letter



**BEST COPY**

**AVAILABLE**