

# CAMDEN



# GAZETTE.

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Volume I.

### Terms.

THE price to Subscribers is THREE DOLLARS per annum, for fifty-two numbers, exclusive of postage; and in all cases where papers shall be delivered at the expense of the publisher, the price will be THREE DOLLARS and FIFTY CENTS a year, to be paid six months after subscribing.

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October 3, 1816.

From Niles' Weekly Register.

### PROGRESS OF THE U. STATES IN LITERATURE.

Concluded.

In 1701, a college was erected at Saybrook, (Connect) which was afterwards called Yale College, in honor of governor Thomas Yale, (formerly governor in India,) on account of his repeated acts of generosity, to the institution. The philosophical apparatus is thought to be equal to any in this country, and the library contains above 5,000 volumes. It is attended by a great number of students, and the funds are said to be large.

In 1746, a college was founded at Elizabethtown, (New-Jersey,) called Nassau-Hall. The next year it was removed to New-Ark, and in 1757 to Princeton its present situation. In 1802 it was burnt, but was immediately rebuilt in a superior style. It has, we believe, the best reputation of any college in America, particularly for classical learning, and polite literature. The philosophical apparatus is excellent and the library is becoming respectable.

In 1753 was founded the college of Philadelphia, through the influence and efforts of Dr. Franklin. The rapid extension of learning in Pennsylvania can easily be traced to the impulse given to the public mind by the discoveries and exertions of that valuable man. It is impossible to do justice here to the zealous, unwearied assiduity with which he devoted himself to the establishment of useful institutions—to the duty of awakening in the country a taste for science, literature and useful arts. In 1791 the Philadelphia college was placed under new arrangements, and entitled the University of Pennsylvania. Its medical school has been, for a long time incomparably the best in America; but of late, on account of the death of doctor Rush and Barton, and through the great reputation of doctor Mitchell and some other professors at New-York,—great numbers of students have been drawn to the university there.

The college of Columbia in the city of New-York was founded in 1754, and was called King's College, until the time of the revolution. Its chief distinction is the

valuable botanic garden that has lately been added to it. Its philosophical apparatus is thought by some to be the best in the United States. The college of Rhode-Island was chartered in 1764, but the edifice was not erected until 1770. This institution is not in a good condition, as its funds are inadequate, and the state itself is wanting in regard to literary taste.

Having briefly described the principal colleges in the several states, we shall just give the names of as many of the remaining ones as we can find at present. Two remain to be mentioned belonging to Massachusetts; Williams' College in Williamstown, Berkshire, founded in 1793; and Bowdoin College at Brunswick in Maine, founded in 1794.—Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, was founded in 1769. Maryland contains five, St. Mary's College and Baltimore College in the city of Baltimore, St. John's at Annapolis, founded in 1784. Washington College at Chestertown founded in 1782, and Coke-bury, or the Methodist College at Abingdon, founded in 1785. Pennsylvania contains four besides the University. Dickinson College, founded in 1783; Franklin College, founded in 1787; Jefferson College, founded in 1801, and Washington College founded in 1802. South-Carolina has Winesborough College, founded in 1794, and Charleston, Cambridge and Beaufort Colleges, all founded about the same time. The college of Charleston having been discontinued, Columbia College has been instituted in its stead. In Virginia there was a college established in Prince Edward county, about 1774, named Hampden Sydney College. The Catholic College at Georgetown, District Columbia, was founded in 1782; the University of Georgia in 1785; the University of North-Carolina at Chapel Hill, incorporated in 1795; Greenville College in Tennessee, in 1794; Transylvania College in Lexington, Ky. in 1798; Middlebury College in Vermont in 1800. A college has existed at New-Orleans for a long period, but we do not know the date of its establishment. In Louisiana state there is great attention paid to education;—parish schools, similar to those of Massachusetts and Connecticut, being supported from the state treasury; for each parish 400\$ per annum are appointed to maintain a teacher. A similar arrangement has taken place in Tennessee, which at present has two colleges and several academies. We do not know the number of colleges in Kentucky or Ohio, but we are assured that learning is much attended to there, and that upon the whole, the new states have, for several years, shewn more zeal for its encouragement than the old states have lately done. In Pennsylvania each has an academy, except those that have colleges; but the establishment of township schools, enjoined by their constitution, and repeatedly recommended by their present governor, has, notwithstanding, been hitherto neglected.

The Lancasterian schools, which must form a new era in the history

of learning all over the world, will probably be adopted through the United States in a short time; but old systems (perhaps fortunately for mankind) are not easily abolished. There is one school conducted upon Lancaster's plan at Georgetown, Columbia; one in Philadelphia; two in Baltimore; one in Cincinnati; and one established in Pittsburg, but we do not know whether it has been continued; and an edifice for one is erecting at Richmond. We do not at present recollect to have seen any notice of the existence of any others, but believe there is one in New-York.

The next most striking feature in the history of American literature seems to be the progress of their literary journals. The first newspaper printed in America was the Boston News-Letter, established in April 1704, in the town of Boston, by one Mr. Greene. The next was the Boston Gazette, commenced in 1721, by James Franklin, brother of Benjamin Franklin. This was also in Boston. The first newspaper printed in Pennsylvania was The American Weekly Mercury, commenced in Dec. 1719, by A. Bradford. The first in New-York was the New-York Gazette, commenced in Oct. 1725, by Wm. Bradford. The first in Rhode Island was the Rhode Island Gazette, by James Franklin, mentioned before. This was in 1732. The first in Connecticut was in 1755, by a Mr. Parker.

After this the increase has been extremely rapid: in 1771 the number in the United States was twenty-five, in 1801 it amounted to one hundred and eighty; and 1810 it had increased to three hundred and sixty-four. The amount of the newspapers at that period, in this country and in England; is to be found in the Register vol. I. p. 116.

There does not appear to have been that progressive attention paid to literary societies which might have been expected; we are rather disposed to believe that those now established are in comparative decline. The first institution of this kind in the United States, was the American Philosophical society,—formed by the exertions of Dr. Franklin, Dr. Bond, Mr. Ewing, Dr. Smith, and Mr. David Rittenhouse, at Philadelphia in the year 1743. In 1766 another was established there, called the American Society for the promotion and propagating useful knowledge in Philadelphia. In 1769 both were united and have since remained so. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, was established at Boston in 1780; and the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences at New-Haven in 1799. The Historical Society in Massachusetts, was formed in 1791. There is also an historical society in New-York. Medical societies are very numerous, and the science of medicine appears to be better attended to at present than it has been at any former period in this country. A few years ago there was instituted in Philadelphia, principally by the exertions of Dr. Barton, a society for the cultivation of natural history, and entitled the Linnæan Society;

and similar ones have been formed in other places, but we understand they have not been, even tolerably, successful. In almost every state is an Agricultural Society. Of this class the chief ones are those in Massachusetts, N. York, and Philadelphia.

It may be well to take a brief view of the American literati of early times in order to shew the great comparative deficiency of the present period. Towards the conclusion of the seventeenth century we notice two American writers' Cotton Mather, author of the Magnalia Americana, and Mr. J. Blair, author of several sermons and religious tracts. Of the succeeding period is Mr. Logan, the botanist, from Lurgan in Ireland, governor of the Loganian library now contained in the city library of Philadelphia, author of the *Experimenta et Methodi de Plantarum Generatione*, a dissertation upon light, a translation of Cicero *de Senectute*, &c. The next of consequence was Dr. Benjamin Franklin, so well known as a politician, a philosopher and as the "first in America who cultivated an easy, unaffected, polished style of writing." He began his career as a writer in 1732. In 1752 he made his grand discoveries in electricity, and since that has had a more general reputation than any literary man of his country, notwithstanding the high merit of some of his rivals. The Rev. Mr. Jonathan Edwards, the theologian and metaphysician, was born about the same time with Franklin, but died in 1758. His "Inquiry into the Freedom of the human will," has, by European writers, been pronounced "one of the greatest efforts of the human mind." Dr. Berkeley, the author of the Minute Philosopher, can hardly be numbered among American authors, though his generosity to the cause of literature during his residence here, gives him a strong claim upon American gratitude. Dr. Wm. Smith, formerly president of the college of Philadelphia, and who died in 1803, was an able and voluminous writer, upon divinity and different branches of science.

Dr. Samuel Johnson, the first president of King's college in New-York, is known as the author of a system of logic and one of ethics; and also of a Hebrew grammar; but these have been superseded by better works of the late time. Thomas Clap, formerly president of Yale college, and John Winthrop, are known chiefly as profound scholars; though the latter is said to have written an excellent work *De Cometis*. Dr. Moultrie was the author of a work *De Febre Flava*; and Dr. Lanning, in the year 1753, published a History of the Yellow Fever. Dr. Chalmers wrote on the Weather and Diseases of South-Carolina, but his most valuable work is an essay on fevers.—Mark Catesby was a learned botanist of the same period: He explored a great portion of the Atlantic states, the Floridas, &c. and published the *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands*. Governor Colden, of New-York, was at that time, a devoted botanist, and a writer on medicine, botany and history. But he who of that age stood next to Linneus himself; and whom that incomparable naturalist pronounced "the greatest natural botanist in the world," was Mr. John Bartram, born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, 1701. Dr. John Mitchell, of Virginia, wrote on a variety of subjects natural philosophy, natural history, history, politics, husbandry, &c. He was a native of England. Dr. Clayton, who was born in Virginia, wrote several works, about the same time,