

Highland Messenger.

LIFE IS ONLY TO BE VALUED AS IT IS USEFULLY EMPLOYED.

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 14, 1840.

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BY J. H. CHRISTY.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

The following elegant and amusing paper was written in 1801, for the Boston Patriot, by FISHER AMES. It is well worth a republication annually, not only for its finished composition, but because it contains a sensible reproof to the caterers for the press, who feed their readers with little else than dire catastrophes and horrible events, instead of occupying their columns with useful and necessary information; it is, moreover, still more applicable now, than it was thirty-nine years ago.

Raleigh Register.

TO PRINTERS.

It seems as if newspaper wares were made to suit a market, as much as any other. The stars and wonderers, and gossips, engross a very large share of the attention of the sons of the type. Extraordinary events multiply upon us surprisingly. Gazettes, it is seriously to be feared, will not allow room to any thing that is not loathsome or shocking. A newspaper is pronounced to be very lean and destitute of matter, if it contains no accounts of murders, suicides and prodigies of monstrous births.

Some of these tales excite horror, and others disgust; yet the fashion reigns, like a tyrant, to relate wonders, and almost to relish nothing else. Is this a reasonable taste; or is it monstrous and worthy of ridicule? Is the history of Newgate the only one worth reading? Are oddities only to be hunted? Pray tell us, men of ink, if our free presses are to diffuse information, and we, the poor ignorant people, can get it no other way than by newspapers, what knowledge we are to glean from the blundering lies, or the tiresome truths about thunder storms, that, strange to tell! kill oxen, or burn barns; and cats, that bring two-headed kittens; and sows that eat their own pigs? The crowing of a hen is supposed to forebode cuckoldom; and the ticking of a little bug in the wall threatens yellow fever. It seems really as if our newspapers were busy to spread superstition. Omens, and dreams, and prodigies, are recorded, as if they were worth minding. One would think our gazettes were intended for Roman readers, who were silly enough to make account of such things. We ridicule the Papists for their credulity; and yet if all the trumpery of our papers is believed, we have little right to laugh at any set of people on earth; and if it is not believed, why is it printed?

Surely, extraordinary events have not the best title to our studios attention. To study nature or man, we ought to know things that are in the ordinary course, not the unaccountable things that happen out of it. This country is said to measure seven hundred millions of acres, and inhabited by almost six millions of people. Who can doubt, then, that a great many crimes will be committed, and a great many strange things will happen every seven years. There will be thunder showers, that will split tough oak trees; and hail storms that will cost some farmers the full amount of twenty shillings to mend their glass windows; there will be taverns, and boxing matches, and elections, and gouging, and drinking, and love, and murder, and running in debt, and running away, and suicide. Now, if a man suppose eight or ten, or twenty dozen of these amusing events will happen in a single year, is he not just as wise as another man, who reads fifty columns of amazing particulars and of course, knows that they have happened?

This State has almost one hundred thousand dwelling houses: it would be strange, if all of them should escape fire for twelve months! Yet it is very profitable for a man to become a deep student of all the accidents, by which they are consumed? He should take good care of his chimney corner, and put a fender before the back log before he goes to bed. Having done this, he may let his aunt or grandmother read by day or meditate by night, the terrible newspaper articles of fires; how a maid dropped asleep reading a romance and the bed clothes took fire; how a boy, searching in a garret for a hoard of nuts, kindled some flux; and how a mouse, warming his tail caught it on fire, and carried it into his hole in the floor.

Some of the shocking articles in the papers raise simple, and very simple, wonder; some terror, and some horror and disgust. Now what instruction is there in these endless wonders? Who is the wiser or happier for reading the accounts of them? On the contrary, do they not shock tender minds, and addle shallow brains? They make a thousand old maids, and eight or ten thousand booby boys, afraid to go to bed alone. Worse than this happens; for some eccentric minds are turned to mischief by such accounts, as they receive of

incendiaries burning our cities: the spirit of imitation is contagious; and boys are found unaccountably bent to do as men do. When the man flew from the steeple of the North Church fifty years ago, every unlucky boy thought of nothing but flying from a sign-post.

It was once a fashion to stab heretics; and Ravallac, who stabbed Henry the 4th of France, the assassin of the Duke of Guise and of the Duke of Buckingham, with many others, only followed the fashion. Is it not in the power of newspapers to spread fashions; and by dining burns and murders in every body's ears, to detain all rash and mischievous tempers on such subjects, long enough to wear out the first impression of horror, and to prepare them to act what they so familiarly contemplate? Yet there seems to be a sort of rivalry among printers who shall have the most wonders and the strangest and most horrible crimes. This taste will multiply prodigies. The superstitious Romans used to forbid reports of prodigies while they were performing sacrifices on such accounts.

Every horrid story in a newspaper produces a shock; but, after some time, this shock lessens. At length, such stories are so far from giving pain, that they rather raise curiosity, and we desire nothing so much as the particulars of terrible tragedies. The wonder is as easy as to stare; and the most vacant mind is the most in need of such resources as cost no trouble scrutiny or reflection: it is a sort of food for idle curiosity, that is ready chewed and digested.

On the whole, we may insist, that the increasing fashion of printing wonderful tales of crimes and accidents, is worse than ridiculous, as it corrupts both the public taste and morals. It multiplies fables, prodigious monsters and crimes, and thus makes shocking things familiar; while it withdraws all popular attention from familiar truths, because it is not shocking.

Now, Messrs. Printers, I pray the whole honorable craft, to banish as many murders and horrid accidents, and monstrous births and prodigies from their gazettes, as their readers will permit them; and by degrees, to coax them back to contemplate life and manners; to consider common events with some common sense; and to study nature where she can be known, rather than in those of her ways, where she really is, or is represented to be inexhaustible.

Strange events are facts, and as such should be mentioned, but with brevity, and in a cursory manner. They afford no ground for popular reasonings or instructions; and therefore the horrid details, that make each particular hair stiffen and stand upright on the reader's head, ought not to be given. In short, they must be mentioned; but sensible printers and sensible readers, will think that way of mentioning them the best, that impresses them least on public attention, and that hurries them on the most swiftly to be forgotten.

TANNING.—A discovery has been made which seems likely to revolutionize the trade. By means of a tanning machine, or a pair of horizontal rollers fixed over a tank, of hides which is introduced a belt or band of hides attached by ligatures to each other, to the number of 50 to 100, and by which the rollers are constantly fed or supplied, the hides are lifted out of the pit on one side of the machine; as they pass between the rollers, the exhausted ooze or tanning liquor is pressed out of them, and they are deposited in folds into the pit, on the other side of the machine, where they absorb another supply of fresh ooze. The first having been inserted between the rollers, the others follow in succession, and upon arriving at the end of the band the motion of the roller is reversed, and the belt is returned through the machine to receive another squeeze. This alternating motion is constantly repeated, the pit being replenished from time to time with fresh solutions of tan, till the operation is completed.

The effects produced by this simple plan, as we have satisfied ourselves by the inspection of the documents from those who have been working on the patent method for many months, and from those who have purchased, manufactured, and worn the leather, are—1st. The shortening the time of tanning to one-fourth of that generally required. 2d. The production of a considerable increase of weight. 3d. The leather tanned by this method resists water longer than that tanned by the old process. 4th. The new method is cheaper to work on than the old. 5th. That it is applicable to the existing tan yards, at a comparatively trifling expense, with a capability of working in rounds or series, and of expending tan and liquor. 6th. That it is available for all sorts of leather.—Eng. Paper.

CURIOS MANUSCRIPT.—In a list of ancient literary manuscripts and remarkable manuscripts, recently announced for sale by Messrs. Southerby of London, is one with the following title:

A letter from the Earl of Bath to Lord Norreys, dated April 16, 1681—being a proposal for the sale of the province of New Jersey, a country almost as large as England, belonging to the late George Carteret, for the small sum of between 5000 and 6000 pounds.

Thus it appears that one hundred and fifty-nine years ago, the whole State of New Jersey was offered for sale for the sum of about twenty-five thousand dollars.

INDIAN MURDERS.—A party of Dragoons were fired on by Indians near Pilotka, and two of them killed.

WHY IS THERE NOT A HELL.

BY PROFESSOR STUART.

I can never think on the subject of future punishment, without spontaneously asking—Why should I disbelieve it? If it be true, that there is no punishment of the wicked hereafter, then I shall be as much a participator of the good which is to come, as if I were a believer in the doctrine of those who affirm this. The only reward for belief in this case, will be a hope, such as it is during the present life, that I shall be happy hereafter, come what may in this world, or do what I may please to do. And yet my conscience, in spite of myself, would be continually at war with such a hope, on such grounds. There is "a fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries," implanted by our Maker in the human breast, in order to proclaim within us that there is a God who will judge the world in righteousness, who abhors sin and loves holiness, and who will exhibit to the creatures of his power, his love of the one and his hatred of the other. Conscience can be stilled in respect to these fears, only by doing to her the most absolute violence, binding her in chains, hoodwinking her, or administering opiate in large quantities. The latter is the usual method of keeping her quiet. But alas! it is only a dreamy and feverish sleep that is procured. Sins committed are followed by the fear of punishment, whether we will or not. This is the voice of God that speaks to the soul made in his image, but now degraded and defaced by sin. Conscience whispers that retribution will come. We may stop our ears; we may drown her voice with music or with shouting; all these expedients are but temporary. When every artifice is wearied out, and every shout which overpowered the still small voice has ceased, then comes the tremendous whisper again. In our lonely recesses, in the dead of night, on the bed of sickness, in the hour of danger, of trial, of misfortune—conscience whispers with an accent that penetrates the inmost recesses of the soul: "There is a God who judgeth the earth." "God is angry with the wicked every day."

Where, O where, is an asylum from this still small voice, more terrific than the seven thunders which shake the throne of heaven? Is it to be found in plunging deep into the pleasures of sense? But how can it be found there? These are short, unsatisfying, often attended with satiety and disgust, even in the very height of them; and at all events, they are but temporary. Shall the refuge be found, then, in confident assertion, in presumptuous belief, that there is no future punishment? But how will these alter the case? The measures of a just God are not to be influenced by our declarations, nor by our presumption. When we have scoffed at his justice, or derided the moral retribution which he intends to make—there is no change in him nor in his measures. When we call in question his word; or even labor to make it proclaim the future freedom of the wicked from all punishment; it is not the boldness of our assertions, nor the rashness of our criticisms on the Scriptures, nor the zeal with which we may contend for our professed belief in the common happiness of the pious and the impious, which can change the declarations of the Scriptures, or repeat one awful combination which they contain. There the assurance is given, that when the Saviour is seated on his throne of final judgment, and all nations are assembled before him, he will separate them as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats—to the one he will assign *zoen aionion*, to the other *kolasin aionion*. The punishment is characterized by the same adjective as the reward; and if the life be endless in this case, then the punishment must also be endless. If not, the whole declaration has no intelligible meaning.

With such an avowal before us as this, from the lips of him who is himself to be our final judge, is it acting a reasonable part, to shut our ears against it, and, in accordance with our wishes, maintain that even the Bible itself establishes the doctrine of universal salvation, or at least, of ultimate universal restoration. The laws of *excegris* reprobate against this conclusion; and if they are not to be trusted, what confidence can we place in any thing that deduce from the Bible? It lies on the very face of the Scriptures that heaven is no more affirmed to be endless, than hell is. An interpretation which makes the latter temporary, must shake our faith in the permanence of the former. The whole matter stands or falls together.—Biblical Repository.

REVERSES OF FORTUNE.—The following statement should teach us a salutary lesson. The changes of a day are indeed wonderful:

A subscription has been opened at Paris for the benefit of Richard Leoir, once, it is stated, the first manufacturer in France, now an old man of 74, ill and destitute—He once possessed forty manufactories in different parts of France, employed 10,648 workmen. "My property," he says, in his memoirs, the first volume of which has been lately published, "was on the 22d of April, 1814, about eight million of francs (or nearly 320,000L). On the 24th I was a ruined man." The only cause of this reverse, he states to have been the sudden suppression of the duties on cotton by an ordinance of that date made by the Count d'Artois, since Charles X. then Lieut. General.—London Mech. Mag.

THE BURNING LAKES OF SOUTH AMERICA.

—The following account of the "Burning Lakes," the most remarkable volcanic phenomenon in the immediate vicinity of Agnachapa, is from Montgomery's Narrative, just published:

"Of these lakes or ponds, there are several; and they occupy a considerable tract of land. The largest is about a hundred yards in circumference. In this, as in all others, the water, was extremely turbid, and of a light brown color, was boiling furiously, and rising in bubbles three or four feet high. The steam ascended in a dense white cloud, and spread for a considerable distance round, as I stood for some time on the bank of this natural chaldron, gazing with awe upon its tremendous vortex. The heat was so great on the surface of the ground, near the borders of the lakes, that had our feet not been protected by thick shoes, it could not have been endured. On thrusting a knife into the ground, the blade when drawn out, after a few seconds, was so hot as to burn the fingers. Our horses, which, according to the country, were not shod, exhibited such symptoms of uneasiness, owing to the state of the ground beneath them, or in consequence of the strong smell of the steam, that it was found necessary to leave them tied at some distance from the scene. In some places a little column of smoke issued fiercely from a hole in the ground, while in others, the water in a boiling state gushed out like a fountain. The ebullitions of these lakes, or springs, have formed, on the borders of them, a deposit of the finest clay, and of every variety of colors.

It does not appear that the natives have profited by the facilities this afforded them for the manufacture of pottery. And although nothing would be more easy than to establish there the finest mineral baths in the world, this object has never occupied their attention."

THE WORLD'S END.—During the last two or three centuries, upwards of thirteen fixed stars have disappeared. One of them situated in the Northern Hemisphere, presented a peculiar brilliancy, and was so bright as to be seen by the naked eye at mid-day. It seemed to be on fire, appearing first of a dazzling white then of a reddish yellow, and lastly, an ashy pale color. La Place supposes that it was burned up as it has never been seen since. The configuration was visible about sixteen months. How dreadful! A whole system on fire, the great central luminary and its planets, with their plains, mountains, forests, villages, cities and inhabitants, all in flames, consumed and gone forever. Here we have a prescriptive proof of the truth, and a solemn illustration of a singular passage in a very old book—"The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the world also, and the works that are therein, shall be burned up."

HOSPITALITY.—The following is an extract of a letter from Gen. Washington, to Lund Washington, at Mount Vernon, in 1775.

"Let the hospitality of the house, with respect to the poor, be kept up. Let no one go away hungry. If any of this kind of people should be in want of corn, supply their necessities, provided it does not encourage them to idleness; and I have no objection to your giving my money in charity, to the amount of forty or fifty pounds a year, when you think it well bestowed. What I mean by having no objection, is, that it is my desire that it should be done. You are to consider, that neither myself nor wife are in the way to do these good offices. In all other respects I recommend to you, and have no doubt of your observing the greatest economy and frugality; as I suppose you know that I do not get a farthing for my services here, more than my expenses. It becomes necessary therefore, for me to be saving at home."

THE CORPORAL.—During the American revolution, an officer not habited in his military costume, was passing by where a small company of soldiers were at work, making some repairs on a small redoubt. The commander of the little squad was giving orders to those who were under him, relative to a stick of timber which they were endeavoring to raise to the top of the works. The timber went up hard, and on this account the voice of the little great man, was oftener heard in his regular vociferations of "Heave away! There she goes! Heave ho!" etc. The officer before spoken of stopped his horse when arrived at the place, and seeing the timber sometimes scarcely move, asked the commander why he did not take hold and render a little aid. The latter, appearing to be somewhat astonished, turning to the officer with all the pomp of an emperor said, "Sir, I am a corporal!" "You are not though, you!" said the officer, "I was not aware of that." And taking off his hat and bowing, "I ask your pardon, Mr. Corporal." Upon this he dismounted his elegant steed, flung the bridle over a post, and lifted till the sweat stood in drops upon his forehead. When the timber was elevated to its proper station, turning to the man clothed in brief authority, "Mr. Corporal Commander," said he, "when you have another such job and have not men enough, send to your Commander-in-chief, and I will come and help you a second time." The corporal was thunderstruck! It was Washington. Port. Transcript.

POLITICS OF THE DAY.

From the Cincinnati Republican.

THE CHARGE OF FEDERALISM.

The Gazette of yesterday contains the appended depositions of James Taylor, Griffin Yeatman, John Matson and George Gordon, gentlemen now residing in and near Cincinnati, who emigrated to the North-western Territory at an early day—who have enjoyed an intimate acquaintance with General Harrison for nearly half a century—who have ever maintained an unblemished reputation for integrity, and whose statements, in consequence, will be received in this community; and wherever else known, without the least shadow of distrust.—These depositions, (we are almost sorry they are depositions—for the simple word of each of the attesters, is his affidavit) completely put down a foul calumny, which has been industriously circulated throughout the country in the corrupt portion of the Administration press, and which in substance, was that General Harrison was an old Federalist, and that during the time of the elder Adams he was in the habit of wearing the black cockade, as an insignia of his Federalism, and an evidence of his devotion to the men composing this party.

This charge was first put in circulation by Ex-Senator Hendricks, upon the alleged verbal statement of Mr. Peter Mills, of Indiana, and which, it has been attempted to corroborate, by the statement of old Mr. Jacob Fowler, of Lexington, (a witness whose last dotage has been taken advantage of by the minions of power;) and a Mr. Price, of Ohio, whom no one here knows, or has any recollection of. When this charge of "wearing the cockade," was first put forth, it was deemed so preposterously false, so utterly at variance with the established and traditional history of the West, that we of Ohio, thought it totally unworthy of notice. Why, there is hardly a native of Ohio, and we might add, the great West now arrived at the age of manhood, but has ever heard from his earliest infancy, the name of General Harrison closely identified with the Jeffersonian school of republicans. The truth is, whatever objection formerly existed to General H. as a politician, originated from the fact that he was, in the opinion of many, too warmly attached to the Jeffersonian school—that he was too strict a constructionist, and State Rights politician. Here, then, in Cincinnati, these depositions will obtain but little interest. They will appear like tapers brought to add light to the noon-day sun of history and tradition. They only contain information which hundreds of the old residents of Hamilton county have known for years, and which thousands of her native youth have repeatedly heard from the lips of their fathers; and were it not for some persons, who live in other States, and may be unacquainted with the history of Gen. Harrison and the West, may possibly be led to suppose there was some truth in this false charge, we should consider it a work of entire supererogation to re-publish these depositions.

Mr. Fowler's declaration was brought out by the notorious Ex-Congressman, Captain Henry Daniel. His statement is in these words: "In answer to your letter of this date, I will say that I was in Congress, as a member, during the great struggle between Jefferson and Adams, and know the fact, that William Henry Harrison, then a delegate from the North Western Territory, was upon the side of Mr. Adams. He was a Federalist, and wore the black cockade." Mr. Fowler is a very old man, completely in his dotage. To show that advantage has been taken of his situation by corrupt men, we will state a singular and conclusive fact, and we do so too, upon the authority of Gen. Harrison.

Previous to the canvass for a delegate in the North Western Territory, Gen. Harrison observed a very passive position in regard to the election. Among others of the Republican party, who urged him to take a more active part in the election, was this very same Jacob Fowler. He was at that time on a visit to Newport, Kentucky, and crossed the river for the sole purpose of conversing with, and urging upon General Harrison the propriety of taking more active measures to secure his election, by the Republican members of the Territorial Legislature.

There is not the least doubt then, that the Ex-Honorable Henry Daniel, has obtained the signature of Mr. Fowler to a certificate, the language and meaning of which, the latter did not comprehend, from extreme dotage.

[1.] Deposition of Gen. James Taylor, of Newport, Kentucky, Quarter Master General under Gen. Hull.

I came to Kentucky in the spring of the year 1792. In June of that year, I came to visit the tract of land on which I have settled ever since, (opposite to Cincinnati.) As there were no accommodations to be had on my side of the river, I spent several weeks among the officers at Fort Washington. I did not meet General Harrison on my first visit, as I understood he had gone off to Philadelphia.

I came again in the spring of 1793, and settled where I now live, and became acquainted with Gen. Harrison, and from being from the same State, (Virginia) we contracted an intimate acquaintance, which has continued up to the present time.

After General Harrison retired from the Army he was appointed Secretary of the North-western Territory. The intimacy still continued, and we were much together, for our residences were less than one mile from each other. I knew that General Harrison's political opinions agreed with my own—that of the Jeffersonian school. Gen. Harrison was the Republican candidate to represent the North-western Territory as a delegate, and was elected. I understand that he was opposed by all the Federalists. Judge Burnett was then a member of the Territorial Legislature, and although a warm personal friend of Gen. Harrison, voted against him—this was in the year 1799.

As to the story of the black cockade, I am sure he never wore one, except it might be in his military dress on review days. I have always considered Gen. Harrison the most military man in the western country, and at the period of the late war, doubt if there was his superior in the United States, for he had great experience under the gallant and experienced Wayne. I had frequent conversations with our patriotic and distinguished veteran, Governor Shelby, in relation to his opinion of General Harrison's military capacity and management, as commandant of the army of the west. I understood him distinctly that he highly approved his conduct, and had the most exalted opinion of his bravery, prudence and untiring vigilance: and this appeared to me to be the opinion of all persons, officers and others, in the western country, and indeed generally in the east as far as my knowledge extended. I have said one hundred times or more that it was my deliberate opinion that if we had had General Harrison as our commander at Detroit, that with that gallant little army we should have conquered all Upper Canada, and I know it was the general opinion of all the officers of that army.

JAMES TAYLOR.
Belleone, Newport,
July 11, 1840.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 11th day of July, 1840.
SAMUEL W. DAVIS, Mayor.

[2.] Deposition of Griffin Yeatman, for many years and now Recorder of Hamilton county.

I have resided in Cincinnati from the year 1793, to this time. I was well, I may say intimately acquainted with General Harrison, when he was Secretary of the North Western Territory, and when he was elected the Delegate to Congress in 1799. At that time I kept a hotel in the city, and many of the members of the Territorial Legislature boarded with me. I, of course, had a favorable opportunity of hearing their sentiments in relation to the two candidates for the appointment of delegate. I do know that General Harrison was selected by the party who supported the political opinions of Mr. Jefferson, on account of the coincidence of his opinions with theirs—whilst Arthur St. Clair, Jr. Esq. was considered the Federal candidate. I do not at this time recollect the names of all the members; but I perfectly remember that General N. Massie, Angus, Langum, Col. Worthington, Dr. Tiffin, who were all from Virginia, and of the politics of that State, were the warm supporters of Gen. Harrison, on the grounds I have mentioned—and during my whole acquaintance with General Harrison, I never knew him to wear a black cockade, unless when acting in a military capacity, it being part of the uniform that was worn by all military officers. If such had been the case, I must have seen it, as from my intimacy with the General, I saw him almost every day.

In corroboration of what I have said, I will mention the following circumstance: Some time before the election of Delegate, Captain _____, of the army, came to Cincinnati, and at a party of gentlemen at the house of my next door neighbor, Major Zeigle, this officer uttered a violent denunciation against the Republican and Democratic members of Congress. This was resented by Gen. Harrison, who insisted upon his making an exception of the Virginia Delegation. This was refused—violent language ensued, which would have terminated in blows, but for the interference of the company. By the exertions of mutual friends, the dispute was settled without reference to another mode of settling it which was apprehended. I was not present at this party myself; but I had the particulars the next day from Gen. Findley, and other gentlemen who were present—and also from the Captain himself, who expressed his regret, and said he would apologize to Gen. Harrison.

GRIFFIN YEATMAN.
Sworn to and subscribed before me.
THOS. H. YEATMAN,
Notary Public.

July 13, 1840.

[3.] Deposition of John Matson, Esq. late Associate Judge of the county of Hamilton, one of the most respectable men and most substantial Farmers of the county.

I was a resident in the county of Hamilton, in the North-western Territory, from the year 1791, until it became the State of Ohio, and have continued to reside in the township of Miami, in the said county and state from that time. I became acquaint-

*This paper was written forty years ago. This country now contains fifteen or seventeen millions of inhabitants, and will soon appear by the census now taking.