

DISCOVERY.

ACCOUNT OF THE DISCOVERY OF AN INHABITED ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC.

By Captain Ego, of the Pollux sloop of war, in the service of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands: in a letter to Dr. Brewster, from G. Moll, Professor of Natural Philosophy, in the University of Utrecht.

My DEAR SIR: Two vessels in the service of his majesty the king of the Netherlands have lately crossed the Pacific. After leaving Washington's Island, it was deemed expedient to keep in the seventh parallel of south latitude, sailing to the westward, being the track in which Capt. Ego, commanding the Pollux sloop of war, thought some islands might probably be discovered. The coral islands in those seas being generally small and low, it was reckoned prudent to proceed at night under easy sail, and thus to leave De Peyster's and Sherson's Islands one degree to the north and south. On the 14th July, 1825, at five o'clock A. M. after a very hazy and rainy night, it was presumed that land was to be seen a head, but very indistinctly; and shortly after the breakers were distinctly heard. The vessel was brought to, and the signal made for the Maria Reygersberch frigate to do the same. After sunrise they discovered a very low island, bearing west by south, two miles distant, (miles of 60 to a degree.) The land appeared well stocked with cocoa and other trees. About noon they had the north point of the island S. 60 deg. E.

The longitude of this island and its latitude being ascertained with as much accuracy as circumstances would allow, and no other island being found in the same position in any of the charts on board, this was deemed a new discovery. The nearest land was De Peyster's group, but it was 50 minutes different in latitude. Though the sky was very clear, no other islands were seen at the same time. The name of *Nederlandich* island was given to this new land. Its north point is in latitude 7 deg. 10 m. S. and the centre of it in longitude 177 deg. 33 min. 16 sec. E. from Greenwich; the variation of the magnetic needle being seven deg. to the east. The longitude was determined by three chronometers: one of these, made by Thomson, was reckoned the most accurate; its rate had been ascertained seventeen days before, at Nukahiva, and its differences from the other two were very regular. A few days before coming in sight with the island, the longitude was ascertained by lunar observations, agreeing remarkably well with the chronometers. This island has a form resembling a horse-shoe: its extent is about eight miles: in the west side an indentation, closed by low reefs, and terminating in a lagoon.

The natives, some of whom were armed with long sticks, were very numerous, sitting or running along the shore, as the vessel sailed along. An armed boat was despatched towards the shore.—The island appeared iron-bound; for at a boat's length from the shore the depth was six fathoms, and rough coral ground: a ship's length from the shore there were fifteen fathoms depth.

At the N. W. point they found a coral reef projecting far in the sea, and on which there was a heavy surf. It was supposed that these were the breakers heard previous to the discovery of the island. The land had a pleasing aspect and appeared fertile. The number of natives assembled on shore was estimated at about 200. They were of a dark copper hue, tall and well made. Few were less than six feet, Rhinland measure, or 6,166 English. The women were also very stout. Some of the people were tattooed, but not so much as at Nukahiva. They were naked, except some covering made of leaves. A few others had some cloth of cocoa bark wrapped round the waist. The heads of some were adorned with feathers. Their conduct appeared very fierce and wild, and they contrived to steal whatever they thought within their reach. The boat-hooks soon disappeared, and they even attempted to tear the oars from the hands of the boat's crew.

An old man, with a white head, and of respectable appearance, carrying a green bough in his hands, was at their head. He continually kept singing some monotonous song in a melancholy tone. They bartered some cocoa nuts and some of their tools, against some old handkerchiefs and empty bottles; and it appeared that their language had some resemblance to that spoken at Nukahiva. When the boat again put to sea, they tried the effect of firing a few musket shots in the air, but the natives did not show symptoms of fear, and thus appeared unconscious of the effects of European arms. No canoes were seen in the possession of these people, nor did they attempt to approach the ship, although the weather was excellent, and the sea very calm. The commanders of the two vessels regretted very much that their large complement, & the small quantity of water, obliged them to make every possible despatch. They accordingly pursued their journey to Sourabaya in Java, where they found other work at hand than the discovery of new countries.—I am, dear sir, with very great esteem, your humble servant.

G. MOLL.

General Intelligence.

Important from Colombia.—The Editor of the New-York Commercial Advertiser has received the following interesting letter from his correspondent at Porto Cabello, (Venezuela,) dated June 20, 1826:

"By the schr. Rehoboth, Cap. Ellis, who leaves this port to-morrow, for New-York, I have to advise you, that things in this province are far from being settled. We received intelligence at 8 o'clock yesterday morning from Cumana, that General Bermudez was on his march with ten thousand troops, destined to this place. The forces at Carthagena are ordered, and are soon expected here. On account of this intelligence, they have ordered the troops to join Gen. Paez.—The Castle at the entrance of the harbor is doubly manned; and they are using all diligence in preparing the forts at La Baturia, on a small island directly opposite that of the Castle, the battery which guards the city from the outer town, or an entrance from an enemy in that direction.

A proclamation from Gen. Paez has just arrived, ordering all citizens, and those having houses, to turn out with their Muskets. The troops will march to Valencia, in the course of to-morrow, when the citizens will be obliged to guard the city and man the castle. On account of this disturbance, Gen. Paez has ordered that no man of war shall leave the place without his special orders.

We have embargoed here the corvette Urica, the brig Pinchinca, brig Libertadore, and schr. Independencia with two private armed brigs, the Roman Liberal and Libertadore, Capt. Bartlett. I think that something serious will be the result in a week or two."

The miscalled autocrat of Russia is far from concentrating in his own person the power of government. He has an army whose humors must be obeyed—an army too, that, like the Gheber extinguishers of the poet, is at this moment reported to have been on fire. There is an aristocracy, also, which, if he occasionally sends a member of it to Siberia, has, in the long run, once or twice, sent him on a more irremediable journey.—The only thing to be predicated with certainty of the Russian Government hitherto is, that the people have not controlled it. But the latter may eventually profit by the jealousies of their rulers, and take the lion's share in the administration of their own affairs—an issue which would relieve Europe from many of her present apprehensions.

Westminster Review.

The English papers give an account of a horrid murder committed at Winton, not far from Manchester. Two persons of the name of M'Kean, came into the public house of a Mr. Blear, where after having induced him to drink two glasses of whiskey, into which one of them was seen to put some other substance, and which immediately deprived him of his faculties, they asked to be shown to bed. Mrs. Blear called to Elizabeth Bate, a servant in the house, to show them to their room. She did so: when they reached the room one of the M'Kean's was seen by a boy who was in bed in a remote part of the room, to take liberties with the girl, which she repelled. The boy then saw him draw something across her throat, perceived that her breast was bloody, and heard her exclaim "murder" in a faint voice. The villain made several other wounds upon her face and neck. Upon some noise made by the boy, the murderer left her and seized him by the neck, but perceiving that she was about to stagger out of the room, he left the lad and rushed again to his victim as she had gained the door. The boy escaped and was followed by the murderer into the street. When Mrs. Blear heard the struggling and cries from the girl, she attempted to go up stairs, but was intercepted by the other M'Kean, who inflicted several wounds upon her, and would probably have killed her, had not the weapon used by him, a common white knife, stuck in her face, where it had penetrated between the cheek and jaw bones, and resisted his attempt to pull it out to such a degree that the handle came off. She, however, was enabled to get out of the house and raise an alarm, when the villains both decamped. Great exertions were made to apprehend them, and in a few days they were taken at Appleby, and committed by Sir Philip Musgrave.—*N. Y. American.*

Previous to the sailing of the Sylph, Capt. Farrin, arrived at Baltimore from Rio, news of the death of the King of Portugal had reached that place by a Portuguese frigate—upon the receipt of which the Emperor Don Pedro had issued a proclamation, setting forth his intention to remain in Brazil. He also declared his daughter *Maria de Gloria*, queen of Portugal, and that he had given to that country a liberal constitution. This constitution, it was said, would be transmitted to Portugal in a few days. It was reported that the Emperor had written to his brother Don Miguel, proposing the union of the latter with his daughter.

There appeared to be no prospect of

an immediate termination of the war between Brazil and Portugal. Capt. R. Pullen, Mr. Boardman, and a Portuguese gentleman, came passengers in the Sylph from Rio. *Nat. Journal.*

The New-York *Times* says, "we are much gratified to perceive that trade has much improved. The rise in cotton on the other side of the Atlantic, has produced a correspondent effect here, and for the last few days we have had an extra demand for the article." This will be gratifying intelligence to our Southern friends, many of whom have scarcely yet recovered from the effects of the sudden depression experienced in the price of cotton last year.

EFFECTS OF LIGHTNING.

Extract of a letter, dated, Wethersfield, (Conn.) June 29th, 1826.—On the 3d of this month, our house was struck with lightning. Being without a conductor, it ran down the chimney and burst thro' the ceiling of the chamber you have usually slept in. From thence it divided into several branches, and went into six closets, and two lower rooms, through twenty-four apertures which it made in the ceiling and walls. Gilding operated as an attractor in the most remote part of the rooms. The fluid attacked it on china, picture frames, looking glasses; even the basket wrought with gold thread in a piece of embroidery, set behind glass in a mahogany frame, which hung fifteen feet from the chimney, was raised and blackened. In some instances the gilding was dissolved, and some cents which it found in its course were entirely volatilized. Its effects in the chamber closet were terrible. My mother, without any alarm from the storm, had retired to that closet for her evening devotion. A column of the lightning entered near her, consumed a large silk umbrella, destroyed a carpet and injured two or three others, which had been placed in the same closet for safety during the summer. My mother was only a foot distant from the course of the lightning with the door closed. A black sulphureous smoke instantly filled the apartment, and the heat was as intense as if she had been enveloped in flame.

She immediately arose unhurt, (aware of the catastrophe,) she left the closet, closed the door, and hastened down stairs, expecting to find her family dead. We were all in the western part of the house uninjured, when, at the moment of our meeting, another peal of thunder, as awful as the former, rolled over our heads, and the blast of heaven seemed to be on our habitation. But God be praised, we were all alive! Our house was soon filled with sulphur, soot, and smoke of burning woollen, silk, and furs. We discovered the fire, and threw on water but without much effect, when we raised an alarm, and it was extinguished by the aid of our neighbors and friends. Nothing in this scene of terrors, and of wonder, seems more marvellous, next to the preservation of my mother, than the dissipation of the cents in the twinkling of an eye, and the consuming of the sleeve and waist of a cloth coat, while the cotton lining to which they were stitched, was left entire.

Our house has sustained but little damage; some nails were thrown out, mouldings were torn, and the floor was slightly rent in many places.

We all found ourselves in health the morning following this night of consternation and danger; and admiration and gratitude filled our hearts to Him who had granted us this signal preservation.

Fatal Doings.—The following statement has been communicated to us for publication. We forbear to make any comments on it, as we presume it will be a subject of judicial investigation: A man named John J. Lindsay, living in Currituck county; was on Friday last, found dead in his own well, with such marks of violence about him as left no doubt that he had been severely beaten, and thrown into it. From the following circumstances the writer of the communication is induced to believe, that this foul deed was perpetrated by a man named John Cheatham, who had taken Lindsay's wife from him and kept her two or three years—against whom Lindsay had instituted an action for damages. As it was evident that Cheatham would be mulcted in a heavy sum, it is supposed that as the only means of evading justice, he had determined to take Lindsay's life, in which he was assisted by a gang of laborers (white & black) whom he had collected to help him to fill his corn. Lindsay is said to have been formerly an inhabitant of Princess Anne county, (Va.) a tailor by trade, very simple, and somewhat inclined to be religious; his wife, a woman of very loose character at the time he married her; and Cheatham an old bachelor, filling the office of constable.

Norfolk Herald.

CHILICOTHE, OHIO, JULY 6.

Senator Benton.—The Wilmington Argus of Saturday last, states, on the authority of a correspondent, that Senator Benton, of Missouri, and a driver of the United States' mail stage, had a horse-whipping match on the morning of the 21st ult. on the high road leading from Washington, Fayette county, to Wilmington. The cause of the affray is not stated.

Harboring Apprentices.—At the June term of Baltimore City Court, came on the trial of William K. Mitchell for harboring two apprentices of Hester Crockett from the 1st of May to the 30th June, 1826, inclusive. He was found guilty, and the counsel for the prosecution contended that Mitchell be sentenced to pay \$1,66, 2-3 for every hour each apprentice was harboured, according to the act of 1748, which declares, that persons harboring servants shall pay one hundred pounds of tobacco, or \$1.66 2-3 for every hour each servant is harboured, one half to the party grieved and the other to the State. The penalty incurred by Mitchell, according to this act, amounts to *four thousand eight hundred and eighty dollars.* The Court agreed with the prosecuting counsel, but delayed passing sentence in consequence of the suggestion that a compromise would take place.

Balt. Patriot.

At a late session of the circuit court, in Ontario County, N. Y. was tried an action brought against the *Guardian* of an apprentice, by the master, for a breach of the indentures by the apprentice absconding and absenting himself more than two years. The master recovered \$276 damages. The Ontario Repository observes that this is the first action of the kind within recollection, but that it is well that guardians and apprentices should be thus apprised practically of the responsibility of their engagements.

More New York Bubbles.—Wall street was in great bustle on Friday. Opposite to common feeling, every man who had not a dollar, was cheerful. Every one who had, looked as though he had a fit of the ague. This mode of transacting business on fictitious capital will not do. The United States Lombard, and the Franklin Manufacturing Company stopped yesterday. Some others were shivering in the wind. Monday will be a serious day.—Many will have to fast. These swindling institutions, if they cannot be put down by the arm of law, must be put down by the stronger voice of the people. *Coram's Champion.*

Running upon Banks.—There was a sharp run upon the Fulton and Tradesman's Bank on Saturday, and also upon the Washington (late Weelrark) and the Franklin Bank of Jersey, at the same time. As the notes of the three latter banks are redeemed at the Fulton, it made very brisk work for the officers of that institution. But every thing was promptly met at all the banks in question—notwithstanding that the U. S. Branch drew \$25,000 from the Tradesman's on the morning of that day.

N. Y. Com. Advertiser.

ALBANY, N. Y. JUNE 21.—To give our readers some idea of the travel between this city and Troy, we have been politely furnished with the following account of vehicles which passed the inn of Mr. David Nash on Thursday last, coming to and going from Albany, viz: 51 stages, 25 hacks, 31 gigs, 53 double wagons, 90 single wagons—total, 250 in one day, besides 27 saddle horses.

Major General Thomas Pinckney, of Charleston, having been appointed President General of the several branches of the Cincinnati, throughout the United States, has vacated his seat as President of the State Society.

Theory of the Earth.—A gentleman of fortune in N. York has been so convinced of the correctness of Mr. Reynolds' theory of the earth, that he has offered to fit out a vessel for an expedition to the south pole. Mr. Reynolds is to accompany the person who prepares the expedition. The expedition, it is said, is not undertaken upon any expectation of finding the earth formed of concentric spheres, but in the belief that great advantages may accrue to the country from a further scientific examination, and discovery of islands, &c. It is hinted that, though no pecuniary aid will be required to buy and fit out the vessel, aid will be asked of the public to furnish a scientific corps.

Nat. Journal.

A Hog Skin out of which nine saddle seats can be cut, is said to be a good sized skin. Messrs. N. and T. Smith & Co. have shewn us one from which thirty could be cut. The hog was raised in Colchester, and weighed 90 lbs. The skin from the back part of the neck was 8 feet 9 inches long—and the greatest breadth was 7 feet 9 inches—and girth was 6 feet 6 inches. *Com. Mirror.*

Contested Elections.—At the memorable contest at Yorkshire, which lay between Lords Milton and Lascelles, the expense of each candidate was not short of £120,000! Every carriage and post horse throughout the county was in requisition; every inn and tavern was open; and the whole election was one scene of lavish expense, ruinous to any fortunes but those of the two families, which were equal to the enormous pressure. The last Northumberland contest is said to have cost each candidate £3000 a day! and the sitting member purchased the return of a few short months at an outlay of £50,000. *John Bull.*

The Jubilee was celebrated in New London, Con. in a new and striking occurrence, which is thus announced in the Connecticut Mirror

Occurrences of the week.—It so happened that we spent the last week, of course the last 4th of July, in New-London. It is said that to every good picture there should be three lights, and in our view this "principal of the pyramid" was emblazoned gloriously. The Declaration of Independence was read with emphasis.—OLD HUNDRED was sung by every body in the Meeting House—and it held on that occasion nearly all the town,—and thirdly, the year of Jubilee was proclaimed at the dinner, and the sheriff was directed to open the prison doors and bring in his bill. On this last point we may be allowed to go into particulars. Before the wine was circulated, a gentleman, (Mr. Law,) proposed to the President (Judge Perkins,) that the company present make a general Jail Delivery of debtors, be the amount of their debts more or less. The motion was carried unanimously—the sheriff was ordered by authority of the President of the day, to open the door and bring in his bills. The plate was passed, and when the first, second and third gentlemen, among whom was Capt. George Rogers of the Navy, had put in \$20 each, and others were emptying their pockets, the sheriff rose and told the company that there was enough; or if not, that he would look to the remainder. A committee was appointed to see to a general clearing out, and the debtors were addressed by the President with a delicacy admirably suited to the occasion; for instead of reminding them that they were free, they were taken by the hand and invited to drink a glass of wine, by which was probably understood as many glasses as they wanted.

Important Decision.—The additional security afforded in remitting Bank notes through the Post-Office, by cutting them in two, and sending each half by a different mail, had been rendered doubtful for some time by a notice issued from the Bank of the United States, that no payment would be made of any note of that Bank voluntarily cut into two or more pieces, unless all the parts of it should be produced. The doubt is now removed by a decision which gives that certainty to the security contemplated by those who used that mode of remittance.

The Democratic Press, contains the opinion of Judge Washington, in the case of *Martin vs. The Bank U. S.* argued at the last October session of the Circuit Court of the United States, in Philadelphia, upon a statement of facts which set forth, "that the Plaintiff was the owner of a number of notes of Bank of U. S. amounting in the whole to \$300, which his agent, after the publication of a notice by the Directors, that the Bank would not pay cut notes unless all the parts were produced, divided into halves at Cincinnati, (Ohio,) and forwarded in two parcels by different mails for Philadelphia, one of which parcels never arrived. The demand of the Plaintiff was for the full amount of the notes.—The Judge, in his decision, treated the question as if the notice was brought home to the Plaintiff; and decided that the holder of a Bank note has a legal right to cut it with a view to the security of the debt of which the note is the best evidence, and that the Bank which is the debtor, cannot by any declaration, however notified, affect the legal rights of its creditor who has not assented to the conditions of that declaration. Judge Peters concurred in the opinion, and judgment was rendered against the Bank for the full amount of the notes."

Balt. Patriot.

A few years ago, a wealthy man who sold flour and dried meat in Chambersburg, was applied to by a Negro for some of the latter article. The purchaser selected a ham, which was accordingly weighed, but when handed to him, he solicited to be trusted for its price a few days. Having been frequently deceived by such customers, and the present one being totally a stranger to him, the seller persisted in refusing his request. The Negro, in this dilemma, as a last effort to gain his object, with great apparent simplicity, proposed to cut the ham in two, and leave the one half with the seller as a pledge for the fulfillment of his promise of payment! This proposition met the ready approbation of the seller, and it was immediately carried into operation.

The duped gentleman himself related this affair to a neighbor, some time after its occurrence, lamenting that he had not inquired the name of the negro, and actually was not sensible of his folly until heartily laughed at.

Chambersburg's Repost.

The following sentiment was given at the celebration in Boston.

The Shoemakers of the Revolution—they risked their little all upon the great end, and gave short quarters to the foe, in the time that tried men's soles."

Another Death by Hydrophobia, occurred in this city on Tuesday night last. It was a fat about nine years of age, named HENRY G. MARSH, who had been bitten by a dog about two months previous. *Chas. Courser.*