

MINERS' & FARMERS' JOURNAL.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY, BY NOBLE & HOLDEN, CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH-CAROLINA.

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THE Miners' & Farmers' Journal

Is printed and published every Wednesday morning at Two Dollars and Fifty Cents per annum, if paid in advance; Three Dollars a year, if not paid until after the expiration of six months.

ADVERTISEMENTS will be inserted at Fifty cents per square (not exceeding 20 lines,) for the first insertion, and 25 cents for each succeeding week—or \$1 for three weeks, for one square.—A liberal discount will be made to those who advertise by the year. All advertisements communicated for publication, the number of insertions must be noted on the margin of the manuscript, or they will be continued until forbid, and charged accordingly.

All communications to the Editors must come free of postage, or they may not be attended to.

WILLKINGS & Co.

Commission Merchants & Forwarding Agents, FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

OFFER their services in every branch of their Business. They have large and convenient Ware-Houses, and are well prepared to receive Cotton and other Produce, which will be forwarded or sold, as may be directed.

Goods and Merchandise received and forwarded with promptness to orders. They have on hand a good supply of GROCERIES, &c.

NOTICE.—Having associated myself in the Mercantile business with H. B. Williams, it becomes necessary to have all accounts due me closed either by cash or note. W. SMITH, Charlotte, June 27.

N. B. All persons having postage accounts due up to the 1st day of July, will please call and settle them, as the accounts after that date will be due to the concern. W. SMITH, P. M.

MY HOUSE. (the Post-office) on the Cross street, a few yards north-west of the Court-House, in Lexington, N. C. is again opened for the reception of Travellers & Boarders. The stables are extensive, roomy and dry; grain and provender of the best, plentiful and served by good hostlers. The house has many comfortable rooms, serves a good table and refreshments; and the proprietor and his family will exert their power to make it most quiet and agreeable. B. D. ROUSSEAU, Proprietor.

MILITARY ORDERS.

Commanding Officers belonging to the 11th Regiment of Cavalry attached to the 11th Brigade of the 4th Division of the N. C. Militia, are hereby commanded to appear in Charlotte, on Tuesday, the 13th of Sept. next, with their respective subalterns and privates, equip according to law, for review and inspection. The Regiment will be formed at 10 o'clock, A. M. The Officers belonging to said Regiment are hereby commanded to appear in Charlotte on law, for drill and other exercises.

By order of WM. C. MEANS, Col. Comd. CHAS. J. HARRIS, Adj. August 4, 1831. 3148

CAVALRY NOTICE.

The Charlotte Lafayette Troop of Cavalry are hereby commanded to appear in Charlotte, 100 yards north of the Court-House, on Saturday the 3d of September, at 10 o'clock, A. M. armed and equipped as the law directs, for the purpose of drill.

Notice is further given, that an election will take place on that day for Officers, as the Captain and Lieutenants refuse to accept their commissions. All who wish to join the Company, are requested to do so on or before that day, as they will thereby have an opportunity of choosing their officers. ROBERT DAVIS.

ATTENTION! Lafayette Artillery.

YOU are hereby ordered to appear at the Court-House, on Saturday, the 3d of September next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. armed and equipped as required by law. By order of the Capt. P. E. SAUNIER, Co. Sgt. Aug. 9, 1831. 3148

DIVISION ORDERS.

HEAD-QUARTERS, Salisbury, July 14, 1831.

The 4th Division of the North-Carolina Militia will be reviewed at the following times and places:

- The first and second Regiments of Montgomery, No. 60 and 61, at Henderson, on Saturday, the 10th of September.
- The Regiments of Mecklenburg, No. 68 and 69, at Charlotte, on Tuesday, the 13th of September.
- The Regiment of Cavalry attached to the 11th Brigade, at the same time and place.
- The Cabarrus Regiment, No. 62, at Concord, on Thursday, the 16th of September.
- The Salisbury Regiment, No. 63, in Salisbury, on Saturday, the 17th of September.
- The Irwell Regiments, No. 64 and 65, at Statesville, on Tuesday, the 20th of September.
- The Mocksville Regiment, No. 61, at Mocksville, on Thursday, the 23d of September.
- The Stokes Regiments, No. 66 and 67, at Germantown, on Saturday, the 24th of September.
- The Rockingham Regiments, No. 67 and 91, at Wentworth, on Monday, the 26th of September.
- The Guilford Regiments, No. 57 and 58, at Greensborough, on Wednesday, the 28th of September.
- The Regiment of Cavalry attached to the 5th Brigade, at Greensborough, on the 28th of September.
- The Davidson Regiments, No. 87 and 88, at Lexington, on Friday, the 30th of September.

It will be expected of Brigadier Generals, Bethel, Keen and Allen, that they will attend the reviewing officer through a general of their respective Brigades.

By order of Major General T. G. Pons. A. TORRENCE, Aide-de-Camp. T. B. SMART, A.

WARRANTEE DEEDS

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE.

COMMUNICATION.

FOR THE JOURNAL.

Messrs. Editors: Returning from an excursion to the upper counties, undertaken, you know, for the double purpose of examining the Gold mines, and of becoming better acquainted with the botanical history of those mountainous regions, business necessarily detained me a few days in —, the handsomest village in western Carolina.— During my sojourn in this delightful place, I had the honor of being introduced to a few of its most intelligent citizens, who, I am proud to say, flattered me with their politest civilities. The late explosion of the cabinet, "the correspondence," and the result of the next presidential canvass, considered, as regards the two latter, with a view to their probable consequences on the future prospects of our country, were made the topics of some very agreeable conversation. But the most fruitful subject of conversation, and which, indeed, pervades all classes of society, is the great revival of medicine, as it is termed. Supposing this may be something "new under the sun," and that whatever has the character of novelty may not be wholly uninteresting to you, I shall devote a leisure hour to your gratification. It may be proper, however, to say, that in giving you the following detail of facts I rest mainly on the testimony of my own eyes, and my own ears, for I think I both heard and saw enough to enable me to tell an "unvarnished tale."

Well, you must know, shortly after my arrival at the village I began to hear the words steam, steamed, steaming, steam doctor, and, sometimes, patent steam doctor. These monotonous expressions excited my attention but little at first, as I had heard of a steam mill or two in an adjacent county. But on being told there was a man in town who professed to cure diseases by steam, I went immediately in search of information. My informant said, he was happy to confirm what I had heard, and at my request, made the following statement. Some time during last summer a stranger located himself in the most populous part of the town and announced himself as a steam doctor. To the great wonderment of the natives, he placed over his door in glaring and conspicuous capitals Patent Steam Agency. That, partly, from a principle of curiosity strongly inherent in the citizens and surrounding

common to all Adam's children, but particularly from the mysterious appearance of his sign-board, immense crowds rushed to see this patented disciple of Aesculapian. Public expectation was raised to the highest notch, and individual instances of conjecture were ludicrous in the extreme. But when the new doctor had gained his first object, the attention of the people, he put up a sign extra—Fever cured in two hours and no Calomel. This last board established him at once. Not all the diplomas, en masse, of every college in the whole world could now supplant him in the affections of the multitude. He then began to explain his new doctrines. He related his successes over death and disease. He promised to cure all the ailments of all the people. Not only so, but he could teach every mother's son to cure himself. Thus in a week he had more practice than he could find steam for. True, a few ignorant and interested persons made every exertion to restrain the current of popularity which had taken a direction so decidedly in favor of the patent doctor, by calling him pretender, &c. but the people cried out the more, "The Steam Doctor forever, and no Calomel!" The sale of patents, tho' slow at first, soon exceeded the most sanguine expectations. Almost every man that could raise the fee, secured that which was to make him immortal.— Many gave their bonds with approved security. And, now, it is thought, the number of patentees is sufficient to save the lives of the whole county.

Desiring to be informed, more minutely, as regards the origin, theory and practice of this new system, I put some further questions to my informant. But he said that, though he was one of the first converts to the faith, yet did not consider himself capable of doing that justice to the subject which its merits demanded; but was happy to assure me I would that evening have an opportunity of hearing a lecture on the subject by one of the brothers. He stated that the converts had united themselves into a society called the Botanical Steam Society. It has for its object the dissemination of the principles of the new plan of practice. That lectures will be delivered occasionally by such members as have any tolerable idea of public speaking, especially town criers, constables and silenced preachers.

As I became more and more interested I determined to attend the meeting; and as soon as the bell tolled the hour of assembling I directed my steps towards the town hall, which was, in a short time, crowded to excess. The lecture came first, and taking advantage of a few short notes which I pencilled at the time, I will give you the substance of it. The speaker was a little sharp

nosed, square shouldered man, and appeared to have the manner of one who had been in the habit of addressing congregations. He commenced by telling us that we had met for the purpose of learning something of the great and important doctrines of the patent steam system of medicine. That it was discovered by one Thompson, a lawyer, then an obscure and illiterate person, but now the brightest lumina in the medical world. His theory, by way of eminence called the Thompsonian theory, is founded on this grand and distinguishing general principle—that as there is but one way of getting into this world, there is but one way to get out of it. And having laid the corner stone, he goes on, one cause for life and one cause for death. Heat is life and cold is death. Disease is the immediate cause of death, and the cause of the disease. As, therefore, there is but one cause, there is but one disease. Wherefore all disease is a unit, requiring, a priori, but one remedy, and that remedy is heat.

Illustrative of this theory, he remarked that the great variety of names which ingenious men have invented for the different appearances of disease, are, in fact, only symptoms of the same disease, and in a practical point of view entirely useless.— The endless list of names is only calculated to mislead physicians, for instead of grappling with the disease, their remedies are directed against its symptoms. And these being, in truth, nothing but the shadow or evidence of an existing disease, he who essays to cure by banishing shadows, will in ninety-nine cases in a hundred miss the substance. He then adverted to the theories of different celebrated medical men, such as Hippocrates, Galen and Celsus, among the ancients; and Sydenham, Brown and Rush among the moderns; pointed out their defects, and proved satisfactorily that they were but the faint glimmerings of that glorious blaze of medical light thrown upon the astonished world by the immortal discoverer of the patent steam system.

The practice, he continued, like the theory, is remarkable for its simplicity and accordance with nature. It consists in various applications of heat; internally, by the administration of a few vegetable preparations in which the principle of caloric is predominant, and externally through the medium of steam. No other plan, ever published to the world, is either so simple, so natural, a highly eminent practitioner of Spain, who flourished in the sixteenth century, made greater advances towards perfecting the science of medicine than had been done by any of his predecessors. His practice was extremely popular and successful. Considered empirical, however, by a host of his contemporary aspirants after fame, his practice, unfortunately, died with him, and the loss to the world is incalculably great. The conjecture is entirely within the reach of probability, that if proper steps had been taken to perpetuate his remedial plan, millions who are now sleeping in their graves, would at the present moment be walking to and fro on the earth as living monuments of his fame. On a careful comparison of the Sangradian and Thompsonian systems, a striking similarity is observable. The only material difference is, that Sangrado bled with unsparring hands, while Thompson maintains that bloodletting, in every shape, is injurious. But in the main article of steam, they go hand in hand. It is certain, each has his own method of using it: Thompson throws the steam on his patients, Sangrado, into them. Thompson drenches with vegetable tinctures potentially hot; Sangrado swilled with water actually hot. He spoke with enthusiastic raptures on the advantages of the practice he recommended. It is safe because it is safe, certain because it is safe, and speedy because it is both safe and certain. The most malignant fever that ever was hatched in the foul atmosphere of New-Orleans can be cured in two hours. There are but two states of the system in which the new medicines will not operate. The first, where there is no disease; the second, where the patient is dying. If there is no enemy there can be no battle. Of course a pound of Labeled Infanta or Indian Tobacco in the stomach of a healthy man would be as harmless and inert as an ounce of beef. But there are still greater advantages in the new practice. It is happily adapted to the capacities of all ranks and conditions of mankind. Any man who has common sense can understand it perfectly. It is an opinion derived from high authority and now generally received, that the possession of common sense qualifies a man for any station in life. A cobbler, a scavenger, or an ostler, is equally competent to practice with the graduates of Philadelphia or New-York. Nay, women, he asserted, when it had been tried, made the best physicians. Is it not reasonable, he asked, is it not perfectly consistent with the nature of things, that woman, lovely woman, whose province it is to watch over us with maternal solicitude from the cradle to maturity, should be completely acquainted with all our constitutional tendencies to disease, and, therefore, the

best qualified, when "pain and anguish wring the brow," to become "ministering angels" in the character of nurse and physician? Under the influence of steam the female sex becomes better prepared to fulfil the purposes of their creation. It mitigates, in a great degree, the curse pronounced on the mother of all living, for united experience bears full on the point, that parturition is rendered not only more tolerable, but even comfortable.

Thus the noble science of medicine stripped of every adventitious appendage appears in all its pristine beauty and grandeur.— Nosology, Physiology, Anatomy, Therapeutics, and other vast piles of learned nonsense, written solely for the amusement of idle minds, and not for the benefit of mankind, must now be laid aside. No spending of time in protracted studies, no stuffing of midnight lamps are now necessary in order to obtain the honorable degree of M. D. No, praised be the name of Thompson forever. He received his diploma by immediate revelation from Heaven, and as Physician General of the world is authorized and prepared to issue patents on the most liberal terms. Come, then, he exhorted us, come and buy patents. Let every man become his own doctor. And O may the time speedily arrive, when the knowledge of the Thompsonian system shall cover the earth as the waters do the great deep, when none shall teach his neighbor, saying know the steam system, for all shall know it, from the least to the greatest.

The lecture concluded, the society was forthwith organized and declared itself ready to proceed to business. The minutes of the last meeting having been read, the chairman called for the reports. It seems each member is compelled to register and report at least one extraordinary case, which, if approved, is entered on the Society's journal. From a variety of miraculous cases reported I will select only the following, as being sufficiently within the limits of credulity to command general assent.

The first case that I shall notice, is one in which an enormous quantity of Calomel was scraped from the body of a patient, after undergoing a steaming operation. The reporter was ignorant of the name given to the case by those calling themselves regular physicians. But of one thing he could most solemnly testify, that after he had steamed his patient one hour and a quarter powder settled on his skin, which, when scraped off and collected, weighed precisely one pound and a half. This was done in presence of Squire —, who swore that to the best of his knowledge it was Calomel. It was, moreover, proved on the spot that about twenty years ago this man was under the hands of a Calomel doctor. Approved and ordered to be recorded.

The next case reported was that of Cuffee, a man of color, blind of one eye by cataract, the sight of which was restored in a very interesting manner. The doctor in whose practice this case occurred, stated, that the patient had applied to him for a severe head-ache, that he had directed No. 6 by way of lotion—that at each application to the forehead, more or less of the divine liquid accidentally came in contact with the sightless ball; and that in a few days he was not only cured of the disease for which advice had been requested, but that his long lost eye was restored to perfect vision. When the distinguished member took his seat, the society unanimously shouted—Another triumph of the steam system!! After a call to order, an obstinate unbeliever amongst the spectators moved that Cuffee be brought in and examined, instant, and being seconded, the motion prevailed. He was accordingly sent for, though some of the members, especially the reporter, expressed some regret at the unnecessary delay. In a little time Cuffee was conducted into the presence of the chairman, who rose to make the proposed examination. He desired the old man to shut his sound eye and answer such questions as might be put to him. Cuffee closed his eye, and as if to "make assurance doubly sure," covered it with his hand. On being asked, What is this? with a grin that would relax the most stolid gravity, he answered, dat you han massa. Mr. chairman turned towards the spectators and smiled most contemptuously. I am satisfied, said he, Cuffee can see, and none but a fool will doubt it. The late patient was examined by the members generally, and all were equally satisfied with the result. But the scruples of the gentleman who made the motion to examine were not so easily removed. He, therefore, with some degree of sternness, bade Cuffee prepare his eye as before, and holding up his handkerchief, asked, What's this? You handshuff, massa. What's this? Dat you watch, massa, he, he, he! The examinee perceiving a slight abducting movement of Cuffee's forefinger, determined to vary the mode of experiment. Very well, Cuff, I believe you can see. But come nearer, I wish to see the eye itself. Yes, massa, and up he came, with the same unshaken confidence he had all the while manifested.— Now shut your well eye. He did so, but

before he could bring up his hand to the proper elevation to cover it, the right thumb of his now irritated examiner was inserted some three quarters of an inch, in real laughing fashion, into the socket of the treacherous eye. And I dare affirm Cuffee's people was never in a more favorable position for taking a correct inward observation of himself, for to all intents and purposes, darkness visible had thrown her mantle on all exterior affairs. Suddenly his familiar grin was exchanged for a most hideous distortion of face. His merciless interrogator holding up a bat in the light of a window, demanded in a tone not to be misunderstood, Now, villain, what's this? You rick, massa. What? Oh, Liddy, massa, you blind me good eye. I tell de trute now. Deese steam doctor gib me dollar for tell lie for cure de de buckra. On his making this apparently frank confession, the gentleman abruptly retired, and as he passed by my to the door, I thought I heard the words, knaves and jackasses. O fie, said the chairman. Shame, shame, cried the members, the poor fellow has been frightened to tell a falsehood. I move, said one, to enter the cure on the journal, for it is clear he can see. All agreed. Poor Cuff went off muttering too. So soon as he had cleared the house, he commenced a fearful soliloquy. O me eye! D—n all deese steam doctor. He nuber cure me head deep. I dead fus, fore he gib me truck agin.— D—n all deese steam doctor.

Nothing standing this case occasioned some interruption to the hitherto harmonious proceedings of the society, I determined to sit out the meeting. Order being again restored, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Whereas the fraternity of the patent steam system labor under much inconvenience in the manufacture of steam, causing frequent delays in its application to the great detriment of their patients: Therefore, Resolved, That the society appoint a committee, whose duty it shall be to procure a small engine of ten to fifteen horse power, for the purpose of supplying this town and vicinity with steam to be used in practice.

To secure a greater degree of harmony and concord in the ordinary transactions of this society: Resolved, to prohibit, in future, all interference with their concerns by ignorant and mischievous spectators.

As I alluded to my lodgings I happened to find in company with the gentleman who having left off all thought of fighting the British, is now being drilled in order to attack a much more inviolable enemy. I asked him what he understood by No. 6. Why, said he, our medicines are divided into 6 phalanges or platoons, if you please, designated by the Nos. 1, 2, 3, &c. You see, sir, when a battle is to be fought by a doctor and a disease, the *obscopulus colicæ*, for instance, he brings up No. 1, and discharges it directly upon the enemy's centre in order to throw him into confusion. If the first onset is ineffectual, he orders up division No. 2, and thus if he is a skilful officer, he will continue to pour in a well directed fire until the enemy is vanquished. And should he fall by the impetuous charge of the corps de reserve, No. 6, which is generally irresistible, No. 1 is again ready primed and loaded for a second round. In this way, sir, we propose to rout every disease out of the country.

I assure you, my dear sirs, I hardly know what to think of this steam business. I am rather inclined to believe it will do good, though I am not sufficiently read in medicine to form any satisfactory opinion about it. I have endeavored to give you as correct an idea of their principles and practice as it was possible for me to obtain.— The fact that the thing has taken here is notorious. A young graduate of the old school told me that the country is completely inundated with steam doctors,—that steam apparatus are so plenty in some neighboring towns as to increase the temperature of the air several degrees,—that cases are becoming rare, or if one appears, it is either drowned or scalded to death. Alas! said he, a disgraceful fight, or starvation, even more horrible, awaits me. And, truly, his case is a deplorable one. Imagine, for a moment, the situation of a physician, surrounded by a troop of three hundred patentees composed of farmers and blacksmiths, squires and tavernkeepers, merchants and shoemakers, preachers and constables, all in successful practice. No wonder, his cake's dough. And such is the rage for patents, that some of the poorer members of the system actually carry their *divine drugs* in jugs, demijohns, black bottles, &c. thrown across a pony, in a meal bag, and away they gallop in all the pride of the genuine sons of the pestle. Very respectfully, VIATOR.

August 10, 1831.

"I envy," said Sir Henry Davy, "no quality of the mind or intellect in others; not genius, power, wit, or fancy; but if I could choose what would be most delightful, and I believe most useful to me, I should prefer a firm religious belief to every other blessing."