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(WRITTEN FOR THE WATCHMAN.)

FOLKS AT THE FAIR.

CANTO VI.

Spring smiles again—ceased constant rain

And foods, that, by the pow'r, sir,

Bared Adam's bones!—What dulcet tones

Of bees among the flow'r, sir!

The pets of science roam abroad—

Both Linnaeus, and Godman;

And, with the drying of the road,

The famous lightning-rod man!

Oh! when his great long wagons come,

And halt beside your door, sir,

Thank God he's found you have a home,

And know's you ain't dog poor, sir!

Reward his zeal—now to protect

You, some one's interested—

And wondering poor folk's eyes attract

By greenbacks thus invested!

One thing at least we know full well—

When Jove's red flash descends, sir,

We fool clodhoppers never fail

To testify with our own hands, sir,

That safety-rod—no can swear,

By Maia's Jove that sucked her, sir!

The bolt will strike just e'rywhere

Except on that conductor!

And late in June, with fow and froth,

Look out for little peddlers,

With book and map and table-cloth—

Confound the prating meddlers!

If I was Grant, I soon would plant

'Em all at Rumpole's bridge, sir—

Give Banquo McFee good company!

From Erin and Sandy Ridge, sir!

Then in July, when suns are hot,

Come literary codgers,

A searching rod the drug-store lot

For Messrs. Klunts and Rogers!

Then in July, they cry, "Shoo-fly!

Don't bother dis poor nigger!

De' am, Sir Thee, too hard for me—

Gum-griff and figger!"

Late in the fall, we'll have a tall

Fence-building round the County—

Rail-splitters and Combushners all

To draw a gen'ral bounty!

Who lets his stock desert the flock

Be fined for misdemeanor!

Root little pig—round round the rock,

And lift the acorn cleaner!

We'll do and dare, and have a Fair

Somewhere in Jovenember—

"Folks at the Fair" may then be there

Some few things to remember—

The hairless horse—the gambling wheel—

The old gas-blowing whiner—

The Yankee notions that appeal

So strong for Karoliner!

When cold winds blow, and drifts the snow,

Will scatter gun's rebound, sir!

The possum he'll laugh with glee

When 'Simmon time comes round, sir!

We'll shoot from law, by the partridge law,

And net him in the brake, sir!

He'll wish and cry it was July,

And be a big black snake, sir!

Perhaps you have heard of nonsensical

In other words, sensible nonsense;

Of men who speak e'er made a pretence

To skulls with a vacuum of gone sense;

The wise, as a rule, should take as a fool,

In order that they may have hearers—

For the men who talk sense, by a maice

prepnese,

Will be met by an army of sneerers!

Baroque is better than profoof—

Saize than downright scolding—

Punch darts his rage thro' mental roofs,

With foggy midday moiding;

One heavy laugh has done more good

Than forty-seven sermons—

Schools cheered by music's merry mood

Have clothed with might the Germans!

Then don't be scared, thou Sunday bard,

If Sunday-go to meeting

Clothes not my rustic verses hard;

From rhetoric retreating,

My Muse falls back, till she, slack!

Fights over her last ditch, sir!

Confound my Muse, by my old shoes,

I'll swear she is a witch, sir!

E. P. H.

The House we all Live in.

BY BISHOP CLARK, OF RHODE ISLAND.

It is a very extraordinary edifice—sometimes beautiful beyond description; but, not goodly to look upon, when the outer covering is removed, and the beams and rafters are exposed. The human skeleton is the greatest of all marvels in the way of mechanic art, and yet it is not attractive to the eye. This, however, may be attributed to the law of association.

There is a great deal going on in this habitation, over which the tenant has no direct control. It has its cooking apartments, in which, without any action on his part, all sorts of articles are in the process of manufacture—tissues of wonderful texture and fineness, solid beams and rafters and arches of bone, hinges, bolts, escapements, valves, springs, flexible cords and bands and ligaments, capable of bearing an enormous strain, all made out of the raw material, and in the most finished, workmanlike manner. Every principle in mechanics which science has discovered seems to have been anticipated in the work-shops of the human frame.

It also has its laboratories, where salts, acids, alkalies, and numberless other substances act upon each other, in strict accordance with the laws of modern chemistry; gases are resolved into fluids, and fluids into solids, and then the solids are resorted to their original molecules; brilliant hues are extracted from metals, to color the blood and give charm to the eye; and even the elixir of life after which the old alchemist toiled so long and so vainly, is evolved in the processes of transmutation that are going on there.

Long before the electric wire was stretched in the air or laid in the bosom of the deep, this wonderful house was furnished with the most perfect batteries and magnetic communication, carried instant orders from one story of the building to another, and brought back the response, with the greatest possible accuracy.

The whole principle of the steam-engine is also to be found in the structure which we inhabit. There is an interior furnace which we furnish with staked supplies of fuel—a regular draught of air feeding the flame—motion is generated by the combustion, and the wheels of life turn more or less rapidly, as this central engine happens to be in good or bad order.

Of these departments, as we have already said, the occupant of the house has no immediate control. His presence is indeed indispensable, for the moment that he moves away, everything that is going on there ceases,—the work-shops are quiet, the fires go out in the laboratory, the batteries and engines become useless; but, as long as he remains, all the mechanical and chemical processes will go on, in some fashion, in spite of him. But it is possible for him to disturb the orderly working of things, by his folly or neglect. He may withhold the proper supplies, and let the fire burn so low as to impede the action of the machine; or he may introduce violent inflammables, that subject it to a strain which it cannot bear. When the Mississippi engineer empties tar, pitch, and turpentine into the oven, you may look out for an explosion. There is many a human being, who tampers with the delicate organization of his body in that way and burns out the machine prematurely, if he does not blow it up.

What multitudes of people there are who seem to forget that their welfare is contingent upon the care they take of the house in which they live. They are bound to keep it in good repair or they may forfeit their lease. If they allow the timber to rot the whole structure may suddenly tumble about their ears. If they permit vermin and filth to accumulate on the premises, it will breed malaria and make the buildings uninhabitable.

There are some very strange things pertaining to the house in which we all live. One of these is, that we carry it about with us wherever we go, and this by a process of locomotion which although very hard to learn, when once acquired, is conducted without any act of consciousness. The operation of walking is a very rigid piece of science. No mechanical skill could ever produce a walking automaton—that is, one that moved in accordance with the laws of our locomotion. In fact, it would be impossible to make a figure that would stand upon its feet as we do, for to do this without support requires a constant play of the most delicate counterbalancing forces, the use of which is attained only by a long and somewhat painful experience—the child learning to stand and walk mainly by tumbling down. And yet we do these things without any conscious action of the mind, after we have once found out how to do them.

You may travel for miles, absorbed in reverie, or with your intent upon the surrounding scenery, and all the while you are performing a constant series of the most complicated mechanical movements, which it would require the closest attention to conduct, if you were not accustomed to them; the whole thing being under the direction of a set of nerves having their seat in the spine, far away from the center of conscious celebration. At the same time, if you meet with any obstruction, if there is a rut to be avoided or a gutter to be crossed, you adapt your step to the emergency which would seem to require some exercises of judgment.

It is worth noticing that these automatic movements, which it requires the greatest effort to learn when once acquired, may be the hardest to resist. I once observed a row of girls, standing behind a machine used in the manufacture of silk-thread, who, at certain stated intervals, performed a most complicated operation

with their hands, with such rapidity that the eye could not follow it. On expressing my surprise at the marvelous skill, I was told that instead of its being a difficult thing to do, it would be only by a positive resistance of the will that they could avoid doing it, whenever the position of the machine indicated the time for its performance.

I once delivered a lecture automatically. Having an engagement to speak in Philadelphia in aid of the Gettysburg monument fund, I found myself without any manuscript. Although I had given the lecture a number of times, so that it was familiar to my mind, it would have been impossible for me to repeat it memoriter alone in my study; but, trusting to the law of association, and trying to avoid any positive effort to recall the language or the order of thought, I started the automatic machine, and it ran for more than an hour with only one or two breaks, and these were occasioned simply by a feeling of anxiety, which led me to try and anticipate what was coming next. So far as I was conscious, the whole thing was purely mechanical, and, perhaps the audience thought so, too.

Some men tell us that everything is automatic; thought is only a flash of phosphorescence in the brain; affection a nervous deposit; conscience a certain condition of the glands; body and soul are the same thing. "Instinct, passion, thought, etc. are effects of organized substances. I feel that I am as completely the result of my nature, and impelled to do what I do as the needle to point to the north, or the puppet to move according as the string is pulled. I cannot alter my will, or be other than I am, and may not desire either reward or punishment." What do you mean when you say "I"? Who or what is this Ego? If you "cannot alter your will," your will can alter you, and that amounts to the same thing. According to these materialist, the bones, then, in which we all live has no inhabitant. This, of course, is nonsense; but the Bible tells us to "answer a fool according to his folly."

"CENTENNIAL" COURT RECORDS.

The following interesting extracts are taken from the original Records on file in the Superior Court Clerk's office of Rowan County.

"North Carolina } To wit: June 1st 1775.

Proclamation being made and silence being commanded, the King's Commission of Oyer and Terminer was publicly read, in which Commission Alexander Martin, Esqr., was nominated one of the Judges of a Court of Oyer and Terminer, appointed by Act of Assembly of said Province to be held at Salisbury on the first day of June for the XV year of the reign of our sovereign Lord, George the third, King of Great Britain &c., for the Counties of Rowan, Anson, Mecklenburg, Tryon, Surry and Guilford.

The Honorable Alexander Martin, Esqr. took the Oaths prescribed by law for the qualification of public officers, and an Oath of office, and repeated and subscribed the Test (a), took his seat and proceeded to business. The Court appointed Adlai Osborne, Esqr. Clerk of the Court (b), who qualified according to law.

Benjamin B. Boone (c), Esqr. produced a deputation from Thomas McGuire, Esqr. his Majesty's Attorney General for the Province of North Carolina, appointing him the said B. B. Boone, Deputy Attorney for the Crown for the District of Salisbury, who qualified by taking the Oaths prescribed by law for the qualification of public officers and an Oath of office and subscribing the Test.

The Sheriffs of the several Counties within the District of Salisbury being called, and required to make return of the several Venues, and the other process from the said Counties and returnable here this day, Thomas Harris, high Sheriff of the County of Mecklenburg failed to appear and make return of the process to him directed. Therefore ordered by the Court, that the said Thomas Harris be fined £50 for his not attending and that he be cited to show cause &c, next Court. The Sheriff of Mecklenburg returns the Venue.

Thursday June 1st, 1775. Be it remembered that this day the following Venue was returned by the Sheriffs of the several Counties:—

Rowan (1) Moses Winsley, (2) Will Davidson, (3) Saml. Harris, (4) Geo. Henry Berger, (5) Griffith Rutherford, (6) Will Alexander (7) John Dickey (8) Geo. Davison, (9) Saml. Reed, (10) John Sloan, (11) Saml. Young (12) James McCay, (13) Anson. John Coleson and 6 others. Tryon, Will Moore and 7 others. Surry Saml. Freeman and 6 others. Guilford Ralph Gorrell and 6 others. Mecklenburg. Hezekiah Alexander, (j) (2) Robt. Harris (k) (3) Adam Alexander, (4) John McNitt Alexander, (5) John McCulloch (6) Charles Polk, (m) (7) Aaron Huston.

Ordered by the Court, that Hezekiah Alexander, Aaron Huston, Adam Alexander, John McNitt Alexander, and John McCulloch be fined £3 nisi each for not attending this Court as jurors agreeable to summons.

Then this honorable Court adjourned

till to-morrow 9 o'clock.

Friday, June 2d, 1775:

And the following Grand Jury were empanelled and sworn viz: Griffith Rutherford, Foreman, Moses Winsley, Ralph Gorrell, Charles Polk, James McCay, and 13 others.

Saturday, June 3d, 1775:

Monday, June 5th, 1775:

The Jury who passed on the trial of Oliver Wallace at June Court of Oyer 1774, being called, on examination declared, that they could not agree on a verdict, and that they did not separate till after that Court adjourned till the December Court following. They are discharged by this Court without fine. On motion, that a new issue should pass on Oliver Wallace, for that the jury sworn on that trial at June Court of Oyer 1774 separated without giving a verdict—Ruled by the Court, that a new issue be awarded. Then the Attorney for the Crown entered a *nolle prosequi* as to the first indictment, and Oliver Wallace was charged on an indictment for murder found by the Grand Jury this term.

Dom Rex } Indictment for Felony
vs. } and murder, charged
Oliver Wallace } and pleads not Guilty.

The following jury were sworn and empanelled viz:—and fined the prisoner at the Bar Oliver Wallace guilty of the Felony and murder in manner and form as charged in the Indictment and that he had no lands &c.

Tuesday, June 6th 1775.

The Sheriff of Mecklenburg is excused from the fine laid on him on Thursday of this term.

At this term Stephen Herring was convicted of Robbery, Joseph Pitoway of Robbery, and Oliver Wallace of Murder—and all three sentenced to be hanged on Friday June 30, 1775.

The lawyers present were Benj. B. Boone, Deput. Attorney for the Crown, John Dunn, (n) William Kennon, (o) and Waightsill Avery, (p) James Kerr, was the Sheriff of Rowan at that time. It will be noticed that five of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20th, just ten days before had been summoned on the venire, viz:—Hezekiah Alexander, Adam Alexander, John McNitt Alexander, William Davidson, and Robert Harris—and that William Davidson and Robert Harris only appeared, the first then being fined for non attendance. William Kennon, and Waightsill Avery Attorneys at Law, who also signed the Declaration, were both present and practised before the Court.

"Then this Honorable Court adjourned till the first day of December next.

This was the last term of this Court ever held, under Royal rule—County Courts were held in August and November 1775 and February 1776.

We extract the following from the minute docket of that Court.

"North Carolina } August Term 1775: Rowan County }

At an Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter sessions begun and held at the Court House in the Town of Salisbury in and for the County of Rowan on the first Tuesday in August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, before Alexander, Osborne, Esq. and his companions, Justices assigned to keep the peace &c. in said County. Present Daniel Little Esq., silence being commanded, his Majesty's commission of the peace was publicly read and the following persons, viz: John Oliphant, Will T. Coles, and William McBride, Esqs. named in said commission took the Oaths prescribed by law for the qualification of public officers and an Oath of office and repeated and subscribed the Test and then proceeded to business.

Waightsill Avery, Esq. is appointed Attorney for the Crown, in the absence of John Dunn, Esq. Dist. Attorney.

A good deal of business was transacted at this Term.

"North Carolina } Nov. Term 1775: Rowan County }

At an Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter sessions begun and held in aid for the County of Rowan at the Court House in Salisbury on the 7th day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six in the XVI year of the reign of King George the third.

Tuesday Nov. 7th 1775:—Present, Wm. Temple Coles, Will McBride, and Walter Lindsey, Esqrs.

Wednesday 8th:—Waightsill Avery, Esqr., is appointed Attorney for the Crown *pro hoc tem.*

Saturday 9th:—Ordered by the Court that James Kerr, Esqr., pay into the hands of Adlai Osborne, twenty pounds for the use of purchasing standards and &c, for the County, and that his receipt for said sum shall be allowed in settlement with this Court.

"North Carolina } Feb. Term 1776: Rowan County }

At an Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter sessions begun and held for the County of Rowan in Salisbury on the sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord 1776 and in the XVII (sic) year of Reign of George the third, King of Great Britain &c. Before the Justices of said County commissioned to hold Courts &c, &c.

Present, Walter Lindsey, Esqr. The Court adjourns till to-morrow 10 o'clock.

Wednesday Feb. 7th.—The Court met, according to adjournment. Adjourned till to-morrow 10 o'clock.

Thursday Feb 8th.—The Court met

according to adjournment. Aid adjourned till Court in course viz first Tuesday in May 1776." Very little business was transacted at this Term.

This was the last Court held in Rowan County during the Reign of George III. On the very same leaf but on the next page (over) appear these words written in large letters.

"American Independence Feb. 1777." (a) The Test—i. e. of loyalty to the King. This Test was repeated and subscribed by officers of the Crown in Rowan County from the period of its organization in 1753.

(b) Grandfather of the Hon. James W. Osborne (c) Arrested for his loyalty July 31, 1775, by Wm. Kennon, Waightsill Avery and others. (d) A deputy from Rowan to the Provincial Congress at Newbern, Aug. 25, 1774 and again in April 1775. (e) A signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration &c, a distinguished general in the Revolutionary and very distinguished—see Wheeler's History. (f) A delegate to the Congress at Newbern Aug. 25, 1774 and again April 1775.

(g) Brother of Judge McCay—(h) John Alexander, Adam Alexander, and John McNitt Alexander, signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration—and (i) A signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration and was in attendance.—(m) A brother of Col. Thomas Polk, who called the Convention which met in Charlotte on 19th and 20th of May, 1775. He was called Devil Charles Polk, and was in attendance on the Court.

(n) A deputy Attorney of the Crown and a man of high character. Arrested for his loyalty by Wm. Kennon and others July 31, 1775. Imprisoned in Charleston, S. C. in company with Benj. B. Boone for more than a year. His appeal for a trial denied both by the Rowan Committee of safety and by the Provincial Congress at Hillsboro. Some of the most respectable families in Rowan County are his descendants.

(o) William Kennon, of the Town of Salisbury, was a member of the legal profession, with a large practice. He was distinguished for his devotion to liberty.

As early as August 1774 he was the chairman of the committee of safety for Rowan County. On the 8th of that month he presided over the Committee, when the following resolutions were adopted.

"Resolved, That to impose a duty on tea by the British Parliament, in which the American Colonies can have no representation to be paid upon importation by the inhabitants of said Colonies, is an act of power without right. It is subversive of the liberties of the said colonies, deprives them of their property without their consent and thereby reduces them to a state of slavery.

Resolved, That the cause of the Town of Rowan is the common cause of the American Colonies."—He was one of the delegates from Rowan to the Congress at Newbern Aug. 25, 1774. He was a member of the same body which met at Newbern in April 1775. He was a member of the Convention, which met in Charlotte on May 19th and 20th 1775 and declared their independence of the British Crown. He was still the Chairman of Rowan County's Committee of safety. Wm. Davidson a member of the same Committee and John Davidson, both citizens of Rowan County were also members of that Convention. All three signed the Declaration, according to the current tradition.

Mr. Kennon took a very prominent part in the proceedings. He addressed the Convention and people at large, and was appointed with Dr. Eph. Brevard and Rev. Hezekiah James Bulch on the Committee to draft resolutions. It was he who persuaded Capt. Jack, as he passed through Salisbury on his way to the continental Congress early in June during the session of the Court to permit a public reading of the resolutions. On Monday July 31, 1775, he caused the arrest of John Dunn, and Benj. B. Boone, Attorneys for the Crown then living in Salisbury, and sent them away under guard to S. C. On the next day a petition was presented to the Rowan Committee of safety by Dr. Newman and others, against the seeming arbitrary conduct of Col. Kennon and others, in the case of Dunn, and Boone."

After a long debate the Committee endorsed Mr. Kennon's action in the premises but their endorsement was complied with a proviso, "that such conduct should not be considered a precedent in all cases of the like nature in the future."—Mr. Kennon represented County Rowan in the Provincial Congress which met at Hillsboro Aug. 21, 1775. After that we lose sight of him altogether. It is a matter of regret that so little of his history is known. See Foots sketches and Wheeler's Hist.—(p) A signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration—attended Court at Salisbury June 1st, 1775—aided in the arrest of John Dunn, and B. B. Boone, Deput. Attorneys of the Crown, July 31, 1775. Appointed Attorney for the Crown at August and November Terms, 1775, of the County Court, in the absence of John Dunn. He was the first Attorney General of the State of North Carolina. See sketch of him in Wheeler's History.

COMMUNICATED.

The Man-Eating Tree.

Horrible Produce of Nature—The Devil-Fish of the Vegetable Kingdom.

If you can imagine a pinesapple eight feet high and thick in proportion, resting upon its base and decuded of leaves, you will have a good idea of the tree, which however, was not of the color of ananassa, but a dark, dingy brown, and apparently as hard as iron. From the apex of this fastiduous cone, at least 150 feet in diameter, eight long leaves sheer to the ground, like doors swinging back on their hinges.

These leaves, which are jointed at the top of the tree at regular intervals, were eleven or twelve feet long, and shaped very much like the American agave, or century plant. They are two feet through in their thickest part, and three feet wide, tapering to a sharp point that looks like a cow's horn, very convex on the outer (but now under) surface, and on the under (now upper) surface, slightly concave.

This concave surface was thickly set with strong thorny hooks like those upon the leaves of the rose, and these hooked points, like a smaller plate set within a larger one. This was not a flower, but a receptacle, and there exuded into it a clear, treacly liquid honey, sweet and possessing of violent intoxicating and soporific properties. From underneath the rim (as to speak of the underneath plate, a series of long hairy, green tendrils, stretched out in every direction toward the horizon. These were seven or eight feet long and tapered from four inches to a half inch in diameter, yet they stretched out stiffly as iron rods. Above these (from between the upper and under cap) six white, almost transparent palpi reared the maelstrom toward the sky, twirling and twisting with a marvelous incessant motion, yet constantly reaching upward. This was red and frail as quills, apparently, were five or six feet tall, and were so constantly and vigorously in motion, with such a subtle, sinuous, silent throbbing against the air, with their suggestion of serpents flayed, yet dancing on their tails. My observation on this occasion were suddenly interrupted by the natives, who had been shrieking around the tree with their shrill voices, and chanting what Hendrick told me were propitiatory hymns to the great tree devil. With still wilder shrieks and chants they now surrounded one of the women, and argued her with the points of their javelins, until slowly and with despairing face she climbed up the stalk of the tree and stood on the summit of the cone, the palpi swimming all about her. "Talk! Talk!" (shik! shik!) cried the man.—Stooping, she drank of the viscid fluid in the cup, rising instantly again with wild frenzy in her face and convulsive cords in her limbs. But she did not jump down as she seemed to intend to do. Oh, no! The atrocious cannibal tree, that had been so inert and dead, came to sudden life. The slender, delicate palpi, with the fury of starved serpents, quivered a moment over her head, then, as if by instinct with demonic intelligence, fastened upon her in sudden coil round and round her neck and arms, and while her awful screams and yet more awful laughter rose wildly to be instantly strangled down again in a gurgling moan, and the tendrils one after another, like green serpents, with brutal energy and internal rapidity, rose, protracted themselves and wrapped her in fold after fold, ever tightening with cruel swiftness and savage tenacity of anacardus fastening upon their prey. It was the barbarity of the Laocoon without its beauty—this strange horrible murder. And now the great leaves rose slowly and stiffly, like the arms of a derrick, erected themselves in the air, approached one another and closed about the dead and banded victim with the silent force of a hydraulic press and the ruthless purpose of a thumb-screw. A moment more, and while I could see the basis of these each levers pressing more tightly