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By George Howard,

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DOMESTIC.

POLAR EXPEDITION.

We perceive by the Ohio and Kentucky papers, that Captain John Cleves Symmes has been recently lecturing in these states and that in a town in the latter State, a meeting had been organized at which the Lieut. Governor, Colonel R. B. Ade, presided, when a resolution was passed, recommending to the consideration of Congress the propriety of fitting out an expedition for the purpose of exploring the North West Coast, the Northern Pacific Ocean to the continent of Asia, and the unknown regions beyond the Arctic Circle, the principal command of which to be given to Capt. Symmes.

It is, perhaps, not generally known, that the idea of ascertaining whether the earth is hollow, did not originate with Capt. Symmes. In the year, 1802 proposals were issued in London by a Mr. Thomas Williams, for the purpose of raising money to enable him to ascertain whether the earth be a solid body or only a shell. He had long previously entertained the notion that it was not solid from reflecting that the Author of Nature had made nothing in vain, every thing was, of course, constructed without waste of materials; and it appeared to him that besides the apparent waste of matter that must take place, if the earth, and all the heavenly bodies were solid, they would be much less secure from the effects of internal convulsion.

Pursuing his favorite idea, he supposed that the *centre*, being the focus of the whole concave surface, might, by means not very different from what we know do exist, be furnished with heat in a sufficient degree to produce light also, and thus form a subterranean world, in all respects calculated the abode of millions of inhabitants, enjoying perpetual summer and perpetual day.

The ingenuity of Wilson soon furnished him with a method of endeavoring to ascertain whether the earth was hollow or not. The fact that the plumb line is affected in the neighborhood of large mountains, has already been proved; and it occurred to him that, as the earth itself attracts all bodies, a weight far below the surface would be attracted upwards by the mass of earth above it, in proportion as it descended deeper. On this principle he argued, that if the earth were solid, the point at which a body would lose all its weight must be near the centre; but if only a shell, that point would be at the depth of rather more than half its thickness.

Conjecturing the whole thickness to be 200 miles, (more or less) the depth at which a body

would lose its weight, would be at about 120 miles.

Mr. Wilson now determined on making some experiments; and providing himself with the necessary apparatus, he chose some deep mines in the West of England. A piece of lead of several pounds weight, being first accurately weighed at the surface, was let down by a small line, the depth of 100 feet; in which situation it was again weighed at the surface, and so on at 100 feet of its descent, till it reached the bottom of the shaft.

Every 100 feet of the line was also weighed previously to being let down and again immediately on being drawn up on account of its imbibing so much moisture from the steam of the pit as to increase its weight considerably. The result of this experiment, which Mr. W. repeated in various places, and in various ways, proved highly satisfactory; for after making every necessary allowance, with a further deduction for inaccuracy that might have escaped him, he found that the weight lost its gravity so rapidly that at the depth of about 35 or 40 miles, it would no longer have descended. According to his calculation therefore, the shell of the earth could not be more than about 70 miles thick instead of 200, as he at first conjectured. Elated to find the result of his experiments so strongly favoring his theory, he immediately circulated the proposals above mentioned; but meeting with little encouragement, & being cramped by poverty, having a large family to support, he was unable to carry his designs into execution. In the mean time his health declined from intense study as well as disease, and died soon afterwards in the 61st year of his age.

About three weeks since, Mr. Thomas Watson, of Richmond, Va. arrived in this city and took lodgings at Morse's Coffee House, near the Park Theatre. On Saturday night he was attacked with a violent fit of the gout in the cheek. By the medical aid of Dr. Stearns, he was relieved before morning. During Sunday he was observed to be occasionally gloomy, bordering on derangement, and was consequently watched. On the evening of that day, while the person who waited on him was absent for a moment, he seized a very dull case knife and cut his throat.—The wind pipe was nearly divided. Dr. Stearns was again sent for, and the wound carefully dressed. The unfortunate person is still living, and some hopes are entertained of his recovery. He is still deranged, and does not appear to be sensible of the act which he has committed.

N.Y. Com. Adv.

The Ohio "Canal Bill" has passed the Senate of Ohio—two votes only against it. It is expected to pass the Assembly by a triumphant majority. The Canal is to begin at the mouth of the Scioto on the Ohio River; thence along the courses of that stream and the Muskingum, to Lake Erie.—The funds to be raised by loan, (at an interest not exceeding 6 per cent.)—in

1825, the sum to be borrowed not to exceed \$400,000, and each subsequent year not more than 600,000. Whatever deficiency there may be in the funds set apart for the payment of the interest, to be made up by a levy of taxes.

Bustling in Kentucky.—The following letter and comment are extracted from the Frankfort Argus of the 19th of Jan. We have our doubts, if any such letter was really written to the President—but its summary of the dreadful evils under which Kentucky is groaning, is forcible, and, we presume, faithful. Of all the earth, to what portion has God been more bountiful than to Kentucky? A soil teeming and profusely fruitful—noble streams flowing round the habitations of the people, to transport its produce over the world—a government and laws of their own choice and creation. The contrast between what Kentucky is and what she ought to have been, is dreadful and melancholy.—*Richmond Whig.*

"A member of the minority of the Legislature, about the time of the late adjournment of that body, left in a bookseller's shop in this place a number of the reports of the joint committee, raised to enquire into the conduct of the judges of the Court of Appeals, folded up and directed on the back, with a request that an envelope of paper should be put over them with the evident purpose of sending them by mail. By accident it was discovered, that they had writing on the blank leaves at the end of each pamphlet.—One of them was directed on the outside to "James Monroe, President of the United States, Washington," and on the blank leaves were written the following words:

"Sir:—Our Judges of the Court of Appeals repealed out of office, the constitution of our state trodden under foot; our treasury robbed and empty, capitol burnt down, convicts in the Penitentiary naked and starving, governor's son a murderer and cut-throat, a deficiency of \$40,000 in our revenue, a denial of justice by our executive laws, a relief Legislature—think ye, will it not take FORTY THOUSAND BAYONETS to right us in politics?

This political paradox I send as a strange comminglement of religion, polities, mathematics and dead languages, in themselves unconjunctionable.

A Minority Member of the Kentucky Legislature.

THE FEDERAL PARTY.
The hon. Enoch Lincoln, a representative in congress, in a letter dated Washington, Dec. 4, 1824, conceives the federal party to be stronger at this time than it ever was. He says

—“This party, purified by desertion and by misfortune, had never, in my opinion, for twenty years past, and more, during which it has been tried in its adversity, more moral power than it now has.” He attributes, also, much of the benefit which the nation has received from the economy introduced into the general government, “to federalists who have

had it in their power to turn the scales, when the beam would have hung level without their aid.”—“It is,” he adds, “so evident now, that if a proscribed party, they will unite and control measures of any administration, that I repeat what I before said, that in the present distracted state of the republicans, they never had more moral power.

What is their policy, and what course will they pursue? They are atlantic, they are commercial in their interests, and they are also not less agricultural than the rest of us.—They must go for Mr. ADAMS, and if they do so, one principle of amalgamation should have its force. This exposition you will deem rash; yet if it be founded in good sense, it is not so, for even although it were public, I would never hesitate to repose that confidence in any community with which I am acquainted, to trust myself to it upon a frank and honest avowal of any sentiment I entertain, knowing that correct opinions are always properly appreciated.”—*Alexandria Herald.*

Cotton of Florida.—The editor of the Baltimore American Farmer states, that several samples of cotton, the growth of Florida, had been passed to his hands through the Secretary of War, & submitted for inspection to Mr. Jackson, who had the supply of the raw material under his superintendance since the first establishment of the celebrated Waltham manufactory; & that he had resolved on making a large purchase of the article. It is said that land given by Congress to Gen. La Fayette, would probably be located in that territory.

Old Connecticut yet!!!—Mr. Geo. Philips, of Preston, Conn. fatted, the present season, four Hogs, of a small bone, short frame, and small ears, which, when dressed and sold, weighed as follows:—562, 577, 595, and 614 lbs. Total, 2348 lbs.

Another rich and benignant philanthropist, Mr. GEORGE HAGA, a German, has lately died in Philadelphia, and bequeathed to benevolent institutions, the greater part of his fortune—which had been accumulated by honest industry.

The trial of ISAAC B. DESHA for the murder of FRANCIS BAKER, which has attracted much of public attention recently, in Kentucky, and elsewhere, after occupying several days, has terminated in a verdict of *GUILTY* against him. But a new trial has been granted by the Court, in the case.

Breach of Promise of Marriage.—On Wednesday week came on for trial before the Hon. Judge Edwards, in N. York, the interesting case of M'Kee vs. Nelson, for a breach of promise of marriage. The plaintiff proved the promise by shewing that the affair had so far progressed, that the dresses had been purchased for the occasion, and other preparations had been made for the celebration of the marriage. The parties, nays

the Commercial Advertiser, are both very respectable; the defendant is well known as a celebrated classic teacher, in this city; has been *blind* for many years; and at the time the intimacy was broken off with the plaintiff, he was a widower, with six children. The jury retired at 1 o'clock, and this morning returned a verdict for the plaintiff of 3000 dollars.

Charles Ball was recently convicted of *manslaughter* in Vermont, for the crime of killing his *father*, and was sentenced to the State-Prison at hard labor for life. His mother, who was a witness on the trial, testified, she had several children, and the prisoner was the *mildest tempered* of the whole of them!

Movements of Indians.—It appears from letters just received from the Superintendent of Indian affairs, at St. Louis, that a great council of the Cherokees, Delawares, Shawanees, Weas, Kickapoos, Piankashaws, and Peorias, residing west of the Mississippi, has been held; at which it was agreed to receive their Red brethren from the east, and to invite them to come among them as soon as possible. This subject has been in agitation for about two years; meanwhile, wampum has been exchanged in great abundance between the tribes east and west of the Mississippi, until at last the object of both has been agreed upon, and a deputation is now on its way to Washington, led by Col. P. Menard, to conclude an arrangement with the President of the United States for the removal of those Indians residing on the east of the Mississippi. If the arrangement is made, it is not unlikely but it may embrace the tribes in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, except the Ottawas, and a few others, who it is probable, would prefer to join their friends west of Lake Michigan.

Those Indians consider the step they have taken as a very important one to them; and look upon its completion as essential to their prosperity and happiness. They were very agreeably surprised on learning what the President had said on the subject in his message to Congress, at the opening of the session:—“Our Great Father,” said they to Gen. Clarke, “must have been inspired by the Great Spirit, or have studied well our miserable situation with a view to our future happiness, to have enabled him to speak to the great council so exactly in agreement with the wishes of the Indians, as he has in his talk to Congress.”—*Nat. Journal.*

Newspapers.—The rapid increase of newspapers in the east is worthy of notice. In the state of Maine there are now published twenty-four gazettes, where, four years ago, there were only seven.

National Int.

There is this difference between happiness and wisdom; he that thinks himself the happiest man, really is so; but he that thinks himself the wisest, is generally the greatest fool.