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BY GEORGE HOWARD.

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## DOMESTIC.

**Singular Phenomenon.**—About the latter end of July last, on a very rainy day, a singular occurrence was experienced in the vicinity of this place, (Jefferson, Ashe county, N. C.) On the acclivity of a considerable mountain, (a spur of the Phoenix,) about 50 yards from a creek of the same name, which washes the foot of the hill, a discharge of water from the clouds struck the surface of the mountain, and swept every thing in its way to the creek. The whole surface, including large trees and every rock that could be moved, was swept from the solid rock foundation of the mountain, and hurled in a confused mass into the creek below. A few days after the occurrence, the place was visited by some scientific gentlemen, who happened at that time to sojourn here, and they came to the conclusion, that it was, what naturalists call a "Water Spout," some of which writers on such phenomena describe as descending from the clouds to the earth, as well as those familiarly known to seamen ascending from the surface of the ocean to the clouds. On hearing the strange story related, the writer of this supposed that the water had issued from the bowels of the mountain, but on a strict examination, no indications are found to strengthen that belief; on the contrary every indication is in favor of the opinion that the water descended from the clouds; in truth there can be no doubt of the fact. The causes that produced such an effect are not unworthy the research of Natural Philosophy.

No contemplative mind can witness the scene now presented at the spot without amazement. Lofly oaks of two feet in diameter, rocks of perhaps two tons weight, dashed promiscuously from the surface of the hill into the creek below, while the trees left standing, on each side of the tract of the moving mass, show that the water and rubbish passing them rose to the height of from 15 to 20 feet.

It is said by the native mountaineers that such things have several times occurred within the last 30 or 40 years. They call it a "cloud falling," i. e. they say here a "cloud fell," or "here a cloud broke."

A gentleman who passed the scene above mentioned, a few minutes after the occurrence, says that for some distance from the place, he discovered a strong stench of sulphur.—*Salem Reporter.*

**Extensive Robbery.**—The New York Commercial Advertiser says: Mr. Wm. C. Patterson, of Stokes county, North Carolina, lately had his pocket book, containing thirty-one \$100 bills and one \$20 bill of the Bank of the United States and its branches, cut from the breast pocket of his coat, in the crowd leaving the Park Theatre. He had no consciousness of his loss till his arrival at his lodgings, (Orange County Hotel,) in Courtland street, where his attention was directed to the condition of his coat by the bar-keeper. He offers a reward of \$500 for the recovery of the money.

**Sudden Death.**—A distressing scene occurred, at the second door from our office, about four o'clock last Sunday morning. Mrs. Dean, wife of William Dean,

eat her supper heartily, the night before, and went to bed as usual without complaining. She got up on Sunday morning with an infant about five months old, in her arms; and in walking across the house she fell, and before a light could be procured, the breath had left her forever! A physician was immediately called in but all attempts at resuscitation proved abortive: Her spirit had taken its flight, and left the clay tenement for thoughtless mortals to gaze upon, and remember the shortness, and uncertainty of human life! We may dance one moment and cease to breathe the next! "In the midst of life we are in death."

*Greensboro' Patriot.*

☞The Salisbury Watchman says, "We are requested to state that Corn of the new crop, is selling in the neighborhood of Lexington, at 20 cents per bushel."

**Murder.**—The Rutherfordton Spectator of the 27th ult. gives the particulars of an outrageous murder committed by John Garrett, upon the person of his father-in-law, William Shroud, of Muddy Creek, Burke county, by shooting him through the side with a rifle gun, on Monday, the 22d ult. Shroud lived only a few minutes. Garrett is a young man aged about 28. It is said he has before displayed a violent temper, and threatened the life of the old man; and on the whole sustained a worthless character. The old man was in easy circumstances and respected. Garrett made his escape and has not been taken, although efforts are being made to apprehend him. The cause of dispute was the refusal of Shroud to pay a note of one of his sons who had left the country, and whose debts he had assumed, which he declared to be forged.

**Ocracoke Light House** is undergoing the repairs rendered necessary by the late accidental fire, and the light has consequently been discontinued. The Superintendent of lights mentions a month or two as the time "probably" necessary to complete the repairs.

*Nashburn Spectator.*

☞The Nashville Banner publishes a list of the Members of the late Convention of Tennessee, with a statement of the places of their birth; from which it appears that 22 are natives of Tennessee; 17 of Virginia; 12 of North Carolina; 2 of Kentucky; 2 of Pennsylvania; 2 of Ireland; 1 of Georgia; 1 of Connecticut; and 1 of Massachusetts. The following are the names of those from North Carolina, together with the counties of their nativity:—

Hugh C. Armstrong, Sorry county.  
Robert M. Burton, Granville.  
Willie Blount, Pitt.  
Newton Cannon, Guilford.  
Wm. G. Childress, county not stated.  
James Gray, Montgomery.  
Isaac Hill, Edgecombe.  
Andrew A. Kucannon, Surry.  
Peter Kendall, Montgomery.  
James W. Smith, Granville.  
Wm. C. Smartt, Mecklenburg.  
Isaac Walton, Gates.

**Halley's Comet.**—It has been stated in some of the papers that Halley's Comet is now visible in the constellation of Taurus. An astronomical friend assures us that this must be a mistake; and that said Comet does not make its appearance till next year.—*N. Y. Jour. Com.*

**Slaves.**—The Supreme Court of New York at the July term quashed the writs in various cases, as being inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the U. States—but by a rule of a day subsequent on the suggestion of Council, granted a stay of proceedings in order to enable counsel to make a further motion in the matter. At the August Special Term, a motion was accordingly made for leave to make up a record of the proceedings

and judgment of the Court in order to bring a writ of Error thereon, returnable in the Court of Errors of this State. This motion has been within a few days past decided, and of course writs in slave cases are declared by the Supreme Court to be unconstitutional and that decision appears to be final.

Some of the slaves have been removed on the requisition of the Governors of the several States on the ground of criminal offences—a few others remain. The law will now take its course—the Constitution be vindicated—and our Southern friends may be assured that the people of the Northern and Eastern States will carry into effect with honesty and sincerity, the common contract under which we have so long lived in honor abroad and prosperity at home.

*N. Y. Mer. Advertiser.*

☞A lady of much beauty, at Brighton, having been "crossed in love," has shut herself up in total darkness for the last ten years. We understand there are two sisters on Staten Island, in this state, who have for the last twenty years submitted themselves (we do not know for what reason) to the same species seclusion.—*N. Y. Star.*

**New Invention for making Brick.**—The Washington (Geo.) Spy of the 20th ultimo, states that a machine for making brick, recently invented by Capt. Thos. B. Shaw, of Clarksville, is now in full operation in the vicinity of this place, and makes about one thousand bricks per hour, with seven hands and one pair of oxen. The clay is thrown into the machine in its natural state, and from its gradual operation and working up, is perpetually casting and moulding out solid brick with smooth fronts and ends, which for squareness and beauty have never been equalled in any part of the country. The brick can be made of any size and shape, suitable for forming a square or circle. The whole construction appears to be plain, simple and cheap, and can be carried on by negroes or any other persons. The respectable inventor has taken out a patent.

**Damages against Stage Proprietors.**—In a suit tried in Baltimore County Court, at the present term, *Harrison v. Stockton & Stokes*, to recover damages alleged to have been sustained by the Plaintiff by the upsetting, on the road between Wheeling and Baltimore, of a Stage belonging to the Defendants, in which was the Plaintiff, his wife, and two of his children—and four other individuals—his arm having been broken, and the head of his child materially injured. The evidence proved that the driver was intoxicated, and that he not only drove fast, but furiously, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the passengers.—The Jury returned a verdict of 750 dollars damages. It is due to the proprietors of the stage to state, that, immediately after this misconduct, the driver was discharged.

**Gen. Gaines and the Mississippi Rail-road.**—We have read with much pleasure, a long letter from Gen. Gaines to Gov. Lumpkin of Georgia, on the subject of the great rail road from Memphis in Tennessee, to the Atlantic seacoast, at Savannah and Charleston. Gen. Gaines, who had already won imperishable laurels, and received honourable wounds in the defence of Fort Erie during the last war, is the father of this great project, which will give to his reputation a yet more enduring immortality.—He has in this able letter shown how much he has the subject at heart, and how intimately acquainted he is with all its details. It is utterly impossible to foresee in all their ramifications, the great and beneficial results which will ensue from it. It is sufficiently obvious, that by affording a

means of avoiding the insalubrity of New Orleans and the dangerous navigation of the Gulf of Mexico and coast of Florida, it will naturally concentrate all the vast resources of the boundless and fertile regions of the Mississippi and Missouri, and their tributaries upon the seaports of Georgia and Carolina. At the same time that it will open for those states in the west, lucrative and inexhaustible markets for their timber, turpentine, cotton, rice, &c. in exchange for the grain, cattle, cotton bagging, &c. from Kentucky, Ohio, &c. Also will all the foreign return cargoes of Europe either pass directly through the ports of Charleston and Savannah, or indirectly from the more favored and enterprising ports of the cities of Norfolk, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York, by means of a prolongation of the great rail road from the western borders of North Carolina to Norfolk, and thence by steam navigation either through the great internal route now in activity from thence to New York, or by that recently established on the coast between the latter city and Charleston. Therefore it may be said, the whole territory of the United States is deeply interested in this truly magnificent project. The country through which it is proposed to pass, offers every facility by its level, hard bottom, for the construction of the work. Gen. Gaines proposes to avoid the spurs in the northern parts of Georgia and Alabama, by making the road deviate southerly by a slight curvature from a straight line.—He also proposes to make the work still more national by connecting branches going off to the south to Augusta, New Orleans, Tallahassee, St. Augustine, Darien, &c. Other lateral branches from the north will doubtless also be constructed from Ohio, Virginia, Maryland, &c.

**Foreign.**—We glean the following, in addition to the items published in our last. Every thing is quiet in England; money is getting scarce, and a higher rate of interest will be demanded.

The cholera had increased to such an alarming degree at Dublin that there were 153 cases Aug. 16. A poor woman expiring suddenly with it in Marlborough street on the foot path, caused a terrific sensation.

Paris papers of the 21st August state, that since July 29, not a drop of rain had fallen at Paris, till last evening, when a shower of extraordinary duration and violence fell upon the capital and inundated several quarters. At the Church of St. Eustache, and in the Rue Montmartre as far as the Passage du Saumon, the water rose so high, that it entered into the omnibusses, and the dogs were swimming in the streets and in the houses it was 2 feet deep.

"The poor respectable females," who lately went on a matrimonial speculation to New South Wales, have found it a miserable delusion. Finding neither employment nor husbands, they became drunkards and prostitutes. In the streets of Sydney the unfortunate wretches were pointed at with scorn, and called in derision after the names of the vessels they came in, thus: "She is a Bussorah merchant, a Red Rover, or a Princess Royal," &c.

☞From a careful estimate, it appears that the enormous sum of fifty millions of pounds sterling is annually expended in Great Britain for distilled and fermented liquors.

**Singular and most interesting circumstance—if true.**—It is stated in a New Castle (English) newspaper that an aged widow woman residing in North Shields, lately applied to St. John's parish for relief, and upon an investigation of the circumstances of her case, it was clearly ascertained that she is a niece of George Washington. Relief was promptly granted.