

ELEGY.

On the Death of a Blacksmith.

WITH the nerves of a Sampson this son of the sledge, By the anvil his livelihood got; With the skill of old Vulcan could temper an edge, And strike while his iron is hot. By forging he lived, yet never was tried, Or condemned by the laws of the land, But still 'tis certain, and can't be deny'd He often was burnt in the hand! With the sons of St. Crispin no kindred he claimed, With the last he had nothing to do; He handled no awl, and yet in his time Made many an excellent shoe! He blew up no coals of sedition, but still His bellows was always in blast; And I will acknowledge (deny it who will,) That one vice, and but one he possess'd. No actor was he, or concerned with the stage, No audience to awe him appear'd; Yet oft in the shop (like a crowd in a rage) The voice of hissing was heard, Tho' steeling of axes was part of his cares, In thieving he never was found; And tho' he was constantly beating on bars No vessel he e'er ran aground. Alas! and alack! what more can I say Of Vulcan's unfortunat' son? The priest & the sexton have bur'ed him away, And the sound of the hammer is gone.

From the Quebec Mercury.

We some time past mentioned in our paper the fate of a miser who perished in the fire at St. Thomas, and whose skeleton was said to be found extended over his iron chest. Attached to some St. Croix Gazette, we have received from a friend, is a narrative of that fire in MS. Here follows an extract:

"Amongst those who lost their lives was an old German, who had been many years a resident, and by the dint of furious schemes and illegal traffic, had accumulated much wealth; when living, he was a horrid bad neighbour, a shocking unmerciful master, and no man's friend—when any needy wretch unfortunately fell into his clutches, he always dealt with him most unfeelingly to increase self—for,

"His God was Gold, and his Religion Theft."

"An hour before the fire extended to his house, one of his white companions, told him that if he would trust his bag of gold and dollars to his house, he might send them with his negroes and that they would be safe; but this he refused to do; presently after, as the fire was approaching, he was requested, by the same man, to oblige one of his slaves, whom he had chained to a post, for some misdemeanor, and this he also refused to comply with, but suffered him to burn to ashes.

"The reptile soul, whose reasoning powers were bent,

"Within the logic bounds of cent per cent," would trust no man, white or black, but stuck close to his chest, in the midst of the flames till reduced to a skeleton; no doubt, he had no power, before, or at the last gasp, to beg for mercy; we are informed, that the last exclamations of the fordid, foulis, nasty cankered wretch, were

"O my Dollars! my Dollars! my darling Dollars!"

"The fire is consuming me—Adieu! adieu! adieu!"

"Next day amongst the immensity of ruins, exposed after such awful devastations, his bones were found, close by a large iron chest, with the key of it clinked to the parched bones of his wrist—No less than 80,000 Dollars were found, which were lodged in the fort, to be appropriated to the relief of the real sufferers.

"Hear this, all ye misers, and tremble; of all the filthy, carnivorous animals, of God's creating, ye are most detestible, and hateful in his eyes."

WASHINGTON CITY, June 24.

CIVILIZATION OF THE INDIANS.

On no topic can the mind of an American dwell with more complacency than the conduct of his government to the aborigines of the soil. In surveying, on the records of impartial history, the origin and progressive steps of conquest, we contemplate the darkest picture which the development of the human character exhibits. It is there that we behold the united and destructive force of the worst passion, uncontrolled by humanity, unchecked by policy. Power, avarice, and lust, which under other circumstances keep each other in check by mutual collision, here united pour in one mighty torrent, sweeping in its impetuous course whatever opposes its indulgence. Whether we cast our eyes to the east or west we behold the same hideous and awful spectacle; unoffending and happy nations, enjoying the bounties of nature, cut off by the sword of the inexorable conqueror, or doomed to abject slavery!

It was fortunately reserved for the United States to establish a new era in the conquest of nations, and to set an example, no less illustrious than beneficent in its effects. Our ancestors coming to these shores, principally to escape religious or political persecu-

tion, imbibed, at an early period, sentiments enlightened and tolerant: They found numerous tribes of hardy savages scattered over the country. Amidst the inevitable collisions and wars that ensued they never dreamt of following the example of extermination so gloriously set by other nations. They perceived that a bountiful providence had allotted land enough for their accommodation, as well as the accommodation of the natives; and they soon learned that their mutual happiness depended upon a spirit of compromise. It appeared on the one hand, that the force of the Europeans was inadequate to the destruction or subjection of the savages; while that of the latter was not equal to preventing the gradual and steady encroachments of the former. A kind of tacit convention arose out of these considerations; and it soon became understood that as the emigrants increased and extended their settlements, the natives must retire into the interior; & that as a compensation for abandoning their settlements they should receive occasional or regular donations in the shape of goods, horses or implements of husbandry; and that the governments, with which they contracted, should maintain them in the enjoyment of their lands against the lawless acts of individuals.

Under the auspices of these rare and honorable principles the intercourse with the natives commenced, and has, with but little variation, been since conducted. The conduct of the European settlers may, in the first instance have been, in a great degree, the offspring of weakness. But to the honor of the American character, in proportion as the nation has acquired strength, has she manifested a spirit of philanthropy, indulgence and even generosity to the natives.—Commiserating the unfortunate situation in which they were placed, exposed, from an inevitable necessity, to the gradual dispossession of their lands, there has prevailed but one sentiment, that it became our duty, by every mean in our power to lighten their sufferings, and while we deprived them of the soil, to give them, if possible, an equivalent.

Hence has arisen a system of intercourse, under which solemn treaties are formed, by which the natives surrender to the United States their rights to portions of soil and receive in return from them temporary gratifications or permanent subsidies.

With the growth of the national resources this system has been extended; and it has not been deemed unworthy of the philosophic spirit that now presides over the cabinet to employ the best means of gradually attaching the Indians to the pursuits of civilized life. Already the effects of these efforts have become manifest; and have effectually disproved the generally received opinion of the intractability of the savage state to the arts of civilized life. The recent and authentic statements, which have been published prove that the task is not half so difficult as had been imagined. They demonstrate that the success entirely depends on the means. They prove that the Indians, so far from being insensible to the comforts of civilisation, are gradually and steadily embracing them; and that some of the tribes have already made no inconsiderable progress in agriculture and domestic manufactures;—so much so that many families are well dressed, with the habits of civilized state, made by their own industry. Among the evidences of this interesting fact, we have before us several specimens of cloth of a good substantial texture made by the Cherokee squaws, which were sent to Mr. Cocke, a senator from Tennessee, as an evidence of the progress of their improvement, as well as of their regard for a friend and benefactor. We have also before us several letters received by that gentleman, from young Indian women, written in their own hand writing—the writing is perfectly legible, and by no means bad. We cannot resist the gratification of presenting a transcript of them to the reader.

Chickmoga, July 26, 1804.

SIR,

Your letter of this date is now before me. In answer to it you may assure yourself, I will with pleasure furnish you with a sample of our manufactory. Probably the next time you pass this way I shall be able to shew you a better specimen.

Wishing you better health and an agreeable journey home.

I remain Sir,

respectfully yours, &c.

Genl. William Cocke.

Cherokees, December 25th, 1804.

DEAR SIR,

We have the pleasure to acknowledge the favor of your friendly letter of the 14th ult.—In answer to it we must confess we are more than pleased to find, that, our worthy friend General Cocke approves so highly of our small progress in manufactory.—Should we again have the pleasure of our friend's company at our wigwam, probably he would discover we have not procrastinated in our industry.

But as it pleased the Deity to place our ancestors in this part of the Globe where there was no opportunity to get instructions but from them. we are to be accused if we make an error, but are thankful he has given us a talent, and we wish to make use of it, viz. not to bury it in the seas of oblivion.

Venerable Father, we hope you will be so courteous as to visit our dwelling when you are travelling through our country that we may have the pleasure of your company, for instance you are capable to judge of our ad-

vancements in manufactory, &c.

We are Dear Sir, respectfully Yours

Among the numerous features which characterise the policy of the present administration of the general government, there is none that will descend to posterity with more eclat, than the enlightened humanity and friendship with which the aborigines of the soil are treated. In the measures pursued for the promotion of their happiness will be discerned a spirit of pure and active benevolence; and in the means made use of towards effecting their civilisation, will be seen a policy at once simple and profound, such as circumstances require, but such as has in other nations never been practised.

Hitherto force has usually been embarked in every enterprise for reclaiming the savage state. Let us, say conquerors, first inspire the savages with terror, and then they will lend a willing ear to our advice, and obey our precepts. Little did these men know of the human heart! Little did they appreciate the stubbornness of the materials of which it is formed before it has learned to bow beneath the yoke of usurpation! Hence all their proud schemes have perished without success! And they have ended, at once, in the destruction of the innocent and the entire abortion of their hopes.

May the lessons which America teaches sink deep into the hearts of princes, and may they learn that policy, no less than justice, inculcates the duties of forbearance and mercy.

It may add to the interest of this merited tribute to the enlightened policy of our government to give a short outline, drawn by the correct pen of Robertson, of the very different system pursued by the Spaniards in planting their colonies in this quarter of the Globe.

The first visible consequence of the establishments made by the Spaniards in America, was the diminution of the ancient inhabitants, to a degree equally astonishing and deplorable. I have already, on different occasions, mentioned the disastrous influence under which the connection of the Americans with the people of our hemisphere commenced, both in the islands, and in several parts of the continent, and have touched upon various causes of their rapid consumption.—Wherever the inhabitants of America had resolution to take arms in defence of their liberty and rights, many perished in the unequal contest, and were cut off by the fierce invaders. But the greatest desolation followed after the sword was sheathed, and the conquerors were settled in tranquility. It was in the islands, and in those provinces of the continent which stretch from the Gulf of Trinidad to the confines of Mexico, that the fatal effects of the Spanish dominion were first and most sensibly felt. All these were occupied either by wandering tribes of hunters, or by such as had made but small progress in cultivation and industry. When they were compelled by their new masters to take up a fixed residence, and to apply to regular labor; when tasks were imposed upon them disproportioned to their strength, and were exacted with unrelenting severity they possessed not vigor either of mind or of body to sustain this unusual load of oppression. Dejection and despair drove many to end their lives by violence. Fatigue and famine destroyed more. In all those extensive regions, the original race of inhabitants wasted away; in some it was totally extinguished. In Mexico, where a powerful and martial people distinguished their opposition to the Spaniards by efforts of courage worthy of a better fate, great numbers fell in the field; and there, as well as in Peru, still greater numbers perished under the hardships of attending the Spanish armies in their various expeditions and civil wars, worn out with the incessant toil of carrying their baggage, provisions and military stores.

But neither the rage nor cruelty of the Spaniards were so destructive to the people of Mexico and Peru, as the inconsiderate policy with which they established their new settlements. The former were temporary calamities, fatal to individuals; the latter was a permanent evil, which, with gradual consumption, wasted the nation. When the provinces of Mexico and Peru were divided among the conquerors, each was eager to obtain a district, from which he might expect an instantaneous recompence for all his services. Soldiers, accustomed to the carelessness and dissipation of a military life, had neither industry to carry on any plan of regular cultivation, or patience to wait for its slow but certain return. Instead of settling in the valleys occupied by the natives, where the fertility of the soil would have amply rewarded the diligence of the planter, they chose to fix their stations in some of the mountainous regions, frequent both in New Spain and Peru. To search for mines of gold and silver, was the chief object of their activity. The prospects which this opens, and the alluring hopes which it continually presents correspond wonderfully with the spirit of enterprise and adventure that animated the first emigrants to America in every part of their conduct. In order to push forward those favourite projects, so many hands were wanted, that the service of the natives became indispensably requisite.—They were accordingly compelled to abandon their ancient habitations in the plains, and driven in crowds to the mountains. This sudden transition from the sultry climate of the valleys, to the chill penetrating air peculiar to high lands in the torrid zone; exorbitant labor, scanty or unwholesome nourish-

ment, and the despondency occasioned by a species of oppression to which they were not accustomed, and of which they saw no end, affected them nearly as much as their less industrious countrymen in the islands. They sunk under the united pressure of those calamities, and melted away with almost equal rapidity. In consequence of this, together with the introduction of the small pox, a malady unknown in America, and extremely fatal to the natives, the number of people both in New Spain and Peru was so much reduced that in a few years the accounts of their ancient population appeared almost incredible.

NORFOLK, June 29.

By a passenger who landed from the sch' Baltimore from Bermuda bound to Baltimore, we learn that his Britannic majesty's ship Cambrian and Driver, have captured and sent into Bermuda the Spanish privateer Maria, Antonio Lebo, master of 10 guns.— This is one of that nest of pirates that infest our coast. She had robbed an American vessel of three puncheons of rum, which were on board at the time she was captured. Previous to her capture she had taken the ship Charles Carter, Tompkins of this port from Wilmington, N. C. for Falmouth, and the ship Huntress, of Boston, bound to Gibraltar, laden (as the master of the privateer reported) with stores for account of the Government of the United States, also a brig from St. Thomas to a port in the United States. On the 9th inst. in sight of Bermuda, the Charles Carter, and the Huntress, were recaptured by two British letters of marque, and from the course they steered, were supposed to be bound to Europe. A few days before the Maria was taken, she was in company to the westward of Bermuda, with a French privateer.

The Baltimore was chased nine hours by a sch' privateer, in lat. 33° 00', and long. 70°. In the chase the Baltimore was compelled to saw down her gun-wales in ten or twelve places, and by which means with slackening her shrouds and backstays she escaped. The privateer was so near as to leave no doubt of her being French or Spanish.—Ledger.

The following is a copy of a letter received by the secretary of the navy from Midshipman Ogilvie commanding officer of gun-boat No. 7, built at New-York. U. S. Gun-Boat No. 7, New-York, May 31, 1805.

SIR, I have the honor to transmit for your information, the following account of my transactions, since the 14th inst.

On that day I got under way, in company with the U. S. ship John Adams, and gun-boats Nos. 3 and 6 to proceed to the Mediterranean. We kept in company that day and the next; but on the 16th, it came on to blow very fresh in the evening, from E. N. E.—sent down top-sail and lower yards, but carrying all other sails to keep up with the frigate.—At 11, we lost sight of the frigate and gun boats, owing to its being excessively thick and foggy.—next morning and for three days afterwards, the fog continued—no sail in sight, and a high sea running, we now discovered that in consequence of our carrying a press of sail to keep up with the ship, we had sprung our mast, and found it split from the heel to the partners. I immediately had two strong mouldings clapped on below, and an iron band above the partners, hoping it would be sufficient to prevent its going farther—but on the 21st, in lat. 37, 17, long. 69, I found the mast to be so much weakened and worked to much, (the split having now got five feet above the deck) I was induced to believe that should we get into a heavy sea, we would inevitably lose it—my only alternative now was to return, as I thought the consequences might be much worse were we to lose it in the middle of the ocean.

I cannot express to you sir, my mortification, at the unfortunate accident which has thus in some measure defeated, I assure you my wish, to join the squadron as early as possible—but I trust I shall yet be there in time to participate in the glory which I am confident our little navy will acquire this summer. Against his enemies—be assured, sir nothing shall be wanting on my part to forward her sailing; and by the time I can have the honor to hear from you, I shall be again ready for sea. No. 7. is a very fine vessel and capable of going to any part of the world—the sails well, holds a good wind, is very stiff, and an excellent sea boat.

The other gun-boats, I have reason to believe were separated at the same time with myself, as they were still farther from the ship when I lost sight of her—but there is no doubt of their making their way across in safety.

From the time I determined to return, we experienced nothing but headwinds and calms—and from the weakness of the mast, we were obliged to be very tender in carrying sail—indeed, had not the mast been made of white pine, it never would have been sprung, with the sail we were then carrying on it. I have the honor to be,

Sir, with the greatest respect,
Your obedient servant,
P. S. OGILVIE.