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BY THOMAS HENDERSON, JUN.
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Miscellaneous.

FOR THE STAR.

MR. EDITOR—I noticed in the *Minerva* some time ago, some remarks quoted from the *G. O. Journal*, complaining of parents who get their children bad examples of speech—who, instead of using a distinct articulation, prefer to address them in an incoherent gabble—a trifling information of language, which an Indian Philosopher would not interpret. The consequence is says the writer, "their children being disposed to learn the first words they hear, imitate a disgraceful manner of articulation, which very often last thro' life." He adds, it were well if parents would recollect the importance of making the first speech of their children the language of correctness, which can only be effected by speaking distinctly, and causing the nurse to do the same. The Editor of the *Minerva* enters the dissent from the above doctrine. He thinks the writer wanting in observation and reflection, to believe that the lisping language of maternal fondness is an evil influence on the future pronunciation of the child—and he ventures to assert that the mothers of Tully and Demosthenes discoursed in those great orators precisely in the same way. What authority he may have for this assertion I know not but for my part I have my doubts, as far at least as respects the former of those characters. But I think it more than probable that if the mother of Demosthenes had given early attention to his pronunciation, and given him proper examples and precepts he would not have experienced the almost insurmountable difficulty of acquiring a distinct and graceful articulation, when he arrived at manhood, and was called by his country to defend its most important interests. The editor observes, the mothers contract this innocent habit from the children themselves, and disp because the children lisp. But why do they not also creep, because the children creep, &c. Besides says the editor, if the mother even persevered in the use of this inarticulate language after the child became of a proper age to pronounce with accuracy, the child would hear from others, quite another sort of speech, & would adopt the mode of strangers, rather than continue to use the language taught by the parent! How different is this doctrine from my own experience and observation: For I well recollect the time when I thought the language sentiments and enunciation of my parents infallibly correct, whilst I felt equally confident that all who differed from them were in ignorance. The editor seems to think the writer has given himself unnecessary trouble, and advises that if he is disposed to become a remarker upon mothers and children, he had better first marry, and then wait until he nurses a son, before he sends his remarks to the printer. But this advice I apprehend, would have a tendency to produce and perpetuate, (tho' paternal blindness) the very evil complained of. But to lay aside all prejudice and partiality. I feel safe in saying I have known a few mothers (among whom I would willingly name two or three were I not afraid it would appear too invidiously true) who have never countenanced that gabble as it is called, or even any low & vulgar expressions, to their children; but who teach them on all occasions to use the most correct language and enunciation their infantine faculties and organs are capable of; and this practice, I am happy to say, has been attended with all the success which the friend of children has anticipated, and I know from personal experience and observation that such a practice would save both the child and grammar master infinite trouble and perplexity in overcoming vitiated habits of speech and pronunciation. Indeed those who have not had the good fortune of maternal care, as mentioned above, in a rigid teacher at school, will in all probability gabble through life. I have only to mention now a class of persons who for want of being taught distinct enunciation in infancy, contract a habit of slobbering out their words in such a manner as not to be understood by any except such as are much accustomed to hear them. We too often see it in schools, where nobody but the teacher can tell what the scholar says. I once saw a man who had lost his tongue by a cancer, speak as intelligibly as some of these. Whether their voice be high or low it takes an acute ear to catch the id. I have found by conversing with deaf persons, that it is not so much the loudness of the voice, as the distinctness of articulation, that renders us intelligible. I was pleased with the account

given by captain Riley, of the perspicuity and distinctness of articulation taught and practised, even among the wild Arabs: it would afford a lesson to persons who profess to be civilized. B.

FOR THE STAR.

THE VISIONS OF HUMPHREY THE DREAMER.

After an absence of fifteen years, from the place of my nativity, and the friends of my childhood, I returned lately to my old neighborhood and was invited, by an old acquaintance, to spend a few days at his house. He informed me that during my absence abroad he had married a lovely woman, endowed with all the qualifications requisite to make a man happy. As the friendship existing between us had been really disinterested, I heartily rejoiced at the happiness of my old comrade, and anticipated much pleasure from my proposed visit at his house, where I expected to be relieved from the noise and bustle of the town, by becoming an observer of all the joys, of which the poets so sweetly sing of "wedded love." Nay, I began seriously to lament that I had continued so long in a state of celibacy, and systematically to make entries in the day book of my mind, of the Debts and Contra Credits of the married state, and at length came to the determination to institute an immediate search among the old maids, and young widows, for a wife.

I rose early on the day appointed, and made all possible despatch to the dwelling of my friend. When I arrived I found him busily employed in mending a go-cart, for one of the children, which had been broken the day before by one of the older boys. On my wondering at the number of brats, by which I was surrounded, and conjecturing that they must be either his overseer's or neighbour's children; he assured me to the contrary, and informed me that his wife, in the last thirteen years, had produced him nine boys and six girls; and concluded by a "Heaven's blessing on her sweet soul! she has given me an abundance of worldly goods!"—I congratulated him on his abundant stock of happiness, at the same time, (in my heart) I wished my dear friend had been thus made "too happy."

The whole gang, except three who were rickety, two who were too much deformed to be able to walk, and one who was foolish, were paraded before me. My friend bestowed on them many commendations, for their chubby faces, their pug noses and the like.

Honest Sir Jack Falstaff's raggamuffins, among whom there were but two shirts, would not have made a more ludicrous appearance, than did these youthful tatterdemalions. Here were some without breeches, some without coats, some without shirts, some with nothing but a shirt, and all without shoes or stockings. As soon as this regiment was dismissed, they repaired to their different scenes of diversion. Most of them, however, were attracted by me. One pulled out the tassels of my boots, another unbuttoned my breeches, (at the knees madam,) a fourth stole my tobacco box, and a fifth strutted with my hat on his head. We were suddenly alarmed by a dreadful uproar in the next room, and on enquiring the cause learnt that the oldest boy, an urchin about eleven years old, had upset the cradle, in which lay two of the rickety children, and in running off had overturned a table on which stood a set of crockery. To complete the uproar, every one joined in chorus with the sufferer; some venting imprecations on the unlucky urchin, who was the cause and others endeavouring to quiet them by louder vociferations. After being wearied in this manner for several hours, at length in came dinner and out came madam. Judge my utter astonishment, when under the figure of a squabby old woman, in form and feature, not much inferior in point of decrepitude, to one of virgils Harpies, I recognized the once fair, slender and beautiful Caroline; for whom, in my younger days, I had entertained a kind of sneaking affection. After a little conversation, I found I was to be honored by a second review of my friend's "worldly goods." Not indeed of the healthy children, but of the rickety and deformed. In these, and particularly in the fool, seemed to be concentrated all the mother's affections; yet she was once a woman of sense, of exquisite wit. When we were seated at table, where we were honored with the company of the whole brood, I enjoyed all the exquisite feelings which are natural enough to an honest old bachelor, when his ears are constantly invaded by the melodious sounds of "Mamma, Sal pinched me," and many others of the same nature. In short, after having my breeches completely greased, my waistcoat bespattered, and my head set to aching by a continual din, I was at length permitted to depart, upon a false excuse

which I had framed, of urgent business. I returned home, and smoked my pipe till bedtime, musing on the serene and peaceful joys of wedlock, and swearing to myself, I was the happiest man alive to have so long shunned Scylla and avoided Charybdis. I finally came to the determination to think no more of Widow Wiggins, to whom only the night before, I had resolved to make proposals of marriage; and at last fell asleep repeating the words of the Persian sage, that "He who hath no wealth, hath no credit—he who hath a disobedient wife, hath no repose—he who hath no offspring, hath no strength—he who hath no kindred, hath no supporters—and he who possesseth none of these things lives free from care." With these observations, and the events of the day strongly impressed upon my mind, you may well suppose, that like Joseph, I "dreamed a dream."—What I dreamt I will relate, you do not yet know, and perhaps never will. But if you will patiently wait till I awake, you may possibly have the good luck to learn.

Foreign.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

New-York, Feb. 6.

To the attention of captain Sterling, of the elegant and superior ship Nestor, the Editors of the New-York Gazette are indebted for London papers, Prices Current, Lloyd's Lists, and Liverpool papers; the latter of the 26th December. Such of their contents as are interesting will be found in this day's paper.

An absurd rumor was in circulation in London, on the 22d, of a change of ministers, which, with other reports, had the effect of lowering the funds.

Steam boats were employed in towing outward bound vessels down the river to Gravesend, against wind and tide.

It had been very stormy on the coast of England and Ireland; a number of vessels had been shipwrecked, and a part of their crews perished. The Russian squadron, consisting of six sail of the line and two frigates, had reached Spithead.

for two days and two nights. An English transport from London was lost, with 240 passengers, near Pontusval.

Our files of Lloyd's Lists, from the 9th to the 23d December, inclusive, contain gloomy accounts of the loss and damage of nearly 200 sail of foreign vessels, with many lives, on the European coast, during a succession of the most tremendous gales ever known.

The Chamber of Deputies of France were engaged in the discussion of a law relative to the liberty of the press.

It will be seen, that the U. States ship Franklin 74, with Mr. Rush, our minister, had reached England.

Sir James Lucas Yeo had sailed from Portsmouth for Madeira, Tenerife and the Coast of Africa.

The Princess of Wales received the news of her daughter's death on the 25th November and was so deeply affected, that she fainted away several times.

Mr. Leach is appointed Vice Chancellor, and Sir Thomas Plumer, Master of the Rolls in England.

Las Cases remained at Frankfort with his son, and it was not decided whether he was to proceed to the Austrian or Prussian dominions.

On the 18th of December the High Court of Justice at Brussels, had to pronounce on the appeal of the Duke of Wellington, from the sentence of the Correctional Tribunal at Ghent, which acquitted M. Debusscher, editor of a French Journal, of having calumniated his Grace. The appeal of the Duke was declared not receivable, and he was condemned in costs.

Mr. Rush the American minister, left Portsmouth for London on the 20th December.

Four transports, of about 300 tons each are ordered to be doubled (to secure them from the ice) and to be fitted at Woolwich, for the purpose of making a voyage of discovery and investigation to the north of America, Europe and Asia. The recent discoveries made by Lieutenant Kotzebue, of the Russian navy, and more so, we understand, the reports made by our Greenland men; this season, are the circumstances which have given a renewed feeling and interest to the subject of a north west passage.

The French ambassador, Marquis D'Osmont, had arrived in London from Paris.

Accounts from Cadiz of the 17th November, stated that the Russian ambassador had been there some days, waiting for the Russian squadron, which had been coded to Spain, upon conditions which remained unknown. To this squadron was to be added two ships of the line and two frigates, the equipment of which was nearly completed. Be-

sides the troops which were ready to embark on board them 3 or 400 officers had volunteered to accompany the expedition, to serve as volunteers, till they can be employed in the South American possessions.

December 16.

We received, this morning's New-York papers to the 18th November from which we have extracted all that is most important. There are some articles which deserve serious attention. Three gentlemen of high rank in the U. States are going upon a mission to the South American provinces. Now the National Intelligencer, the American official paper, enforces the policy of neutrality with respect to the South American provinces, and inveighs strongly against the idea of an alliance in their cause against the mother country. If the American government really determined to remain neutral, it cannot be true that the American commissioners are going to South America, to recognize the independence of one or more of the Provinces.—*Courier*

Liverpool, Dec. 25.

The H. n. R. Rush, minister from the United States, arrived at Portsmouth on Tuesday's night, and in London on Thursday. His excellency with his family and suite, came over in the American ship of war Franklin, of 74 guns, the first of that class that has been seen in a British port, bearing the broad pendant of Com. Smart, and commanded by Capt. Ballard. This ship is allowed to be the finest vessel of her class ever built in America. Her burthen is 2500 tons. She will proceed in a few days to the Mediterranean, to join the American squadron in that sea.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Notice.

THE Friends and patrons of the Salem Academy are respectfully informed, that the crowded state of this institution will not admit of our receiving new pupils for some time hence. Two causes, in particular, have contributed to producing the present dilemma: 1st, The erroneous supposition that many of our pupils who were taken home last fall, would not re-enter this school, and 2d, the unforeseen delays in obtaining additional room for the convenient accommodation of even an inferior number than the present. If acquiescence in the wishes of parents and guardians, too liberally extended, as the result has shown, involves us in very serious difficulties; may we not, with some measure of assurance, claim a generous return of a similar consideration from our scholars? We obtained leave to place one or more scholars into this Academy, are frankly requested not to avail themselves of this permission, until apprized of our ability to receive them. This institution—thank God—is again blessed with general good health. Its patrons will be pleased to accept our grateful acknowledgments, for their confidence and goodwill hitherto evinced, and to assure themselves of our most respectful consideration. By Order of the board of Trustees, BENJ. REICHEL, Acting Inspector.

Salem, N. C. February 3d, 1818.

200 dollars reward.

RUNAWAY from the Subscriber on the 16th December last, a likely negro man named FRANK, passes for free and calls himself Frank Berry, he is about 27 or 28 years old, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, speaks plain, can read and write and is believed to have forged free papers, he is an elegant foot and shoe maker, of a yellowish cast, a small scar under one eye and small crooked feet; he took with him about \$300 in cash, a small Mare about 14 or 15 hands high, a good saddle, bridle and saddle bags, he wore off a blue broad cloth coat and a pair of cassimere or white jeans pantaloons, he took with him several changes of clothes and a pocket pistol, has a mild countenance and very large whiskers, he was obedient and industrious.

The above reward of \$200 will be given to any person who will lodge him in any jail in the United States, so I can get him or \$300 to any person who will deliver him safe to the subscriber near Newberry Court-House, S. C.

N. B. Any person apprehending said negro will be good enough to inform me by letter directed to Newberry Court-House, South-Carolina. WADE BERRY TAYLOR. February 8th, 1818. 8—5w.

Notice.

THE Subscriber living on Bollingbrook Street, next to Cedar-Point warehouse, (having declined the Mercantile Business) offers his service to his friends and the public as a COMMISSION MERCHANT;

and having a large brick Lumber House, nearly fire-proof, will be able to store many articles of produce, as also of merchandize. Those who may please entrust their produce with him, may rest assured that every attention shall be paid, and no exertion lost, in promoting their interest.

WM. GILMOUR.

Petersburg, Feb. 10, 1818.

State of North-Carolina, FRANKLIN COUNTY.

December Sessions, 1817.

Patty Taylor, vs. the Heirs of Thos. Person, dec'd.—Petition for a Grist Mill.

It appearing to the Court that Sally Vaughan, William Vaughan and the children of Robert Vaughan, who were made parties defendant to this petition, are none residents—it is therefore Ordered, that publication be made in the Star for three weeks, that the said defendants, Sally, William, and the children of Robert, whose names are unknown, appear at the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to be held for the County of Franklin at the Court house in Louisburg on the second Monday of March next, and answer, plead or demur to the Complainant's petition, or the same will be heard ex parte as to them, and Judgment pro confesso entered accordingly.

Test, G. HILL, Jr. C. C.

Feb. 17th, 1818.

10 Dollars Reward.

STOLEN or RUNAWAY from the plantation of the Subscriber about the middle of January last, a likely NEGRO MAN named BOB, 27 or 28 years old, about 5 feet 8 or 10 inches high, a large scar on the thumb joint of the left hand, tolerably well legged, no other marks recollected; the above reward will be given to any person who will lodge said fellow in any jail so the owner can get him again; or a suitable reward for the fellow and thief should he have been captured away. JAMES GARY.

Newberry C. H. (S. C.) February 9, 1818. 8—5w.

Stray.

WAS posted on my Stray Book by John Flincham a boy HORSE about 9 years old and about 9 or 10 inches high, a star in his forehead, some small saddle spots, shod all round, had a yoke on, valued to \$35.

J. A. MARTIN, Sen. Ranger.

Stokes county, Jan. 30, 1818.

8—3w.