

Wilmington Centinel,

AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

W E D N E S D A Y, JULY 2, 1788.

M I S C E L L A N Y.

From Thomas's MASSACHUSETTS SPY.

Mr. THOMAS,

You are requested to give a place in your paper, to the following brief account of KENTUCKY, extracted from a letter of Isaac Moulton, Esq. to the Rev. Jordan Dodge, at Starbridge, in this county; it is dated Nelson county, Kentucky, January 11, 1788.

THE foil of Kentucky, like all other countries, is various; but what we here distinguish by the terms first and second rate lands, are from one to seven feet deep, of a chocolate, and in some places of a deep Mulatto colour, exempted from stones, gravel, or sand on the surface; and where these are the qualities it pretty generally lies on a flat limestone quarry, from three to six feet below the soil.—Lands of an interior quality, of which (notwithstanding the accounts given of this country) there are large quantities, pretty generally resemble those of Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, but are not so stony.

It is chiefly a well, but heavy timbered country; the chief of which are, black walnut, locust, wild cherry, various kinds of ash, mulberry, cutternut, hickory, beach, white wood, oaks, and sugar trees in great abundance.

Lands of the first and second quality, and at present we do not improve any other, are very little troubled with underbrush; what there is, is chiefly spice wood, and what the Indians call pawaw.

The produce is Indian corn, wheat, rye, spelt, rice, barley, tobacco, hemp, flax, cotton, indigo, and vines of every kind.

The three first articles of grain are raised in such abundance

On a hundred and seven bushels of shelled corn have actually been gathered in one season from an acre, planted in the usual way, and ploughed and hoed only twice.—However, the more general crop is from fifty to eighty bushels the acre.

I do not recollect to have heard of any person being so curious in ascertaining the produce of an acre of wheat, but a gentleman assured me, that from two bushels of rye which he sowed last year, he reaped eighty eight bushels and an half; and the soil after a year or two's cultivation, is equally favourable to wheat.

We are yet a part of the government of Virginia, but have after many consultations on, and investigations of the subject, with the free consent of the parent state, decided in favor of a separation, which is to take place (provided the Congress accede to the measure) on the first of January.

It is uncertain what constitution we are to have, but we are composed of politicians from every part of the state, generally prejudiced in favour of those from whom they are, but it is most probable we shall have a constitution for that of Virginia, and for the same reason, the code of laws will be adopted; which is a great advantage, and the cheapness of their administration is equal to any extant.

At present the proposed federal constitution is not attended to among us, and will doubtless meet with opposition here according to its use in the neighboring states.—Such gentlemen of intelligence as I have conversed with on the subject, seem in favour of it.

Virginia reprobates the emission of paper currency.—Landed property cannot be defrauded by the payment of debts. And every man is at full liberty to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of his own conscience.

Perhaps no country so young and distant, was ever so well furnished with pious and eminent clergy of almost every denomination, as Kentucky.—We have many Presbyterians, one Roman Catholic priest, several Presbyterians, and Baptist ministers; the latter are much the most numerous.

We are not less happy on the subject of education; we have a charter for a college, which will soon be endowed; eight thousand acres of the first quality are already given.—The country abounds in Latin schools, one of which, consisting of near thirty scholars, will we expect open in a few days, in this place; for the accommodation of which we have a stone edifice erected, forty feet by twenty-four.—As this situation is healthy, and in a rich thickly settled country, the inhabitants of which are much devoted to the institution, we have very exalted expectations of its future use and benefit.

The Kentucky country, which in the Indian language imports bread, was established into a separate district in the year 1782; it now contains seven counties, the names of which are Jefferson, Fayette, Lincoln, Nelson, Madison, Mercer, Bourbon; but the great extent of our settlements, being upwards of two hundred miles in length, and as much in breadth, and the almost daily arrivals by land and water, make it next to impossible to give you with any degree of certainty the number of our inhabitants; the lowest calculations make them fifty thousand souls, and others double that number. Most of the savage tribes contiguous are still hostile to this country, the exterior parts of which are sometimes visited by them, but the chief injury done of late is in stealing horses; instances it is true, sometimes occur of murders committed by these vagrants; but as the coun-

try is so populous, and its settlements so extensive, the interior parts, which for a long time have enjoyed little or no safety, take but little or no notice of them.

Though I referred you to Mr. Wilson for a description of the climate of Kentucky, I find it so very healthful, and at the same time so very moderate, compared with any thing experienced in the northern states, that I cannot do justice to my feelings without touching on the subject. The falls of Ohio, which are about the mean climate of the district, are situated in 37, 38, of latitude; but the country is much more serene and temperate than we could suppose from its situation, owing chiefly perhaps to its great remove from the northern lakes.

Our coldest weather is generally at the setting in of the winter, and seldom continues more than seven or eight weeks.

The lands on the north-west of the Ohio are excellent in spots, but in general far inferior to Kentucky, though better watered.—We are happy to hear that the Ohio company have succeeded in their application to Congress; and devoutly wish to see the settlement of that country take place, not only as it will be a barrier to this, but are persuaded that those adventurers who may not obtain an advantageous lot, will seek their fortune on this side of the river.

I take it for granted, that you have heard much said of the Illinois and Post St. Vincent countries, which though far superior to the northern states, are by no means to be compared with Kentucky, either on account of soil, safety or policy.

The inhabitants are but few, and perpetually exposed to the insults and robberies of the savages.

The French, to whom the Indians are much devoted, and a few Americans, who from having established a kind of dominion over them either by commerce or intermarriages, possess barely a tolerable share of security; but it is truly a very precarious one; the consequence is, that some of the best Americans are moving their families to this country.

What favourable alterations the establishment of a federal government may introduce on that side of the Ohio, is yet uncertain; at present the people have no established system of laws or mode of trial, unless it be a kind of military one, far from being agreeable to a free born American.

We have many things in Kentucky entitled to the epithet of curiosities, among which the many salt springs may be justly reckoned.

Salt at present is made at about five places, but the country abounds in springs or licks, where it can be procured with equal ease.

It falls from six to twelve stullings a bushel, but will in a future day be much lower.

The fortifications so frequently met with in this country, are the admiration of every traveller.—They are mostly of a circular figure on well chosen ground, and contiguous to water: near each of these is found a mound of earth, thrown up in form of a cone, and is generally proportionate to its adjacent fortification.

When or by whom these were made is equally uncertain.—They appear to be very old. The timber growing on the walls within the forts and ditches, has the appearance of that elsewhere.

They must have been the efforts of a very numerous, industrious and warlike people, and could not have been constructed without the use of iron.—On searching, the mounds are found to contain a white substance resembling lime, which is supposed to have been human bones.

Another kind of tombs are also found, though neither as large or frequent as the others, and are thus constructed:—A level spot of ground is first chosen, and covered over with flat smooth stones, on which the corpse of the deceased are laid, which are separated from each other by flat stones set up edgewise, and in rows at a distance sufficient to contain a human body in each partition.—After the first layer or story is filled, the same material as the bottom, and a second tier is deposited in the same manner: as the first, and so on to a third, perhaps a fifth story, and the monumental pile is finally completed with common stone, heaped up to a considerable height, terminating in a point.

One of the most remarkable of these latter kind is found a few miles from a town in this county called Lexington.—Its base is sufficient to contain a dozen of human bodies, and is about five stories high.

These cannot be as ancient as the former kind, the bones in them not being yet entirely dissolved. An arm bone was not long since found in the one near Lexington, full three inches longer than the arm of a man six feet high, and of a proportionable thickness.

To conclude, the distinguished bounties heaven conferred on this country in soil, climate, healthfulness and many other peculiarities, are real curiosities to the inhabitants of the northern states.



In praise of MARRIAGE.

MAN is a sociable creature, not made for solitude, but conversation. Marriage is a noble institution, and a little useful society from whence many advantages arise.—The sorrows of life are lessened by communication. Marriage is or should be, the most perfect state of friendship. Mutual interest produces mutual assistance. It is owing to this institution that families have been raised and formed. All parentage and

proximity proceed from hence; and in a happy marriage, where both parties behave well in their respective stations, the honey moon increases to years of bliss.—Long possession rivets affection, and nothing but parting can be a material affliction; no age or infirmity can unninge a matrimonial esteem.—The many good qualities, services and obliging usage of each other are so lodged in the memory as to make life a continual courtship, and the husband to carry the lover always about him.

On the contrary it is a matter of the greatest surprize, that a man who aims at reputation and character in the affairs of life, will keep his word to preserve his credit, and forfeit all honour and integrity at home, and have no regard to the solemn engagements made to a wife.

It was a well judged action of a prince I have read of, who took an officer's commission from him, quitting his courage, upon information that he beat his wife.—Porters and carmen are celebrated for such domestic heroism. In short, no man can be a fine gentleman that is not a man of honour, and no man of honour makes a bad husband.



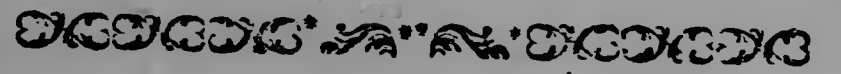
From the GLASGOW ADVERTISER.

SINGULAR ANTIPATHY.

AERO PHOBIA.

THE following very extraordinary circumstance exhibits perhaps the first instance of the kind hitherto known, and is well attested by respectable persons in the neighbourhood.

John Pool, a boy about fifteen years of age, son of a farmer residing near Clare, in Suffolk, some years ago discovered a strong antipathy to the sight of money. No one could ever get him to accept any. The boy being of a very bashful and timid nature, of course this singular ailment was at first imputed to his shyness. His father attempted to induce him to take some, and in various ways, without any success; though perfectly sensible he could purchase with it different things he was tormented by his refusal and seeming abhorrence of money continued the same. An experiment was then made to try whether this refusal did not proceed from bashfulness, and an idea that he ought not to take money when offered. His father put some half-pence into his pocket unbeknown to him.—On putting his hand into his pocket he felt them, and drawing his hand back with much seeming horror, he fell into strong convulsion fits, in which he continued an hour.—Some time after this, his father, still wishing to overcome the antipathy, resolved to try the same experiment with some silver.—The same symptoms were again exhibited, only with an increasing degree of violence, indeed such violence, that his father thought he would have died.—Of the existence of his strong antipathy his father is now so convinced, that he will not suffer any further experiments; and as many persons, witnesses to the last trial, all seem to agree that the repetition would in all probability be dangerous.—Nothing that is recollected of the boy, can lead to account for this strange aversion. In every other respect he is as other boys are, except being of a grave, thoughtful turn. In many things he is very acute. The father naturally feels concerned, on reflecting that in the progress of time his son must be engaged in business, and of course in money transactions. The abhorrence continues so strong, that he now turns away whenever any money comes within his sight.



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June 18, 1788.

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