(VOL. I.) THE (NUMB. 20.)

Wilmington Centinel,

AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1788.

MISCELLANY.

Mr. HASTINGS's TRIAL.

Extracted from a late London newspaper.

[Perhaps a scene of greater enormities never was exhibited to mankind, than is unfolded in the charges against Mr. Hastings, whom Mr. Burke stiles, "the *Head, Chief, and Soul*; *the Commander and Captain General of the enormities of India.*"—To give some idea of *his cruelties*—for his *peculations* are without number, and the description would lack in the recital—we shall lay before our readers some extracts from the speeches of Mr. Burke, made on the first three days of the trial. After describing the villainies of the infamous Congo Burwant Sing, a Secretary employed by Mr. Hastings to assist him in his wicked works—a person whom the friends as well as enemies of Mr. H. agreed was the most attrocious villain India ever produced—Mr. Burke proceeds:]

"NEXT in infamy to Congo Burwant Sing, and second only to him in villainy, was Devi Sing, one of the most shocking monsters that ever stained the page of history. This villain, driven on account of his infamous administration, from one important station which he held, was able to obtain, through his partner in iniquity, Congo Burwant Sing, a most lucritive situation under the company; he was admitted at a time when he was a bankrupt, and owed 210,000l. to farm the revenue of a very large district. One part of his instructions was, that he should not raise the rents or impose new taxes upon the inhabitants; but such instructions did not weigh much with a man, who knew that if he broke through them, he was sure of impunity, through the powerful influence of Congo Burwant Sing.

He therefore resolved, by plunder and rapine of every sort, to make the most of his bargain. He immediately raised the rents [illegible] he threw the people of quality as well as others, into prison, and there made them give bonds to what amount he pleased, as the purchase of their liberty. These bonds he afterwards put in force—first, he put their demense lands up to auction, and they were knocked down at *one* year's purchase, though the usual price of land in that country is *ten*.—The real purchaser was himself; next the lands given by the then owners or their ancestors, for the pious and humane purpose of providing for the sick and infirm—lastly, he sold even the very ground destined for the burial of the owners; and this was to them, from the nature of their education and religion, the most heart rending of all their losses. This however, was not all; he made use of a species of *pillory*, which in India is more dreadful than death, because it drives people from their *caste*; those who have been disgraced by this pi[illegible] matter whether with or without a just cause, are [illegible] communicated; they are disowned by their [illegible] own nearest relations, and are driven [illegible] outcasts of society. This *pillory* is [illegible] each side, and the person who is once [illegible] raced and degraded, and his posterity. [illegible] us bullock walking through the villa[illegible] inhabitants fled, and so general wa[illegible] tations, that an Englishman trave[illegible] ing a fire or lig[illegible] y house.

The poor [illegible] husbandm[illegible] a manner that would ne[illegible] belief, if it [illegible] the records of the compan[illegible] nd Mr. Burk[illegible] ary to apologize to their Lordships for the [illegible] ich which he would be obliged to harrow up [illegible] ings. The worthy Commissioner Patterson, who had authenticated the particulars of this relation, had wished, that, for the credit of human nature, he might have drawn a veil over them; but as he had been sent to enquire into them, he must, in discharge of his duty, state those particulars, however shocking they [illegible] his feelings. The cattle and corn of the husbandmen [illegible] less than a quarter of their value, and their huts [illegible] shes! The unfortunate owners were obliged to borr[illegible] from usurers, that they might discharge their bonds, wh[illegible] d unjustly and illegally been extorted from them while they were in confinement; and such was the determination of the infernal fiend, Devi Sing, to have these bonds discharged, that the wretched husbandmen were obliged to borrow money, not at 20, 30, 40, or 50 per cent. but at *six hundred* per cent. to satisfy him!—Those who could not raise the money, were most cruelly tortured. Cords were drawn tight round the fingers, until the flesh of the four on each hand was actually incorporated and become one solid mass; the fingers were then separated by wedges of iron and wood driven in between them. Others were tied two and two by the feet, and thrown across a wooden bar, upon which they hung with their feet uppermost; they were then beat on the soles of their feet, until their toe nails dropped off.

They were afterwards beat about the head until the blood gushed out at the mouth, nose, and ears; were also flogged on the naked body with bamboo canes and prickly bushes, and above all, with some poisonous weeds, which are of a most caustic nature, and burnt at every touch. The cruelty of the monster who had ordered all this, had contrived how to tear the mind as well as the body; he frequently had a father and a son tied naked to one another by the feet and arms, and then flogged until the skin was torn from the flesh; and he had the devilish satisfaction to know that every blow must hurt; for if one escaped the son, his sensibility was wounded by the knowledge he had, that the blow had fallen upon his father; when the same torture was felt by the father, when he knew that every blow that missed him had fallen upon his son.

The treatment of the females could not be described. Dragged forth from the inmost recesses of their houses, which the religion of the country had made so many sanctuaries, they were exposed naked to the public view; the virgins were carried to the Court of Justice, where they might naturally have looked for protection; but now they looked for it in vain, for in the face of the ministers of justice, in the face of the spectators, in the face of the sun, those tender and modest virgins, were brutally violated. The only difference between their treatment and that of the mothers, was, that the former were dishonored in the face of day—the latter in the gloomy recesses of their dungeons. Other females had the nipples of their breasts put into a clift of bamboo and torn off. What modesty in all nations most carefully conceals, this monster revealed to view, and consumed by slow fires; nay, some of the monstrous tools of this monster, Devi Sing, had, horrid to tell! carried their unnatural brutality so far as to drink in the source of generation and life.

The power of MUSIC on Mice and Spiders.

"*Music has charms to soothe the savage beast,*
"*To soften rocks—and bend the knotted oak.*"

MDE——, Captain of the regiment of Navare, being confined six months in prison, for having spoken too freely to M. Louvois, (the minister) begged leave of the governor to send for his lute, to soften his confinement.

He was greatly astonished, after some hours, to see the mice come out of their holes, and the spiders descend from their webs, who came and formed a circle round him, to hear him with attention. This at first so much surprised him, that he stood still without motion, when, having ceased to play, all those insects and animals retired quietly into their lodgings.—Such an assembly made the officer fall into reflections upon what the ancients have told us of Orpheus, Arion, and Amphion.—He assured me, that he remained six days without playing, having with difficulty recovered from his astonishment, not to mention the natural aversion he had for those insects: nevertheless, he began again to give a concert to those animals and insects, who seemed to come every day in greater numbers, as if they had invited others; so that, in process of time, he found an hundred of them about him. In order to rid himself of them, he desired one of the jailors to give him a cat, which he sometimes shut up in a cage, when he chose to have their company, and let her loose when he had a mind to dismiss them—making it a comedy, which alleviated his confinement.

The above story was confirmed by Mr. P——, Intendent of the Duchess of V——, a man of merit and probity, who played upon several instruments with the utmost excellence. He told me, that being at ——, he went up into his chamber to refresh himself till supper time, setting a light upon the table before him. He had not played a quarter of an hour, before he saw several spiders descend from the ceiling, who came and ranged themselves about the table to hear him play, at which he was greatly surprised; but this did not interrupt him, being willing to see the end of so singular an occurrence. They remained upon the table till somebody came to tell him supper was ready, when, having ceased to play, he told me, these insects remounted to their webs, to which he would not suffer any injury to be done. It was a diversion which he often entertained himself with, out of curiosity.

Hawkins's Hist. Music.

The Universal Farce displayed.

THE world is a theatre—Mankind are the comedians—Chance composes the piece, and fortune distributes the parts—Theologists and politicians govern the machines, and philosophers are the spectators. The rich take their places in the pit and upper boxes—the powerful in the front and sides—and the galleries are for the poor. The women distribute fruits and refreshments, and the unfortunate snuff the candles. Folly composes the overture, and time draws the curtain. The title of the piece is, *Mundus vult decipi, ergo decipiatur*—If the world will be deceived, let it be so. The opening of the farce begins with sighs and tears. The first act abounds with the chimerical projects of men. The frantic testify their applause with re-echoed bravoes, whilst the sagacious bring their cat-calls into play to damn the performance. At going in a sort of money is paid, called TROUBLE; and in exchange a ticket is given called UNEASINESS, in order to obtain a place. The variety of objects which appear, for a short time divert the spectators; but the unravelling of the plot and intrigues, well or ill concerted, force the risible muscles of the philosophers. We see giants who presently become pigmies—and dwarfs, who imperceptibly attain a monstrous height. There we see men exerting all their efforts in the pursuit of the most eligible plans, guided by prudence, armed with precaution, who are nevertheless circumvented in all their pursuits, and frustrated in all their endeavors; whilst here we observe a group of indolent, careless fellows, who attain the highest mundane felicity.——Such is the farce of this world; and he who would choose to divert himself with it at his leisure, should take his place in some obscure corner, where he may, unobserved, be a spectator of the whole performance, and in safety laugh at it as it deserves.

The following curious advertisement is taken from a late Exeter paper.

ADVERTISEMENT.

PERDITED on an inuspcious nocturnal hour, subsequent to the day lately authoritatively devoted to *humiliation* and *penitence*, from the *foenilean dome* of the hyposcriptoralist, a *leucopheated Quadruped*, of the *jumentan* order, *equestrian* genius, *feminine* gender—capitally *fuscated*, *astirically* marked in *cinciput*—in stature according to *equinoc* admensuration, fourteen and an half clenched fists—in the *quindecimal* year of existence—*tollutates* with celerity—*succussates* with agility, in a course *concitated* is elegantly graceful, and all in the *superlative* degree. Whoever from the preceding *iconism*, by *percontation*, *deambulation*, *perscuitation*, or otherwise, shall gain intelligence of the *nonpariel*, and will apport or communicate the same to me, shall become reciprocal of a *remuneration* adequate to the emolument, from

JOHN HOPKINSON.

Exeter, April 18.

For Charter,

To CHARLESTON, or a Northern Port,

A stout *Sloop*,

burthen 200 barrels.

Apply to

EDWARD JONES.

July 2, 1788. 18——

A FEW QUARTER CASKS OF

Madeira Wine,

FOR SALE, BY

EDWARD JONES.

May 21. 12—