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Miscellaneous.

WASHINGTON, 23d Feb. 1816.

DEAR JACK—You ask me what brings so many ladies, young and old to Washington, from various parts of the United States. I'll tell you they come to learn eloquence, that being the most useful acquirement a lady, particularly a married lady, can possess. Accordingly we find them every day either in the gallery of the house of representatives, or in the supreme court, among the thickest of them, listening to constitutional disquisitions about the treaty making power, discussions about the previous question, and projects for restoring the circulating medium—Or if they are in court, they are marvellously edified by arguments about the embargo, the non-importation, and especially the non-intercourse, a measure of all others to be eschewed by the ladies—Heaven bless them!

"In consequence of the admiration excited by these exhibitions of oratory in the hearts of the ladies, every man becomes an orator here, in spite of nature, education, himself or his stars, and as soon as the gallery is properly fringed with feathers in front, sets forth the first opportunity that occurs, to shew the ladies how he can talk. There are more ways than one, sleepy Jack, in which a man can become an orator. The first is by making up in length, for the want of depth in his speech. The second, to premise in the first place what your opponent says, next what you don't mean to say, and then what you do mean to say.—By these means, together with a reasonable number of "Sirs" and "I say Mr. Speakers" and "honourable Gentlemen" you get on swimmingly, and cause a great shaking among the feathers in the gallery. But the best way of all is to reason as Absalom G—— used to do, when he had but one idea and wanted to make the most of that. He always reminded me of a straw in a whirlpool, going round, and round, and round, a little nearer and nearer, and describing a thousand evolutions, before it came to the vortex, and then suddenly disappearing God knows where.—This is the way with several of these orators, who play around their subject, but never reach it; or if they do, are immediately swallowed up for want of vigor of mind to keep themselves afloat in the current.

"But the most amusing thing of all is, to see the ladies at the evening parties complimenting an orator—on his safe delivery, as if really he had taken a British frigate, or gained a battle! or had just come out of the straw! If I were an orator, I think I would sit up in state after getting rid of a speech, and treat the ladies to caudle, as is done upon certain interesting occasions. In truth Jack as you well know, I am no great friend to great talkers, for I never knew one in all my life who was very remarkable for any thing else but talking. The two greatest orators of antiquity were both arrant runaways, and exhibited the seeming incongruity of men capable of inspiring what they themselves are incapable of feeling—courage. Demosthenes ran away like a true chatterbox at the battle of Cheroonea, I think it was, and cried out for quarters, to a bush that caught his robe; and Cicero, when he was overtaken running away, did muster courage enough to die with some little decency. For my part I would not give much for a man that can do nothing but talk. Actions are men; words were women; and this is one reason why women are so fond of words, as I do suppose. There is a tradition somewhere, that woman came of a torrent of words uttered by Juno, in scolding Jupiter one morning, and which all turned into beautiful little damself, who also grew up great talkers.

"Verily, my dear Jack—a dandy, the great sleep-walker—verily I say that the *Cacoethes Loquendi* doth rage here prodigiously, swallowing up men, women and children without distinction of sex or age. To one, who feels interested in the progress of business, and the completion of a great enterprise, it is a matter of regard to the naval, military and financial establishments of this country, it is excessively irksome, to hear so much incoherent talk, and to see the delays which occur at almost every step, in consequence of the vehement ambition of some gentlemen to exhibit before the ladies in the gallery. It is an old saying, that too many cooks spoil the broth; and though it is not an old saying, yet it is equally true, that too many speeches on any subject confuse the understanding, embarrass or mislead the human mind, and render it at last incapable of comprehending the most simple proposition. The mind equally with the body requires repose, and there is a point of exertion beyond which neither can be driven without faltering.

"It appears to me, Jack, that this is the true reason of that want of concert which you notice in both houses, between the republicans, who, with a large majority, have hardly been able to get any measure adopted. There are in fact too many orators, all anxious to speak, and as they can't in decency repeat the same line of argument, they must of course deviate in order to be original. So many separate

roads are thus pointed out, that even the instinct of a pig would hardly be able to follow the right one. This is the case with the great Bank question, which has been changed at nurse so often, that nobody will be able to swear to its identity before long. It has been corrected and amended so often, that like Sir John Cutler's stockings and Lord Anson's ship, not a particle of the original will remain ere long. Did you ever see a poor fellow baited by a small fry of untusky boys, one pulling at the skirts of his coat, a second kicking his shins, and a third pinning a rag to his tail? Just so it is with this bank, which is cut here, nibbled there, pieced on one side, and unpieced on the other—so that by and by I suppose its best friends will disown the changeling and kick it out of the house.

"For my part the National Bank is nothing to me, but the reputation of the republican party is a great deal, and I cannot but see and lament that this wavering and vacillating, and not knowing their own minds, will bring contempt and ridicule upon the party to which I am attached. If they don't like a measure why don't they vote it ought of the house at once, like men, and not let the public suppose as it does suppose, that the federalists are certainly amusing the republicans, and as they cannot outvote them, are out-manceuvring them, on all occasions.

"Already is it whispered that the upper House is henpecked, by a great federalist from New-York, and another from Baltimore, and that the lower House very much resembles an orchestra of fiddlers each playing a different tune—One "Rule Britannia;" another "Ca Ira;" a third a Virginia reel; a fourth "the D—l among the Tailors;" and some few sawing away at honest old "Yankee Doodle." "Good bye, Jack."—*Dem. Press.*

Law Intelligence.

FROM THE NEW-YORK COURIER.

NOVEL CASE.

The following case is given as a subject of curiosity, having attracted much attention.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.

The People, vs. Edward Van Orden and James Stewart.

Indictment for grand larceny tried before his honor, Richard R. Ker, Recorder, Alderman and Justice Warner, on Monday, March 11th, 1816.

The jury being called and sworn, John Rodman, Esq. District Attorney, opened the case of the prosecutor, and two witnesses were sworn, when it appeared that the name of James Stewart, one of the two prisoners who had been arraigned, pleaded, and put to the bar for trial, was not found in the body of the indictment, but merely endorsed on the back of it. The prisoners had for counsel, Mr. Simons, John A. Graham, Nathan B. Graham and George Wilson, Esquires. These gentlemen moved the court, that the jury should be directed to find the prisoner, James Stewart, not guilty; and maintained further, that he should be entitled to his plea of a former acquittal on any future prosecution. The District Attorney having very forcibly affirmed that the indictment was as to the prisoner not named, a mere blank and a nullity, and insisted on his right to try which prisoner he chose, and that he might strike his pen through the endorsement and proceed against Van Orden singly. The court assenting to neither, directed the jury that they might satisfy their own consciences either by considering their oath so far as regarded Stewart as a nullity, or that they might acquit the prisoner, Stewart, or find a special verdict. After examining witnesses on the part of the prosecution, the counsel for the prisoner moved that Stewart might be sworn as a witness for Van Orden.—Mr. Rodman strongly insisted, that though not yet indicted he was charged with felony, and that there was no case of a person so circumstanced being admitted. He was, however, admitted by the court, and testified that neither he nor his fellow prisoner was guilty of the felony; but that two persons who had the cloaths, the subject of the indictment, asked them to help to carry them, which they did, but that neither of them were at the taking of them. The prosecutor then called witnesses to prove that the prisoner had on other occasions declared the contrary of what he now swore, and particularly to Mr. O'Brien, the Police Clerk. After much desultory matter between the counsel, the Recorder charged the jury that great perplexity had arisen in this case; that they must endeavor to unravel the testimony, and that in all criminal cases they were judges of the law and fact. He recapitulated the evidence which appeared against Van Orden above stated.

Having in the course of the trial censured the irregularities of counsel for rising out of their turn, and persisting in interrupting each other and the court even when deciding in their favor, this would oblige him to call for the rolls of the counsel, and suspend such as continued deaf to the admonitions of the bench.—In the close of this charge, he gave a further humane and salutary counsel to practitioners, that they should deliberately examine their cases before they appeared in the defence of any person, and understand what the effect of the testimony might be; as in this instance the only evidence which could at all warrant a conviction of the prisoner, was that which arose out of his defence. Both the prisoners were accordingly acquitted.

Foreign.

London, Jan. 12.—We have to-day published the Amnesty Law in the three different stages it assumed—first, as it was proposed by the second as amended, or rather aggravated by

the Commission of the Chamber of Deputies into a new law—third the law as it was finally passed by the Chamber of Deputies. It will be seen that the original Law, and the Law as it was passed, differ in two points. The third Article of the original Project had made it imperative, that the persons included in the second Article of the Ordinance of the 24th July should quit France two months after the passing of the law. The third Article of the Law, as passed, gives the King a discretionary power on the subject. He may erase some persons from the list, and the rest, if not brought to trial, are to be sent out of the country. The fourth Article in the law passed relative to the Bonaparte family is more detailed than the same Article in the original Project, though the effect and object of it are the same. The fifth and sixth Article of the original Project to be amended. The addition made to the law respecting the Regicides was proposed by the Commission, and was passed unanimously. It is said to be doubtful whether this part of the Law will, if passed even by the House of Peers, receive the sanction of the King. It certainly places him in a situation of embarrassment. He had extended his pardon to the Regicides, Nay, one of them is, or was, till very lately, his Minister at the Court of Dresden. Between the period of the appointment of this man (an appointment which, as well as his previous appointment to the Cabinet, filled all Europe with disgust and astonishment) and the present period no fresh crime has been imputed to him, yet the King is required to punish with perpetual exile and deprivation of titles, &c. a man whom he had thought fit to name as his Representative in a foreign Court. Undoubtedly there is no punishment which we should think too severe for this person; but the question is, whether the King, in whom the power of Pardon alone resides, can punish him for an offence known to his Majesty but committed anterior to the time when the King selected him as an object of confidence and trust. This is one of the difficulties always inseparable from a policy of vacillation and delay. The wisest policy would have been for the King, immediately upon his second restoration, to have punished the principal traitors according to their deserts, and promptly to have satisfied public vengeance, and assured the public tranquility.

FRENCH AMNESTY LAW AS IT FINALLY PASSED THE CHAMBER.

Art. 1. A full and entire amnesty is granted all those who directly or indirectly took part in the rebellion and usurpation of Napoleon Bonaparte, saving the following exceptions.

2. The Ordinance of the 24th July shall continue to be executed with regard to the persons named in the 1st Article of that Ordinance.

3. The King may, within the space of 2 months, dating from the promulgation of the present law, remove from France such of the individuals included in Article 2, of the said Ordinance as he shall maintain thereon, and who have not been brought to trial; and in that case the said persons shall leave France within the period prescribed to them and shall not return without the express permission of his Majesty. The whole under pain of transportation.

The King may likewise deprive them of all property and pensions which may have been granted to them on gratuitous titles.

4. The ascendants and descendants of Napoleon Bonaparte, his uncles and aunts, his nephews and nieces, his brothers, their wives and descendants, his sisters and their husbands, are excluded from the kingdom in perpetuity, and are bound to depart from it in the space of one month, under the penalties denounced by the 91st article of the Penal Code. They cannot enjoy any civil rights, possess any property, titles and pensions granted to them gratuitously within it; and they shall be bound to sell, within the space of six months, the property of every description that they possess by honest title.

5. The present amnesty is not applicable to persons against whom prosecutions have been commenced, or judgments obtained, before the promulgation of the present law; the prosecutions shall be continued and the judgments executed conformably to the laws.

6. Are not comprised in the present amnesty crimes or misdemeanors against private persons, at whatever period they may have been committed. The persons guilty of them shall be prosecuted according to law.

For the additional act, or accepted offices or employments from the Usurper, and who, by so doing, have declared themselves irreconcilable enemies of France, and of the legitimate Government, are excluded forever from the kingdom, and are bound to leave it within one month, under the penalty inflicted by Art. 33, of the Penal Code; they shall not be capable of enjoying in it any civil right, or of possessing in it any property, titles or pensions, given to them gratuitously.

*The brothers, Lallemand, Drouet, D'Erion, Lefebvre Desnouettes, Amel, Brayer, Gilly, Mouton Dornmont, Grouchy, Clausel, Laborde, Debille, Bertrand, Drouet, Cambrone, Lavalette, and Rogvo.

†South, Alix, Excellmans, Bassano, Marbot, Felix Lepelletier, Boulay (de la Meurdrie), Cheze, Pressinet, Loban, Harel, Carnot, Vandamme, Lamarque (General), Lohandean, Pire, Barrere, Arnault, Regnaud (de St. Jean d'Angely), Pommereh, Arrighi (of Padua), Dejean, Junr. Garrau, Real, Bouvier-Dumoulaud, Merlin (of Douay), Durbach, Divat, Defermont, Bory St. Vin. (of Douay), Felix Desportes, Garner de Saintes, Mellinet, Hulbin, Cluys, Courtin, Forbin-Janson, the elder son, and Le Lorque Dideville.

MIRACULOUS PRESERVATION.

The following are the interesting particulars of a late shipwreck, wherein the sufferings and privations of the survivors are almost without a parallel in the chequered details of the danger to which seamen are exposed.—On the 4th of September the brig Friendship, capt. N. F. Carder, sailed from Miramichi, New Brunswick, with a cargo of timber for Bedford. On the morning of the 18th she sprung a leak, and on the 22d, (the unremitting efforts of the crew at the pumps proving unavailing to keep her free) she was full of water. In this deplorable condition, without the possibility of getting below, and distant, by their calculation, about 347 leagues from the coast of Ireland, they kept the vessel before the wind, under easy sail, in the forlorn hope of being able to make the land; but on the 28th (when, by supposition, they were about 70 leagues from Cape Clear), a sudden squall coming on, she broached to and overset! By this melancholy disaster, two poor souls were washed overboard and drowned and the whole of the provisions and water they had collected on deck, with both boats and every moveable article were swept away! The rest of the crew, consisting of the captain, mate, three men and four boys, with difficulty supported themselves on the side of the ship; when after remaining in this awful situation about 40 minutes, having in the mean time carried away her foremast, bowsprit, and main topmast, she righted. From the condition the vessel was in, however, she had gradually settled abaft, and from midships forward was the only part left above water, upon which the miserable survivors could obtain an insecure footing, every succeeding wave threatening to hurl them into the dreadful abyss! For six tedious days and nights did these devoted sufferers remain in this wretched and hopeless state, without a morsel of bread to sustain the cravings of nature; all of them very thinly clothed, several without shoes, stockings or hats, and the few garments they wore constantly wet, owing to the rain that fell, and the sea that broke over them. From the former, however, they fortunately derived some sustenance; for during rain, they suspended a bed quite in the remnant of the rigging, and, when completely saturated, by carefully squeezing it, they obtained three pints of water on each trial: with this, and a small quantity of rum, (the only necessary saved, but so much impregnated with salt water that Capt. Carder, to prevent its being used in raw state, frequently threatened to throw it overboard) they made weak grog, which was sparingly served out to them in the heel of an old shoe, the best substitute they could find for spirits. The ship had been much infested with rats and after these remain were driven from their lurking places below by the water, they took refuge on those parts which were left dry, and openly run about among the people on the forecastle. From this station the captain would not permit them to be driven, lest in the extremity of their distress, should no friendly sail appear in view, they might ultimately be compelled to have recourse to these troublesome guests, as a temporary respite to expiring nature! But the rats were a terrible annoyance to the almost exhausted sufferers: as the vermin fell a prey to want, they devoured each other—nay, they even attacked the naked feet of the seamen whilst asleep, and when brushed away by their hands, fastened to their fingers! With a view of keeping hope alive amongst his dying companions, the captain offered two dollars, which he found in his pocket, as a premium to the man who should first desery relief; but faith and vigilance at last centred in himself alone and on the evening of the 16th day, (4th Oct. in lat. 50, 30, long 14,) he providentially espied a sail, which he did not, however, announce for ten minutes, lest the stranger should not steer in their course.—When all doubt on so momentous a point was removed, he ordered the friendly bed quilt, (which had been before so serviceable, and was the only signal they could then muster) to be hoisted; and the harbinger of their joy proved to be the Schem, capt. Howland, of Boston, from Liverpool for America, who immediately on perceiving the wreck, bore down, and rescued the sufferers, at a moment when despair had apparently reduced nearly the whole of them to the last stage of existence. After being all safely removed from the wreck, capt. Howland, with genuine christian benevolence, treated them with the tenderness of a parent—administering to them simple food in animated, and they were all speedily restored to the use of their limbs. Two days afterwards they fell in with the John, Captain Brasse, from Africa for Liverpool, to which vessel they were transferred, and after again experiencing the humane and feelingly regard due to their miserable state, were safely landed at Liverpool on the 15th October. Their deliverance was most providential, as a gale of wind and a heavy sea came on the following day, which may have swept every soul off the wreck. On the 11th, seven days after they were picked up, the vessel was fallen in with in lat. 50 57, long 20, drifting at the mercy of the waves, the William, arrived at Liverpool from New-York. We have been careful to detail the particulars of this singular event, from one of the most interesting information same time anxious that you should be at the ample of the benefits so striking an extraordinary circumstances, from derived, in similar coolness and intrepid resignation, which the conduct of Capt. Carder was so highly distinguished.