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Frontier Affairs.

From the *Zanesville Express*, Sept. 12.
A person named **BENJAMIN POWELL**, of about 55 years of age, passed through this town last week, on his return from Indian slavery, after an absence from his friends (such as survive) of nearly 20 years. His appearance is

lively interest, in his countenance, in the feelings of several citizens in this place; they administered to his necessities, by furnishing him with pecuniary aid sufficient to defray his expenses to Dayton, where he expects to find some of his surviving friends. In confirmation of his interesting story, he exhibited a band nearly burnt off, and showed upwards of 30 scars on his body, most of which were evidently made with a tomahawk. Accompanied with such evidence, his statements gained him credence; of which statements the following is a brief sketch:

Benjamin Powell, in the year 1806, removed from Kentucky to the upper fork of the Sandusky river, and settled on a tract of land belonging to Colonel Paterson. The surrounding country was the wilderness, except that Powell had one neighbor, who lived at a short distance from him. Powell had a wife and three children, his neighbor had a family also. They had frequent intercourse with the Indians, who were apparently very civil and friendly for upwards of two years after their settlement in that part of the country. Soon after the battle of Tippecanoe, (of which Powell and his neighbor had not heard a syllable) to wit, on the 27th day of October 1811, about twilight in the evening the cabin of Powell was attacked by a number of Indians. His wife and eldest son were shot dead, and the other two children were killed with a tomahawk. Powell himself was shot through the body, and then tomahawked in a most shocking manner, the Indians having given him between twenty and thirty wounds, and supposing him dead, stayed his butchering hand and left him. Powell's neighbor and all his family were killed at the same time. Powell was left in that dreadful situation until morning, enduring the most exquisite pains of body from his numerous wounds—his distress of mind no pen could describe; the darkness of the night was rendered tenfold horrible by the surrounding scene, while the "king of terrors" in his most terrific form was staring him in the face. As soon as it was light, he saw an Indian approaching him, whom he recognized to be an old acquaintance, a Shawnee Chief named the *Little Captain*.—Powell besought the savage to put an end to his misery—

The *Little Captain* gazed at him awhile, and said, "no, no, the *Great Spirit* won't let me kill you." He then dressed his wounds telling him, it was the *Prophet's* orders not to kill any whom the *Great Spirit* would not let die; (meaning perhaps that where the life of a victim was preserved as it were, by a miracle, as was the case with Powell, it intimated that it was the pleasure of the *Great Spirit* that such a person should live.) Powell thinks Indians are excellent surgeons—they cured his wounds with the most skill and most astonishing rapidity, although most of the bones of his left thigh was taken out during the cure.

As soon as practicable Powell was carried to the *Old Shawnee Town*, situated about twenty miles from Lake Erie; there, after he had continued about eight months, he got acquainted with the famous *Bird*—he saw his thumb nails twisted off by the Indians, in endeavouring to make him disclose some plot which they suspected.—After *Bird* had got away and was brought back, Powell heard him adjudge to three days burning, and all the white prisoners in the town were compelled to be witnesses of the distressing scene. *Bird's* hand was burnt off, and one of his arms was consumed to the bone; when providentially a Scotchman purchased his life for a gallon of rum, as stated in *Bird's* story.

Powell remained with the savages upwards of four years; he was a slave to the *Little Captain*, who repeatedly threatened him with certain death should he attempt to make his escape, and who also reckoned his scalp among his trophies of victory, often talking of taking it off. Thus Powell lived in continual fear of his life. He learned to speak the Shawnee language fluently, and got acquainted with the manners and customs of the Indians. He says they can scarcely be called idolaters in the common acceptance of the word; for they worship the *Great Spirit*, whose place of special residence they conceive to be in the sky; they do not render religious homage to any creature. The *Prophet* is a grand impostor, not more remarkable for the ugliness of his person than for the deformity of his mind—a wretch destitute of feeling and abandoned to every thing that is bad.—To this demon in human form may be attributed most of the enormities committed by the savages in the late war. He had a liberal education, and he had been instructed in the Christian religion, having been designed for a

roman catholic priest. He therefore sins against knowledge. This impostor made the credulous Indians believe that the earthquakes in 1812, were occasioned by his shooting himself, and that he had done it to punish them for not fighting better against the Americans. He also told them he had stopped a large hole at the bottom of Lake Erie, which occasioned the unusual rise of water in the lake. Being able to forecast eclipses, he derived not a little consequence from that circumstance. Powell related a number of anecdotes concerning the Indians, but we have not room to insert them here.

When Powell had remained prisoner about 40 months, he concerted a scheme with a couple of women, who were prisoners in the same town, of effecting their escape. There was an old wigwag standing in the town, in which they agreed to conceal their persons, &c. as they could not go openly. As Powell was coming out of the wigwag one night he was discovered by an Indian who had been a notorious and bitter enemy. The alarm was given; Powell was secured and tied to a post in his master's wigwag. In the morning the old wigwag was torn down, and the provisions and tomahawks were found. Every circumstance was against Powell, and he had nothing to expect but a three day's burning.—He says it came into his head to tell a lie, and, if possible, throw the whole blame upon his accuser. His accordingly related to his master, that notwithstanding appearances were against him, still he was innocent; that his master knew how inimical the Indian had been towards him, that undoubtedly he had taken this method to ruin him. The little captain seemed somewhat staggered, and concluded not to burn him until he should consult the *Big Captain*. The *Big Captain* carried the case to the prophet, who consulted the *Great Spirit*, and decided that Powell must be burnt until he would confess who were his accomplices, as it was evident others were concerned with him, from the circumstances of there being two tomahawks concealed in the cabin. The decision of the prophet was conclusive. The unhappy Powell was stretched upon his back on the ground, and secured with thongs. The white prisoners, as usual, were brought to witness the torments. The two women who were concerned with him in the plot, were exceedingly agitated, expecting every moment that Powell would bring them out; for their destruction would be inevitable. Fire was occasionally put to Powell's right hand until it was nearly consumed. At this time Powell says his feelings were indescribable—scarcely with all his immortal consciousness, reached upon him with such ever-renewing concernment, that he, for a while, forgot the excruciating torments his body was enduring—and felt the full force of the expression of the poet,

"Saw 'tis a serious thing to die"

—He was determined to make no discoveries—because if he had revealed the truth, not only his own life, but that of the two women would have been the forfeit. He spoke to the little captain, and observed that as he (Powell) was innocent, the captain ought to take a tomahawk, and despatch him at once. The captain replied he had all along suspected his innocence. The fire was removed for a while. The *Big Captain* and the *Prophet* were again consulted; and as Powell had so long atoned the ordeal of fire, the *Great Spirit* had admitted he was innocent. Powell, to his inexpressible joy was released. Agreeably to the custom of the Indians, Powell now had it in his power to inflict the same punishment on his accuser, who was tied down for burning—but forgave him on his paying the ham of a large buck, which act of humanity gained him the love and friendship of the Indians during his stay among them. Powell says he saw one prisoner, a Kentuckian, burned three days before he expired. In December last, a Canadian by the name of Randall McDonald, purchased Powell's liberation from captivity, and at the same time obtained the freedom of E. Jones, John Anderson, Sarah Price. They were taken to Kingston, from thence to Quebec, where they experienced McDonald's hospitality until the 1st of June last, then receiving \$3 dollars each, they proceeded to the U. States.

Geographical.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER.
Sir,—I send you an extract of a letter from the Governor of Indiana, giving a brief geographical sketch of the new State, with a belief that it will be acceptable to your readers. The letter is dated near Charleston, Indiana, Sept. 27, 1816.

The State of Indiana is bounded, on the east, by a line drawn due north from the mouth of the Great Miami river; on the south, by the river Ohio; on the west, by the river Wabash, from its confluence with the Ohio to a point on the western bank of the former, where a line drawn due north from the town of Vincennes would last touch the said Wabash river, and from thence by a line to be drawn due north until it shall intersect a parallel of latitude which shall touch a point ten miles north of the southern extreme of Lake Michigan; and on the north, by the said parallel until it shall intersect the line drawn due north from the mouth of the Great Miami river.

The river Wabash, and the White river, with its branches, are the most important streams within the State. The former has its sources within a few miles of the navigable waters of the river Miami of Lake Erie, and discharges itself into the Ohio at the south-western ex-

trême of the State. The white river has two branches, properly known by the "South and North branches." These are 20 or 25 miles before they empty into the Wabash, 20 miles below Vincennes, and 20 from the mouth of the Wabash. The southern branch runs nearly parallel with the Ohio, at an average distance of 20 miles, and is navigable 100 miles for large boats. The other branch is not quite so well adapted to navigation. The Wabash may be considered among the first rivers for navigation in western America, as well on account of its great length as on account of the gradual rising and falling of its waters.

Salisbury, the seat of justice for the county of Wayne, is situated 60 miles north of the Ohio river and from Lawrenceburg, and 20 from Brooksville. Wayne county is bounded on the north, by the State of Ohio, on the south by the State of Kentucky, on the east by the State of Virginia, and on the west by the State of Tennessee. The town was established but a few years ago, but the county is extensive, and contains fine lands, and has been settled ten or twelve years. Its products are, Indian corn, wheat, rye, and oats.

Brookville, the county seat of Franklin, is situated south of Salisbury 25 miles, and north of the Ohio and Lawrenceburg 20 miles. The county is bounded on the east by the State of Ohio, on the south by the county of Dearborn, on the west and north by Indian lands. Brookville is flourishing. The county is much similar in soil and in its products to the county of Wayne, and was established at the same period.

Lawrenceburg, the county seat of Dearborn county, is situated on the bank of the Ohio, a few miles below the mouth of the Great Miami river. Dearborn is bounded by the State of Ohio on the east, Ohio river on the south, Switzerland county on the west, and Franklin county on the north. In this county there is an establishment for carding and spinning cotton. Lawrenceburg has been established 10 or perhaps 12 years.

Yovay, the county seat of Switzerland, is situated on the Ohio river, 25 miles below Lawrenceburg; near which are extensive vineyards, from which a considerable quantity of wine is annually manufactured. Switzerland is bounded on the east by Dearborn county, on the south by the Ohio river, on the west by the county of Jefferson, and on the north in part by Indian lands. In Yovay there is a printing establishment. The county was inhabited 12 years since, but the town was established only in 1812 or 1813.

Madison, the seat of justice for the county of Jefferson, is situated on the bank of the Ohio river, 20 miles below Yovay. In Madison is established a banking institution, called "The Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank." Jefferson county is bounded on the east by Switzerland county, on the south by the river Ohio, on the west by the county of Clark, on the north by Indian lands. The town has been established 7 or 8 years; the county not so long.

New Lexington, famous for having produced the pre-empted monied institution called "the Lexingtonian Manufacturing Company," which has failed, and ended in the grossest swindling, is situated in Jefferson county, 18 miles north-west of Madison, and has a printing establishment.

Charleston, the county seat for the county of Clark, is situated 32 miles south of west from Madison, 2 miles from the Ohio river, and 14 from the Grand Rapids of the Ohio. Clark county is bounded on the east by the county of Jefferson, on the south by the river Ohio, on the west by the counties of Harrison and Washington, on the north by the county of Jackson and Indian lands. The county has been inhabited nearly 20 years, but the town has not been established longer than 7 or 8 years. In Charleston there is one carding machine, one court house, one jail, and a market house. In the county there are five houses for public worship, three of which belong to the Methodists.

Jeffersonville, formerly the seat of justice for the county of Clark, is situated 14 miles south of west from Charleston, on the bank of the Ohio river, at the commencement of the great falls or grand rapids. In Jeffersonville is established, by the United States, an office for the disposition of the public lands. Jeffersonville and Charleston are nearly equal in point of population, and may be considered larger than any other towns in the State, except Vincennes.

Corydon, the seat of justice for the county of Harrison, is situated 25 miles nearly west from Jeffersonville, and 10 miles from the Ohio river, and is the temporary seat of government for the State. They were established in 1808. Harrison county is bounded on the east by Clark county, on the south by the Ohio river, on the west by the county of Perry, and on the north by the county of Washington. In Corydon there is a printing establishment.

Salmon, the county seat of Washington county, is situated 28 miles north of Corydon and 20 west of Charleston. Washington county is bounded on the east by Clark county, on the north by the county of Harrison, on the west by the county of Orange, and on the north by the county of Jackson. Established in 1812-13.

Brownstown, the seat of justice for the county of Jackson, is situated 25 miles east of north from Salem. The county is bounded by Clark and Jefferson counties on the east, by Washington county on the south, by Orange county on the west, and Indian lands on the north. Established in 1808. In the county of Jackson extensive preparations are making for the manufacturing of iron.

Paris, the county seat of Orange, is situated 20 miles north of west from Salem. The county

is bounded by the counties of Washington and Jackson on the east, by Harrison and Perry on the south, by the county of Knox on the west, and Indian lands on the north. Established in 1815.

Vincennes, the seat of justice for the county of Knox, and formerly the seat of government for the Territory, is situated 100 miles from Charleston, 70 miles from Salem, and 100 from the mouth of the Wabash river. In Vincennes there is a printing establishment, and academy for the instruction of pupils in the ancient languages, mathematics, &c. There is also, besides the usual county buildings, a bank, styled "the Bank of Vincennes," whose paper has already attained extensive circulation, and which, together with the Farmers' and Mechanics' at Madison, will be incorporated as state banks. The first establishment of the kind in this State, and the first in the Indiana Territory, was instituted nearly one hundred years, though claimed by French from Canada. Knox county is bounded by the county of Orange on the east, by the county of Gibson on the south, by the Wabash river on the west, and a line purchase of Indian lands on the north.

Princeton, the county seat of Gibson county, is situated 25 miles nearly south from Vincennes. The county is bounded by the counties of Orange and Warrick on the east, the county of Posey on the south, the Wabash river on the west, and the county of Knox on the north. Established in 1801-11.

The county of Posey is situated south of Gibson, bounded on the east by the county of Warrick, on the south and west by the Ohio and Wabash river. In this county is an extensive establishment for the manufacturing of wool, belonging to a German association under the direction of a gentleman whose name is Rapp. Established in 1814-15.

The county of Warrick is situated east of the county of Posey, bounded on the east by the county of Perry, on the south by the Ohio river, on the west by the county of Posey, and on the north by the counties of Orange and Knox. Established in 1814-15.

The county of Perry is situated west of Harrison county, on the Ohio river on the south, east of Warrick county, and south of Orange and Washington counties. Established in 1814-15.

Indiana has no mountains, although some small part of the State is hilly. The Silver Hills run from the Ohio river, 10 miles below the Grand Rapids, in a direction east of north, and disappear before they reach the White River. In progressing west they present quite a mountain in many parts; but in passing from the west, the traveler perceives nothing but a small ascent, until he reaches the summit, and beholds a mountain to descend.

Domestic.

Extract of a letter from New-Orleans, dated the 2d of October.

We have just received the following intelligence of the total destruction of the formidable Carthaginian squadron of Privateers, commanded by Aury, who had formed an establishment amongst the rocks of Matagorda. It was communicated to us by a person who was on board the fleet and witnessed the whole scene.

Our informant states that he sailed from this port from the Havana in the Spanish ship *Felix*, and off Matanzas was captured by a Carthaginian privateer and carried to the Tortugas, the rendezvous of these privateers and their prizes. That in the space of eleven days, six privateers arrived there with their prizes, consisting of seven Spanish vessels, and a Dutch schooner that was bound from Providence to the Havana. That they set sail with their prizes for Matagorda, and despatched one of their schooners, the *Bellona*, to Barataria to land her lieutenant, who was to proceed to New-Orleans to give information to the merchants that the prizes were on the way to Matagorda, and at the same time to get money to pay the men that had been recruited; the *Bellona* sailed afterwards for Matagorda, but having missed the port, fell in with a piratical schooner, called the *Petit Napoleon*, that sailed without any kind of papers, commanded by a Frenchman called *Francois*. He offered to pilot the *Bellona* to Matagorda, and succeeded in getting her into port after great difficulty, as she touched on the reef and was so much damaged as to become quite useless. Five days afterwards the convoy of prizes made its appearance, and an attempt to get them in they were all lost excepting two. That in order to save the articles that had floated ashore, Aury made the crew and the prisoners work in the most cruel and inhuman manner; that the constant bad treatment which he gave them added to his having deprived them, for when they enlisted at Santo Domingo, he told them they were bound on a cruise; that the prizes were to be sent to New-Orleans, at which place they would receive prize-money—this had exasperated them to such a degree, that they resolved to mutiny, and they carried their plan into execution on the night of the 7th day of September, in the following manner. The crew of the privateer *Oriolla*, consisting of about seventy negroes, commanded by capt. Bellegarde, were induced by their trying down their officers. The captain of the *Bellona* hearing the noise, sent an officer in a boat to the *Oriolla*. On approaching her the negroes hailed him, and inquired if he intended coming on board, and answering in the affirmative they ordered him to retire, but persisting in his intention they fired a gun at him loaded with Grape shot, which