

# The Raleigh Minerva.

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## RALEIGH, (N. C.)

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## DOMESTIC.

FROM THE BOSTON SENTINEL, OCT. 1.

**The Sea-Serpent.**—In the following articles we have additional and irrefragable evidence of the existence of the aquatic, or amphibious animal which has recently been the subject of much conversation:

Letter from the hon. Lonson Nash, F. R. S. to the hon. David Humphreys, of this town. Gloucester, (Sabbath evening,) Sept 28, 1817.

Dear Sir,—I have the pleasure of informing you, that Capt. Jas. Beach, of this place, has in his possession, a young serpent, that was yesterday killed, on the sea-shore here, which we have no doubt is one of the young of the American mammoth serpent, that has lately visited our harbor; and which justly excited your curiosity and attention. He was killed near Thatcher's Island, and was making for the sea, when discovered; and was 12 or 14 feet only from the sea, when killed. He is about 3 feet and an half in length, and in the largest part perhaps 3 inches in circumference; and has 32 distinct banches on his back. His upper jaw is entire, and his eyes and nostrils have not been injured. I would describe him more minutely, but presume you will soon see him. Respectfully, sir, your most obedient,

LONSON NASH.

Gen. Humphreys.

## ANSWER.

Boston, Sept 29

Dear Sir—I arrived in town from New-York opportunitly to receive your very obliging letter respecting the progeny of the serpent of the ocean, and hasten to offer my best thanks for your very interesting information.

I flatter myself that you will hereafter learn that I have not been deficient in expressing my sense of obligations for your kind and able assistance, in recollecting and ascertaining facts on this curious subject of natural history. To consider the philosophical part of the communication more indubitable than those of any other person; and I cannot refrain from particularly repeating my testimony of that important service.

In four communications which I have already made to the President of the Royal Society in London, I think I have succeeded, with your aid, to demonstrate the existence of this heretofore non-descript animal. The capture of this young aquatic monster, will complete the series of evidence, by becoming a valuable acquisition to the stock of knowledge in zoology, and forever putting an end to the sarcasms and scoffs of the incredulous. In the mean time I wait with impatience his arrival, and pray you to be persuaded of the sentiments of great regard and esteem, with which I remain your sincere friend and humble servant.

## D. HUMPHREYS.

Ron. Lonson Nash, Gloucester, (Cape-Ann)

P. S.—In one of my letters to sir Joseph Banks, I have expressed a belief, that two animals of the same species have been seen in your harbour, on account of the rings discovered on the neck of one and not of the other of them. I understand there are some fishermen, who accidentally came within a few feet of the SERPENT LAST SEEN in Gloucester Bay, and who are ready to testify they saw those before-mentioned whitish colored bands round the neck so distinctly, that they could not be mistaken. In this case, it is more than probable, there have been a male and female, of full growth, on our coast. It would be extremely desirable for me to be informed of all the circumstances attended the capture of the young one—particularly whatever has any relation to his character, temper and movement.

D. H.

The President of the Linnaean society (Judge Davis) has also received a letter from the hon. Lonson Nash, announcing the capture of this spawn.—He informs that in killing it, the under jaw was broken; but that the upper jaw, with the eyes, &c. are perfect.—It has been preserved in spirits and will be sent to this town.

We have received a polite note from John Kirtledge, Esq. of Gloucester, communicating similar particulars to the above.

## HORRID MURDER.

The following account of the murder of Miss Pattan, will doubtless be read with some interest. The particulars of this melancholy occurrence are given in a letter from a young gentleman in Georgia, where the circumstances took place, to his friend in Boston, dated Fayette, August 4, of which the following is a copy.

Dear Sir—It unhappily falls to my lot to inform you of an event inconceivably tragical! a melancholy gloom pervades the whole of our little village! When you was with us the last winter, I think you must have become acquainted with the beautiful Miss Pattan, who has ever been justly esteemed the highest ornament of our fair, who was the only daughter

of Col. Pattan, a gentleman of the first respectability of this village. The particulars of the tragical event are as follows:

About two years since the unfortunate young lady became acquainted with a youth of respectable parentage, by the name of SPOONER, who at that time sustained an unblemished character. Young SPOONER, who soon after his first introduction became constant in his visits, exhibited that partiality for Miss P. indicative of unfeigned affection, and which she apparently acknowledged with reciprocal ardor,—their parents too, at this period, so far from disapproving of the mutual attachment of the happy couple, seemed anxious for the arrival of the day when by their union in marriage, the two families would also become happily connected. But alas, how unstable are the things of this life! how prone are we to disappointment! adversity unexpected marked one of this fond pair as her own young Spooner, who until now had been esteemed as a young gentleman of unexceptionable character, suddenly became a votary to dissipation; in vain were the entreaties of his fond parents, his fair Maria; in vain the attempts of a large circle of friends and acquaintance to effect a reformation. He yet continued to visit the house of Col. P. but it being now too apparent that the tipping and gambling house was his most favorite piece of resort, the Col. conceived it an indispensable duty to deny him this privilege; his doors were closed against him, and all further communication between his daughter and the now dissipated Spooner strictly forbidden.

The unfortunate Maria, whose real attachment for young Spooner was too apparent to be doubted, with reluctance yielded to the indispensable commands of a tender parent—she could not in a moment cease to feel an affection for the youth with whom she spent so many happy hours; but to become now his wife, she was too sensible would not only be acting in opposition to the best advice of her friends, but would serve only to entail upon herself and family a complication of miseries.

The neglect with which young Spooner was now treated not only by his fair friend and her connexions, but by those who were late his most intimate associates, had not its desired effect; apparently to drown sorrow, to barricade the mind against self-reproach on a retrospect of past events, ardent spirits were almost constantly resorted to; in short, the unhappy youth became now that despicable character which vile dissipation is capable of reducing us to; yet, in his most sober as well as in his intoxicated hours, would he talk of his unabated love for the unfortunate Maria, and of the cruel treatment of her friends who were compelling her to act an involuntary part toward him.

Although not privileged to visit or exchange a syllable with Miss P. it was evident that the rash youth was of the foolish opinion that she would never consent to become the wife of any other person but himself; to her person he made public proclamation of his right, as he had not only gained her own assent to a union, but that of her nearest connexions.

In this state affairs remained, and without any prospect of a reformation in Spooner, until about four months since, when he gained information that his MARIA had received the addresses of a new admirer, to whom she had engaged herself in marriage, and that a consummation of the marriage nuptials was shortly to take place.

The unfortunate Spooner from this moment became like one entirely lost to all sense of shame, and bent on mischief of the most serious nature. The unfortunate Miss P. whom until now he had vainly flattered himself as unwilling to form a connection with any other, received now a share of the opprobrious epithets with which he reproached her friends. "Never, (did he publicly swear) shall the ungrateful pre-engaged Maria, become the wife of any other person, than myself, if life is spared to prevent it." Alas, altho' the vile oaths and imprecations of the rash young man were then regarded as only the fruits of intoxication, yet, sad to relate, he has since made manifest by a deed of dreadful note.

Having by means unknown, a few days since obtained information that the marriage ceremony was the evening following to be performed between Miss P. and her new suitor (a young gentleman from Maryland); the vile murderer, it appears, began to devise a plan and furnish himself with such weapons as would enable him to effect his hellish design; secretly obtaining a brace of large horse pistols and a clasp knife, the former he charged with a ball and slug each; thus armed and instigated by the devil, he, on the evening of the 29th ult repaired to the house of Col. P. for the unfortunate MARIA, where (as appears by his own confession) after having skulked about the house for some time, seeking an opportunity to destroy the innocent and unsuspecting victim, and becoming still more exasperated at a view of her through the window, seated in a convivial mood beside her lover, his disposition would no longer permit him to postpone a deed, which the deceptive arts of hell (if I may be allowed the expression) were prompting him to execute. On entering the piazza, with a cocked pistol in his hand he tapped at the door, which, unfortunately, being opened by the ever to be lamented Maria, she instantaneously received in her left side the contents of the fatal weapon, and fell lifeless upon the floor.

The vile assassin, conscious of his guilt, and probably of the atonement which justice would demand for an act so barbarous, attempted to escape his just reward by plunging the knife into his own bosom; but although he gave him-

self two severe wounds, I am informed, by the Surgeons who attended him, that they are not such as will prove mortal.

It is impossible, my dear sir, to describe the gloomy sensations which seem to pervade the minds of our inhabitants of every description, in consequence of this truly melancholy event: nor is it hardly possible to determine which of the wretched parents exhibit the greatest marks of insuperable grief, those of the poor unfortunate Maria or the wretched Spooner; they are each equally respectable, and as they have ever been upon terms of intimacy they mingle with each other tears of affliction; those of the latter I think, however, deserve the most commiseration; for while the parents of the justly lamented Maria, have the soothing consolation to presume the undelivered spirit of their beloved child no numbered with the blessed, those of her execrable assassin have the heart rending reflection that they have yet to witness the ignominious death of their son.

The mortal remains of poor MARIA were yesterday deposited with its native clay; but that vital spark which never dies, we trust has been ushered by sister spirits, through the ethereal regions, into the blissful abodes of Paradise; there to exist with renovated vigor, where life is one continued scene of endless ecstasy in company with myriads of the heavenly choir.

FROM THE NASHVILLE CLARION.

**Valuable improvement on the Tub-wheel.**—The horizontal wheel generally known by the name of the Tub Wheel, being the cheapest mode of building a mill, and also most easily kept in repair, is consequently in considerable use, notwithstanding the large quantity of water expended to propel the same.

Instead of the water issuing from the extreme end of the trunk, I make one to project horizontally from the dam, about two feet square, projecting over one side of the wheel, and within one inch thereof. The bottom of this trunk is made of a thick plank (say 4 or 5 inches) and a number of issues are cut through the same—the thickness of the plank allows these issues to be cut in a slope equal to an angle of 25 degrees; each issue being 3 inches deep and 4 wide, and in number according to the head of the water and force required, (from 4 to 5 being generally used.) These issues are cut in a semi-circle, to suit the diameter of the wheel, each issue acting at the periphery. As the issuing velocity of water under a less head than 6 feet is not sufficient to give a proper velocity to the runner or upper mill stone, therefore it is necessary to have a spur-wheel on the shafts to obtain a proper movement. The buckets in the wheel ought not to be more than six inches apart, and the wheel only 4 inches deep, that the issues may be cleaned out when stopped. I cut a hole of six inches diameter in the top of the trunk, which I stop with a plug of wood.—The gate is fixed as usual.

To use a small solid wheel on the spindle, instead of a *trundle head*, with round, is much preferable.

There are a number of mills in the state of Virginia on this plan, and by *correct experiments*, it has been ascertained that the same quantity of water applied in this way will do double the business of the common tub mill, and equally cheap, and easily fixed.

If a column of water one foot square was issuing from a trunk in the usual way, and if it was then divided into 4 issues by intersections in the centre, the difference in the action of each of these issues would be a sufficient demonstration of the propriety of my improvement.

**Horse Mills.**—Those who are compelled to use Horse Mills may profit by the following hint, viz. if the sweep is made to extend from the shaft at such a height as to let a horse pass under the end of it, and if two pieces of wood are framed to the end thereof to reach down on each side of the horses' shoulders, to which the horse is to be hitched to these pieces with a short chain, (not exceeding a foot) three horses will do as much business as four in the common way.

Those who would wish to know why this is the case would better extend a horse's gear to half the circle of the walk. The whole power being then lost, will show the propriety of saving all by the mode here suggested.

NASHVILLE, SEPT. 2.

**West Tennessee.**—We rarely open a newspaper that does not contain an account of the growing importance of some town, or section of territory in the United States. To us the perusal of such sketches afford particular pleasure, as they tend to show the rapid strides of the country to wealth and independence. Where there can be so much, with truth, said respecting any part of the Union as there can be of West Tennessee, it is much to be desired that some person of leisure would collect the materials necessary to give the fact to the world. We suggest that a statement would be probably the means of directing the attention of some of the numerous emigrants from the Atlantic states, and the European continent, to this state.

The district of West Tennessee contains as much rich land, and a great part of it uncultivated, as any other section of the United States, of equal extent.—The climate is as salubrious as any other can be, and the seasons are as regular, and the winters as moderate—there are generally as fine springs of excellent water as any other country, as equally level and fertile can afford, the soil produces an abundant crop of every article raised in the same latitude,

and on the exertions of the industrious and frugal farmer or mechanic, wealth and health are the constant attendant. A great part of the country is still in a state of nature, but much has been reclaimed from the wilderness in a few years past, and the hope is entertained that greater changes will be made in the years to come. Elegant brick and stone houses, beautiful fields, comfortable cat buildings, large mills and distilleries, and thriving orchards, already enrich our country, in many neighboring hoods. The progress of the numerous towns, have more than kept pace with the improvements in the country.—Already we count many houses in our county towns, not inferior to the usual style of building in the large cities of the Atlantic states. The most considerable town is Nashville, which contains a population inferior in wealth and the respectability of its inhabitants to no town of its age in the western country. The buildings are large and convenient, and in many instances elegant.—The numbers reared every year for several years has annually increased. Those built this summer, if they were to themselves, would be considered a tolerable little town in size. The encouragement to tradesmen, and artificers, in West Tennessee, is believed to be equal, if not better, than in any other part of the United States. The country is new and increasing in wealth and importance daily, and affords a great profit to the farmer, who finds a ready market either at home, or at New-Orleans, for the produce of his farm.

FROM THE ALEX. GAZETTE.

Many enquiries having been made of the progress of the American Society for Colonizing the free people of color of the United States, I send you a brief sketch of their proceedings. The constitution and memorial to congress have been some time before the public. It is well known that from the short term of the last session of congress, and the multiplicity and variety of important business before it much was adjourned over to the next session. Although the committee to whom the memorial of the president and board of managers was referred, made a report thereon, there was not time to mature and set upon an object so important and extensive during the session. It is obvious that no efficient measures could be taken either by the society or by government in accomplishing the great object in view, till full and accurate information could be procured from the coast of Africa. For, although from information already received, there is reason to believe that an eligible situation may be procured, it would not be prudent nor safe to act without the report of an agent, sent for the purpose. At a meeting of the board of managers after the rising of congress, it was therefore thought advisable to appoint an agent to visit the coast of Africa, to procure such information as will be necessary for the society, for the public, and for the government, not doubting, but that the funds for the purpose would be cheerfully contributed by the public. Samuel J. Mills was appointed by the board, and if sufficient funds can be raised an associate will be appointed to accompany him. Mr. Mills will first visit England, where it is expected he will be able to obtain much useful information preparatory to his visit to the coast of Africa. The Society have reason to hope for the patronage of our government, and the aid of the minister who will probably be shortly sent to England, in procuring information there. The agent will go from England to Sierra Leone, from which place he will probably be enabled with convenience and safety to visit the coast. If a situation can be found suitable for the colony, and which can be procured from the present proprietors, then arrangements will be made for purchasing a sufficient territory for the colony. The principal requisites indispensably necessary for the colony, appear to be, good soil, healthy climate, easiness of access, and freedom from danger or disturbance from the neighboring tribes. If such a spot can be procured, the board are already satisfied of the willingness of a sufficient number to commence the colony; and if once commenced with these advantages, the obstacles will not be great to a rapid settlement from this country.

To aid this object, auxiliary societies have been formed in Baltimore and Philadelphia. It is hoped these auxiliary societies will extend to other parts of the country. The simple object at present in view is to obtain information. When that information is procured, the society and the public will have an opportunity of judging whether it be proper to proceed, and each individual will have an opportunity of deciding whether he will give it further support.

The following extract of a letter from that distinguished philanthropist Thomas Clarkson, gives great hopes of finding a suitable situation:—"Of the different parts, however, to which I think neither the law of possession nor of claim, in consequence of any former purchases, attaches, I should vastly prefer the country called Sherbro, which by consulting the map you will find at no very great distance from Sierra Leone. I should prefer it for the following reasons: 1st, Because it is one of the most fertile soils in all Africa, and would therefore repay the laborer with the greatest profit for his trouble. 2d, It has the advantage of good water and rivers. 3d, The natives are reputed to be of a kind and friendly disposition, and not ferocious. 4th, They are broken into very small elective governments, so that no one tribe or nation would be powerful enough to do any great injury, if it were so disposed, to a colony upon a proper scale." After many other observations he concludes by recommending the