

# The Raleigh Minerva.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1820.

Vol. 2

## RALEIGH, (N. C.)

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## Domestic.

In the Kaskaskia Gazette, published in the state of Illinois, I perceive a letter from a Mr. Blakeman addressed to Henry S. Dodge, Esq. Secretary to the Agricultural Society. Mr. Blakeman states that he has raised, from a few acres of land, the prodigious quantity of 4550 bushels of shelled corn, averaging 135 bushels per acre; the soil was newly turned-up prairie: the seed was brought from Kentucky; it was planted in May, in hills about four feet apart, and was three times ploughed. This certainly is a decided proof of the richness of soil, and shows that fine country is capable of producing by care and industry.—*Nat. Adv.*

The Newburyport Herald, received this morning, states that on Saturday last a whale came on shore at Major Cross's farm, south of Plum Island. It had been harpooned, and probably had not been dead more than two or three days. Three harpoons, two of them broken, the other whole, also came on shore, with the rope attached.

This is, unquestionably, the whale harpooned by a party under the command of Mr. Langdon: it will be recollected that they were obliged to cut away the rope to save the boat.

"And a hunting we will go."—Thirty persons, in Nelson, N. H. determined to hunt for one week. They divided into two parties, and commenced the pursuit of game on Monday the 15th inst., continuing till Saturday evening. The following is the number and description of animals killed: 43 Foxes, 2 Hedge-Hogs, 2791 Squirrels, 18 Cows, 44 Woodchucks, 148 Woodpeckers, 6 Hawks, 20 Blue Jays, 14 Jackbirds, 9 Thrashers, and 4 Pole Cats. Total number, 3107.

It stated, in a Louisville paper, that Mr. R. M. Johnson, Senator in Congress from Kentucky, travelled from Washington City to his residence, a distance of near six hundred miles, in seven days.

Three vessels belonging to Bristol, Rhode Island, have been captured by the British brig *Thistle*, all with full cargoes of slaves, and sent to *Sierra Leone*. We regret that they were not captured by the *Cyane*, and trust that the vessels, on that coast, will be unusually vigilant in detecting those violators of law and of gospel.

## Nat. Adv.

**Maine Bank failures**—The public opinion, much agitated and irritated at the failure of the Banks of Hallowell and Augusta, Castine and Wiscasset, to redeem their bills with specie; and they are now an average discount of 50 per cent. on all bills of Banks below Portland are refused by many traders. These failures have occasioned much distress among the masses of citizens least able to bear it; and have taught some severe lessons to all.—*Boston Centinel*.

Measures are about to be immediately taken by the proprietors to rebuild the New York Theatre. The Theatre which has just been burnt cost originally \$20,000 dollars; but was purchased by the proprietors, Messrs Astor and Beckman, for 50,000 dollars. It was not insured.

The Aurora states that Mr. J. Brown, of Louisiana, is to succeed Mr. Gallatin at Paris.—The latter is expected to come in time for the election.

[Not credited.]

A bill has passed the House of Representatives fixing the time for the next meeting of Congress to take place on the 2nd Monday in November, instead of the first Monday in December next. Besides the large quantity of unfinished business, it is probable that the Manufacturing Question, and the unsettled state of our relations with Spain, had a bearing on the decision of the House of Representatives on this question.—*Nat. Int.*

We understand, that *Silver Dollars* are reported into the United States from

England. Three vessels have recently brought in greater or less quantities. It is said, that in London they cost 59 and a half pence per ounce—equal to 51 and a half pence per dollar—54 pence or 4 shillings 6 pence being the par, the dollars are consequently 5 per cent. under par. The influx of silver from the continent into England has been considerable; as being a more favorable remittance than bills of exchange. Dollars from South America have also been imported into England in large quantities.—At Buenos Ayres, it is said, they are worth only about 4 shillings sterling. In consequence of this influx into England we have heard it accounted for, that dollars are so far below par as to afford a profit on importation into this country. We may therefore expect to see more of them brought in. This is not the only remarkable circumstance of these times. Business is so stagnant, that we hear of much idle capital about. Persons would willingly borrow it to pay their debts; but the want of confidence operates as a serious impediment between those who have it, and those who want it. Many of the banks who are solicitous to lend, cannot always get paper to their liking. Private capitalists in some of the northern towns are said to be willing to loan on undoubted security, at 5 or 6 per cent. The public 6 per cents. command from 3 to 5 per cent. above par. The government are authorized by the late three million loan bill to take the loan at 6 per cent. if redeemable at the pleasure of the government; if not, at 5 per cent. irredeemable before the year 1832. If they prefer the latter alternative, they will no doubt succeed in negotiating the loan. These are altogether anomalous events in the history of our country.—*Enquirer*.

CHARLESTON, MAY 25.

**Rat Catching**.—We copied into the Courier a few days since, from a paper printed in Carmarthen (Wales) an account of a *Mouse* having been caught in the pantry of the White Lion Inn in that place by an *Oyster*. Yesterday afternoon, a friend brought to this office, in a segar box, a *Rat*, nearly full grown, in custody of a *Muscle*, which he had just discovered, by his cries, under his store, situated opposite to the Market House in Boundary street, at the head of Gadsden's wharf. It was caught by the toes on only one of its feet, and, when brought to this office, was quite worn down with fatigue in his endeavors to extricate himself from his enemy, who held on upon him with the most unrelenting pertinacity, utterly regardless of his cries for liberation, which would have moved the heart of any thing, except an *Oyster* or a *Muscle*.—*Courier*.

FROM THE CAPE FEAR RECORDER.

**Mr. Editor**—I was looking over an old edition of Blackstone's Commentaries, which belonged to my father, who always had a very great conceit of his legal knowledge; and even carried this conceit so far, as more than once to attempt to plead his own cause, much against the inclination and to the injury of the gentlemen learned in the law—from which book I plainly saw, that a corporation, being an ideal body, could not be held to bail or imprisoned. I further understood, that any debt due by them, the payment could not be enforced unless the contract was under the seal of the corporation—that it is the seal alone that gives them the corporal right of suing and being sued, and of binding themselves—it is that alone that gives validity to the acts of the corporation. This opinion of the English writer being so at variance with the common practice in this country, I viewed it as altogether fallacious. We know that the great quantity of bank paper which has inundated the country, was issued not under the seal of the corporations from which it comes. Therefore, if Mr. Blackstone's opinion be correct, the holder of such notes has no security but that arising from the personal responsibility of the persons signing the notes, that is, the cashier and president of the institution. I wish you would get some of your correspondents to investigate the subject, or else, if you have time, do the same yourself.

SHYLOCK.

## THE WHALE.

Copy of a letter addressed to G. C. Langdon, Esq.

BROOKLYN, 20th MAY, 1820.

There is an excellent opportunity now afforded by your successful exertions to settle the question lately agitated in New-York and Albany, whether a *Whale* is a *Fish*. The creature killed on Saturday last, a few leagues from Sandy Hook, is of the cetaceous order, and of the kind called *Balona*, by naturalists or the *bone whale*, or *right whale*, by people in general.

Among other interesting particulars to be observed on the present occasion, the following are prominent:

1. This animal resembles other mammiferous beings, in having an ear, or passage through which sounds are communicated. The external ear is indeed wanting; but the meatus, or passage to

the internal organ of hearing, is very plain, resembling that of the seal.

2. The eye of this whale differs from that of the fish, it being furnished with eye-lids like those of land animals. It is plain to every observer, that fish have naked eyes, which they can never close. But, any person may satisfy himself, that the eye-lids of the whale, are as distinct as those of the cow or the horse.

3. There is reason to believe, that this whale feeds upon the molluscous animals living in the Atlantic ocean, and occasionally driven ashore by tempest on Long Island and New Jersey.—It is known by the name of the great *sea clam*, whose shells are cast ashore plentifully on Rockaway Beach. As Capt. Jenkins has explained how the whale rooted up from the sands the bushels of these clams contained in his mouth, it appears very probable, that their visits to our coast is for the purpose of obtaining food.

4. Fish have fins with rays of bones, giving them a *fan-like* appearance. But the whale has no fins with radiating bones running through them. They are, on the contrary, in the nature of arms in men, or of fore-legs in beasts. There is a near resemblance in the organization of the two pectoral appendages (fins as they are called) to the arm of a man; there being a shoulder blade, humerus, cubit, wrist and imperfect hand, all invested in one common covering of skin, as a man's hand is if wrapped in a mitten or close glove.

There are several other points of observation which the persons who visit your exhibition will not fail to remark. They are sufficient to put the question forever at rest.

As to the actual condition of the body this morning, when I was at the place where it lies. I found nothing to alarm me on the score either of comfort or health. The removal of the more perishable parts, the free application made of limo and charcoal, and the coolness of the atmosphere, all conspire to favor the wishes of the citizens to gratify their rational curiosity.

Your assurance to me that you will, without delay, remove the carcass before it degenerates to nuisance and in anticipation of all municipal orders, convinces me that you have that just and proper sense of private right, which forbids it to encroach upon public feeling.

Considering you, and your associates, as contributing to aid the study of geology, and to promote researches in science, I beg you to accept the assurance of my esteem and regard.

SAMUEL MITCHILL.

## Foreign.

From the New York Commercial Advertiser of June 2.

## LATE FROM ENGLAND.

By the arrival of the April Packet ship *Albion*, captain Williams, the editors of the Commercial Advertiser, have received London papers to the 30th of April, Lloyd's General Shipping List to the 29th, inclusive. We have also Liverpool papers and letters to the 2d of May. From these we have made very copious extracts. We are compelled to omit several articles which were prepared for this day, and to ask the indulgence of our advertising friends for the liberty we have taken in omitting their favors.

The king's Speech at the opening of the New Parliament, will be found in a subsequent column. After it had been read in the House of Commons, Sir Edward Knatchbull, moved an address to his Majesty; the motion was seconded by Mr. Wilmot. Several gentlemen followed among whom was Sir Francis Burdett. After stating that he should vote for the address, he observed, that he wished it to be understood, that in doing so he should not hereafter, when the several topics introduced into the speech came to be discussed at length, he considered to have pledged himself to support the doctrines or as serious echoed in the address. The address was carried unanimously.—Mr. Tierney enquired of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when it was his intention to have the new arrangement of the civil list brought up. The day named was the 5th of May. In the House of Lords, the address was moved by Lord Greenville and seconded by Lord Howard. The address was carried unanimously. The next day, the 29th very little business was done in the upper house. In the House of Commons, Sir H. Parnell gave notice, that on the 11th of May Mr. Grattan would submit to the House a motion for the removal of the disabilities which the laws at present imposed on Roman Catholics.

Mr. Lambton gave notice that on the 6th of June, he should submit a motion to enquire into the present state of representation.—Perhaps our readers will recollect that this gentleman offered a similar motion the last session of Parliament.

The 24th of May was fixed on to introduce the question of the Scotch Representation. The address to the King was brought up, and upon a motion that it be read a second time—

Lord A. Hamilton rose and said, that he would take that opportunity of making some observations upon the disturbances

which had taken place in that part of the country, with which he was more immediately connected, and of suggesting some means of mitigating the distress in which they had originated. The last Parliament had granted 20,000L. in aid of the distressed part of the population which might be disposed to emigrate to the Cape of Good Hope, and he believed emigration to be the most effectual resource to prevent a recurrence of those disturbances which had taken place in Scotland. He was persuaded that those disorders were mainly attributable to the pressure of extreme distress; and he had himself received representations from inhabitants of Glasgow who declared they were unable to support themselves or their families, and that they looked upon their existence as a burden which they could scarcely sustain.—He would suggest an emigration to our colonies in North America, as the most effectual means of mitigating this distress, and of preventing a recurrence of scenes which all most deeply deplore.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated, that the expense already incurred considerably exceeded the sum of 50,000L. which had been voted by Parliament, for the encouragement of emigration, though all the charges had not yet been defrayed. As to the number of those who had availed themselves of this assistance, he had to inform the Noble Lord, that upwards of 5,000 persons had already gone to the Cape of Good Hope; and when the last accounts were received from them, they had performed part of the voyage in good health, and had the prospect of terminating it prosperously. When the Noble Lord recommended America as a preferable place for emigrants to resort to, he apprehended the Noble Lord was not aware of the representations which had been received from that quarter. In America the greatest distress at present prevailed and the manufactures of that country, were in as languishing a state as those of our own. To send the destitute to that quarter would be, therefore, only to shift the scene of distress, and to transport them to poverty on a foreign shore. The British provinces of America were also overloaded, with emigration, that the strongest remonstrances had been made on the subject by the government of Canada. It proved a very great grievance both to the government and the people; and, under these circumstances, he thought it would be highly premature to adopt any plan for the promotion of emigration to that quarter. His Majesty's Ministers were not reluctant to assist those who were distressed at home in looking for a happier lot on any foreign shore; but such a measure should not be hastily or prematurely adopted.—With regard to farther emigration to the Cape of Good Hope, Government wished in the first place to learn the result of those who had already gone out, before they encouraged any farther emigration to that settlement on a more extended scale. He hoped that the house and the Noble Lord would do his Majesty's Ministers the justice to think they did not feel any reluctance to assist the distressed part of the population in seeking that comfort on foreign shores which circumstances prevented them from enjoying at home, though they might not appear so forward as some expected, tendering that assistance.

On Saturday the 29th, little business was transacted. The House met at 3 o'clock, and adjourned at 4, for the purpose of presenting the address of the House to the King.

The trials for high treason closed on the evening of the 27th of April, and the next morning sentence of death was passed on the prisoners. On Saturday, the 29th, the Common Serjeant made his report to the King in council, of the eleven men who had been sentenced the day previous. After two hours deliberation, the following were ordered for execution on the Monday following (May 1st.) viz. Arthur Thistlewood, James Ings, Thomas Brunt, Richard Tidd, and William Davidson. The remaining six, who pleaded guilty to their indictments, are respited during the pleasure of the King. The five above named are to be hung, and afterwards divided into four quarters.—One of the papers before us, says—"The prisoners at present exhibit a sort of enthusiastic bravery, and express a pride in having an opportunity to lay down their lives in the cause of freedom. They all reject the kind attention of the Rev. Mr. Cotton; they say they want not his assistance, and profess themselves to be confirmed deists."

We noticed a few days since that the trial of Arthur Thistlewood was published in an extra Observer. This was done before the other state prisoners had been tried, and in violation of an order of the Court. On the last day of the Session, the subject was introduced by the At-

orney-General, and Mr. Clements, the proprietor and publisher of the Observer, was sentenced to pay a fine of 100 hundred pounds. The intelligence from Kent (the country,) says, that the hop vines have suffered much from the sea. In many places the vines are destroyed. The Doncaster Gazette, of the 27th states that Wakefield and Huddersfield have been perfectly tranquil during the week. On the 26th, a dinner was given in London, chiefly by the merchants engaged in trade with Spain, in celebration of the recent change of the constitution of that country.—About 150 persons were present, among whom was the Spanish Ambassador. One of the toasts given, was, "The honorable Mr. F. A. SYTH, the United States Ambassador at Madrid."

In the Court of King's Bench, on the 24th, a motion was made to set aside the verdict, recently obtained against Sir Francis Burdett. After a long argument, the Chief Justice said, "that as at present advised, the court did not think there was sufficient ground for granting the rule. They would, however consider further before they either granted or refused it; and the motion might therefore stand over to a future day."

A petition to parliament is circulating in London, requesting a repeal of the existing laws relating to trade and navigation, and praying that ships of all nations may be admitted free into the United Kingdom, under the same regulations as British vessels.

A ministerial paper states, on what they call good authority, "that an arrangement between two distinguished persons is nearly, if not quite completed; and that the lady will continue to reside abroad."—In forming this determination it is added, "she is said to have been influenced by the advice of an habitual oppositivist, who did not consult his politics at the expense of his duty."

The disgraceful scene of a man selling his wife, took place in London on the 28th of April. Bills were posted in different parts of the city, stating that she would be sold according to law. At the appointed hour, the husband made his appearance, leading his wife by a halter, which was placed around her neck. She was "knocked down," at a very moderate price, to a Butcher of Clare market.

IRELAND. The Cork papers of the 28d of April, state, that a spirit of insubordination begins to manifest itself in the vicinity of Charleville. Nightly associations are formed there, and the peace and security of the neighborhood have been disturbed by turning up ground, nocturnal visits paid to the houses of some farmers, and threats of a very terrific nature have been promulgated against some individuals who have lately taken land there.

SCOTLAND. On the 17th the *Jessie* sailed from Dumfries, with 179 passengers, and the *Thomson Packet*, with 108; the former for Prince Edward's Island, the latter for St. Johns. About ten days before, the *Abeona* sailed for the latter place with 114.

FRANCE. Paris dates to the 26th had been received. In the Chamber of Deputies on the 25th, a report was made on a petition from M. Modier de Montjau, Councillor of the Royal Court of Nismes, praying for a considerable armed force to be stationed there, and stating that nocturnal meetings were held, and offering to denounce the author of a secret correspondence, discovered at the period of the assassination of the Duke de Berri, in which it was contemplated to employ that event for the purpose of effecting the removal of Count Decazes. The Commission, considering the importance of the allegations urged by the petitioner with so much earnestness, and in order to afford the petitioner an opportunity of proving them, recommend the petition to be referred to the President of the Council of Ministers. An interesting debate ensued. The Minister of the interior observed, that the petition expressed groundless and exaggerated fears; from official reports, of undoubted authenticity, he could assure the Chamber, that no symptoms were manifested in the Department of the Guard, which could justify so extraordinary a proposition; he would not, however, oppose the recommendation of the Commission, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Gazette de France states that in his Majesty's entire recovery he will

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