

Highland Messenger.

LIFE IS ONLY TO BE VALUED AS IT IS USEFULLY EMPLOYED.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

THE LAND OF EDM.

We are to-night to travel over the last stage of our journey through the Holy Land. I propose now to take you across Jordan, and introduce you into a region as travelled and comparatively new. We will commence with the South,—the ancient Land of Edom, or Idumea; a land often mentioned in the Scriptures, and whose awful destiny, as predicted by the prophets, surpassed in severity even that of Tyre and Sidon. Edom lay on the east side of the Red Sea, and constituted a part of Arabia. It was the first country into which the Israelites entered after leaving Egypt; and embracing Mount Sinai, and part of this great desert through which the tribes were, for their unbelief and rebellion, condemned to wander for forty years.—It was the portion of Esau; and Isaac, in his prophetic blessing, which, as a patriarch, he delivered before his death, describes it as a rich and fruitful country. "God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine." It was a populous region before the days of Abraham, and was probably the country of Job—"The Land of Uz." Such is now the opinion of the best commentators and scriptural antiquarians; and they believe the book which bears his name in the Bible to be of an earlier date than the Pentateuch. The book is unquestionably of very high antiquity; and one chief argument in favor of the opinion that it was written anterior to the books of Moses is, that, throughout, there is not the least reference to him, or to the exodus from Egypt; a thing nearly impossible, had an event so memorable in the subsequent ages of Jewish history, and the consequences of which are so interwoven in the civil and religious laws of that people, taken place before the book was written. It is the only book, of any length, in the Old Testament, in which there is no reference to the deliverance out of Egypt. Edom grew up into a country remarkable for its advances in civilization and its progress in arts and sciences. Of this, the book of Job contains many incidental proofs. That venerable patriarch himself very rich in cattle and in land, and the people among whom he dwelt could not, it was evident, have been in a rude uncultivated state. There is mention of the weaver's shuttle, and of the decoration of dress by jewels. War is adverted to, as having been reduced to a system. There are traces, too, of the cultivation of astronomy. The "Pleiades," "Orion" and "Arcturus" are mentioned as constellations familiarly known.—There are also evidences of the cultivation of botany, and an acquaintance with mineralogy and zoology, which could scarcely exist, save after a long duration of social life and mental cultivation. All of which go to show that the country was advanced, at an early age, to a state of considerable refinement. Petra.—The capital city was called at first Edom, but afterward obtained from its peculiar situation the name of Petra, which signifies a rock. The singularity of its position strikes with wonder all beholders. It is situated in a territory so rough and rocky as to be almost impassable. I do not know another spot like it, any where. The continuous masses of rock are perfectly denuded of soil and verdure, mound coming after mound, rolling in enormous masses toward the shore,—then suddenly checked and roughened by an adverse wind,—and then, when all is in wild confusion, touched by the wand of an enchanter, and in an instant all is turned into stone. There they stand, in confused pinnacles and hollows, of shapes like nothing else upon earth, the city in a position chosen with an especial view to its strength. It is built in one of the ravines by which this rocky mass is traversed, and whose course can be followed only by the aid of guides. With their assistance you may trace the approaches of the capital; but to reach it you must pass through a chasm two miles in length, and yet so narrow that three persons cannot walk in it abreast, while the sides on either hand are from six to nine hundred feet in perpendicular height. It is impossible to describe the sensations of awe, and even terror with which the place strikes the heart of a stranger who beholds it for the first time. Yet this pass forms the sole entrance by which the city can be approached. The sky overhead appears so distant, as if you caught a glimpse of it through some narrow aperture or window hewn out of the huge masses of rock by which you are every where surrounded. The sun is here never seen at all; nor could it be, unless when vertical, which cannot be the case here, since the country does not lie within the tropic.—The only glimpse of his rays which can be caught by the dwellers below, is when they touch at the rising or setting, on the highest point of the rocks which form the brink of the chasm and they do not strike more than a foot

below the exterior surface above. These lofty crags and pinnacles are the resort of eagles, which are their only inhabitants. When you arrive at the termination of this narrow defile, you find that it opens into a circular valley, surrounded with walls of solid rock from six to nine hundred feet in height. Here is the city of Edom. But it is not, as might be expected, built in the centre of this open space, but on the contrary, is situated round its sides, in excavations hewn out of the living rock. Instead of being like other cities, built up by laying one stone upon another, every private dwelling, temple, palace, tomb, or other buildings of whatever character, is hewn and excavated from the side of the rocky hill, and constitutes a part of it. There are several hundreds of such dwellings still to be seen, some of them finished, others in a state of progress.—From an inspection of these, it is manifest that those who constructed them, commenced at the top and worked downward. When the face of the cliff had been reduced to a smooth and even surface, then they drew upon it the facade, or front elevation of the proposed building making out the places for the windows and doors, columns and cornices and whatever other particulars were to be introduced into the architecture; and then the residue of the work was completed by the hammer and chisel. Some of these outlines still remain. When they had cut out the proper apertures for the upper windows, they penetrated directly back into the rock, and proceeded to hew out the chambers and other interior apartments, leaving the thickness of the walls, so that the walls, floors and partitions of the whole house remain as nature made them, of one continued, unbroken mass of rock. Save at the celebrated caves of Elephant and Ellora in India, and some of the temples at the Contracts of the Nile, there is nothing in existence like this strange and wonderful city. The unique structure of the buildings, the height, the grandeur, the silence, the solitude, the air of desolation, the impress of antiquity, all conspire to impress the mind of the beholder with sensations of sublimity and sadness, awe and wonder, such as never can be erased from the memory. Surely, one would have thought, if any city on the face of the earth might count with confidence on an everlasting duration, it was Edom. So impregnable in its position: the capital of a country so fertile and populous; situated within reach of the Red Sea on the one hand and the Mediterranean on the other, with the land of Palestine in immediate proximity, is promised a long reign of wealth, prosperity and power. They had but to block up the narrow pass by which alone the city was approachable, and if supplied with provision, it might defy the united attack of the most numerous and best appointed armies. For there were springs of water within the city, so that it never could be strained in that respect. Fill but its magazines, and it might defy the globe; and from the fertility of the surrounding country, these were easily provided for any period of time. The inhabitants of a capital thus situated fell into a delusion so common to human nature, the habit of regarding this world as the only world for which man was formed; and having all wants supplied and all dangers far removed, sank into self-indulgence, sloth, luxury, and crime. Besides these general sins, the Edomites were guilty of one special provocation, which in a more signal manner, called down upon them the wrath of heaven. Though related to the nation of Israel by kindred ties and a common origin,—for Esau was Jacob's brother,—when that people, under a divinely appointed leader, had broken the bonds of Egyptian tyranny, and led the house of their bondage to seek a better land long before promised to Abraham, the Edomites, instead of rejoicing at their escape, receiving their armies with joyful welcome, and furthering their progress by all necessary supplies and facilities, positively refused them so much as a passage through their territory. When Moses had arrived on their frontier, he sent messengers from Kadesh to the King of Edom with this message: "Thus saith thy brother Israel, thou knowest all the travel that hath befallen us; how our fathers went down into Egypt, and we have dwelt in Egypt, a long time; and the Egyptians vexed us, and our fathers. And when we cried unto the Lord, he heard our voice, and sent an angel, and hath brought us forth out of Egypt. And behold, we are in Kadesh, a city in the uttermost of thy border. Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy country. We will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards; neither will we drink of the water of the wells. We will go by the king's highway. We will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders.—We will go by the highway; and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will pay thee for it. I will only, without doing any thing else, go through on my feet." But this appeal to fraternal feeling, this modest and moderate request, was answered by threats and by open hostility. For this the voice of prophecy marked their doom. God, speaking by the lips of Isaiah, thus apostrophizes the proud city:—"Thy terriblest hath deceived thee, and the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill.—Thou shalt make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the Lord. Also Edom shall be a desolation.—

Every one that goeth by it, shall be astonished. No man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it! This doom, improbable as it then seemed, and far as it was from the self-confident hearts of those inhabitants of an impregnable and scarce approachable fortress, has been fulfilled to the letter. Edom is as desolate as desolation itself can make it. Her armies, her proud kings, her luxurious people, her wealth, her power—are all gone.—No voice of man is heard. Briars and thorns grow in the temples; owls and serpents inhabit the palaces. The once fertile land is a region of total sterility, a desert, a waste forsaken wilderness.—Neither Nineveh nor Babylon are more perfectly abandoned. And though the sight of her ruins saddens the heart, it teaches it, at the same time, a salutary lesson against presumption and security, and furnishes a proof of the Scripture which centuries have been unable to erase and which seems likely to endure till time itself has ceased to destroy.

HAPPY AS A KING.

A delightful picture in its subject and execution, with this title, has been prepared for the Lady's Book, and will appear as a frontispiece in the October number. "It represents three children swinging on an old gate—a boy aiding in the enterprise, a smaller child upon in its joy, and a setter dog in full cry at the fun. On the upper bar, poised aloft, with hands upstretched in unmitigated joy, is the king of the sport."

"O that I were a king!" said the urchin. And what would you do? "Do! Why, swing on the gate and eat candy." Well, here he is a king, only more harmless than most of them. Would to heaven that the Caesars, and Alexanders, and Napoleons, and such like, had spent life in some such way, swinging on a gate, eating candy, instead of desecrating to swing on a gallows. Happy as a king—happier; swing on child, while thou mayst, and God bless thee!—*Phil. Am. Sent.*

Aye, "swing on, child, and be happy while thou mayst!" The time is short—"Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise;" but nevertheless we can't help it, and every step we take in this journey of life helps to dispel the charming illusions of childhood; every day takes from us some happy error never to return. The fugitive enchantments of our swaddling clothes are superseded by the frail wonders of short coats or roundabouts; these again we soon learn to despise; and so, as we live, we are reasoned and ridiculed out of all our jocund mistakes, till the full grown man sees things as they are, and is just wise enough to be miserable.

How beautiful is that law of playfulness which governs the youth of all created animals! How glorious that short-lived era of the blood, when school-boys and puppies and kittens, caper and dance, and swing on the gate by a sort of necessity! How delightful the irresistible gaiety of young life; the exulting spirit of the newly born—the elementary joyousness which derives no aid from without, and requires no stimulus—the triumphant sense of life bursting out into brief transports! Ah! a jack-o'-lantern! At this sad hour of maturity, we remember the throbs of heart with which we used to welcome this metaphysical stranger—how we chuckled and crowed as the dazzled eye followed him through the changeful harlequinade! Who remembers without regret his faith in ghosts? And then the man in the moon! There is no equivalent for the joys of childhood.

But if we regret the havoc of our young fancies, how much more may we grieve for the changes which time and knowledge establish in our moral attributes, our passions, affections, loves and aversions! Learn—learn—is the cry, until we give up all we love, and bear all we hate. While yet in the green spring of life, untought and unpracticed, how eager are we to trust all that smile upon us; to give all we can to all that want; to love and to hate as the heart directs; to speak what we think and all we think; to despise all that is despicable; to love our country for its own sake, and to love religion for God's sake. But, alas! what sad havoc do instruction, and fashion, and the world, make with these native impulses and fresh desires. Confidence must learn to look about her; charity to listen to reason and to self; love, how to keep a house over its head; hate, how to make faces; sincerity, to hold its tongue; scorn, to be polite; gratitude to forget; patriotism, to get an office; and religion to seek a reward.

"Men are but children of a larger growth"—is a great fib. It would be a compliment if it were true. If old age was only ripe infancy, it would be full of attraction and endearment; but, stamped with the impress of the world, with all its tricks, its shuffling wisdom and political chicanerie, it no more resembles the open soul of childhood, than a sallow, wizened winter apple skin resembles the smoothness and softness of its smiling face. Once in an age, indeed, one meets a man who may seem to embody the vision of the poet, and who is therefore as "Happy as a King"—one who has borne the shock of conflicting interests and passions, untought, or at least unchanged; who has pushed his way thro' the crowd of this villainous world, and yet in every respect of moral simplicity, still wears his bib and tucker, and eats with a spoon. Such a person makes but a bad figure on "Change," and would be out of all decent costume at Court.

We have known one such individual; a joyous baby of three-score, with whom we once went a bird-nesting in company with his grand children. It was on a spring morning early, when the dew still sparkled on the grass, and all nature was an image of youth and freshness. The grey head might be considered a little out of season, but his cheerful eye, his lively vanities, and ready laugh were in perfect keeping. Time had set his mark upon him; but, like an old chestnut, he blossomed to the last. Age had stiffened his joints, and hardened his sinews; but his affections were full of spring and flexibility. He could not exactly play at bull-frog, but he could look on with wonderful agility. The simpleton, after sixty winters, was warm-hearted and disinterested; still had faith in human kindness; and an immovable conviction that to do good was to be happy, and to be thus happy the end of his being. He was not ignorant of the use and power of money; but somehow it was seldom connected in his mind with more dignified associations than marbles or sugar plums, and he could never (old fool that he was!) be brought to admit by any force of calculation, that it was a component part of love and friendship.—Indulging in his own feelings, rather than the opinion of the world, he had a shocking habit of laughing at all sorts of gravity not founded in sincerity.—He could look and feel sad at a tale of distress, and had a laugh always ripe for a joke, or even a clever intention; but the artifices of affectation, mere physiological solemnity, excited no emotion. His sister, who, in relation to him, was altogether of the Antipodes, perpetually urged upon him—"brother you ought to urge better." But, poor man, he never improved.—Like all children he was impatient of leading strings, and would be running alone though he lost many a lamp for his paths. He died at last, we grieve to say, a martyr to his virtues.

"Swing on then, child, while thou mayst, and be as 'Happy as a King!'"

"TIT FOR TAT."—Our brethren of England have been manifesting great concern about the sin of slavery in this country, and have passed sundry resolutions on the subject, and have sent over recently a letter affectionately chiding us for our inactivity. But it appears that they have a beam or something of the sort in their own eye; for at a late meeting of the Worcester (Mass.) Association, the following resolution was adopted:—"Resolved, That the very common use of wines, beer and other intoxicating liquors by our English brethren, calls for a decided and solemn remonstrance on the part of American Christians against such practice." Perhaps another "convention of the world" had better be called to adjust this matter. We live in fine times. Every person feels a deep interest in every one's affairs but his own; and fault-finding and evil speaking are the cardinal virtues of the age!—*Baptist Banner.*

HOW TO KICK A MAN WITH IMPUNITY.—Two gentlemen who were walking together in Paris. "I will engage," said one to the other, "to give that man before us a good kicking, and yet he shall not be angry. He did as he had undertaken to do; the man turned round, and looked astonished. 'I beg your pardon,' said the kicker; 'I took you to be the Duke de la Tramoille.'" The Duke was very handsome—the kicked man very plain; he was gratified by the mistake under which he believed he had suffered, shook himself, smiled, bowed, and went on his way.

TEMPERANCE ANECDOTE.—A man was taken before a magistrate for having while drunk knocked down in the street a minister of religion. The prisoner was fully convicted of the offence, but at the urgent request of the reverend gentleman whom he had injured, was liberated on signing the tetotal pledge for a month. At the expiration of the month he called at the house of the divine, and being introduced, expressed his gratitude for the effects of the pledge he had submitted to, and concluded with expressing the utmost sorrow at not having met and knocked down his reverence thirty years before.

A CHINESE MAP OF THE WORLD.—It is two feet wide, by three and a half high; and is almost covered with China. In the left hand corner, at top, is a sea three inches square, in which are delineated, as small islands, Europe, England, Holland, France, Portugal, Africa. Holland is as large as all the rest, and Africa is not as big as the end of one's finger! The northern frontier is Russia, very large. The left corner, at the bottom, is occupied by the Western Ocean, as it is called, containing the Malay peninsula, pretty well defined.—Along the bottom are Cambodia, Cochinchina, &c., represented as moderately sized islands, and on the right is Formosa, larger than all the rest put together. Various other countries are shown as small islands. I should have given an engraving of this map, but that a true reduction to the size of a page would have left out most of these countries altogether. The surrounding ocean is represented as huge waves, with smooth passages or highways branching off to the different countries, or islands, as they represent them. They suppose that ships which keep along these highways go safely, but if they through ignorance or stress of weather, diverge, they soon get among these awful billows and are lost.

POLITICS OF THE DAY.

Political History.

The following rapid outline of the state of things existing in this country prior to the election of Gen. Jackson, and of the course pursued by the present dominant party to secure that election is from the Introduction to a MS. History of the Administration of Andrew Jackson, during his two terms of service, by George Watterston, Esq., of this city.

INTRODUCTION

To the History of the Administration of ANDREW JACKSON, seventh President of the United States, BY GEORGE WATTERSTON.

As far back as 1823, ANDREW JACKSON was a candidate for the high office of President of the United States. He was first nominated in Pennsylvania, by a few friends who were dissatisfied with the candidates then before the Public, and who conceived that the military reputation he had acquired during the last war might be made available to his success. It was said that, when he first heard of this nomination, he was disposed to regard it as a jest, and uttered some execrations at the expense of those who had thus presumed, as he thought, to turn him into ridicule. His competitors in the political arena were J. Q. ADAMS, then Secretary of State, Wm. CRAWFORD, Secretary of the Treasury, and HENRY CLAY, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The election finally devolved upon the House, the electoral vote having been 99 for JACKSON, 84 for ADAMS, 41 for CRAWFORD, and 37 for CLAY, as President of the United States. The two Houses assembled on the 9th of February, 1825, and proceeded to count the votes agreeably to the requisition of the Constitution. After the result was proclaimed, the House proceeded to the election of one of the three highest on the list of candidates; and upon the first ballot, Mr. ADAMS was elected President, having received the votes of 13 States out of the 24, JACKSON 7, and CRAWFORD 4. This result was mortifying to the friends of both the unsuccessful candidates, and they soon proceeded to marshal their forces for another contest. Every exertion was made by the supporters of Gen. Jackson to render him unsuccessful at the ensuing election and the political battle was waged with great fury and maintained with intense acrimony and bitterness by the friends of the two candidates. The venom of the Jackson party, which had then started into existence, was principally distilled upon the head of Mr. Clay, who had been appointed Secretary of State by President Adams, and who was censured by all the Jackson presses with corruption in voting for him.—This charge, which had first sprung from the malvolence of an uneducated member of the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania, and whom Mr. Clay publicly denounced as a "dotard and a liar," was so industriously propagated by the adherents of Gen. Jackson, and even by Jackson himself, that Mr. Clay found himself constrained to deny the charge and refute the slander, which he did with his usual ability and with all the force of truth. He addressed a letter to all the members of Congress who had acted with him, and requested them to state candidly whether any unfair or dishonorable means had been employed by him in the election of Mr. Adams, and their answers were entirely satisfactory to every unprejudiced mind in exculpating him from all blame. On the other hand Gen. Jackson was charged with the deliberate murder of six militia men, with the crime of adultery, with trampling under foot the rights of individuals, and the laws of nations, and with ignorance, violence of temper, and brutality of character. One who afterwards became his warmest partizan publicly declared, in 1822-23, "that if Gen. Jackson was elected President of the United States, every man opposed to him, and wishing to support his own dignity, would be obliged to arm himself and guard his house with bulldogs and bloodhounds." And the Richmond Enquirer asserted that "he [was] too little of a statesman, too rash, too violent in his temper, his measures too much inclined to arbitrary government, to obtain the humble support of the editors of this paper, and that they would deprecate his election as a curse upon our country." Such was the idea entertained of his character when a candidate for the office which, as a curse upon the country, and a just punishment for its transgressions, he was allowed to attain. Some, indeed, had been duped by the sentiments he had uttered and the pledges he had given, but the great mass were misled by the charm which surrounded his military character, the love of change, and the hope of reward. In 1816, he wrote a letter to President Monroe, which was published for the first time in 1824, and which contained sentiments that every good citizen was ready to applaud and could not but cordially approve. Had he adhered to the course thus recommended to another occupying a station which he afterwards held, he would have shown his sincerity, and proved to the world that he was guided by integrity and honesty, and sincerely disposed to act for the good of his country. This letter is too memorable to be wholly omitted. The following is an extract.

"Every thing," the writer says, "depends on the selection of your ministry.—

In every selection, party and party feelings should be avoided. Now is the time to examine that monster called party spirit. By selecting characters most conspicuous for their probity, virtue, capacity and firmness, without any regard to party, you will go far to, if not entirely, eradicate those feelings which, on former occasions, threw so many obstacles in the way of government; and perhaps have the pleasure and honor of uniting a people heretofore politically divided. The Chief Magistrate of a great and powerful nation should never indulge in party feelings. His conduct should be liberal and disinterested, always bearing in mind that he acts for the whole and not a part of the community. Consult no party in your choice."

The history of his Administration will furnish another melancholy evidence of the facility with which a man can give the most salutary and wholesome councils to others which he never intends to follow himself. In 1825, he resigned his seat in the Senate of the United States, in consequence, as he alleged, of being before the People as a candidate for the Presidency of the U. States. In his letter of resignation to the Legislature of Tennessee, which had then under consideration a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States so as to limit the Presidential service to a single term, he observed:

"I would go further. I would impose a provision rendering any member of Congress ineligible to office under the General Government during the term for which he was elected, and for two years thereafter, except in cases of judicial office. Members, instead of being liable to be withdrawn from legislating on the great interests of the nation, through prospects of Executive patronage, would be more liberally confided in by their constituents, while their vigilance would be less interrupted by party feelings and party excitements. The morals of the country would be improved," &c.

"But if this change in the Constitution should not be obtained, and important appointments continue to devolve on the Representatives in Congress, it requires no depth of thought to be convinced that corruption will become the order of the day. It is through this channel that the People may expect to be attacked in their constitutional sovereignty, and where tyranny may well be apprehended to spring up in some favorable emergency."

Gen. Jackson concluded with what one would suppose to be a very natural deduction from the positions he had laid down, namely:

"It is due to myself to practise upon the maxims recommended to others."

How he practised upon these maxims, the history of his Administration will show. His whole career was one of hypocrisy, deception, and error. Not one promise that he had made did he fulfil, nor one pledge that he gave did he redeem. His party, which, from the prospects of success, and the untiring exertions they made, had rapidly increased in numbers, assailed the Administration of Mr. Adams with great bitterness, and employed every weapon of attack to which they could resort to destroy it. Falshoods and calumnies of the most gross and glaring character were propagated throughout the country, while the most extravagant eulogies were heaped upon the head of the military candidate whose glory had been consummated at the battle of New Orleans. The existing Administration was charged with an extravagant and wasteful expenditure of the public money; with having paid for constructive instead of real missions; expending twenty-five thousand dollars, in furnishing the East-room of the President's house, in which, in truth, not a cent had been laid out till Gen. Jackson was elected President; taking the publication of the laws from opposition editors, and giving it to those belonging to the Administration party; with giving latitudinarian constructions to the Constitution; employing an unnecessary number of clerks, custom-house officers, &c. It was urged on the other hand, by the supporters of Gen. Jackson, that the Presidential term should be limited to four or six years; that members of Congress should not be appointed to office by the Executive, during the term for which they were elected, and for two years afterwards; that Jackson, if elected, would establish that rule, or cause the Constitution to be so amended as to make it imperative; that he would destroy the monster party, and be the President of the Nation and not of a party; would reform the abuses which had crept into the Government, or, as it was asserted, cleanse the Augean stable, retrench the public expenses, practise the most rigid economy, and introduce a system of strict accountability into all the departments of the Government. These promises were reiterated with such perseverance and industry, in every shape and mode, that the People were deluded into the belief that the blessings thus held forth to the country would be realized by the election of Andrew Jackson to the Presidency of the United States. The evils complained of, however, as then existing, were imaginary; the People neither knew nor felt them. The Government, on the contrary, was administered by Mr. Adams, and the able statesmen who formed his cabinet, with the strictest regard to economy; the officers were

1 National Intelligencer, May, 1824.
2 Letter to the Legislature of Tennessee, Oct., 1825.
3 See Benton's letter, Richmond Enquirer, Jan. 4, 1827.

*Thomas H. Benton, New Orleans Argus, Aug. 10, 1823.
*Richmond Enquirer, Oct. 14, 1824.

Malcom's Travels.