

Highland Messenger.

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

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MISCELLANEOUS.

(From the Western Messenger.)

Early times in Tennessee.

When we cast our eyes over the great valley of the West, watered by the Mississippi and Ohio, and their tributary streams, our minds are carried back to that period when it was a vast wilderness, inhabited by a fierce and savage race, to whom the arts of civilization were unknown, and whose principal occupations were war and hunting. We recall the deeds of our "pioneer fathers," and to our imagination are presented the colors the difficulties and dangers they encountered before they effected a permanent foothold, and enjoyed unmolested the comforts of home. By their courage and perseverance, they surmounted every obstacle, and the fruits of their enterprise are now displayed in the population and increasing wealth of the country. Its vast resources are in a state of rapid development; industry and enterprise, aided by enlightened legislation, are calling forth its energies, and the prophetic declaration that "the star of empire takes its way" is advancing to its fulfillment. This tide of civilization is forcing itself from the worn borders of the east, and that region which a few years ago, was denominated the "far West," and was regarded as the outskirts of civilization, is now the residence of an active, industrious, and enterprising population. Cities have risen up as if by magic, literature, science, and the arts, are exulting in their healthful and invigorating influence throughout the country, and the broad banner of civil and religious freedom is every where displayed, inviting the poor and oppressed to take shelter under its ample folds. Bright and glorious are the prospects of the valley of the West! Onward, still onward, must be its triumphant march! Blessed with a soil unparalled in fertility and a salubrious climate, and possessing, by means of its great rivers, immense advantages for trade and commerce, it must, ere the lapse of many years, rival the older States beyond the mountains, in every thing that can render a country prosperous, and a people happy. This is not a dream of an enthusiast—the wild imagining of a citizen of the west. Nature has pronounced its destiny; she has stamped it in characters too plain to be misunderstood. Narrow-minded legislation, and a niggard policy, may for a while retard, but nothing can prevent its ultimate rise to that greatness which from the beginning, nature destined it to attain.

At an early period of our national existence the beautiful soil and mild climate of Tennessee attracted the notice of adventurers. In 1771, during our colonial dependence, several settlements were made north of the Holston river, in that part of Tennessee which now includes the counties of Sullivan and Hawkins; some settlements were also made about the same time south of the river. The pioneers who thus adventured were principally from North Carolina. Although the country above mentioned properly belonged to North Carolina, the settlers north of the Holston agreed among themselves to adhere to Virginia, and to be governed by her laws, as well for protection against the Indians as against numerous bands of horse thieves and other marauders, who infested the borders. Those who settled south of the Holston, considered North Carolina as the parent State or colony; but they were governed by laws of their own making. Although they acknowledged separate jurisdictions, they were united by a common interest and for mutual defence, and the prosecution of their bold enterprise of effecting permanent settlements in what might be called an enemy's country, they encountered hardship and peril of no common sort, and overcome difficulties, which appeared at first almost insurmountable.

The settlements on both sides of the Holston gradually increased by the accession of new emigrants, notwithstanding they were exposed to the attacks and incursions of their savage neighbors; but in 1774, emigration received a check in consequence of the combined efforts of the Shawnee and other hostile tribes, who penetrated as far as Sullivan county, committing numerous depredations upon the property of such of the settlers as were unable to oppose effectual resistance, and sacrificing the lives of those who were unable to escape from their murderous assaults.

In this state of things the government of Virginia, in July, 1774, ordered an expedition against the hostile tribes, the command of which was given to Col. Andrew Lewis. To co-operate in this expedition, upon the success of which, in a great degree depended the safety of the frontier settlements, Capt. Evan Shelby raised a company of fifty men in that part of Tennessee called Sullivan and Carter counties. They set out about the seventeenth of August, and in the beginning of September, formed a junction with Col. Christian on New River. Animated by that bold and daring spirit which, subsequently, in more brilliant scenes, animated their descendants, they

bore a part in the celebrated battle of the Kenhawa, on the 10th of October, where the Indians were defeated with considerable loss. In this battle, the late General James Robertson and Col. Valentine Sevier (then both non-commissioned officers) were distinguished for their vigilance, activity, and bravery—qualities for which they were particularly distinguished in subsequent contests with the Indians in Tennessee. This battle was fought at the time the first Congress sat in Philadelphia, and its results had the effect of suppressing the depredations of the Indians until July, 1776, when the colonists, by their representatives, declared themselves independent, pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to maintain their independence. The war of the revolution had now assumed such an aspect, that the British government did not hesitate, through their emissaries, to stir up the Indians to renewed hostilities upon the frontiers; acting upon the maxim that it had the right to employ "the means which God and nature had put into its own hands."

Influenced by a British agent named Cameron, the Cherokees, then a powerful tribe, prepared for war, but their intention was happily frustrated. About the first of July, three men, namely, Isaac Thomas, William Fawley, and John Alankeship, who had resided several years among the Cherokees, led the nation and making their way to the white settlement, communicated the information that twelve hundred warriors were armed and equipped and ready to march against the frontiers. The departure of those men caused the Indians to postpone their march for two weeks, which gave time to the whites to prepare for their reception by the construction of forts, and other means of defence, and at the same time, two companies from Washington county, Virginia, under the command of Captain James Thompson and William Coker, and one company from what is now called Sullivan county, Tennessee, under Captain Shelby, amounting together to one hundred and seventy-six men, marched towards Long Island, in the Holston, for the purpose of watching the motions of the enemy. When they had arrived within a mile of the island, they met Indians about eight hundred in number, advancing under the command of Dragging-Canoe, a daring and experienced chief. The Indians relying upon their superiority of numbers, did not observe their usual caution, but rushed with the hopes of anticipated victory, upon their antagonists in great disorder. The result proved that the "race is not always to the swift, or the battle to the strong." Both parties engaged hand to hand, but a few minutes decided the battle in favor of the whites. Thirty-six of the Indians were killed on the spot, the rest fled in great confusion seeking refuge among the hills and mountains. The other division of the Indian force, consisting of four hundred warriors, attacked the fort at Sycamore Shoals, but were gallantly repulsed by Robertson and Sevier.

Thus ended the invasion of the Cherokees, to the great disappointment of Cameron who had no doubt of its successful issue, and that the whites would be compelled to abandon the country. Notwithstanding their defeat in these two instances, the Indians led on by British agents continued to harass the frontiers, and in consequence of these aggressions, the governments of Virginia and North Carolina, in the fall of 1776, raised a force of between two and three thousand men, for the purpose of attacking the Cherokee towns. This army was placed under the command of Colonel Christian, who advanced into the Indian country. The Cherokees who had not recovered from their defeats at Long Island and the Sycamore shoals; could not be brought to a general action and they at length sued for peace. The propositions to bury the tomahawk were listened to by Col. Christian, and it was agreed that a treaty should be held the ensuing spring. Owing however to the opposition of Dragging-Canoe "whose voice was still for war," the treaty was postponed until the ensuing summer. This restless and warlike chief, removed with three or four hundred warriors, who adhered to his fortunes, to the Chickamauga, a branch of the Tennessee.

In the latter part of June, 1777, the Cherokees assembled to the number of 12 or 1300 at Great Island, the place appointed for holding the treaty. The governments of North Carolina and Virginia sent out eight hundred militia to be assembled at the same place, in order, by a display of force to overawe the Indians, and afford protection to the commissioners, who were Cols. Avery and Lanier; and Major Winston, on the part of North Carolina, and Cols. Christian, Patterson, and Evan Shelby on the part of Virginia. A treaty of peace was finally concluded in August, but such was the condition of the country in consequence of the revolutionary struggle; and such the influence of British emissaries, that the frontiers enjoyed the blessings of peace but a short time.

Whilst these events were passing, Dragging-Canoe, whose enmity to the whites never slumbered, was not inactive, and during the year 1778, his party having considerably increased in numbers, he frequently harassed the frontiers by his predatory incursions, and many of the whites fell victims to the tomahawk and scalping knife. In the beginning of the year 1779, this warlike chief could number amongst his followers upwards of one thousand warriors from almost every tribe in the Ohio.

Their depredations extending from Georgia to Pennsylvania, and consequently upon the whole of this extensive frontier, life and property were insecure. The governments of N. Carolina and Virginia determined to make another vigorous effort—vigorous as far as their circumstances and means would permit.—They accordingly raised a force of one thousand men under Col. Evan Shelby, and a regiment of twelve month's men under the command of Col. John Montgomery. This force was ordered to proceed against the Indians. It is worthy of remark, that nearly the whole of the supplies necessary for the campaign, were purchased upon individual responsibility, and through the personal exertions of Isaac Shelby, late Governor of Kentucky, whose active patriotism was displayed during the trying scenes of the revolution, and in the border warfare of that period, as well as during the late war with Great Britain, when the gallant Johnson triumphed upon the Thames. The army assembled at the mouth of Big Creek in Tennessee about 4 miles from where the town of Rogersville now stands, about the tenth of April. Having made all their preparations, they descended the river in canoes and pirogues, with so much caution and celerity, that they completely surprised the enemy who fled in every direction without giving battle. They were, however, hotly pursued, and about forty were slain. Their towns were burned, their corn destroyed, and their cattle driven off.—This victory dispersed the Indian force, and for some time gave peace to Tennessee, and opened a communication with the settlements in Kentucky. Although for some years after, the war was frequently renewed, the tide of emigration continued to swell—the permanency of the settlements was secured, and in the year 1786, Tennessee was admitted into the Union as a sovereign and independent State.

Since that period, she has continued to advance in prosperity, and now occupies a distinguished position among her sister States. That she may continue to prosper, is the sincere wish of one whose recollections still linger round the scenes that were once familiar and are still dear to him.

W. T.
NOTE.—The facts stated in the foregoing article are taken from the papers of one who bore a distinguished part in the proceedings of the times, and filled the highest office in the State of Kentucky, the late Governor Shelby.

From the Maunee City Express.

Common Schools.

The education of the great mass of the community is in this country a subject of the utmost importance. It is no longer a question with either the statesmen of our own nation or with those of the nations of the old world, except where the people are held in the most abject servitude, whether it would be better for a nation to grow up in ignorance, or have an education as good as is possible to be procured by the people.

The United States is a country where the great mass of the people have it in their power to obtain the elements of a common education.

The source from whence this mass receives instruction is the one which should be cherished by every lover of his country. And that source is the common schools of the United States.

There is much room for improvement in our system of common schools, and the attention of community should be aroused to the importance of the subject. One great error in the schools in the United States, generally, is the neglect of orthography.

It is utterly impossible to make a scholar of any person until that person thoroughly understands how to spell, for that is the foundation of all.

A person might as well pretend to scholarship who does not know the letters of the alphabet, as not to know how to use them.

We almost daily see respectable mechanics and merchants too, who are grossly ignorant of these firm principles, but who are otherwise men of respectable attainments. But in getting their education they have commenced wrong, and they have never been able to overcome that error, and were they to live to the end of time, they would never become even tolerable scholars, unless they retrace their steps, and by commencing at the beginning, undo what was done amiss, or rather do what from carelessness, or some other cause had been left undone.

And the professions (and to their shame be it said) are far from being free from this defect in the education of their members. They will perhaps study Latin, Greek, and the modern languages, while at the same time they are far from being good English scholars. A way with such a system of education.

I am not one who would discourage any one from the study of the classics—far from it; but let the foundation be well laid in the English language in the first place, or soon the builder will be obliged to stop to underpin his building, and a sacrifice of time and labor, above what it would have cost in the first place.

A merchant who would write coffee, laundry, or the professional man, whether lawyer, physician, or clergyman, who cannot spell his words so as to be understood, by the reader, shows that what has been said has not been overdrawn, and if after this any one doubts on the subject, let him step

into a printing-office and spell out some of the advertisements that are sent to be published, and he will be convinced. Let every one get as good an education as he can, but not neglect the rudiments of his native tongue to study foreign languages, which at best can be of comparatively but little use to him in the common pursuits of life.

The interest manifested in the high schools of the country, such as colleges and seminaries, with imposing titles, and chartered privileges, far exceeds that taken in common schools; but it ought not so to be.

If the wealthy, who are able to send their children away from home to be educated, and take no interest in the common schools around, they will most probably be disappointed, for it is most likely they will get an education which is little or no better than they could have procured at home, and for a trifle of the expense.

Let common schools be elevated in character, and let competent teachers be employed, and a sufficient number of assistants, and then the excuse for sending scholars from home will fall to the ground. Colleges, academies, and seminaries should all be supported, but not to the exclusion of the common schools.

There is an error with regard to young men designed for business men, but which ought to be avoided, which is the neglect of a proper English education to learn Latin. No matter how much they learn, but let them first attain a knowledge of the branches which they are obliged to use daily, when they get into business, and after that, let them become as learned as Lord Brougham, if time will permit. There should be an increased attention to common schools in Ohio.

We have a tolerably good school fund, (thanks to the surplus revenue,) and if that could be applied faithfully and to the best advantage, together with a small tax on the people; a condition of things could be brought about, which would be an honor to the state.

But the change must commence with the people themselves, those who are directly interested to give their children good educations. Let them take this matter into their own hands and see to it that it be done.

Let them attend to it as strictly as to their farms, or stores, or shops; and then their schools will prosper, but to how many will the charge come with force, that they "care for none of these things." Again I say, see to your common schools, show by your presence that you take an interest in them; cherish them by every means in your power, for from them is derived the great mass of education in our country. Do this and they will flourish, but leave them to themselves to take what direction whim or caprice may chance to give them, neglect them and they will languish and die.

[From Abbott's Family at Home.]

Accidents.

In a world like this, where accidents are continually occurring, every person should cultivate such habits of presence of mind, as will enable them to know what to do in themselves, instead of depending upon other people.

Early one morning, as a gentleman was at work in his garden, the clergyman's footman came running, in a great fright, and begged to borrow a horse to fetch the doctor to his master, who had taken a dose of wrong medicine, and was in a most dangerous state. Two phials of nearly the same size and color had been sent over night; one was a draught to be taken early in the morning; the other containing a composing medicine, of which only a few drops were to be taken at night. The servant who administered the medicine, either could not read, or neglected to read the label, and gave the wrong medicine, the whole of which his master swallowed, before the mistake was perceived; and as no one in the house knew what should be done the only resource was to send for the doctor; as he lived three miles off, some time must needs elapse before he could arrive.

The gentleman readily lent the horse, and then hastened himself to the parsonage.—He found the clergyman sinking into a stupor, and perceived that in a very short time he would be too far gone to take any thing. So, not having a proper emetic at hand, he got a large spoonful of flour of mustard, which he mixed in a glass of vinegar and then suddenly dashed two or three spoonfuls of cold water at the patient's head. This aroused him a little, and he was persuaded to swallow the mustard and vinegar, which soon made him very sick; and then the principal danger was over. When the doctor came, he, of course administered the proper medicines; but he said the cure would have been hopeless, if nothing had been attempted before he arrived.

In like manner, presence of mind was once the means of saving the life of a poor man, who fell over a hatchet, and cut his leg in a dreadful manner. It burst out a bleeding at such a rate, as if all the blood would flow out of his body in a few minutes; but a gentleman who was standing by, took a fold of linen, dipped it in vinegar, bound it round the wound, and then tied his handkerchief firmly over it, taking care to keep the edges of the cut closely together. Then he had the man carefully lifted into a cart, and so placed that the foot was higher than the knee, and so he was carried away to a surgeon. If the blood had been left flowing, the poor man would have bled to death before he could have been got to the surgeon. It is such a good thing to know what ought to be done, and to think of it at the proper time!

In case of an accident by water, the greatest security is in lying still on the back till assistance can arrive; and by struggling in their fright, people only hasten their sinking, and greatly increase the difficulty and uncertainty of rescuing them. I once read a very pretty letter I received from a young lady at a distance, thanking a gentleman for having taught her this lesson, and saying that, through the mercy of God in preserving to her presence of mind to act upon it, her life had been saved when she was upset in a boat on the Thames where the water was twenty feet deep.—She caught hold of a pole that was thrown to her; but the stream was very strong, and she whirled down it at a very rapid rate. With great difficulty she managed to keep her face out of water; for her bonnet filled slipped off her head, hung and became a terrible weight round her neck; but she knew that every means of assistance would be afforded her, and that her only hope was in keeping herself quiet and composed.—The goodness of the Almighty enabled her to do this; and after floating about twenty minutes on her back, she was taken out and restored to her friends, who had witnessed the accident, and altogether despaired of her life.

A poor lad was once fishing on the tow-path of a canal; some barge horses came up, and the boy not getting out of the way in time, was carried by the barge rope into the stream. It was some minutes before he could get out, and the by-standers concluded he was gone past all hope.—Then some were for holding the body up by the heels to let the water run out, and some wanted to roll it on a cask, or to rub it with salt; but a gentleman present had some rules, printed on a card, which he said, came from the royal Humane Society, in London, set up on purpose to find out and practise the best method of doing things on these trying occasions; and these rules he strictly followed. He caused the lad to be placed in a warm bed, and had him gently rubbed with warm cloths and flannels, especially on the belly and chest; when, by these means, the body was thoroughly dry, and somewhat warmed, he had it put into a warm bath for five minutes.—If there had not been hot water at hand, he said that brewers' grained would answer the same purpose; or hot sand, or ashes out of a baker's oven, or even hot bricks, or bladders filled with hot water, applied to the feet, hands and armpits; or flannels wrung out of hot water, and changed as they begin to cool. It is a good maxim, "If you have not got at hand the very thing you want, don't waste the time in saying,—"What a pity!" but think promptly of the next best thing that is at hand." After the warm bath, the body was again put into the bed, thoroughly heated. All the time of thus trying to restore warmth to the body, the bellows were applied to one nostril, the other nostril and the mouth being kept close shut, and a gentle pressure was made on the chest; thus the lungs were made to let out and take in the air, as they do in natural breathing. After a long time, and when almost every body gave it up for a lost case, there appeared some signs of breathing.—The nostrils were then gently touched with a feather dipped into sal volatile; this made the poor fellow sneeze; the rubbing was then continued some time longer and as soon as the lad could swallow they gave him a little warm wine, by a spoonful at a time, and continued to do this for some hours, till a fine perspiration came on, and the lad fell into a comfortable sleep. All this took place before the doctor arrived, for he lived three miles off, and when sent for, he was gone out in one direction, and his assistant in another; so if nothing had been done till their arrival, there would have been nothing to do but prepare for a funeral, instead of restoring the poor lad alive to his grateful parents. I remember the same person said, that, if no success had attended his efforts, he would not have censured making them for five or six hours, for that persons have been restored after that length of time; and he thought that many had been cast away for want of perseverance in the use of means.

If a chimney is on fire, instead of throwing open the doors running about alarming the neighborhood, and destroying the furniture, close all the doors, keep the house as quiet as possible, and carefully and instantly put out the fire in the grate, and then that in the chimney will soon go out, or burn itself out without injury or danger.

If a person's clothes catch fire, how foolish it is to run screaming into the air. Instead of that, if the person, or those around, had presence of mind, to wrap him closely up in a carpet, blanket, or thick quilt, or even to roll him on the floor, the flames might be easily subdued.

There was once a house on fire in our village, and as it happened in the dead of the night, and most of the people were frightened out of their wits, in all likelihood several lives would have been lost, if it had not been for one person's presence of mind and activity. When he arrived at the spot, all was terror and confusion, the people running against one another, and pouring the water over themselves and each other. But it was just as if an officer made his appearance and gave the word of command. He arranged all the people, gave them something to do, and charged each to stand to his post. Instead of letting the men run backwards and forwards to the river for water, he made them all stand in a line, and hand the full buckets from one to another, and a line of women and boys to hand back the empty buckets.—Meanwhile he and his

man-servant got the family safely out of the window, including a poor old woman, who was bed ridden, and who, as every body concluded, must perish in the flames. The house was not very high, to be sure, but the danger was great, on account of the thatched roof; and had not some one been at hand, to take an active part, and to direct others, the family would have lost their lives; and the flames have spread much farther.

After that affair, the same gentleman taught the young men a number of clever contrivances; how to fasten sheets together, and to make knots that will not slip, for the purpose of persons letting themselves down from a window. He also offered a little reward to any one who should invent any likely method of preventing mischief, and especially of saving life in case of any future alarm. I shall close my hints on this subject with a maxim, which a friend told us all to commit to memory; "Let nothing be thought trifling, which may one day save your own life, or that of a fellow creature."

From the Banner and Pioneer.

Illegible Communications.

We have various papers on file purporting to be letters on business which doubtless contain very important matter, but which are too illegible to invite a reading much less a publication of their contents. Our eyes are too defective, and our time too precious, to be employed in puzzling out faint marks, and enigmatical characters. Some months since, we gave some very plain and reasonable rules about the preparation of matter designed for a public paper, which, as it commonly fares with "rules," are observed by some of our correspondents, and wholly neglected by others. For the special edification of the latter class, we will herewith append a few very simple regulations, which, if duly observed, will save us the trouble of reading, and our compositors the labor of handling the type. Our readers may feel assured that a compliance with any of these regulations will answer the purpose as fully as if the whole were duly observed.

Rules to be observed when correspondents do not wish to expect their communications to receive notice.

1. Write with very pale ink, so as it cannot be read without great difficulty.
2. Commence so near the top of the sheet as to leave no space for a head or title.
3. Write abbreviations, as, ass. for association, ch. for church, and br. for brother. In writing about any benevolent or literary society, be particular to write a string of capitals, as A. B. H. M.—A. B. C. D.—A. S. S., and so on through the alphabet.
4. Interline frequently, and be sure to write one word into another, and then blame the proof-reader.
5. Write proper names as obscure as possible, and make no distinction between m, n, u; i, e, and c, as it will puzzle both the compositor and the proof-reader, and lead to curious mistakes in names.
6. Be sure and write some private matter on the backside of your communications; or which will be far preferable, put your communications in the middle of a private letter, and expect the editor to extract it. But better still, write your article as illegible as possible; blot it, scratch it, and cover it with all manner of obscurities, and then very politely ask the editor to copy it and prepare it for the press. Do not fail to apologize by saying you have no time to copy it, and are in great haste, and wish it printed immediately.
7. Be sure to leave no space in the margin where the seal is to be placed. You can then put the wafer on some important word and entirely obliterate it.
8. Above all, never pay postage when you write on your own business. Always remember it is very convenient for editors and men of business to pay for your benefit. They are used to it. Now, how convenient it will be for a class of letter-writers to observe these rules.

By the way, we would here observe, that amongst a pile of unnoticed and unanswered letters on our table, which has lain there for some weeks, is a long communication, post-marked, Elgin, Ill. It seems from reading the first page, to be a sermon about the character of the Church, &c., and we doubt not it is a very able and valuable one; that all our subscribers would like to read. But we cannot afford them or the writer that gratification. It is written in an extremely small hand with unusually pale ink, scarcely colored, and no compositor could decipher it correctly. The lines are crowded so close together as to be scarcely distinguishable. The writer ought to have spread it over half a dozen sheets, and have put it in BIG letters, as the Irishman did his letter to his mother, who was deaf.

J. M. P.

THE WAY TO WIN A SIMPLE WOMAN'S HEART.

Let your hair hang in superfluous ringlets over your neck and shoulders; never suffer a razor to touch your face; squeeze yourself into a coat of mulberry cloth; puff on a vest striped with green, yellow and red; pants checked with blue, crimson and purple; shove your feet into a pair of boots with the heels at least three inches high; dangle with a little black cane tipped with brass; a huge brass ring upon your little finger, and you will be the lion of the day, and win the heart of any simple girl you meet with.—Richmond Star.