

# Highland Messenger.

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

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 2, 1841.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

**Sanson, the Headsman.**  
We translate from a German paper, the following sketch of Sanson, the Parisian executioner, who certainly has claim to be regarded as a hero. History cannot point to another who has borne so many of his fellow creatures of life. Slaughter was the trade he knew, and it was his fortune to wield the axe when scores of heads fell in a morning. He was no vulgar fack of a man. He was no vulgar fack of a man. He was no vulgar fack of a man.

**That hole in the pocket.**  
In this lies the true secret of economy—the care of sixpences. Many people throw them away without remorse or consideration—not reflecting that a penny a day is more than three dollars a year. We should complain loudly if a tax of that amount were laid upon us; but when we come to add all that uselessly tax ourselves for our penny expenses, we shall find that we waste in this way annually quite enough to supply a family with winter fuel.

**How to save Oil and Candles.**  
Use sun-light two hours in the morning, and dispense with candles and lamps two hours after 6, P. M. The morning sun-light is much cheaper, and better than evening lamp-light.

**How to save expense in clothing.**  
Purchase that which is at once decent and the most durable; and wear your garment despite the frequent changes of fashion, till it becomes too defaced to appear decent; then turn it and wear it henceforth as long as it protects the body. A blue coat is as warm after fashion requires a green one as it ever was. A red shawl in fashion to-day is as comfortable as a black one which fashion requires to-morrow. A few years hence your fame will not depend upon the style, color or quality of the broad-cloth you wore in 1841.

**How to save time.**  
Have a place for every thing, and when you have done using it return it to its place. This will save much time in hunting after articles which are thrown carelessly aside and lie you know not where.

**How to save in little matters.**  
Procure a book and keep an exact account of all expenditures. At the expiration of three months, review the account and see how much you have expended in four-penny and nine penny items which you could have done without as well as not. Then see to it that each ensuing quarter shall be minus just those things. In many cases the aggregate will be found more considerable than you would be aware of, unless you keep such an account.

**How to save expenses in travelling.**  
Cultivate the bump of inabituiveness; and if you want to go a mile or two, walk rather than hire an establishment at the livery stable. This will be for the health of your body as well as a security of your purse from larcinism.

ed by the hangman." But on that night, when exhausted Paris gave itself up to sweet repose, could Sanson, who had annihilated the head of the reign of terror, close no eye for Robespierre, and the whole train of revolutionary victims, gathered in a bloody circle around his bed, and chased the sleep from his eyelids; then did he fold his hands and pray—Father in heaven, forgive me—I was but the instrument! From that day, the *Executeur des hautes œuvres* rested from his labors; he wiped the blood from his axe and with a heavy sigh, laid his hands in his lap.

After a lapse of forty-two years, during which he had successively seen rise and pass away, the Directory, the Triumvirate, the Consulate, the Emperor Napoleon, Louis XVII., and Charles X., he was again called by Louis Philippe to the place of execution, to try his axe's edge anew on Fieschi and his confederates, and shortly afterwards on young Alibaud. He brushed the rust from his guillotine, and carried into effect, with the same impartiality as heretofore, the decrees of the law. Louis XVI's head was one of the first, and Alibaud's the last that fell beneath his hands.

The Nemesis of France, Henri Sanson, now sleeps tranquilly in the church-yard.  
*N. Y. American.*

**POPULAR CHEMISTRY.**—There is no science so universally applicable to the ordinary business of life as that of Chemistry. There is no trade or profession that is not more or less indebted to it for its result. Without the aid of chemistry, the Blacksmith and Baker, the worker in metals and the cultivator of the earth, all work in darkness. Ask a blacksmith, ignorant of chemistry, why he blows his bellows—he will answer, "because it makes a more intense heat"; but ask him why or how blowing air into his furnace makes a more intense heat, and he can only answer, "I don't know!"

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Ned, and welcomed by Ned's wife, a very neat little body of a woman. Mrs. Slackwater had told me a great deal as they had been schoolmates. All was as nice as wax, and yet as substantial as iron; comfort was written all over the room. The evening passed, some how or other, though we had no refreshment, an article which we never had at home but always wanted elsewhere, and I returned to our own establishment with mingled pleasure and chagrin.

"What a pity," said I to my wife, "that Bowen can't keep within his income."  
"He does," she replied.  
"But how can he on \$600?" was my answer; "if he gives \$10 to this charity, \$5 to that, and lives so snug and comfortable too?"

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**MAGNANIMITY.**—When the Emperor Vespasian commanded a Roman Senator to give his voice against the interest of his country, and threatened him with immediate death if he spoke on the other side; the Roman, conscious that the attempt to serve the people was within his power, though the event was so uncertain answered with a smile, "Did I ever tell you that I was immortal? My virtue is at my own disposal, my life at yours; do what you will, I will do what I ought; and if I fall in the service of my country, I shall have more triumph in my death than you in all your laurels."

**The Italian Inquisition.**  
The inquisition here in the city of Venice, aided by official informers and secret tribunals, became one of the most cruel engines of tyranny ever known, perhaps, under any government. No man's life, or liberty, or property, was secure. When any fell under suspicion, they were privately arrested, and in most cases they were heard of no more. Every thing was conducted with the most profound secrecy—the accused victim knew not the secret tongue that betrayed him, or the secret hand that stabbed him. Near the palace, and separated only by a canal is a prison; this prison is connected with the palace by a high covered bridge, called the Bridge of Sighs.

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## DOCUMENTS

### ACCOMPANYING THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

#### Report of the Secretary of War.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,  
May 31, 1841.

SIR—I propose to bring to your notice at the present time, only such matters confided to the Superintendence of the Department of War as, from their nature of pressing emergency, or which from the general interest they excite, you may deem proper to communicate for the information of Congress and the public.

Although the inspections directed since the adjournment of Congress have been made with the greatest promptness, and furnish an extensive body of information in regard to the state of the public defences, as well as to the discipline and efficiency of the army, and bear full and satisfactory testimony to the importance of the Inspector's Department, yet, from the limited time allowed, and the immense extent of territory over which the numerous establishments connected with the military services are distributed, the inspections are necessarily incomplete; and it is therefore not designed to notice all the considerations suggested by the information they afford until a future occasion.

In the general condition and disposition of the army there has been no material change since the last annual report from this Department. The regular force stationed in Florida, consisting of eight regiments, and numbering in the aggregate, by the last returns, five thousand and fifty-seven, it has been found expedient to continue in service in that territory.

A few incursions by small detachments of our troops into the fastnesses of the enemy, by which their atrocities have been signally visited upon their own heads, have been the only exceptions to the general cessation of hostilities which took place last fall, soon after the regiments, reinforced by new recruits, and provided with every necessary supply, were prepared for active operations; nor have they been renewed since that time.

Offers to negotiate from several chiefs, the device by which those crafty warriors have so often baffled our arms at the period most propitious to success, were renewed under such circumstances as induced the commanding general once more to embrace them. The strongest confidence appears to have been felt that, with the aid of a suitable amount of funds, applicable to that object, the whole of the hostile bands might soon be persuaded to surrender, and abandon the country. This line of policy, though tardy in its results, continued to hold out such hopes of complete success as to encourage the late Administration in the belief that this protracted war had at least been brought so near a close as to be no longer an object of particular interest or anxiety.

For these reasons it was not thought expedient to check or interrupt the negotiations in progress on the 4th of March last, by directing a different mode of operations. The result so far, since the negotiations were renewed in the fall, has been the surrender of four hundred and thirty-one Indians, including about one hundred warriors, all of whom have been transported to the country assigned them, west of the Mississippi. Some expectation is still indulged by the officer in command that the remaining bands which have so long infested the upper and northern districts of the peninsula will surrender in a short time; but I regret to state that but little hope can be justly cherished that this unhappy and wasteful war, which has already cost so great a number of valuable lives, and so many millions of public treasure, will be terminated without still further sacrifices. It appears that, after six months of negotiation, no access has been had to the principal and most powerful chief, or to any of his followers. Directions have accordingly been given for the most energetic and effective prosecution of the war the moment further negotiations shall appear to be useless. Steps have also been taken to increase the efficiency of the means now at the disposal of the officer in command; and, in the meantime, the retrenchment of every expenditure connected with the service, for purposes not essential in Indian warfare, has been earnestly enjoined.

The many weighty considerations which invite the immediate attention of Congress to the subject of the public defences generally, and particularly to the works absolutely necessary to the security of our great commercial emporiums, and the keys to our most valuable resources of every kind, must be so generally understood and appreciated, that nothing this Department can urge could add any thing to their force and conclusiveness. To say nothing of the destruction of property, and our weakened condition in a military point of view, attendant upon the penetration of our territory and the seizure of even one of our strongholds, by a powerful enemy upon the sudden outbreak of war, it would seem to be equally the dictate of patriotism and wisdom to make due provision against the infliction of such insults to the national honor and character.

It has been urged as an objection to the further progress of the works heretofore projected for the defence of our extensive sea-coast, that the recent experiments in the use of steam power in ocean navigation, and the ready application of the same powerful agent to the defence of our principal harbors, together with the late inventions in the means of increasing the destructiveness of shells, must soon introduce an entire

change in the system of coast defence, as well as of maritime war in general. It is true that the mental activity, characteristic of the age in every other art and science, has not been less fruitful in suggesting improvements in the art of war, the value of some of which has already been tested in practice, and doubtless others will in time prove equally successful. In no department of public affairs may the natural connexion and dependence between all the sciences and inventions of arts be more beneficially illustrated than in the improvements of the means of national defence. That the cause of humanity will be promoted in proportion as the existing systems and means of defensive warfare are perfected by new improvements, in affording to all nations greater security to the independent enjoyment of their own acquisitions and forms of society and government; in putting the weak upon a more equal footing with the strong; in rendering wars less frequent, and allowing all the arts of peace to flourish in uninterrupted vigor, cannot be doubted. It is a source of much gratification to observe that several gentlemen of high professional distinction in the army are employing themselves in these appropriate studies. But while, in carrying forward the plans devised in former years, due regard should be had to the improvements already introduced in the means of defence, and, as far as practicable, to such modifications as may be rendered necessary by future discoveries, we must take care, by the most efficient application of the means already known and approved, not to lose the advantage of present security.

The array of well authenticated facts and results of past experience, and the well sustained reasoning founded upon them, exhibited in the report of the board of officers referred to in the accompanying letter of the Chief of the Corps of Engineers, appear to be conclusive in favor of completing the system of defence therein recommended, so far, at least, as to place the country in what is denominated a good state of defensive preparation against any sudden occurrence of war. To this extent the completion of the works heretofore projected may be regarded as indispensable, however defective they may be as a perfect system of national defence. It will be seen from the estimates stated in the report alluded to, that to effect that object will require an appropriation of \$9,693,547 upon the fortifications, and \$2,493,000 for the armaments, making together the sum of \$12,186,547. The obligation of the Government to apply this sum to the objects contemplated as speedily as the nature and due permanence of the several constructions will admit, is rendered imperative and absolute by every consideration of public safety and public honor.

It is estimated by the Chief Engineer that the sum of \$1,435,500 can be judiciously and most beneficially applied upon these essential works of defence during the remainder of the present year, in addition to the appropriations heretofore made for the same objects. The expenditures in this branch of the service have been more considerable in the current quarter than usual, and hence the additional appropriations asked for are larger than they would have been under ordinary circumstances. How this has happened will be explained by the fact that, soon after the accession of your immediate and lamented predecessor, all the means at the disposal of this department were directed to be employed upon the fortifications and other works for the protection of the Atlantic frontier, in the manner deemed best calculated to produce the greatest possible efficiency in the shortest time. This course appeared to be called for by the unsettled and threatening aspect of our foreign relations. While the whole of the resources at the disposal of this department for this service were thus ordered to be applied to such unfinished works as could be made available, in whole or in part, in a reasonable time, it is proper to state, in this connection, that directions were at the same time given to supply, without delay, the works already completed with their appropriate armament.

The promptitude and liberality with which the Governor of New York and the Commissioner of public lands in that State, responded to the recent application of the Department to be put in possession of the works constructed on Staten Island, under the supervision and at the expense of that State, for the defence of New York harbor, deserve the thanks of the country, and should be further acknowledged by the immediate appropriation of the sum demanded as a compensation for the ground upon which they are situated. The works are regarded as of great importance to the object for which they were designed, and they are now in a course of repair and improvement, under the direction of a competent officer of the corps of engineers. The correspondence between this department and the Governor of New York, and the report of the Chief Engineer, will show the terms upon which the title to this property will be vested in the United States.

It will be seen from the accompanying report from the Ordnance Department, that some additional appropriations for that service, are believed to be important to the public interest. The amount called for is \$220,000. The importance of the operations of this department, and its immediate connexion with the national defence, in providing guns, gun-carriages, and other munitions, will at once be perceived. It is necessary that the attention of Congress should be called to the policy recently adopted in the management of the public ar-