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HIGHLAND MESSENGER.

ASHEVILLE:

Friday, February 24, 1843.

Life of Henry Clay.... We shall commence next week the publication of the life of HENRY CLAY, drawn up by an able writer from the most authentic sources. As Mr. CLAY's name is before the people for the highest office in their gift, and as the nomination which has been made by the people will no doubt be confirmed by a national Convention, should one be held, every thing which appertains to him becomes a matter of interest to the people. They will, therefore, we hope, be disposed to read attentively and reflect candidly on his claims to their confidence and support.

Counterfeit Mexican dollars are said to be in circulation.

CHRONOLOGY.

Perhaps there is no study of equal importance so much neglected, particularly by the mass of the people, as chronology. So little attention has been paid to it, both by teachers and writers, that the means of information are now within reach of very few; and we have thought it might be acceptable and profitable to our readers, to give a short explanation of the epochs, eras, and cycles, used by chronologists, so that they might at least have the means by which they might understand the terms used in their almanacs. It was but a short time since that a young man, who had been under a quite popular and an experienced teacher, asked in our presence why it was that A. B. or C. were used to denote the Sabbath, instead of S.; and the same young man, though he was about entering on his profession, together with thousands of others, we have no doubt was as ignorant in reference to the cycles referred to in his almanac, as he was about the use of the dominical letters.

Chronology, according to Webster (see his large dictionary) signifies "the science of time—the method of measuring or computing time by regular divisions or periods, according to the revolutions of the sun or moon; of ascertaining the true periods or years when past events or transactions took place, and arranging them in proper order according to their dates." The divisions of time have been most commonly made in all ages and all countries according to the real or apparent revolutions of the sun and moon, and are days, weeks, months, and years.

The solar or tropical year is that period which corresponds to the sun's revolution in the ecliptic, from any equinox or solstice to the same again, and consists of three hundred and sixty-five days, five hours, forty-eight minutes, and fifty-four seconds.

The sidereal year is that portion of time which corresponds to the revolution of the sun from any fixed star to the same star again, and is equal to 365d. 6h. 9m. and 15s.

The lunar year is equal to twelve revolutions of the moon—from the sun to the sun again, or from one conjunction with the sun to the next. It contains 354d. 8h. 48m. and 36s.

The civil year is that which is used for the purposes of civil or political life.

Without noticing here the many alterations made in the calendar from time to time, or the causes which led to those alterations, we shall proceed to give an explanation of some of the more important epochs and eras used in chronology. Any given period distinguished by some great event, to which other times are referred, is called an epoch, from a Greek word which signifies to stay, because we stay at that point to consider what happens before or after.

The enumeration and series of years beginning at one of these periods, thus distinguished by an important event, are called eras. The principal eras, and those most used, are four—1, of the world; 2, of Jesus Christ; 3, of the Olympiads; and 4th, of Rome. These are abbreviated thus, A. M., A. D. An. Omp., and A. U. C.

The Olympiads derive their origin from the Olympic games, which were celebrated

near the city of Olympia, in Peloponnesus. By Olympiad is meant the space of four years complete, which was the time that elapsed from one celebration to another; and the Greeks considered these games so solemn that they made them their epoch for computing years. The time of the commencement of these epochs is next to be considered.

From the creation of the world to the birth of Christ is reckoned by Archbishop Usher, in his chronology, to have been just 4000 years. The people of Alexandria used an era, called in chronology the Alexandrian era, which computed 5502 years of the world before the birth of Christ.—One or two other computations were formerly in use, but since the calculation of Ferguson and others it is agreed that the birth of Christ happened in the 4004th year of the world.

The first Olympiad began, according to Usher, in the year of the world 3228, or before Christ 776.

Rome was built, according to Varro's chronology, in the year of the world 3251, and in the 753rd year before Christ.

By cycle we understand the revolution of a certain number of years, at the expiration of which certain celestial phenomena return in the same order in which they were at the beginning.

The solar cycle is a period of 28 years, which includes all the variations that the Sundays and days of the week admit. At the end of every 28 years, the first seven letters of the alphabet, (A, B, C, D, E, F, G,) which were used by the Romans for noting the day of the week, return in the same order in which they were at the beginning, and they do not thus return sooner than in 28 years. Now, it must be observed, that, if the year consisted of 52 weeks only, there would be no variations in the dominical letters; but, as the year has a day more than 52 weeks, and two in leap year, this produces the variations alluded to, and all of which happen in 28 years, or the solar cycle.

The lunar cycle—sometimes called the Golden number—is a revolution of 19 years, at the end of which the moon returns near to the same point with the sun, and begins its lunations again as at first.

There is another cycle used by chronologists, called the Indiction, or the Roman Indiction. This is a revolution of 15 years; the first of which is called the first indiction, the second, the second indiction, and so on to fifteenth, after which they return and count from the first again.

The first indiction is generally supposed to have begun three years before the birth of Christ.

Now, if these three cycles—that is, 48, 19, and 15—be multiplied by each other, the product will be 7980, which makes the Julian period. This is a factitious era, invented by Scaliger, and called the Julian period partly in honor of Julius Caesar and partly because it was made to agree with the calendar of Caesar. It was invented in order to reconcile the various systems of chronologists as to the time which had elapsed since the creation of the world. In tracing it back, we find it to commence 710 years before the creation of the world—hence, to find the year of the Julian period that answers to any given year of the world, we must add to that year of the world 710 and we have the year of the Julian period that corresponds to it. One of the principal properties of this period is to give the three characteristic cycles for each year—that is to say, the current year of each of the three cycles. For example: as the vulgar era commenced in the 4714th year of the Julian period, divide that by 28, and what remains after the division shows the solar cycle for that year—so of the other cycles and other years.

From over the hills and far away.... We have received the "Texian and Brasos Farmer," published at Washington, in the Republic of Texas. The number received is dated the 28th of January last, and has "Please exchange" written on the margin. We will certainly do so, friend Johnson. Texas and Buncombe, you know—but stop—ahem—better not say much of the past history or population of either place—nevertheless, we are engaged in showing up Locofocoism in Buncombe, and you in defending Houston and quarreling with the Galveston Times in Texas. Go ahead, and so will we—send us a paper and publish the doings of Texas, and we will give you due notice of Swartwouters from Buncombe, many of whom will, in all probability, strike for your diggings, if they never get there.

New Temperance Paper.... We have received the first number of "The Plain Dealer," a new paper published at Raleigh, and devoted mainly to the advocacy of Total Abstinence principles. We wish it success; but it is almost hoping against hope—not that it does not merit success—for, from the number before us, we feel authorized to say that it promises much—but this State, it must be recollected, has the honor of having within its bounds more still-houses and more uneducated people than any other in the Union! There is not to our knowledge a State in the Union which as such gives such poor encouragement to newspapers as this. All sales of property under execution, which in other States are advertised in the public papers, are in this State advertised by sticking up a written notice at the court house or some other place where few see it and fewer read it; and even the sales of land for taxes are advertised in Raleigh, though the land may lie in Currituck or Cherokee!

Papers published in this State out of Raleigh must expect to get along on their own hook, and live if they can, or die if they must. For our part, we may not live long, but we intend to live actively while we have a being. But we did not intend to spin out this long yarn when we commenced. We merely intended to notice "The Plain Dealer"—say that it was a good paper, published semi-monthly, at one dollar per annum, and that we hoped the publisher would receive a liberal share of public patronage.

Curious facts this year.... First, there will be fifty-three Saturdays in this year—a circumstance which will not again occur for ten years—not until 1853.

Secondly—There will be no new moon in February this year—but there will be two new moons in March. We do not know when a similar circumstance occurred before, or whether it will ever occur again.

Thirdly—The sun, moon and two stars, were visible at one time from Harrisburg, Pa., lately. It was at 8 o'clock in the morning.

The Magnolia, for February, has been received. We have not had time to examine it particularly, but on hurrying through one or two articles and looking over the table of contents, we are inclined to think it equal to the former numbers.

The latest and the last.... The "Old North State," a paper published away down in the tar, pitch and turpentine regions of this State, comes to hand this week with an advertisement announcing to the ladies the arrival of superior "hickory tooth-brushes, twelve inches long, warranted tough and well seasoned," and that "by a nice calculation it takes four months to rub one away!" The merchant, druggist, tobacconist, stick seller, or whatever else he may be called, also advertises "snuff to match (the sticks) always on hand!"

Hon. Silas Wright, of New York, has been re-elected United States Senator for six years from the 4th of March next.

Efforts are being made in the present Legislature of Kentucky to remove the seat of Government from Frankfort to Louisville.

NO EXCUSE FOR AN OFFENSIVE BREATH.—"I can see no reason why a man's complexion merely should exclude him from the dining-table, but I do see a very good reason why he should be banished for not taking good care of his teeth. A bad breath is such a detestable thing, that it might be a sufficient reason for not marrying a person with otherwise agreeable qualities. It is, moreover, perfectly inexcusable thus to transform oneself into a walking sepulchre. Nobody needs to have an offensive breath. A careful removal of substances between the teeth, rinsing the mouth after meals, and a bit of charcoal held in the mouth, will always cure a bad breath. Charcoal, used as a dentifrice, (that is, rubbed on in powder with a brush,) is apt to injure the enamel; but a lump of it held in the mouth two or three times a week and slowly chewed, has a wonderful power to preserve the teeth and purify the breath. The action is purely chemical. It counteracts the acid arising from a disordered stomach, or food decaying about the gums, and it is this acid which destroys the teeth. A friend of ours had, when about twenty years of age, a front tooth that turned black gradually, crumbled and broke off piecemeal. By frequently chewing charcoal, the progress of decay was not only arrested, but nature set vigorously to work to restore the breach and the crumbled portion grew again, till the whole tooth was as sound as before.—Every one knows that charcoal is an antiseptic. It thus tends to preserve the teeth and sweeten the breath."

DR. HARDY'S LECTURE.

Delivered before the Asheville Lyceum, on Friday evening, Feb. 12, 1843.

MR. PRESIDENT: According to the order of the last meeting of the Lyceum, I now proceed to give a short sketch of Spain, and particularly of its late history.

Spain is a Kingdom in Europe, about 640 miles in length, and 500 in breadth; it is bounded on the North by the Bay of Biscay, North East by the Pyrenees Mountains which separate it from France; East and South by the Mediterranean Sea; South-west by the Atlantic Ocean, and by Portugal on the West. To every American the history of Spain must be peculiarly interesting; as to her we are in a great measure indebted for the discovery of our own happy country. It is true that to Columbus all the honor of the discovery is due, but still he could never have carried his plans into effect, but for the aid of some of the powers of Europe, and he had made application to some others and without success. The enlightened mind of Isabella, was convinced by the reasoning of the bold Genoese, and she invoked her husband, Ferdinand, to aid him in the discovery. It is not according to our plan, to pursue this part of her history further.

Spain is divided into many Provinces, as Old and New Castile, Andalusia, Arragon, Gallacia, Catalonia, &c. Some of these Provinces have been separate Kingdoms, and some of them still retain the title.—The climate of Spain, for the most part, is good, and the soil remarkably fertile; the productions of the soil are wheat, barley, saffron, honey, silk, salt, salt-petre, wine, and the finest fruits in the world. Spain was at one time of her history, one of the most powerful and wealthy nations of Europe. During the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella she stood equal to any power in wealth and strength, intelligence and enterprise.

There have been many causes operating to sink Spain in the scale of national greatness, and she really seems now to be nearly at the foot of the scale. It is certainly a matter of no small wonder, that a nation occupying so favorable a situation, having such a climate, and such productive soil, with such a hardy and enterprising population as she could once boast of, should have sunk so low, and that too, when she had in her possession nearly the whole of New Spain, comprising the richest portions of South America.

In the first place, her Government at one period of her history, was one of the most despotic. She once had her Cortes or Parliament which exercised great influence in her Government, it only now has the name.

Secondly, in the reign of Philip, the whole of the Moorish and Jewish population were banished from the Kingdom, a population amounting to nearly two millions, and that population too, the most hardy and enterprising of all her citizens. Here was a loss to her that she could not easily recover from. The Moors had been in possession of a part of Spain since the eighth or ninth century, and had been a wealthy and important part of the population of the nation. But perhaps, of all the causes, none had so much influence in her downfall as the discovery and settlement by her of Spanish America. Instead of enriching her, and adding to her strength and standing as a nation, it has corrupted her people, and destroyed her national importance. Had we time, we should be pleased to extend our remarks on this part of our subject, but we have our course marked out and cannot extend beyond our limits.

All of us who have paid any attention to the history of Spain, know that she was led into the most profligate course, by the wealth that flowed in her lap from the mines of her South American colonies. Her Government was corrupted, and her people lost in indolence, profligacy and crime. Her conduct too, towards the native population of South America, was the most cruel and barbarous, not surpassed by any of the savage tribes. How often have we read and shuddered at the accounts of cruelty inflicted on some of them to make them tell where their supposed wealth was hidden. We have no doubt her downfall is one of the many evidences we have of Providence inflicting punishment on nations for their sins and tyranny. And if some happy disaster, does not fall on our own happy land, for our treatment to the Indians, it will be well for us, for I am sure many of the acts of our Government towards them, has been marked by great injustice. The present condition of Spain, is one of the most lamentable that can be imagined. With a Government corrupted, and a debased population, torn as under by civil wars, and her soil drenched by the blood of her own citizens, without industry, and without commerce. What is to be her ultimate fate, we cannot determine.

Spain is at present ruled, or rather her Sovereign is a Queen, Isabella, or Maria Louisa. She was born in Madrid, October 10, 1830. She has succeeded her father, Ferdinand the 7th. She has another sister, Maria Louisa Ferdinanda. Isabella is the daughter of Maria Christina De Bourbon, daughter of Francis, the late King of the two Sicilies, the mother is the Queen, Regent, during the minority of her daughter.

Isabella was not allowed to take the Throne, without great trouble and much bloodshed. Her uncle, Don Carlos, claimed the Throne, and the country was convulsed by civil war with all its horrors, for several years. Isabella's party, however, at length succeeded, and she was formally

declared Queen of Spain. It may be somewhat interesting, to go over the causes which led to the assumption to the Crown by Don Carlos. Spain has heretofore been an hereditary and absolute Monarchy, the succession being limited to the male line being according to the Soltic law, which excludes females.

In April, 1830, a royal ordinance was issued, making females capable of succeeding to the Throne. Ferdinand the 7th, who had no male child was fearful the crown would go out of his family and fall on that of his brother Don Carlos. He was informed that during the reign of his father, Charles IV, that he had induced the Cortes to pass a law allowing females to ascend the throne of Spain—he sought for it. It was never promulgated, as Charles IV only had the law passed for fear his son, Ferdinand, would not be raised as he was a delicate child, and in that event, one of his daughters could be crowned. The decree as signed by Charles, was never found, but the minutes of all the proceedings were preserved on the Journals of the Cortes, and on the 8th of April 1830, Ferdinand revived it by giving his signature and the royal seal and by this act, Don Carlos was to be the Regent of the Infanta, but it was so strenuously opposed by several of the European Cabinets, that Carlos himself opposed it.

After the birth of Isabella, in 1830, Ferdinand fell into a state of great debility.—The Government was then placed in the hands of his Queen, and she was supported by the army and the great body of the people. In 1833, he was partially restored, and he in a measure resumed his duties, and revoked a measure which had been extorted from him during his illness, by Don Carlos and his party; that is, re-establishing Salic law, which, if it remained, would exclude his daughter and establish Don Carlos on the throne. In April of '33, he issued an order to his subjects to take an oath of allegiance to his daughter. The Cortes soon after assembled and took the oath as ordered by the King.—Ferdinand died in September of that year. In October Isabella was proclaimed at Madrid, Queen, with strong demonstrations of attachment which lasted three days. The mother was also declared the Queen Regent on the same day. The Carlists immediately proclaimed Don Carlos King of Spain. This act at once brought about a civil war which lasted for a long while, till at last a quadruple alliance was formed between France, England, Spain and Portugal, for the purpose of terminating the war on the Peninsula, by establishing Donna Maria on the throne of Portugal, and Isabella that of Spain, and the two pretenders, Miguel & Carlos, went to England but did not remain long before he (Carlos) went back and assembled his army again, but the Queen's party finally drove him from the field. Things were not, however, allowed to remain long quiet when there were so many discordant elements. Espartero the commander of the army, forcibly installed himself in office as the Regent of the Kingdom, which place I suppose he now occupies.

Still, Spain is not settled, for by the last intelligence I see that Espartero by some act of his, roused the people to a determination to throw off the yoke. He is said to be a man not well qualified to rule over a nation, for he is naturally lazy, and fond of card playing, which he follows almost constantly with his aids. There are several parties now in Spain opposed to him—the Republicans, the Democrats and the Carlists. The Province of Barcelona was at the last dates, in a state of revolt, but it was not thought that the rest of Spain would join, but the Republicans seem disposed to go further than all the other parties, and really advocate a plan that would have done the bloodiest days of Marat and Robespierre of France. The very extravagance of their avowals must overturn all their power. They say they must put to death all who oppose them, destroy all dominion but their own: that is to say, the Cortes, Throne, Courts of Justice and all public officers. They are to submit all things to the people, and if any one attempts to assume too much power, they must be shot and others placed in the office they filled.

Unhappy Spain, we fear she is not soon to feel the quiet and order necessary to enable her to advance any in the improvement of her condition. She has comparatively no commerce now save what she derives from her Islands. That of Cuba is the most important; the exports of Cuba is near thirteen millions annually, but the levies on the Island, for the support of the wars, keep her poor. At one time they levied a tax on Cuba, of near three millions of dollars, and the population of Cuba is not more than one million. It is capable of supporting a population of nearly 10 millions, and in this unhappy condition of Spain it becomes our country to look well to Cuba, for if Spain should be compelled to dispose of it, as she likely will, we must look carefully into whose hands it falls, for if it should fall into the hands of England, she could at any time put a force there that would command all the trade of the great valley of the Mississippi. Cuba cannot be more than 100 miles from our shores, and with the Island well fortified, with a few first class war steamers, she could annoy us very much, if she did not control the whole Gulf of Mexico.

The reader will bear with us, while we make a few observations on the general condition of Spain, before we quit her history. No nation owes more to nature, and less

to industry and to art, for their subsistence, than Spain.

They have the finest climate in the world, and their soil is so rich that it brings forth, almost spontaneously, all the comforts and luxuries of life. It is of great extent, and surrounded by oceans and seas, has fine harbors, and every advantage she could wish, to make her one of the most powerful nations.

But what is Spain at this time?—what are her inhabitants like?—what her government? and what her national character? Her population is spare—her inhabitants are poor, lazy, ignorant, and degraded. The government, though despotic, is weak, and her character as a nation contemptible. This degraded state of the nation,—as we before remarked,—we think may be fairly attributed to the gold and silver taken from the mines of Mexico and Peru. When they conquered those countries, and they discovered the bowels of the earth contained an abundance of those precious metals, they thought no object worthy of her as a nation but gold and silver. The consequence was, her agriculture and commerce were soon destroyed, and she was almost totally dependant on other nations for the necessaries of life. And with their gold and silver they enriched the industrious nations around her, and became themselves both poor and dependant. By the same means, the Spanish colonies in South America were ruined and debased. In imitation of Spain, they have neglected and despised every pursuit but the digging of gold and silver; and they have, like the mother country, become an ignorant and degraded people.

They have long since revolted and separated from the mother country; but we find them totally unfit to govern themselves, and they are at this day borne down by the tyranny and misrule of her President, and in a worse condition than when under the dominion of Spain. Unless they change their character as a people, and throw off the habits of Spain and the curious mongrel population of Spanish and Indians, she must remain as she is. How different, says the historian, was that of the British colonies in North America, now the United States. They had no mines of silver and gold to corrupt them; they had nothing before them but the boundless forests and productive soil, which they encountered with industry and perseverance; and they have become a powerful and enlightened people: no other country has risen with the same rapidity, and in no other country is the people generally as intelligent and happy. Had Spain been a pure Protestant nation, we should have seen different results. But she was weighed down by the Pope and his myriads of priests, who maintained their power by the most extraordinary court that was ever established on earth—that of the Inquisition. In the language of a historian, crushed beneath the double tyranny of kings and priests, the arts and sciences could never flourish in Spain. There the gloomy reign of superstition is seen at full length, and without any check has displayed all its horrors. As to the people of Spain it is of little consequence how soon or how often they change masters. Their condition can scarcely be worse, and never can be better until there is a total change in her whole internal condition. Her people must first be elevated by virtue, by knowledge, and above all, by pure christianity.

The visit.

In one of the freezing days of our climate, a young physician, recently married, invited his wife to accompany him on a visit to one of his patients.

"You are romancing, James: what! visit a family without an introduction, or an invitation, or an exchange of cards!"

"In this family, my dear Amanda, there is ceremony of cards," said James, "but they will not be less pleased to see you."

"I never used to go to see poor people," said Amanda, thoughtfully, "but," continued she, after a short deliberation, "I will go with you any where."

They passed from the handsome street of their residence, to a small public square, and crossing over, entered a small alley, in which Amanda saw a row of houses built in a manner that showed they were for the laboring class. Crossing the whole range they entered the last house, and at the first door Dr. Ledson gave a gentle rap. A plain-dressed woman opened it and welcomed them.

Two chairs were immediately set out, one with the back broken off, the other rickety and unstable.

Before the fire were two little children seated on the hearth, making a noise, which the attendant female in vain endeavored to quell. A girl about ten years of age came out of a small bed room and smiled as she spoke.

In a large rude chair sat a thin female. She looked up when Dr. Ledson addressed her, but neither smiled or spoke. Her complexion was sallow by illness, her lower jaw had fallen from its socket, and her teeth chattered with the vain endeavor to close her mouth. After receiving some nourishment at the hands of her companion, she seemed revived.

"I am glad to see you, Doctor, though I had hoped to have been released from my wretchedness before now. I do not complain, but I suffer"—she shivered and stopped suddenly, but in an instant said, "I thought it very hard when I lost my child last summer—I see it was kind; what would have become of it now? I must leave these,