

HIGHLAND MESSENGER.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THOS. W. ATKIN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Devoted to Politics, Literature and General Intelligence.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., JANUARY 28, 1817.

VOLUME VII.—NUMBER 255.

Terms—\$2 per annum.

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

TERMS:

Two DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS in advance; if not paid in advance, THREE DOLLARS.

No order on the paper will receive attention unless accompanied by the money.

Advertisements will be inserted at One Dollar per square of ten inches or less, for the first insertion, and Two Dollars for each continuation. Over and square counted as two, over two as three, &c. The number of insertions dependent on the margin, or the advertisement will be continued till sold, and charged accordingly. Court Orders will be charged six dollars, invariably.

The charge for announcing the name of a cause, &c. to be offered in \$3 totally in advance.

Letters to the Editor must come free of postage, or they will receive no attention.

Editor.

From the Chronotype.

The Fashionable Lady's Prayer.

By W. Atkin.

Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
To lead the sinners from the head,
And bring them to thy gates.

Our Father in Heaven,
Well known by God's mysterious way,
And lay it all to thee.

Give us to pass a morbid twain,
To live in pain and death,
Convolvulus strings around the waist,
Almost to stop the breath.

Our Father in Heaven,
Our mortal progeny,
And make us fit for thy sons.

We lay it all to thee.

Grant us battles in the rear,
(which is not far from.)

Our Father in Heaven,
Our mortal progeny,
What master should it be,
When we heat the head and spine.

Our Father in Heaven,
We can whine,
And lay it all to thee.

Grant us good houses, large and tall,
To look the cabin down—

And servants doling at our call,
And sitting at our town.

The poor, however worthy they be,

We treat unmercifully—

They expect pay-matation day,

And settle up with us.

We do claim to tell all about;

It's got of vulgar blood;

Deceit, guile, and malice,

And the like, not for nothing.

And I do want of exercise,

We look the station,

Or do we trample and despise,

We lay it all to thee.

It may curse we have forgot,

That on a voluntary,

Fear, to fall, with held it not,

But send it ignorantly.

And I do have to roll stone light

On my humanity.

And never blame our selves a note,

But lay it all to thee.

For two circulations—the Nervous and the

general.

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the Philadelphia Sunday Consociate.

Legends of the Revolution.

In the original language.

A Party of the South.

There is gloom to day in Charleston, it is an open secret that a great city feels, but it is a great heart of humanity, whose position is a life, can feel, the results are more terrible than the bloodiest.

Now when those arteries of it, cities, towns, and villages, thrill

to the same feeling, when, like an electric current, it starts invisibly from one to another, until it seizes ten thousand hearts, the result is terrible.

Can not whether that result is

realized in a Riot, that fills the streets

in the blood of men, and women, and

children, that fires the roof over the

heads of the innocent, or sends the Church

whirling in smoke and flame to the

bright sky; or whether that feeling is

intended in the silence of thousands, the

dead head, the compressed lip, the stolen

step, still, it is a fearful thing to

see it come to day in Charleston.

And now reigns over the city. Every

eye is stamped with gloom; every

heart with anguish in their heart eyes.

Women are weeping in their

bed-chambers; in yonder church old-

men kneeling before the altar, praying

low, deep, muffled tones.

The very soldiers whom you meet, clad

in British uniform, wear sadness on

their faces. These men to whom murder

is gloom to day. The citizens

are hurried to and fro cloister in groups;

as if together, glide silently into their

homes.

The stores are closed to day, as though

they were Sunday. The windows of those

houses are closed as though some great

war were dead; there is a silence on the

streets, as though a plague had despoiled

the nation of its beauty and its manhood.

The British banner—stained as it is with

the best blood of the Palmetto State,

seems to partake of the influence of the

air; but, sailing from yonder staff, it

flies well buoyant upon the breezes, and drops heavily to the ground.

The only sound you hear save the hor-

rible tread of citizens, is the low, solemn

notes of the Dead March, groaning from

muffled drums.

Why all this gloom, that oppresses the

heart and fills the eyes? Why do, Wulg-

and Fury, citizen and soldier, share this gloom alike? Why this silence, this mournful dreariness?

Look yonder, and in the centre of that common, deserted by every human being behold—rising in loomy hideousness—a gallows.

Why does that gibbet stand there, black chasm in the morning sun?

Come with me into yonder mansion—whose roof was gaily over all other roofs. Up those carpeted stairs, into this luxurious chamber, whose windows are darkened by hangings of satin, whose walls are covered with tapestry, whose floor is crowded with elegant furniture. All is silent in this chamber.

A single glow of morning light steals through the parted curtains of yonder window. Beside that window, with his back to the light, his face in shadow; as though he wished to hide certain dark thoughts from the light, sits a young man, his hands folded, form array'd in a British uniform.

He is young, but there is the gloom of age upon him, wavy-brow, there is the resolve of murder, upon that curling hair. His attitude is significant. His head inclined to one side, the cheek resting on the left hand, while the right grasps a parchment, which bears his signature, the ink not yet dried.

That parchment is a death warrant.

It will look closely upon that red uniform you will see that it is stained with the blood of Paoli, where the eye for "quarter," was answered by the tailing sword.

"Yes, it is necessary to make an example! This rebellion must be crushed; these rebels taught submission! The death of this man will strike terror into their hearts. They will learn at last that treason is no trifling game; that the rope and the gibbet will reward each Rebel with death."

While he is there, by the window, grasping that parchment in his hand, the four o'clock, a strange group stand disclosed on his threshold.

A woman and three children dressed in black, stand here gazing upon the English lord. They slowly advance; do you behold the pale face of that woman, her eyes, large and dry, not wet, with tears, but gazing with speechless awe! On one side a little girl, with brown ringlets, on the other her sister, one year older, with dark hair, reliving a pallid face.

Somewhat in front, his young form rising to every inch of its height, stands a boy of thirteen, with chestnut curls, clustering about his fair countenance. You can see that dark eye flash, that lower lip quiver, as he silently confronts Lord Rawdon.

The woman—I use that word, for to me it expresses all that is pure in passion, or holy in humanity, while your word—body—means nothing but ribbons and mockery—the woman advances, and encircles by those children, stands before the gloomy lord.

"I have come," she speaks, in a voice that strikes you with its music and tenderness. "I have come to plead for my brother's life!"

She does not say, "Behold my brother's children," but there they are, and the English lord beholds them. Tears are coursing down the cheeks of these little girls, but the eye of the woman is not dim.

The boy of thirteen looks intently on the face of the British; his under lip quivers like a leaf.

For a single moment that proud lord rises to his feet and surveys the group, and then you hear his deep malediction voice:

"Macmillan, your brother swore allegiance to His Majesty, and was afterwards treacherous against the King. He is guilty of treason, and must endure the punishment of death, and, as you well know, is Death."

"But, my lord," said the brave woman, standing erect, her beauty staining more serenely, in that moment of heroism, "You well know the circumstances under which he swore allegiance. He, a citizen of South Carolina, an American, was dragged from the bedside of a dying wife, and forced to Charleston, where this language was held by your officers." Take the oath of allegiance, and return to the bed-side of your dying wife! Refuge, and we will forgive you to God! This, my lord, not when you were free to act, ah, no! But when his wife lay dying of that fearful disease—small pox—which had already destroyed two of his children. How could he act otherwise than he did? how could he refuse to take your oath? In his case would you, my lord, would any man, refuse to do the same?"

Still the silent children stood there before him, while the clear voice of the true woman pierced his soul.

"Your brother is condemned to death!" he coldly said, turning his head away.

"He dies at noon. I can do nothing for you!"

Silently the woman, holding a little girl by each hand, sank on her knees; but the boy of thirteen stood erect. Do you see that group? Those hands clasped, those voices, the clear voice of the woman, the infantine tones of those sweet girls, singing in one cry for "Martyr!" while the Briton looks upon them with a face of iron.

The boy looked back but once, only once, and then beheld—ah, I dare not speak it; for it chills the blood in the veins—he beheld that manly form suspended to the gibbet, with the cap over his brow, while the distorted face glowed horribly in the sun.

That was his Father!

That boy did not shriek, nor groan, but instantly like a light extinguished suddenly—the fire left his eye, the color his cheek. His lips opened in a silly smile.

"My father!" he cried, then pointed to the body, and broke into a laugh.

On that day was horrible, that laugh, so low, shrill and wild. The boy of thirteen, of the 4th of March next, who despises a

boy can turn in the prime of manhood, by such hideous death! As you hope for mercy year last hour, be merciful now—spare my brother!, and not a heart in Charleston but will bless you—spare him—for the sake of these children!"

"Madam," was the cold reply, "your brother has been condemned to die. I can do nothing for you!"

He turned his head away, and held the parchment before his eyes. At last the stars—heat of the bay was melted. There was a spasmodic motion about his chest; his limbs shook; he stood for a moment like a statue, and then fell on his knees, seizing the right hand of Lord Rawdon with his trembling fingers.

Lord Rawdon looked down upon that young face, shadowed with chestnut coils, as the small hands clutched his wrist, and an expression of surprise came over his face.

"My child," said he, "I can do nothing for you!"

The boy silently rose. He took a sister by each hand. There was a wild look in his young eye—a scorn of defiance on his lip.

"Come, sister, let us go." He took a sister by each hand, and led those fair girls toward the door, followed by the sister of the condemned. Not a word more was said—but they passed from the room, that poor woman looking back into the face of the Martyr.

Lord Rawdon looked down upon that young face, shadowed with chestnut coils, as the small hands clutched his wrist, and an expression of surprise came over his face.

"My child," said he, "I can do nothing for you!"

The boy silently rose. He took a sister by each hand, and led those fair girls toward the door, followed by the sister of the condemned. Not a word more was said—but they passed from the room, that poor woman looking back into the face of the Martyr.

Lord Rawdon looked down upon that young face, shadowed with chestnut coils, as the small hands clutched his wrist, and an expression of surprise came over his face.

"My child," said he, "I can do nothing for you!"

The boy silently rose. He took a sister by each hand, and led those fair girls toward the door, followed by the sister of the condemned. Not a word more was said—but they passed from the room, that poor woman looking back into the face of the Martyr.

Lord Rawdon looked down upon that young face, shadowed with chestnut coils, as the small hands clutched his wrist, and an expression of surprise came over his face.

"My child," said he, "I can do nothing for you!"

The boy silently rose. He took a sister by each hand, and led those fair girls toward the door, followed by the sister of the condemned. Not a word more was said—but they passed from the room, that poor woman looking back into the face of the Martyr.

Lord Rawdon looked down upon that young face, shadowed with chestnut coils, as the small hands clutched his wrist, and an expression of surprise came over his face.

"My child," said he, "I can do nothing for you!"