

# MINERS' & FARMERS' JOURNAL.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY THOMAS J. HOLTON, CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH-CAROLINA.

I WILL TEACH YOU TO PIERCE THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH AND BRING OUT FROM THE CAVERNS OF THE MOUNTAINS, METALS WHICH WILL GIVE STRENGTH TO OUR HANDS AND SUBJECT ALL NATURE TO OUR USE AND PLEASURE.—DR. JOHNSON.

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From the American Annals of Education.  
YOUTH WITHOUT CHILDHOOD.

CASPAR HAUSER.—An account of an individual kept in a dungeon, separated from all communication with the world, from early childhood to about the age of seventeen. Drawn up from legal documents, by Anselm Von Fuerbach, President of one of the Bavarian Courts of Appeal, &c. Translated from the German.—Second Edition. Boston: Allen and Ticknor, 1833.

In passing through Germany in the year 1829, we heard of an extraordinary being who had "come into the world," as he subsequently expressed it, at the age of seventeen—a youth in form, and yet an ignorant of language, and of the use of his limbs, and even of the most common external objects, as the infant of a few months. He was observed on the evening of the 26th of May, 1828, near one of the gates of Nuremberg, in the posture of one intoxicated, who was equally unable to stand or to move. A letter which he held out addressed to the Captain of a squadron of cavalry, gave no information except that he was born in 1812, and that he had never been suffered to leave the house, and that all inquiries concerning his origin and residence would be in vain. In reply to all the questions addressed to him by individuals and the police, a few unmeaning words and incessant moans were all that he could utter, and he pointed with marks of exhaustion, to his blistered feet. Next which was offered to restore him, he rejected with visible horror; but eagerly swallowed some bread and water; and on being conducted to the stable stretched himself upon the straw, and fell into a sleep so profound, that he could scarcely be awakened. His feet were as soft as the palms of his hands; his gait was that of a child, just beginning to step; and it was only with intense suffering that he could walk. His senses seemed to be locked up in torpor; and a wooden horse, brought to him by a soldier, in consequence of his frequent repetition of the German word for horse, "ross! ross!" was the first and only object which seemed to excite interest. He seated himself by it, "with a countenance smiling sweetly through his tears," and passed hours and days in moving, and feeding, and ornamenting it, as if it were the only being which called forth his social feelings.

It will be easily believed that such an appearance would excite intense curiosity. It was a case which set at defiance all the formal interrogations and arrangements of a German government; and it was difficult to decide whether he belonged to the asylum for idiocy, or the almshouse, or to the police office and the prison. After various efforts to elicit something from him as to his residence or connections, to which he replied only in some piteous moans and unintelligible phrases, he was committed to a tower over one of the gates under the care of a humane jailor, and appears to have enjoyed all the comforts of which his case admitted. Common sense soon relaxed the severity of the law; and he was received into the family of the jailor as a deserted and helpless child, and under the instruction of his children, began to learn to talk!

He was visited by crowds, who taxed their ingenuity in examining the poor youth, and wearied him almost to torture, by their insinuating efforts to discover something. But they could only ascertain that he was an infant of adult age; in the expressive language of a London Reviewer, an example of youth without childhood. He attempted, like an infant, to seize every glittering object which he saw, and cried if he was forbidden; and even when a lighted candle was placed before him, he tried to grasp the beautiful flame.—In the midst of this seeming infancy, however, his guardians were astonished, on putting a pencil in his hand, that he could form letters distinctly. He filled with elementary characters and syllables, and closed by covering a page with the name—"CASPAR HAUSER."

This discovery of his name, usually so important in the records of a police court, furnished no clue to the mystery which enveloped the singular being. Destitute of the conception, as well as the names, of the most common objects, and averse to all common customs and conveniences and necessities of life there seemed no alternative, in the language of his biographer, but to regard him as the inhabitant of some distant planet, or as one buried from his birth, and now just emerged into the world. Imagination was tortured to devise some mode of accounting for his character and appearance. Some dreamed of an experiment, made by modern theorists, to ascertain the state of a mind, left to advance to maturity in utter ignorance of the world, and thus realizing the fancy picture of a German story. Others supposed him the heir of some estate or diadem, of which he was unlawfully deprived. Others still conjectured, that this difficult and dangerous plan of burying alive, had been adopted to conceal the crimes attending his birth.

Such were the conjectures floating on the public mind in reference to this singular being, when we left Germany, unable to vary our route so far as to visit Nuremberg. It was not until subsequent education had

enabled Caspar to clothe his own ideas in words, that any light was thrown upon his early history; and the following account derived from the work whose title is at the head of this article, comprises all his recollection of childhood and youth:

"He neither knows who he is, nor where his home is. It was only at Nuremberg that he came into the world. Here he first learnt that, besides himself and the man with whom he had always been, there existed other men and other creatures. As long as he can recollect he has always lived in a hole, (a small low apartment which he sometimes calls a cage, where he had always sat upon the ground, with bare feet, and clothed only with a shirt and a pair of breeches. In this apartment he never saw the heavens, nor did there ever appear a brightening (daylight) such as at Nuremberg. He never perceived any difference between day and night, and much less did he ever get a sight of the beautiful lights in the heavens. Whenever he awoke from sleep, he found a loaf of bread and a pitcher of water by him. Sometimes this water had a bad taste; whenever this was the case, he could no longer keep his eyes open, but was compelled to fall asleep; and when he afterwards awoke, he found that he had a clean shirt on, and that his nails had been cut. He never saw the face of the man who brought him his meat and drink. In this hole he had two wooden horses, and several ribbons. With these horses he had always amused himself as long as he was awake; and his only occupation was, to make them run by his side, and fix or tie the ribbons about them in different directions. Thus one day had passed as the others; but he had never felt the want of any thing had never been sick, and—once only excepted—had never felt the sensation of pain.—Upon the whole, he had been much happier than in the world, where he was obliged to suffer so much. How long he had continued to live in this situation he knew not; for he had no knowledge of time. He knew not when or how he came there. Nor had he any recollection of ever having been in a different situation, or in any other than in that place. The man with whom he had always been, never did him any harm. Yet one day, shortly before he was taken away,—when he had been running his horse too hard, and had made too much noise, the man came and struck him upon his arm with a stick, or a piece of wood; this caused the wound which he brought with him to Nuremberg.

Pretty nearly about the same time, the man once came in his prison, placed a small table over his feet, and spread something white upon it, which he now recollects to have been paper; he then came behind him, so as not to be seen by him, took hold of his hand, and moved it backwards and forwards on the paper with a thing (a lead pencil) which he had stuck between his fingers. He (Hauser) was ignorant of what it was; but he was mightily pleased, when he saw the black figures which began to appear upon the white paper. When he felt that his hand was free and the man was gone from him, he was so much pleased with this new discovery that he could never grow tired of drawing these figures repeatedly upon the paper. This occupation almost made him neglect his horses although he did not know what those characters signified. The man repeated his visits in the same manner, several times."

"Another time, the man came again lifted him from the place where he lay, and placed him on his feet, and endeavored to teach him to stand."

At his final appearance, the man took him over his shoulders, carried him as he expressed it, up a hill, and brought him to Nuremberg. His recollections of his journey are very indistinct, and the fact that he sinks into a death-like sleep when he rides in a waggon, leaves it entirely uncertain in what way he was conveyed. After many ineffectual examinations often leading to error, nothing remained but to provide the best means of alleviating his misfortunes, and supplying in some degree, the loss of his years, childhood and youth, with the faint hope that time might enable him to furnish a clue to his origin."

The state of nervous excitement and disease produced by the multitude of new ob-

\*Probably water mixed with opium.

In recent newspapers, we find the following paragraph:

"Caspar Hauser.—The mystery which hung about the origin and early life of this extraordinary young man, is said to be in a way of explanation. It seems according to an account which we find in an English periodical, that Caspar Hauser was the fruit of an illicit amour; that a priest the reputed father took charge of the child from the moment of his birth, and finally enclosed it in a subterranean hole or vault in a convent where he was residing; that thus imprisoned and shut out from all human intercourse, the unhappy being passed his existence until within a day or two of his being found, as related in the history of his life which has been published, when the priest being compelled to quit the convent, and having no other place of concealment at hand, released and left the boy to his fate. The chain of circumstantial evidence, by which this much of the story has been made out is so well put together, as to leave little doubt that the true elucidation has been hit upon. The above outline has been communicated

jects and ideas that crowded upon him emerging thus suddenly from darkness and solitude, led the police to exclude all visitors, and place him in the family of professor Daumer of the Nuremberg gymnasium, to receive such an education as he needed.

In the course of a year, he was so far advanced in the knowledge of language as to commence a memoir of himself. An attempt by some unknown person to take his life, excited, perhaps, by the apprehension of discovery, appears to have been the only interruption to the course of training by which we are told he came to be 'reckoned among civilized and well-behaved men,' including, of course, many of the artificial wants and fashions which added neither to his happiness or worth. The narrative before us presents a variety of interesting details and anecdotes, concerning the child-like simplicity and amiable character of this youth, his singular views of life, and his peculiar propensities and habits, which well deserve perusal. Our limits only allow us to glance at a few of the most prominent points of the description, and the principles which they illustrate.

The darkness and seclusion in which Caspar had been kept, produced extreme sensibility to every external impression. After he recovered from that torpor caused by his entering the world, his senses were acute to a degree which was painful. Every object conveyed odors to him, which were, in a great measure, imperceptible to others, and some would produce shivering, and nausea, and fever. The touch of animals, or of metals, thrilled through his frame, and often produced unequivocal symptoms of pain and disease. His hearing and sight were also uncommonly acute; and several remarkable instances are given, in which he proved that he could discover objects and colors, as readily by night, as by day. He observed with attention and accuracy; and his recollection of persons and names, at an early period, was surprising. Colors were pleasing to him in proportion to their brilliancy; and he thought an apple tree would have been more beautiful if its leaves had been red, as well as its fruit!

The great principle was established in his case, as with infants, that forms and distances are not distinguished until the touch has corrected the errors of vision. He stated after he acquired the use of language, that in the beginning, the men and horses represented in sheets of pictures, appeared to him precisely like the men and horses that were carved in wood! He did not perceive the difference, until he had learned it by handling them. Another striking illustration of this principle is described. In this case he called a beautiful summer landscape which was seen from his room,—"ugly! ugly!"—because, as he afterwards said, it appeared to him like a collection of spots of various colors on the window. Two or three years of instruction corrected these errors, and reduced his sensibility, on many points, to the common level; but he continued able to see distinctly at night.

His extraordinary memory declined with this acuteness of the senses, at the same time that his frame enlarged; and both were singularly coincident with a change in his diet. Caspar observed, in regard to his hearing, that "its acuteness had been considerably diminished since he had begun to eat meat." Professor Daumer, in his notes, observes, "after he had learned regularly to eat meat his mental activity was diminished, his eyes lost their brilliancy and expression, and his vivid propensity to constant activity was diminished. The intense application of mind gave way to absence and indifference, and the quickness of his apprehension was also considerably diminished." It is questioned by the author, whether it was the result of his food, or of the previous excitement. He now exhibits nothing of genius, or remarkable talent, no fancy or wit, but sound common sense, and persevering application.

His disposition was uncommonly mild and amiable, and his habits of obedience, produced as he said by early commands and punishment, were remarkable. He was equally remarkable for never yielding his preconceived notions to the authority, or even the testimony of others. He would not even believe the account given of snow, and of the growth of plants and animals, until he saw and felt it.

The same disposition to scepticism appeared in his reluctance to believe in the existence of his own, or any other spirit. Indeed, he did not seem for a long time to be aware of the difference between animate and inanimate objects, supposing all motion to be voluntary, and behaving all matter capable of it.

His case furnishes some evidence on the long disputed question, whether man would naturally arrive at the idea of a Deity. Our intercourse with the deaf and dumb, and our inquiries of instructors at home and abroad, had long since shown us that the most talented and mature minds do not at-

in conversation, by Mr. Klobner, the celebrated writer on Public Law, who first discovered and is still following the clue.—When he has thoroughly sifted the matter, it is expected he will favor the public with a narrative on the subject."

tain this idea unassisted. In the case of Caspar Hauser, his biographer observes that 'he brought with him from his dungeon not the least presentiment of the existence of God, not a shadow of faith in any more elevated, invisible existence.' It was not until his faithful instructor led him to remark on the things which he heard and saw within himself, that he could believe in any objects but those of the external senses. Two of the most intelligent deaf mutes we have ever known, were for months, utterly incredulous of all that was said to them of an invisible being. But the example of Caspar Hauser, like that of the deaf mutes, also proves, that the idea of a Supreme cause commands itself to the reason and feelings of man, when his mind is cultivated. A touching incident which occurred in the course of his early education will illustrate this point, and must close our extracts from this interesting volume:

His instructor showed him for the first time the starry heavens. His astonishment and transport surpassed all description. He could not be satiated with the sight, and was ever returning to gaze upon it. "That," he exclaimed, "is, indeed, the most beautiful sight that I have ever yet seen in the world. But who has placed all these numerous beautiful candles there? Who lights them? Who puts them out?" When he was told that, like the Sun, with which he was already acquainted, they always continue to give light, he asked again, "Who placed them there above, that they may always continue to give light?" At length, standing motionless, with his head bowed down, and his eyes starting, he fell into a train of deep and serious meditation. When he again recovered his recollection, his transport had been succeeded by deep sadness. He sunk trembling upon a chair, and asked with a burst of tears, "why that wicked man had kept him always locked up, and had never shown him any of these beautiful things."

The whole story is a striking exhibition of the value of childhood, as a part of life—of necessity of simultaneous progress in body and mind, in order to produce the man. It is an affecting illustration of that most criminal neglect, which leaves a human being to become "in understanding and stature a man but in knowledge a child,"—which allows him to acquire a power, most valuable or most dangerous, according to its application, without giving him the knowledge necessary to use it aright, or inspiring the disposition to employ it for good purposes. If the view of the starry heavens could rouse the gentle youth to such reproaches of the man to whom on other occasions he expressed affection. Oh! what will be the language of those heightened beings whom the neglect or oppressions of civilized and Christian men, has shut up in intellectual darkness, when they see the glories of that world which lies beyond the firmament!

## ASSASSINATION OF CASPAR HAUSER.

By the annexed paragraph, from the Berlin Gazette of December 27th, it appears that poor Caspar Hauser, the mysterious youth whose case has excited so much interest in Europe and America, has at last fallen by the stroke of an assassin. An attempt, it will be recollected by all who have read the history of this wonderful case—and who has not!—was made upon the life of this mysterious being, not long after he was discovered. The attempt has been repeated, with but too much success. It has recently been stated that some disclosures had been made, respecting the history of Caspar, which it was expected, would lead to further developments. Probably the apprehension of such discoveries has hastened his end.

The following is a letter from Auspach, dated the 18th—"Caspar Hauser was not able to speak much during the last hours of his life, and only in broken sentences, yet he gave utterance to the gratitude he felt towards his benefactor, Lord Stanhope, and his worthy tutor, Mr. Meyer. A deputation from the Court of Justice was present until the moment of his decease, and took notes of all he said. Four days have elapsed, yet no traces of the assassin have been obtained. Lord Stanhope is now in Vienna, or in Upper Austria; it is supposed that, as soon as he hears of his favorite being wounded, he will hasten to return hither. It will be a severe grief to him to find this 'adopted child of Europe,' as Hauser was once named, no more. Lord Stanhope had already written that he should shortly be in Frankfurt, on his way to Auspach."

The assassin of Caspar Hauser has been arrested, and committed for trial. His death is certain; and his confession, lest he perish with sealed lips, will possess the greatest interest.

The CONVENTION for the settlement of our claims on SPAIN, which the President announced at the opening of the present session as in progress, was signed at Madrid on the 17th of February, and may be shortly expected at Washington.—Globe.

At a late term of Wilkes Superior court (Judge Strange presiding,) a cause of considerable interest was tried between the State and ALFRED DOOLEY and others for malicious mischief upon the property of Gen. WILLIAM LENOIR. The case was, that Gen. Lenoir had been appointed a commissioner under a late act of Assembly, to make a road from the valley of the Yadkin across the Blue Ridge to the Asheville, and the settlement along the proposed route being very sparse, hands were obliged to be called from a considerable distance: a snow storm happening on the day appointed, the men became much dissatisfied and protested against going on with the work, but the commissioner had been schooled in the Revolution, and although eighty odd years of age, was not to be turned back by trifles: so he said ONWARD! as he had done at King's Mountain and at other places where men's souls were tried. The hands became exasperated, and on that night they attacked the but where the old gentleman slept with stones—thrust sharp sticks at him through the cracks of the cabin—cut and disfigured his horse and carriage and otherwise abused his property. For this treatment he complained to court, and four of the party were convicted, viz: Alfred Dooly, Jesse Triplett, and two young men by the name of Welch. Dooly who was the ringleader was imprisoned, and the others fined: after a severe reprimand from the Judge for such a disgraceful attack upon a venerable gentleman, who had gone from his fireside at his age, and in such an inclement season to discharge a public duty in the wilderness, and that too without a cent of compensation.

The old gentleman appeared in Court as a witness, and it was somewhat surprising to observe to what a degree he still enjoys his faculties, mental as well as corporeal. The next week we saw him at Ashe Court, whither he had rode on horseback over the heights of the Blue Ridge. Verily, the men of olden time seem to have been made of better stuff than we!!

At the same term, a man by the name of DANIEL HILL, was convicted of passing counterfeit money on the U. S. Bank. The Prisoner tried to act the fool in Court, but rather overdid the matter: so he and the Sheriff and some other gentlemen took a walk together, and when he returned he was more striped than the Arabian Bear, having received twenty red ones, and no two alike! It was said he had lately met with a handsome accommodation from the mother bank on Big Sandy Ky., and had done a good business in the way of exchange. He implicated some others in his account of the transaction, but they live at a distance, and it might be the greatest injustice to name them to the public on the authority of such a miscreant.—Carolina Watchman.

## NOTICE.

THE subscriber having removed his stock of BOOKS to Statesville, and having placed his notes and accounts in the hands of P. Thompson, Esq., as the same due him are generally very small, and as he does not wish to occasion any unnecessary expense these hard times, he respectfully and earnestly solicits immediate attention to his humble claims.

DANIEL GOULD.

March 14, 1834.

## Desirable Town Property FOR SALE.

(At the head-quarters of the Gold-mining Region.)

HAVING purchased, and being anxious to settle a farm in the county of Rowan, the subscriber offers for sale, on the most liberal and accommodating Terms, his present residence in the town of Charlotte, on Church-street, with

## Sixty-six Town Lots

attached thereto. The House is new and elegantly finished; situated in the most pleasant part of the village, and large enough for the accommodation of a numerous family. There are all the necessary out houses and conveniences that comfort and even elegance could require, not the least of which is a Capital Well.

He will also sell his well fixed and profitable

## TAN-YARD,

situated at a convenient distance from the dwelling house, (either with or without the stock on hand.) This establishment is not surpassed by any in the country—in complete order and in good repute; it contains fifty one vats, with a tan house and all other fixments, with a good Leather House and cellar.

As no money is required down, and the terms will be made most favorable, those wishing such property are invited to call and enquire for a bargain.

Possession will be given forthwith if required.

WM. W. LONG.

Feb. 27, 1834.

## \$30 REWARD

WILL be given for the apprehension and delivery of a negro boy named JACK, recently sold at the sale of Henry Foster, dec'd. Said boy is about 5 feet 6 inches high, complexion black. He is in Providence Settlement. Any person delivering the said boy to the subscriber, living in Charlotte, will receive the above reward and thanks besides.

J. D. BOYD.

April 16, 1834.

## WARRANTEE DEEDS

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE.