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SELECTIONS.

From the Northern Spectator. NORTH CAROLINA CAPT. KIDD. BLACK BEARD.—Who has not heard of the famous Black Beard, the noted freebooter, who, according to vulgar credulity, has buried chests of money upon the banks of almost every deep creek along our coast, and whose headless trunk, when slain, swam some times round the vessel? The true history of this man, so famous in the legends of North Carolina, will be found in the following account, taken from Williams' History of North Carolina. His real name was Teach, and he pursued his piratical adventures on our coast about the year 1717.

Governor E. & Tobias Knight, the Secretary of the Colony, were both suspected of confederating with this man.—Teach, the noted freebooter, who was surnamed Black Beard, while he pursued his piracies, used to retire to the mouth of the Pamlico river, in North Carolina, to refit his vessel. Bath county was thickly inhabited; and Teach frequently went ashore, to the town of that name, without restraint; for guarded as he was, he could not be easily apprehended. He lived on terms of familiarity with some of the inhabitants, who did not count it dishonorable to associate with a robber. Tobias Knight, a member of the Council, Secretary of the Province, and Collector of the Customs, for the part of Bath, was, unfortunately, in the number of his friends.—King George the First, in the year 1717, was pleased to issue a proclamation, offering a pardon to all pirates, who should surrender themselves, within a limited time, to any of the colonial Governors.—This was deemed to be the most expeditious method of obtaining relief from a common pest.—Teach, and twenty of his men, surrendered themselves to the Governor of North Carolina, and took the oath of allegiance. His associates dispersed themselves, and some of them went to work. But Teach was an intemperate man, and had long been in the habits of idleness. In a short time his money was expended. Those treasures were of no use to him, which vulgar credulity, prone to believe a wonderful story, has passed to his account. The man, who is said and believed to have buried pots or chests of money, in every deep creek along our coast, had not the means of supporting himself on shore, when he left off cruising; wherefore he resolved to risk his life: by returning to his piracies. For this purpose, he fitted out a sloop, enlisted a proper crew, and cleared as a common trader, for the Island of St. Thomas. After a few weeks, he returned to Carolina; and brought with him a French ship, laden with sugar, coffee, and cotton. He made oath before the Governor, with four of his people, that he found the ship deserted at sea; upon which, he was allowed to enter at the Custom-house. He loaded his sugar, and other goods, and gave down his sloop, to give her a clean bottom, at the place that is now called Teach's Hole, within Ocracoke Inlet. Knight, who was a Collector of the Customs, lived on Pamlico river, a few miles below the port of Bath.—Teach had been at his house during these transactions; for he stored twenty barrels of sugar, and two bags of coffee, in his barn.

Whatever the Governor or his Secretary may have thought of an old pirate, who alleged that he found a tight ship, with a valuable cargo deserted at sea, other people were disposed to view it as a piratical adventure. The Assembly of Virginia offered a reward of one hundred pounds for Teach, and ten pounds for each of his associates. There were two ships of war then at their mooring, in Hampton Roads. Maynard, a lieutenant in one of the ships, taking with him two small coasters, and a sufficient number of men, sailed in quest of Teach, and found him at his usual cruising place.—When the action began, Teach had only 17 men with him; but he fought like a desperado, who was resolved to escape the gibbet. He was killed in the action and nine of his men. Eight of them were taken. Thirty of Maynard's men were killed or wounded. The Pirates, who survived the action, were tried in Virginia.—One of them, Basilica Hand, turned King's evidence; and four of them were executed, after they had confessed the truth of Hand's deposition. It followed, as a necessary consequence, from the testimony of Hand, that Secretary Knight was privy to the last act of piracy.—A copy of these examinations was sent to the Governor of North Carolina, by the Court of Admiralty, who alleged, that Knight should be tried as an accomplice. When Knight was summoned to appear before the council, he exculpated himself by the testimony of a young man, who lived with him in his house. The testimony was directly opposed to the evidence of Hand; and the presumption in that case, should have been in favor of Knight's innocence; for the testimony of a pirate, who turned King's evidence, supported by the declaration of four negro pirates, who were condemned, could do little injury in a fair character; but there was other evidence, more to be trusted than such oaths. By that evidence Knight's character was destroyed; and the Governor's did not escape suspicion. A letter from Knight was found in Teach's pocket, dated a few days before he fell into the hands of Maynard. That letter referred to a secret, not to be trusted to paper. It was proof of Knight's friendship for a freebooter, and a clear intimation of the Governor's respect.—There was also a silver cup found in Teach's cabin, of which he had lately robbed a boatman on the river, below Knight's house.

NORTH-CAROLINA.

The following extracts from the second volume of Judge Martin's History of N. Carolina, possess some interest for many of our readers. It is curious to see how very slowly works of internal improvement advance in this State. The Clubfoot and Harlow's Creek Canal, however, has been completed since Judge Martin wrote his History; but it has not been done upon a scale adequate to the original design; a ship navigation from Neuse River to Beaufort Harbor is still a desideratum to the commerce and convenience of the State.

The first distinct proposition of the great Erie and Hudson Canal was in 1807, forty years before which time, to wit, in 1767, North Carolina legislated upon the subject of this Canal.

The Presbyterian Clergy increasing, especially in the western parts of the province, were authorized to celebrate the rites of matrimony. The trustees of the Newbern Academy were incorporated.—This is the first instance of this kind of legislative patronage, which occurs in the Statute Book. The navigation of the river Neuse appearing insufficient for vessels of great

burden, on account of the small depth of water, through the swash, leading from Ocracoke bar into the Sound, and the Inlet of Old Topsail being very safe and navigable, for vessels of great burden leading to a safe and commodious harbor, an attempt was made to cut a canal from Clubfoot to Harlowe creek, whereby the navigation of Neuse river & Old Topsail Inlet might be joined; and an act was passed appointing commissioners to receive subscriptions and cut the canal. The facility of attaining the desired object, if proper means were adopted, has never been questioned; yet, though several laws have since been passed, and some trouble taken to accomplish it, after a period of nearly half a century, the measure has not yet ripened into effect. "A charter was granted to the inhabitants of the town of Hillsborough, authorising them to choose a representative in the lower House, a measure which is said to have been taken to secure a seat for Edmund Panning, an attorney of influence, who has already been mentioned in this chapter and who was a great partisan of the Governor, and extremely obnoxious to the regulators; and these people were so greatly exasperated by this circumstance, that they spoke of coming down in arms forcibly to prevent his taking a seat, and threatened, in case they failed in the attempt, to set fire to the town of Newbern; the Governor was so apprehensive that they would carry their threat into execution, that he caused a ditch to be dug along the part of the town, from Neuse to Trent river, which is bounded by Muddy and part of Queen street, and was the only inhabited part of it; orders were issued to the Colonels of the militia in the counties on Neuse, and some of those on Tar river to hold themselves in readiness to march on the first news of the approach of the regulators, and oppose their passage; Colonel Leech, of the county of Craven, was directed to order his regiment into town, for the protection of the Legislature."—Ibid.

SLANDER.

Maledicus a maledico non distant nisi in occasione. Slander is a truth hurtful to those upon whom it falls. A detractor is not a voracious, but a vile and envious man, whose discourses please only those who are like him. If the earth should be cleansed from envious persons, slander would be from society. Men listen to slander with eagerness and pleasure, because it humbles others in the public opinion and sees an enemy less in the great man who is attacked, or whom perversity endeavors to destroy. If a detractor injures only with words, it is because he is too great a coward to do it with actions.

A detractor is a vain and proud man, who, discovering the infirmities and frailties of others, wishes to persuade us, that he alone is sound and without them. Moreover, he praises himself, being only a hypocrite who affects virtuous sentiments and affections; false in reality; for they are not accompanied with kindness, indulgence and humanity. A detractor ought to be regarded as a public enemy to society; but notwithstanding, we listen to him, and we can say with certainty that men, many times collect together, to have only the miserable pleasure of speaking ill of others.

To cure men of their envy and jealousy which so much torments them, us also as of slander and calumny, it is necessary to make them see that all their efforts are useless against merit and virtue.—Slander is in vain employed against a good man. Is it not well known, that no mortal upon earth is exempt from defects? An ingenious critic,

can make the productions of talent contemptible? Is it not very certain also, that talents are unequal, and subject to irregularities and errors. Some small faults have perchance caused to fall in oblivion many worlds of the human mind?—Can calumny ever blacken probity? Sooner or later iniquity is discovered and confounded; the envious person who slanders often makes innocence appear more amiable and interesting.

To undeceive those persons who listen to slander and find pleasure in it, we ought to make them know, that this same person whose base discourses they listen to with eagerness and with whose satiric and cruel satires they are pleased, will soon amuse, at their expense other persons equally disposed and ready to hear the slanderer.

Finally, to draw his error the detractor himself who delights in injuring, we say to him that the evil part which he acts make him to be feared, and never to be believed and respected. Can a sociable being be ambitious of being regarded as an infamous man? Is any office more vile and base than that of a public detractor? Is it not to make one's self an accomplice to listen to him with pleasure?

And is it not to dishonor one's self, to bestow his friendship and confidence on a public detractor?—Is there any more detestable pleasure, than that which arises from running from citizens, divulging the facts which can be prejudicial to them; and diminishing their reputation and repose without any profit to society. The detractor will tell us perhaps, that it is necessary that truth should be known, and the public needs to know men as they are, adding moreover that he does not slander the wise and good.

But we answer, that such truth is useful to the public when it treats of crimes, and not of infirmities, and concealed defects. A slanderer, is a cowardly murderer, when he divulges truth capable of destroying the good opinion of cooling the benevolence, and injuring the well being of his fellow men. Finally we can say to him, that a sociable being owes even to unknown and indifferent persons, his respect and consideration, and violating the obligation, he gives occasion for his own character to be blackened, and his secret faults to be divulged. As no man can flatter himself with having no faults, and as man is willing that his faults should be divulged, it is very easily inferred, that we ought not to proclaim those of every other person.

Slander under any aspect in which it is contemplated, ought to be condemned on account of the prejudices, enmities and miseries which it continually produces. This is a cause of many evils, but of no good; and the detractor is always hated although slander pleases.—Slander is the daughter of envy, and the handmaid of illness. It ought not to flatter itself for so contemptible an origin. Nothing is more useful than to know how to be silent. Loquacity is the greatest plague of society. Quidam.

ELEGANT EXTRACT.

It cannot be that earth is man's only abiding place.—It cannot be that our life is a bubble, cast up by the ocean of eternity to float a moment upon its waves, and sink into darkness and nothingness. Else why is it that the high and glorious aspirations, which leap like angels from the temples of our hearts, are forever wandering abroad unsatisfied? Why is it, that the rainbow and the cloud come over us with a beauty that is not of earth, and then pass off and leave us to muse upon their faded loveliness? Why is it that the stars, which hold their festivals around the midnight

throne," are set above the grasp of our limited faculties—forever mocking us with their unapproachable glory!—And finally, why is it that bright forms of human beauty are presented to our view, and then taken from us—leaving the thousand streams of our affections to flow back in an Alpine torrent upon our hearts? We are born for a higher destiny than that of earth. There is a realm where the rainbow never fades—where the stars will be spread out before us like the Islands that slumber on the ocean, and where the beautiful beings which here pass before us like visions, will remain in our presence forever.

THE CLOSING SCENE.

Of all the periods and events of life, the concluding scene is one of the deepest interest to the person himself, and to surviving spectators. Various are the ways in which it comes, and various the aspects it presents; but in all it is solemn.—What can be more so, than the approach of that moment, which, to the dying man, is the boundary between time and eternity, which concludes the one and commences the other; which terminates all his interests in this world, and fixes his condition for a never ending existence in the world unknown! What can be more so than those moments of silent and indescribable anxiety, when the last sands of the numbered hour are running; when the beat of the heart becomes too languid to be felt at the extremities of the frame; when the hand returns not the gentle pressure; when the limbs lie still and motionless when the eye is fixed, and the ear turns no more towards the voice of consoling kindness; when the breath, before oppressive and laborious, becomes feebler and feebler till it dies slowly away—and to the listening ear there is no sound amidst the breathless silence, nor to the arrested eye, that watches with the unmoving look of thrilling solicitude for the last symptom of remaining life, is motion longer perceptible; when surrounding friends continue to speak in whispers, and to step through the chamber on the tip-toe of cautiousness, as if still fearful of disturbing him—whom the noise of a thousand thunders could not now startle—who has fallen on that last sleep, from which nothing shall rouse but "the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God."—Wardlaw.

Wet Feet.—We are often asked to speak a word of remonstrance to our ladies; who, in the present condition of the streets, "neither sea nor good dry land," are seen perambulating in prunelle shoes, in despite both of the 'Journal of Health' and the suggestions of good taste. We do not like to take the place of papa or the doctor; but we can say that this enormous sacrifice to vanity does not even answer its end. There is nothing agreeable suggested to the imagination by wet shoes and soiled hose, nor by seeing a fairy foot tripping its daintily in a kennel.—Ball. Amer.

VANITY.

A man who is proud of his property, will sometimes call himself poor, that you may soothe his fancy by contradicting him. A great beauty, likewise, will pretend to believe that she makes an ordinary appearance, and

"In hopes of contradiction oft will say, Methinks I look most horribly to day." The most effectual way to mortify such persons, is to pretend to believe them, and to acknowledge that there is some truth in the assertion.

"My dear Tom," said old Sheridan, one day to his son, "I wish you would take a wife." "I have no objection, sir," said Tom, "whose wife shall I take."