The North Carolinian.

Devoted to News, Political and Business matter, Agriculture, and Family Reading.

PUBLICATION OFFICE,] INDEPENDENCE IS THE SOUL OF DEMOCRACY! [DONALDSON STREET.

WM. F. WIGHTMAN, Editor. } FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1857. {VOLUME XIX—NO. 953.

TERMS

OF SUBSCRIPTION TO THE CAROLINIAN

For a single copy, if paid in advance, per annum, $2 00
" " " at the end of 3 months, 2 50
" " " at the end of 6 months, 3 00
" " " at the end of the year, 3 50

No subscription will be received for a shorter period than one year unless paid in advance.

With the view of extending the circulation and enhancing the usefulness of the paper, the proprietor offers the following remarkably low

CLUB RATES. INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE:

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For three months, - - - - - $4 00
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For twelve months, - - - - - 10 00

All advertisements must have the desired number of insertions marked on them, otherwise they will be inserted till forbid and charged accordingly. *Special attention is directed to this requisition.*

WM. F. WIGHTMAN & CO.

LEGAL NOTICES.

CLEMENT G. WRIGHT.
Attorney at Law, Fayetteville, N.C.
Office at the corner of Bow and Green streets.
Feb'y 3, 1856.

J. A. SPEARS.
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
ATTENDS the Courts of Cumberland, Harnett, Wake and Johnston.
Address, Toomer, Harnett Co., N. C.
Feb. 16, 1856. 85-y

BARTHW FULLER,
Attorney at Law,
FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.,
May be consulted at the Law Office of Jese G. Shepherd, Esq., on Green Street.
July 19, 1856. 7-tf

ANDREW J. STEDMAN,
Attorney at Law.
Having removed to PITTSBORO, N. C., will attend regularly the Courts of Chatham, Moore and Harnett Counties.
April 14, 1856. tf

FOR SALE.

844 Acres of Land, lying on Cape Fear River—Store, Dwelling, Out Houses all in first rate order. The Store is at a fine business stand at the Cross Roads and the land is not to be excelled by any in North Carolina.

Any person desiring to purchase can obtain further particulars respecting the property by calling on either of us at Willis' Creek on the Wilmington Road 15 miles from Fayetteville.

SARAH WRIGHT.
JAMES WRIGHT.
Oct. 4. 18-tf

W. P. Elliott,
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.
Agent for Lutterloh & Co.'s Steamboat Line
Will attend promptly to all business entrusted to his care.
Oct. 21, 1856. 21-tf

FOR SALE.

Five sevenths of the FARMING AND TURPENTINE LAND in Harnett county, known as the Parker and McNeill lands, joining Wm. Harrington's land on Upper Little River. There is some 200 acres of the best quality of low grounds on the River. The up lands are heavily timbered with pines, and within six miles of the Fayetteville and Western Railroad.

For particulars apply to D McARTHUR.
J. P. ROPER.
J. W. McKAY.
Nov. 1856 29, 26-tf

PROSPECTUS
OF THE
SOUTHERN LITERARY MESSENGER
For the Year 1856. July to December.
TWENTY-THIRD VOLUME.

In issuing the Prospectus of the Twenty-Third Volume of the SOUTHERN LITERARY MESSENGER, commencing with the July No., the Proprietors rely solely on the encouraging letters and promises of the friends of the Messenger to aid them in extending its circulation, and they beg to assure the public that no exertions will be remitted on their part to maintain the high character of the work, and to challenge the patronage of all who value sterling literary merit. For Twenty-One Years, the Messenger has endeavored to reflect faithfully the Southern mind, while disdaining all narrow and sectional views, and has been alone among the monthly periodicals of America, in defence of the PECULIAR INSTITUTIONS OF THE SOUTHERN STATES.

To this office it will be devoted, and will be prompt to repel assaults upon the South, whether they come under the specious garb of fiction, or in the direct form of anti-slavery pamphlets. At this critical juncture, while our enemies are employing literature as their most potent weapons of attack, the Southern people will surely not withhold their encouragement from a work whose aim it shall be to strike blows in their defence.

The Messenger will, as heretofore, present its readers *with Reviews, Historical and Biographical Sketches, Novels, Tales, Travels, Essays, Poems, Critiques, and Papers on the Army, Navy and other National Subjects.*

With a view to ensure a larger circulation of the MESSENGER, the Proprietors though they intend greatly increasing the size of the work, have reduced the price of Subscription, which is now only

Three Dollars per annum, in Advance,

OR FOUR DOLLARS IF NOT PAID BEFORE THE FIRST OF JULY IN ANY YEAR.

CLUBS—Remitting us Fifteen Dollars in one letter, will be entitled to Six Copies.

The Editorial and Critical department of the Messenger will continue under the charge of

JOHN R. THOMPSON, Esq.,

And will embrace copious notes on current literature and reviews of all new American or Foreign works of general interest and value. The Editor's opinions will be always fearlessly and honestly avowed.

The Business Department is conducted by the undersigned, to whom all communications of a business nature must be addressed.

MACFARLANE, FERGUSSON & CO.
Law Building, Franklin Street, Richmond, Va.
June 1, 1856.

Proposals for Live Oak.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Bureau of Construction, &c.
May 2, 1847.

Sealed proposals for delivering 50,000 cubic feet of promiscuous live oak in each of the navy-yards at Charleston, Massachusetts; Brooklyn, New York; Philadelphia, and at Gosport, Virginia, will be received at this bureau until the 15th June, 1857.

The proposals must be endorsed "Proposals for Live Oak," that they may be distinguished from other business letters. The offers may be for one or all the yards, but must be for the whole quantity at any yard, and, as required by law, must be accompanied by a suitable guarantee, the form of which is herewith given.

Sureties in the full estimated amount will be required to sign the contract, and, as additional and collateral security, 15 per cent will be withheld on the amount of each delivery until the contract is completed.

In all the deliveries of the timber there must be a due proportion of the most difficult and crooked pieces, otherwise there will be withheld such further amount, in addition to the 15 per cent, as may be judged expedient to secure the public interest until such difficult portions be delivered. The remaining 85 per cent, or other proportion of each bill, when approved in triplicate by the commandant of the yard, will be paid by such navy agent as the contractor may name within thirty days after its presentation to him.

It will be stipulated in the contract that if default be made by the parties of the first part in delivering all or any of the timber named of the quality and at the time and place provided, then and in that case the contractor and his sureties will forfeit and pay to the United States a sum of money not exceeding twice the total amount therein agreed upon as the price to be paid in case of the actual delivery thereof, which may be recovered from time to time, according to the act of Congress in that case provided, approved March 3, 1843.

The 50,000 cubic feet to be delivered in each yard will be in the following proportions—say 8,000 cubic feet of keelsons; and pieces suitable for lower stems, terd-post knees, fore deadwood aprons, all siding 18 and 20 inches, and hooks siding 14 and 16 inches.

These pieces to be in number in the proportions in which they enter into the construction of a ship-of-war conforming substantially in shape, ledgth, and character with those heretofore received with srames of corresponding siding, the moulds of which can be seen at any of the yards named.

32,000 cubic feet of the siding of 13 and 15 inches, in about equal quantities of each, and 5,000 cubic feet of a siding 12 inches; all these pieces being in length from 13 to 17 feet, naving a natural and fair curve of from 13 to 30 inches or more in that length; and two-thirds the number of the pieces to have from the mean to the maximum crook; also, 5,000 cubic feet siding 13 and 15 inches, in length from 17 to 20 feet.

All to be sided straight and fair; the 15-inch timber and under showing a face of not less than three-fourths the siding, to be cut from trees grown within 30 miles of the sea, of which satisfactory evidence will be required by the commandant of the yard, to be delivered in the respective yards at the risk and expense of the contractor, subject to the usual inspection, to the entire approval of the bureau; and one-half to be delivered on or before the 1st day of August, 1858, and the remainder on or before the 1st day of July, 1859.

Form of Offer.

I, ———, of the State ———, hereby agree to furnish and deliver of the United States navy yard at ———, fifty thousand cubic feet of live oak timber, in conformity with the advertisement of the Bureau of Construction of the date of May 2, 1857, viz:

8,000 cubic feet, suitable for principle pieces, sided 18 and 20 inches, at —— per foot.
32,000 cubic feet curved timber, sided 13 and 15 inches, length 13 to 17 feet, at —— per foot.
5,000 cubic feet timber, siding 13 and 15 inches, length 17 to 10 feet, at —— per foot.
Total value.

Should my offer be accepted, I request to be addressed at ———, and the contract forwarded to the navy agent at ———, or to me at ———.

[Date.] For signature and certificate.
A B.

Form of Guarantee.

The undersigned, ———, of ———, in the State of ———, hereby guaranty that, in case the foregoing bid be accepted, ——— will, within ten days after the receipt of the contract at the post office named, or navy agency designated, execute the contract for the same, with good and sufficient sureties; in case said ——— shall fail to enter into contract as aforesaid, we guaranty to make good the difference between the offer of the said ———, and that which may be accepted.

C D.
E F.
(Date.)
Witness: G H.

I hereby certify that the above named C D, and E F, are known to me as men of property, and able to make good their guarantee.

(Date.)
(To be signed by the United States district judge, United States district attorney, collector, or navy agent, and no other.)
May 16, 1857 50-5t

FOR SALE,

ADAMANTINE and TALLOW CANDLES; fine and common TOBACCO; and almost anything in the Grocery line. Cheap as the cheapest!

G W. I. GOLDSTON.
Feb'y 7, 1857. 36-tf

Professor Wood's Hair Restorative,
for sale by S. J. HINSDALE.
Aug. 30, 1856. 913-tf

10,000 lbs. Tallow Wanted,
For which the highest cash price will be paid.
Oct. 1, 1856. A. M. CAMPBELL

A CARD.

THE undersigned would respectfully inform his old friends and customers that he can be found at the Store of C. E. Leete, where he will be glad to see them.

J. R. McDONALD.
Jan. 17, 1857. 33-tf

PROPOSALS FOR NAVAL SUPPLIES
NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Bureau of Construction, Equipment, & Repairs.
May 23, 1857.

Sealed Proposals to furnish naval supplies for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1858, will be received at this Bureau until 3 o'clock, p. m., of the 23d June next. These proposals must be endorsed "Proposals for Naval Supplies, Bureau of Construction, &c," that they may be distinguished from other business letters.

The materials and articles embraced in the classes named are particularly described in printed schedules, any of which will be furnished to such as desire to offer, on application to the commandants of the respective yards, or to the navy-agent nearest thereto, and those of all the yards upon application to this bureau. This division into classes being for the convenience of dealers in each, such portions will be furnished are actually required for bids. The commandant and navy-agent of each station will have a copy of the schedules of the other yards, for examination only, from which it may be judged whether it will be desirable to make application for them.

Offers must be made for the whole of a class at any yard upon one of the printed schedules, or in strict conformity therewith, or they will not be considered.

All articles must be of the best quality, conformable to sample, size, &c., to be delivered in good order, and in such suitable vessels and packages, as the case may be, at the expense and risk of the contractor, and in all respects subject to the inspection, measurement, count, weight, &c., of the yard where received, and to the entire satisfaction of the commandant thereof.

Bidders are referred to the yards for samples, and a particular description of the articles; and, all other things being equal, preference will be given to articles of American manufacture.

Every offer, as required by the law of 10th August, 1846, must be accompanied by a written guarantee, the form of which is herewith given.

Those only whose offers may be accepted will be notified, and the contract will be forwarded as soon thereafter as practicable, which they will be required execute within ten days after its receipt at the post office or navy agency named by them.

Sureties in the full amount will be required to sign the contract, and their responsibility certified to by a United States district attorney, collector, or navy-agent. As additional security, twenty per centum will will be withheld from the amount of the bills until the contract shall have been completed; and eighty per centum of each bill, approved in triplicate by the respective yards, will be paid by the navy-agent within thirty days after its presentation to him.

It is stipulated in the contract that, if default be made by the parties of the first part in delivering all or any of the articles mentioned in any class bid for in this contract, of the quality and at the time and places above provided, then, and in that case, the contractor and his sureties will forfeit and pay to the U, States a sum of money not exceeding twice the amount of such class, which may be recovered from time to time, according to the act of Congress in that case provided approved March 3, 1843.

Classes Nos. 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 to be delivered one-fourth part on or before the 15th May, one-fourth part by the 20th July, one-fourth part by the 20th September, and the remainder by the 1st December, 1858. Classes 3 and 8, the whole by the 15 May, 1858. The remaining classes to be delivered one-fourth part on or before the 1st September next, one-fourth part on or before the 1st December next, one-fourth part on or before the 1st April, and the remainder on or before the 30th June, 1858, unless earlier required with a notice of twelve days, comprising at each delivery a due proportion of each article. Class 10 and all following, if additional quantities of any of the articles named therein are demanded: they are to be furnished on like terms and conditions previous to the expiration of the fiscal year, upon receiving a notice of fifteen days from the bureau, the commandant of the yard, or navy-agent.

Form of Offer.

I, ———, of ———, in the State of ———, hereby agree to furnish and deliver, in the respective navy-yards, all the articles named in the classes hereunto annexed, agreeably to the provisions of the schedule therefor, and in conformit with the advertisement of the Bureau of Construction, &c., of the 23d of May, 1857. Should my offer be accepted, I request to be addressed at ———, or to ——— for stgnature and certificate.

(Date.) Signature:

The schedule which the bidder encloses must be pasted to his offer, and each of them signed by him. Opposite each article in the schedule the price must be set, the amount likewise written in words.

FORM OF GUARANTEE.

The unpersigned, ———, of ———, in the State of———, and ———, of ———, in the State of———, hereby guaranty that in case the foregoing bid of ——— for any of the classes therein named be accepted, that he or they will within ten days after the receipt of the contract at the post office named, or navy-agent designated, execute the contract for the same, with good and sufficient sureties; and in case said ——— shall fail to enter into contract as aforesaid, we guaranty to make good the difference between the offer of the said ——— and that which may be accepted,

Signature of two guarantors. { A B / C D.

Date.
Witness.

I hereby certify that the above named ——— are known to me as men of property, and able to make good their guarantee.

Date. Signature.

To be signed by the United States district Judge, United States district attorney, collector, or navy-agent, and no others.

The following are the classes required at the respective yards.

KITTERY, MAINE.

Class No 1. White oak logs. No 6. Yellow-pine plank stock logs. No. 10. White pine. No. 11. Ash, cypress, white oak boards. No. 13. Locust. No 18. Lignumvitæ. No. 21. Iron. No 22. Spikes and nails. No 23. Lead, zinc, and tin. No 25. Hardware. No. 43. Hose

CHARLESTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS.

Class No 1. White oak logs. No. 3. Whith oak promiscuous timber. No. 4. White oak pieces and rudder stocks. No 6. Yellow pine plank stock logs. No. 7. Yellow pine beams. No. 8. Yellow pine mast and spar timber. No 10. White pine. No 11. Ash, cypress, white-oak boards. No 12. Black walnut, cherry. No 13. Locust. No 14. White ash oars and hickory bars and butts. No 15. White oak staves and heading. No 16. Black spruce. No 18. Lignumvitæ. No 21. Icon. No 22. Spikes and nails. No 23. Lead, zinc, and tin. No. 25. Hardware. No 27. Paints, oils, &c. No 28. Flax canvass. No 29. Cotton canvas. No 30. Flax and cotton twine. No. 31. Glass. No 32. Leather. No 33. Hose. No 34. Brushes. No 35. Bunting an dry goods. No 37. Pitch, tar, rosin. No 38. Tallow, soap, oil. No 39. Ship chandlery. No 40. Station:ry. No. 41. Fire-wood.

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

Class No. 1. White oak logs. No. 3. White oak promiscuos timber. No 6. Yellow pine plank stock logs. No 7. Yellow pine beams: No 8. Yellow pine mast and spar timber. No 10. White pine, No 11. Ash, cypress, white-oak boards. No 12 Black walnut, cherry, mahogany. No. 13. Locust. No 14. White ash oars and hickory bars and butts. No 15. White oak staves and heading. No 16. Black spruce. No 18. Lignumvitæ. No 21. Iron. No 22, Spikes and nails. No 23. Lead, zinc, and tin. No 24, Pig iron. No 25, Hardware. No 27, Paints, oils, &c. No 28, Flax canvass. No 29, Cotton canvas. No 30. Flax and cotton twine. No 31. Glass. No 32, Leather. No 33. Hose. No 34, Brushes. No 35 Bunting and dry goods. No 37. Pitch, tar, rosin. No 30, Tallow, soap, oil. No 39. Ship chandlery. No 40, Stationary. No 41 Firewood.

PHILADELPHIA

Class No 2. White oak plank. No 6. Yellow pine plank stock logs. No 7. Yellow pine beams. No 10 White pine. No 11. Ash, cypress, white oak boards. No 12. Black walnut, cherry, mahogany. No 13. Locust. No 14. White ash oars and hickory bars and butts. No 18. Lignumbitæ. No 21. Iron. No 22. Spikes and nail. No 23, Lead, zinc, tin. No 25. Hardware. No 27. Paints, ils. &c. No 28. Flax canvas. No 29, Cotton canvas. No 30. Flax and cotton twine. No 31, Glass. No 32, Leather. No 33. Hose. No 34 Brushes. No 35. Bunting and dry goods. No 37. Pitch, tar, rosin. No 38, Tallow, soap, oil. No 39 Ship chandlery.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Class No 10, White pine. No 11, Ash, cypress. No 12, Black walnut. No 21, Iron. No 22. Spikes, nails. No 23. Lead, zinc, tid. No 24, Pig iron. No 25. Hardware. No 27, Paints, oils, &c. No 31 Glass. No 37. Pitch, tar, rosin. No 28, Tallsw, soap, oil. No 39. Ship chandlery. No 43. Tank and galley iron. No 44, Chain iron. No 45. Ingot copper. No 46. Sand, straw, &c. No 47. Miscellaneous.

GOSPORT, VIRGINIA.

Class No 1. White oak. No 6. Yellow pine plank stock logs. No 10. White pine. No 11. Ash, cypress, white oak boards. No 12, Black walnut, cherry, and mahogany. No 14. White ash oars, and hickory bars and butts. No 16. Black spruce. No 18. Lignumvitæ. No 21. Iron. No 22 spikes and nails. No 23, Lead, zinc and tin. No 24. Hardware. No 27. Paints, oils, &c. No 28. Flax canvas. No 29. Cotton canvas. No 30, Flax and cotton twine. No 31. Glass. No 32. Leather. No 33. Hose. No 34. Brushes. No 35 Bunting and dry goods. No 37, Pitch, tar, rosin. No 38, Tallow, soap, oil. No 39, Ship chandlery. No 40, Stationary.

May 30, 1857. 52-4t

Common Schools.

Office of Literary Board
Raleigh, May 9, 1857.

The President and Directors of the Literary Fund, having made distribution of the income thereof, for the first six months of the year 1857, among the several Counties of the State for the use of Common Schools, direct the following tabular statement to be published, showing the amount set apart for each County.

These amounts will be paid at the Treasury Department of the State, on compliance with the provisions of law by the parties entitled to receive the same.

The Counties of Jackson, Madison, Yadkin, Polk and Harnett will receive their respective portions out of the amounts distributed to the Counties out of which they were formed. The County of Wilson will receive 2¼ per cent, of the amount allotted to Edgecombe; 12½ per cent. of that of Nash; 10 1-9 per cent. of that of Wayne; and an amount of Johnston to be agreed upon by their Chairman.

THO'S BRAGG,
Pres't ex officio of Literary Board.
PULASKI COWPER, Sec'y.

Counties.	*Fed. Pop.*	*Dis. Share.*
Alamance	10,166	$1219 92
Alexander	5,003	600 36
Anson	10,756	1290 72
Ashe	8,539	1024 68
Beaufort	11,716	1405 92
Bertie	9,973	1196 76
Bladen	8,024	962 88
Brunswick	5,951	714 12
Buncombe	12,338	1480 56
Burke	6,919	830 28
Cabarrus	8,674	1040 88
Caldwell	5,836	700 32
Camden	5,174	620 88
Carteret	6,208	744 96
Caswell	12,161	1459 32
Catawba	8,234	988 08
Chatham	16,055	1926 60
Cherokee	6,703	804 36
Chowan	5,252	630 24
Cleveland	9,697	1163 64
Columbus	5,308	636 96
Craven	12,329	1479 48
Cumberland	17,723	2126 76
Currituck	6,257	750 84
Davidson	14,123	1694 76
Davie	6,998	839 76
Duplin	21,111	1333 32
Edgecombe	13,770	1652 40
Forsythe	10,627	1275 24
Franklin	9,510	1141 20
Gaston	7,228	867 36
Gates	6,878	825 36
Granville	17,303	2076 36
Greene	5,320	638 52
Guilford	18,480	2217 60
Halifax	13,007	1560 84
Harnett		828 84
Haywood	6,907	825 96
Henderson	6,883	798 72
Hertford	6,656	790 20
Hyde	6,585	1567 44
Iredell	13,062	
Jackson		1423 32
Johnston	11,861	472 20
Jones	3,935	741 84
Lenoir	6,182	830 88
Lincoln	6,924	
Madison		688 92
McDowell	5,741	740 28
Macon	6,169	835 32
Martin	6,961	1406 88
Mecklenburg	11,724	
Montgomery	6,163	739 56
Moore	8,552	1026 26
Nash	9,034	1084 08
New Hanover	14,236	1708 32
Northampton	10,731	1287 72
Onslow	7,040	844 80
Orange	14,957	1794 84
Pasquotank	7,708	924 96
Perquimans	6,030	723 60
Person	8,825	1059 00
Pitt	10,745	1289 40
Polk		
Randolph	15,176	1821 12
Richmond	7,936	952 33
Robeson	11,080	1329 60
Rockingham,	12,363	1483 56
Rowan	12 329	1479 48
Rutherford	12,388	1486 56
Sampson	12,311	1477 32
Stanly	6,348	761 76
Stokes	8,490	1018 80
Surry	17,643	2117 16
Tyrrell	4,452	534 24
Union	9,258	1110 96
Wake	21,123	2534 76
Warren	10,366	1243 92
Washington	4,780	573 60
Watauga	3,348	401 76
Wayne	11,478	1377 36
Wilkes	11,642	1397 04
Wilson		
Yadkin		
Yancy	8,068	968 16
	753,542	$90,425 04

☞ Raleigh Register, Wilmington Journal and Commercial, Fayetteville Carolinian, Democratic Pioneer, Goldsborough Tribune, Newbern Union, Warrenton News, Salisbury Banner, Western Sentinel, Charlotte Democrat and Asheville News, will publish three times weekly and forward to this office. Rate adopted by Board for advertising—$12,00

May 30, 1857 52-3t

NORTH CAROLINIAN.
FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

Stealing Water-Melons.

A man in a country town took great pleasure in having a neat garden. He had all kinds of vegetables and fruits earlier than his neighbors but thieving boys in the neighborhood annoyed him; damaged his trees, trampled down his flowers, and "hooked" his choicest fruits. He tried various ways to protect his grounds; but his watch-dogs were poisoned, and set traps caught nothing but his fattest fowls and favorite cat.

One afternoon, however, just at night fall he overheard a couple of mischievous boys talking together, when one of them said:

"What do you say, Joe? Shall we come the grab over them melons to night? Old Swipes will be snoring like ten men before twelve o'clock."

The other objected, as there was a high wall to get over.

"Oh, pshaw!" was the reply; "I know a place where you can get over just as easy—know it like a book. Come, Joe, let's go?"

The owner of the melon patch didn't like the idea of being an eaves-dropper; but the conversation so intimately concerned his melons, which he had taken so much pains to raise that he kept quiet and listened to the plans of the young scapegraces, so that he might make it somewhat bothersome for them.

Ned proposed to get over the wall on the south side, by the great pear tree, and cut directly across to the summer-house, just north of which were the melons.

Joe was a clever fellow, who loved good fruit exceedingly, and was as obstinate as an ass. Get him once started to do a thing, and he would stick to it like a mud-turtle to a negroe's toe. The other didn't care so much for the melons as for the fun of getting them.

Now hear the owner's story:

"I made all needful preparation for the visit; put in brads pretty thick in the scantling along the wall where they intended to get over; uncovered a large water-vat that had been filled for some time, from which in dry weather, I was accustomed to water my garden; dug a trench a foot deep or so, and placed slender boards over it, which were slightly covered with dirt, and just beyond them some little cords, fastened tightly, some eight inches from the ground. I picked all the melons I cared to preserve, leaving pumkins and squashes, about the size and shape of melons, in their places."

The boys were quite right in supposing it would be quite dark; but they missed it a little in inferring that "Old Swipes," as they called him, would be in bed. The old man liked a a little fun as well as they, and when the time came, from his hiding place he listened:

"Whist, Joe! don't you hear something?"

I think that it was very probable that they did, for hardly were the words uttered, than there came a sound of forcible tearing of fustian.

"Get off my coat-tail!" whispered Joe.

"There goes one flap, sure as guns! Why, get off, Ned."

And Ned was off, and one leg of his breeches besides; and then he was ah-ing and oh-ing, and telling Joe that he "believed there was nails in the side of the wall, for something had scratched him tremendously, and torn his breeches all to pieces."

Joe sympathized with him, for he said "half his coat was hanging up there somewhere."

They now started hand-in-hand, for Ned believed he "knew the way." They had arrived a little beyond the trees, when something went swash! swash! into the water-vat.

A sneeze ensued, then the exclamation: "Thunder! that water smells rather old!"

Ned wanted to go home at once, but Joe was too much excited to listen for a moment to such a proposition.

"Never heard anything about that cistern before; the old fellow must have fixed it on purpose to drown people in. Curious, though, that we should both fall in it."

They pushed on again for the melons. Presently they were caught by the cords, and headlong they went into a heap of briars and thistles, and the like, which had been placed there for their express accommodation.

"Such a gettin up stairs!" muttered one.

"Nettles and thistles! how they prick!" exclaimed the other.

They now determined to go more cautiously. At length they arrived at the patch.

"How thick they are, Joe? Come here? There's more than a dozen fat ones right here!"

And down they sat in the midst of them, and seemed to conclude that they were amply rewarded for all their mishaps.

"Here, Joe," said, Ned "take this muskmelon; isn't it a rouser? Slash into it."

"It cuts tremendous hard, Ned. Ned it's a squash!"

"No it isn't, I tell you; it's a new kind—Old Swipes sent to Rhode Island for the seed last spring."

"Well, then, all I've got to say, is that the old fellow got sucked in—that's all."

"I'm going to gouge into the water-melons; hallo! there goes a half a dollar! I've broke my knife. If I didn't know that it was a water-melon, I should say it was a pumpkin. Fact is, I believe, it is a pumkin."

What the boys did besides, while the owner went to the stable and unmuzzled the dog, and led him into the garden, he couldn't say; but that they took long steps, the onion and flower beds revealed in the morning.

They paid pretty dear for the whistle. They had not tasted a single melon; they had got scratched, and torn their clothes; were as wet as drowned rats, and half scared out of their wits at the ravenous dog, and the apprehension of being discovered.

The next night the owner of the melon-patch invited all the boys of the village, including Ned and Joe, to a feast of melons, on the principle of "returning good for evil." This circumstance changed the opinion of "Old Swipes," and the boys were never disturbed again.

The Panther Foiled.

NARROW ESCAPE OF AN OLD HUNTER

Old Ben Wheaton, who lived in Brier Valley, about two miles from the Susquehannah River, was an inveterate lover of forest sports.

He like most of the early settlers of Ostego, had selected a farm from the hill lands, leaving the broad swamp flats for hunting grounds.

His shanty was erected on a small stream in Brier Valley, which is now called after his name, Wheaton Creek. The most of his time was expended in journeys through the forest, frequently in company with a far-famed Mohawk Indian, named Antone; but sometimes Ben loved to pursue his sports without a companion. And well he might, for he did not need a guide.

Every nook, dell, crevice, and cave, from the Otsego Lake to the mouth of the Delaware River, was familiar to Ben Wheaton, and he had often pursued his game to almost every part of that country. He chiefly hunted the wolf, as well for the profit as for sport, for Government paid a silver dollar, in the shape of a bounty, on every skin.

Bent upon increasing his store of coin, old Ben, one fine summer morning, shouldered his rifle, and taking his knapsack, containing a sufficient supply of corn-cake and dried venison, he crossed the Susquehannah, and took his way towards Franklin Mountain, which lies between the villages of Ostego and Franclin.

The day was sultry, and by the time he had accomplished one-half the ascent of the mountain, he concluded that he needed a rest. He therefore took a seat upon a moss-covered log, near a spring, and ate his luncheon. The still solitude, the balmy air, together with the singing of birds, and the lazy hum of the bee, finally lulled the hunter to repose. He must have slept long, for when he awoke the sun was declining far westward, and a few ripples of golden light lingered on the tree-tops, which he first noted after clearing a mass of dry leaves from his face, which he thought had blown there; but in attempting to rise, however, he discovered himself completely buried in them.

Now, it is a notorious fact that the panther will cover a sleeping or dead body and leave it for a time, but only eventually to return and devour it. The instant Ben awoke, therefore, the truth flashed upon his mind that a panther had found and concealed him, and that the beast might at that moment be watching him, ready to make the fearful spring. He arose quickly seized his rifle, that rested against a tree, and hastily throwing together some large pieces of decayed wood, and covered them with leaves, he climbed a tree and waited patiently the panther's coming. He had not to wait long. Presently he saw it—a she one—stealing with a cat-like tread, and with two cubs behind her, which she hid in some brush-wood.

Dropping herself on the ground, she crept slowly towards her [illegible] prey, lashing the earth with her tail, and her eyes glowing like coals of fire! The appearance of things, however did not seem to [illegible] her; she sprang up, elevated her back, and threw herself upon her supposed victim with a wild yell. The wood and leaves flew about in every direction, and for a moment the panther seemed palsied by rage. Suddenly she leaped aside, dropt her tail, and peered around among the bush wood; then raising her eyes upwards, (fairly emitting sparks of fire in her anger,) she encountered the hunter's fixed upon her. With another screech more terrible than the first, she prepared to spring towards him, when, with an aim that seldom failed, old Ben fired, and she fell, tearing the earth with her claws. The shot was fatal.

Our adventurous hunter reloaded the empty barrel, and waited for her companions to come up, but none arrived, so he killed the cubs and built a fire. This was a necessary proceeding, for the sun had set, and the darkening shadows of night were creeping into the landscape.

With the backwoods audacity he relied upon his fire for protection from further quadrupedal prowlers, and stretching himself, with his feet to the burning wood or leaves that had before covered him, he once more resigned himself to the embrace of Morpheus. He often afterwards characterised the escape as the narrowest one he had ever experienced.