

Nesbit's conduct in the strongest terms of reprobation; and, on being asked whether he had noticed the event in his history, he produced the manuscript, and read to me a detail of that transaction, which, with the observations and reflections connected with it, would make three or four pages of his work.

In 1799 I embarked for England, where I was introduced to a relation of Dr. Gordon, of whom I inquired how the Doctor had succeeded in his history. He smiled and said, "It was not Dr. Gordon's History." On my requesting an explanation, he told me that, on the Doctor's arrival in England, he placed his manuscript in the hands of an intelligent friend, on whom he could depend, who (after perusing it with great care) declared that it was not suited to the meridian of England—consequently, would never sell. The style was not agreeable—it was too favorable to the Americans—above all, it was full of libels against some of the most respectable characters in the British army and navy; and that, if he possessed a fortune equal to the Duke of Bedford's, he would not be able to pay the damages that might be recovered against him, as the truth would not be allowed to be produced in evidence. The Doctor had returned to his native country, and expected to enjoy "otium cum dignitate." Overwhelmed with mortification, and almost with despair, he asked the advice of his friend, who recommended him to place the manuscript in the hands of a professional gentleman, that it might be new modeled, and made agreeable to English readers. This was assented to by the Doctor, and the history which bears his name was compiled and written from his manuscript, by another hand!

If any of our historical or antiquarian societies could obtain Gordon's original manuscript, it would be an invaluable document.

On hearing the foregoing narration, I had the curiosity to look into Gordon's history to learn what the professional gentleman had said of Col. Nesbit and his exploits, when to my surprise I found he had devoted only a few lines to that subject, vol. 1, page 307, American edition. The whole of this statement evinces that all histories published in England, in which that country is concerned, cannot contain the whole truth.

A BOSTONIAN.

From the New-York Daily Advertiser.

The following brief extract from the Trenton Federalist, reminded me of what I have frequently noticed with regard to an apparent influence of windows on lightning.

"During the gust on the 1st inst. the lightning struck a poplar tree in front of the dwelling of Robert Howel, in this city.—The glass of one of the front windows was forced in by the shock, and two young women who were near it, we understand, were slightly injured by the broken glass."

It would seem that, in this instance, the glass was broken simply by a concussion of the air—which concussion might be produced, though the electric fluid should approach no nearer the window, than to descend the body of the tree.

It is, however, a circumstance, not of uncommon occurrence, that the fluid passes directly through a window—apparently as though its course was directed by some influence of the window. The fluid sometimes forces an orifice, an eighth of an inch in diameter, through a pane of glass—and by an orifice of this extent a quantity of the fluid passes sufficient to produce very destructive effects. This orifice is generally circular, in some instances, without any other fracture of the glass—in others, numerous cracks, one or two inches in length, radiate from this orifice. I never observed whether the broken pieces of glass are to be found within the house, or without. The observing this fact might ascertain in which direction the lightning passes. A tree in front of the window, in some instances, bears traces of the lightning completely to its root: in such instances, therefore, there must be two portions of the fluid; one of which either descends the chimney, and afterwards escapes by the windows; or it passes in a contrary direction, separating from the other portion, while descending the tree. That it generally descends the chimney, seems more probable from the circumstances, that the chimney often sustains injury from the same shock, and that the persons in the room think they can observe the lightning escape, passing from the chimney to the window.

A girl in the country last summer, was so stunned by lightning, as to remain senseless for nearly an hour. Almost her first words, after recovering, were, that "the fire came down by the chimney—passed just before her, and went out at the window." It was subsequently ascertained that the lightning commenced its effects by shattering the top of the chimney: descending, it burst through the chimney into a chamber of a second story; thence proceeding down it forced its way by the side of the chimney, thro' the floor, into a room below; and escaped by perforating a pane of glass, in the manner above described.

Instances similar to this are of common occurrence. So frequently have

they occurred, they have given rise to a popular custom of raising the windows during a storm, "that the lightning may escape more freely."

What should induce the electric fluid to leave the chimney, which is not a bad conductor; and should choose the window, in preference to any part of the walls of a room, I cannot explain. The air without the window is more moist, and consequently a better conductor, than the air within. But what can conduct the fluid from the chimney to the window?

It might seem that the glass exerts some attractive power. Probably, however, the fluid would take the same course if the windows were open; and certainly no electrical experiments discover such a power in glass.

Does light attract the electric fluid? Is this fracture of the glass any mechanical effect of the air? Was a whole pane, or several panes fractured, this supposition would seem probable; but we can hardly suppose that an expansion, a concussion or any action of the air could form an orifice of so limited dimensions.

However these facts may be explained, it seems that a practical inference, of no little importance, may be drawn from them. It seems indeed that popular observation has led to the conclusion, that a person is more exposed to lightning at a window than in other parts of a room. There is a popular opinion, that the middle of a room is less dangerous than any other part. The latter opinion, I think, is, in most cases, erroneous; for the danger at a window arises from exposure to the electric fluid in its passage between the chimney and window. Every point therefore in a right line between those two objects must be equally exposed.

It may then be stated as a general rule, that any situation is particularly dangerous which the lightning would strike in its course between the chimney and window.

While observing this rule, we should also avoid sitting or standing near a ferruginous substance, a large timber, or any object which will readily conduct the electric fluid.

H. C.

## INTELLIGENCE.

He comes, the herald of a noisy world,  
News from all nations lumbering at his back.

### LIFE FROM ENGLAND.

CHARLESTON, JULY 29.—Our files of London papers to the 12th, and Liverpool to the 14th June, were received on Saturday, by the ship *South Carolina*, Captain EASTMAN, in 43 days from Liverpool. From the extracts below, it will be seen that the prospect of war between Russia and the Porte, was at an end, and that trade between the two countries was beginning to revive.

The West-India Trade, and Colonial Bills, are stated in the *Englishman* of the 9th, to have been read a third time, and passed in the House of Commons, on Friday, the 7th of June. But the *Morning Chronicle*, and Liverpool papers, in giving the Parliamentary proceedings of that day, do not mention the circumstance. No particulars of the provisions of those Bills are given.

The extracts from the Irish papers continue to present a melancholy picture of the sufferings of the inhabitants of that unfortunate country, from famine and disease. Subscriptions were still going on, and liberally supported, in various parts of England, for their relief—but we do not discover that parliament has yet adopted any measures for that purpose.

Spain continued in a very unsettled state.—In many of the provinces, the factions, headed by the priests, had caused great disturbances. On the 28th May the Cortes addressed a message to the King, complaining loudly of the conduct of his Majesty and his Ministers, in confiding the government of some of the provinces to persons who are obnoxious to the people—and calling upon his Majesty, in very plain and determined language, to adopt the most energetic measures to restore tranquility to the country, and to drive from the soil of Spain those ecclesiastics and prelates who preach fanaticism and rebellion, "never to return to blow the fire of discord, and light up the torches of superstition."

France appears to have been perfectly tranquil at the last dates. Thirty young men were apprehended at Paris on the 3d of June, in consequence of some recent tumult there, but they were all released the next day.

The trial of Mr. STUART for murder, in killing Sir ALEX. BOSWELL in a duel, had commenced before the High Court of Judiciary at Edinburgh. The *Colonian Mercury* of the 10th June, remarks, that no trial had ever excited more interest. Printed handbills had been circulated in the neighborhood of Mr. Stuart's residence, containing, on one side an account of the duel, and on the other an account of the well known murder of BOSWELL.—*Courier*.

LONDON, JUNE 8.

We received the Paris papers of Wednesday last night by express.

The news of a great naval victory by the Greeks over the Captain Pacha is confidently stated in accounts from various quarters. A letter from Augsburg, of the 29th ult. states that "the Greek fleet had decidedly obtained an important victory over the Captain Pacha, whose fleet was destroyed in part. We expect with impatience further details respecting an event which, under present circumstances, is of the highest interest. The Captain Pacha has re-entered the Dardanelles with the wreck of his fleet." A letter

from Odesa, of the 12th of May, which our readers will find below, alludes also to this engagement.

We have elsewhere spoken of the transactions at Constantinople. A letter from Stuttgart, in the *Constitutionnel*, of the 30th May, says—

"Notwithstanding all the pacific news of Vienna, we do not believe here in a speedy re-establishment of direct communications between Russia and the Porte, nor even in the maintenance of peace.—There are motives for doubting much the sincerity of some of the Turkish Ministers in the dispositions which have been announced for some time. The entire evacuation of Moldavia and Wallachia is also doubted. It is indeed said that a momentary success has been gained by the party of Lord Strangford; intrigues of the seraglio have been put into action, with respect to which we are promised details; and other news are announced as likely to transpire soon, probably of the utmost importance."

The *Quotidienne*, in a letter from Iron of the 30th May, says, with reference to Gen. Berton, that he is about to repair to Tolosa or Vittoria, that "it is not true that he thinks of repairing to Gibraltar, he knows too well there is no safe asylum for traitors under the Agents of the English Government." We wish we could say that the opinion was confined to French Ultras, that the English Government identified itself with all that is admirable on the continent.

But the most important article in these papers is the Message of the Spanish Cortes to King Ferdinand on the state of the country. In this production the Cortes paint, in lively colors, the calamitous efforts of the King's own party to deprive the people of the benefits of the Constitution; they condemn loudly the appointments which he has made, of wicked and worthless men, to the command of provinces, who have been guilty of all manner of enormities, and they call on him, in language not to be mistaken, to concur honestly with the Cortes in carrying the Constitution into effect. This he will, of course, never do; and the warning will only serve to satisfy other nations who, by the attempts of their Governments to prevent things from taking their natural course, are forced into revolution; that, in changing the Government, they must change also their royal stock. The notion of *divine right* can never be driven out of a legitimate head.—On looking over our translation of this document, we find that the following passage of the description of the conduct of the Priests, who are now busied almost every where on the continent in endeavors, the infamy of which it is impossible adequately to characterize, is omitted in the *Quotidienne*, from which we made it:—

"They preach against the liberty which our Constitution guarantees; and, sacrilegious and perjured, they fanaticize and stir up the people, form regiments of the weak whom they seduce, and mix with banditti. With the incense in one hand, and the sword in the other, abusing their influence, arming themselves with their audacity, they rush on to stir up to insurrection, oppress, pillage and burn cities; to cause streams of blood to flow, and to convert unhappy Spain into a dreadful theatre of civil war, in the deceitful hope of annihilating for ever the National Glory, Liberty, the Throne, and the Representation."

These achievements will, no doubt, entitle the n. should Spain vomit them forth from the soil which they have profaned, to an ultra liberal allowance from the parliament of Great Britain.

### Morning Chronicle.

JUNE 9.—Important advices, as regards the final adjustment of the differences between Turkey and Russia, were received yesterday from Vienna. They are dated so recently as the 31st ult. Most persons possessing good information have, for some time past, been persuaded that all would end peaceably; but the public at large, who uniformly doubt till all is decided, are still looking with considerable anxiety to the close of the scene. We now learn that M. de Tatischeff, whose former mission to Vienna excited so much attention, has returned to that capital, with unqualified assurances of the disposition of the Emperor Alexander to preserve peace, and his consent to attend in person the approaching Congress at Florence, for which M. de Tatischeff is empowered to make the arrangements. Short of an actual declaration on the part of the Emperor, we consider this intelligence the most decisive and satisfactory that could be made public.—*Englishman*.

Spain.—Madrid papers have arrived to the 23d ult. The Cortes, apprehensive of not being able to despatch the business before them, within the ordinary limits of their Session, had by a majority of 159 to 3, decided that it should be prolonged.—The Committee of Finance on the Marine Budget had recommended that the establishment of the navy should not exceed 5 ships of the line, 4 frigates, 2 corvettes, 2 brigantines, 4 schooners, for military purposes; besides 1 corvette, 4 brigantines, 5 schooners, for the service of mails.—Total, 27 vessels of all classes. A band of the *serviles*, headed by the monk Trapense, was defeated on the 18th ult. at the Hermitage of St. Eloy, by Don Josef Cruz Mulla. The political chiefs

of Vigo and Orense write, under date of the 15th and 16th ult. that there appeared on the boundary of the two provinces 10 or 12 of the *serviles* who had taken refuge in Portugal, and who circulated proclamations calling on all the inhabitants from 18 to 50 years of age to rise in defence of religion and the King. They collected together a confused mass of fanatics under the name of the Army of Faith. In consequence of the measures adopted by the two political chiefs, the rebels were attacked and completely beaten, on the 14th, after an obstinate resistance, in which a number of priests were killed. Other letters state, that the number of rebels killed is 200, and that the Portuguese troops fired on the fugitives, who were endeavoring to escape by crossing the river. The band of Jaime Alphonso, in the environs of Alicante, had been totally dispersed. It was reported at Cadiz that the people of the Canaries were on the eve of proclaiming their independence of Spain.

JUNE 10.—We received last night Madrid papers to the 28th May, Hamburg papers to the 5th of June, and Brussels papers to the 8th June.

The Madrid papers contain a variety of details respecting the disturbances in the North. It appears now to be placed beyond doubt that this insurrection is nearly altogether the work of the Priests, many of whom have been found fighting in the Insurgent ranks. We cannot help thinking it rather a favorable circumstance for the Constitutionalists, that the partisans of the Inquisition and ecclesiastical oppression should have so completely unmasked themselves. It is better to have to do with a known enemy than a hollow friend.

But turning from Spain to the North, what do we behold? The Court of Copenhagen overjoyed at the honors showered on it so lavishly by the King of England, the proud Sovereign to whom King Louis was proud to declare himself indebted for his Throne, and who would not condescend to bestow even a word on the fallen Napoleon. Well, but times are changed! It was only the other day that a Danish Ambassador might cool his heels for three or four hours at a time in the anti-chamber even of an English Minister, and consider himself happy if he could escape without experiencing an insult, certainly not the less mortifying because it was delivered with coolness and non-chalence. It is not much longer since the forces of that very King stripped him of the noblest jewel in his crown, and since even the retention of the remnant was subject to considerable doubt. And now who but the King of Denmark?—The King of England sends a man of war, in proud trim, with heraldic personages to invest his Majesty of Denmark with a high prized order. And what gives the Danish Sovereign in return? The Sound, or a Bride? or both?

We should not be surprised to hear the Court writers expatiating soon on the ancient correction and intimacy between Denmark and England.

In former times England used to dread the vessels of the Danes. The matter is now reversed; for whatever the feelings of the Court may be, we suspect the people of Denmark augur little good from the vessels of their English neighbors, whether they come to burn towns or to give orders.—*Morning Chronicle*.

Madrid, May 25.—The Minister of Grace and Justice has addressed a circular to the Episcopal Clergy of Barcelona, Tarragona, Lerida, Gerona, Tortosa, Vich, Urgel and Solsona, which says— "By the despatches of the Political Chief of Barcelona, &c. his Majesty has learned with equal surprise and grief, that some ministers of the God of Peace, instead of recommending it by their language and example, have taken an active and direct part in the criminal insurrection in those provinces. This abominable conduct can only be the produce of inveterate fanaticism, which must be rooted out, or at least its destructive influence must be neutralized, since this is absolutely necessary to the consolidation of the Constitutional system."

The circular then proceeds to enjoin them to publish immediately energetic pastoral letters, enjoining obedience to the Constitution and the laws, explaining the advantages of it, and its entire conformity with the Catholic Religion; they are to combat the sophisms and errors directed against the present system, to shew that resistance to the Government is contrary to the Gospel; they are to instruct all the inferior Clergy to exert themselves to the same effect. His Majesty will afford all the assistance that they may need, and will consider this as the most important service, as the tranquility of the State entirely depends on it; but if contrary to expectation, there should be any opposition, dilatoriness or coolness in the execution of those orders, his Majesty will adopt those measures which he is authorised to do by the Constitution, and which the importance of the case may require.

We have received the Paris papers of Saturday last. The only intelligence they contain, possessing the slightest interest, are the particulars of a bloodless duel between Benj. Constant and the Marquis Forbin des Issarts, originating in a letter inserted by the latter in the *Quo-*

*sietienne and Drapeau Blanc*. Benj. Constant being lame and unable to stand, the combatants were provided with two chairs, placed at ten paces from each other, and in that novel posture they both fired twice without effect, when the seconds interfered, and declared the business must terminate.

The following are extracts:—

"Paris, June 8.—On Thursday, after the adjournment of the Chamber, M. Benj. Constant demanded satisfaction of F. Forbin des Issarts, for a letter published by the latter, on the 5th, in which he observed, that he was ready to answer M. Benjamin Constant at the Tribune, or any where else. Without further explanation, the two Honorable Deputies proceeded yesterday (Friday) morning, at 7 o'clock, to the ground. M. Benj. Constant was attended by Gen. Sebastiani and M. de Girardin—M. des Issarts by Gen. Bethuy and Col. Chamoin, lieutenant of *Gardes du Corps* in the company of Luxemburg; all but the last mentioned, members of the Chamber. M. Constant finding it difficult to walk, or stand erect, the two gentlemen were seated on chairs at ten paces distance. They fired together two shots each, at a given signal. Neither having been touched, the respective friends pronounced that the combat must terminate. It is impossible to show more *sans froid* than was manifested by the two Hon. Deputies.

"The *Journal des Debats* says the distance was twenty, not ten paces.

"It is confidently said that the Spanish Ambassador has received a note in answer to that of M. Zea, in which Spain invites the European powers not to acknowledge the South American States."

*Journal des Debats*.

## DOMESTIC.

CHARLESTON, JULY 27.

Execution.—The following Slaves, convicted of an attempt to excite an insurrection in this State, were executed yesterday morning, on the Lines, agreeably to the sentence of the Court of Magistrates and Freeholders:—

*Jubus*, belonging to Thomas Forest; *Tom*, to Mrs. Russell; *Joe*, to Mr. Jore; *Aingo*, to Wm. Harth, jr.; *Smart*, to Robert Anderson; *Polydore*, to Mrs. Faber; *Robert*, *John*, and *Adam*, to John Robertson; *Lois*, to Mr. Forrester; *Jack*, to Mrs. Purcell; *Jack*, to Mr. Glen; *Pharo*, to Mrs. Thompson; *Dick*, to Wm. Sims; *Baccha*, to Benj. Hammett; *Jim*, to Estate of Clement; *Jerry*, to Mordecai Cohen; *Naphur*, *Adam*, and *Bellisle*, to Estate of Joseph Yates; *Charies*, to John Billings; *Dean*, to James Mitchell.

The Court of Magistrates and Freeholders convened again yesterday for the trial of sundry persons of color, charged with an attempt to raise an insurrection in this State, unanimously found the following Guilty, and sentenced them to be hanged, on Tuesday, the 30th July inst. between the hours of 6 and 9 in the morning, on the Lines, and their bodies delivered to the surgeons for dissection, if requested:—

*Jack*, belonging to Mr. Neill M'Neill; *Caesar*, to Mrs. Smith; *Billy*, to Mr. P. Robertson; *John Vincent*, to Mr. D. Cruckshanks; *Jacob*, to Mr. J. Lankester; *Tom*, to Mr. Scott.

*Agrippa Perry*, *Seifin Simms*, *San Barnstille*, and *Denbow Martin*, are sentenced to be imprisoned in the Work-House of Charleston, until their owners, under the direction of the City Council, shall send them out of the limits of the United States, into which they are not to return, under penalty of death.

*Prince Graham*, has been sentenced to be imprisoned in the Work-House of Charleston for one month, and then to be transported by sea, out of the State of South Carolina, the first opportunity, into which he is not to return, under penalty of death.

*William Garner*, a Slave, for whom a reward of \$200 was offered by his Excellency the Governor, was arrested near Columbia, on the 23d inst. by authority of the Intendant of that place. He had just started, in company with his brother *Jack Lopez*, a free coloured man, on his return towards town. These particulars are contained in a letter from the Intendant of Columbia, to the Intendant of this city; which adds, that *Garner* will be sent down, as soon as a proper guard can be organized for the purpose.

*Daring Outrage, and death of the perpetrators.*

ELIZABETH CITY, S. C. JULY 25.

History, ancient or modern, furnishes few if any cases so strongly marked with human depravity and savage barbarity, as the following outrage that lately took place in Gates county—related to us as follows:—Some ten or twelve days ago, a negro man, owned by a person in this county, went to the house of Dr. Edwards, in Gates county, (and who was and still is confined in our jail under a sentence of the law for an attempt to kidnap,) and told his wife that he (the negro) had been confined in jail at Elizabeth City, with her husband the doctor, that they had broke jail, and that the doctor was then in the woods not far off, but was afraid to come to the house until he could have an inter-