

How can a parent permit his son to be cut off in usefulness, and "cribb" himself in a city upon a miserable stipend, dragging out a life of indolent pleasure without hope of profit or advancement. Most of our small retail stores are filled thus with the sons of farmers, who eager to escape salutary labor, and partake of the delusive pleasures of a city, are crowding to New-York, abandoning a sure road to character and independence, and giving us a portion of population, which is neither useful to society nor beneficial to themselves.

HOWARD.

FOR THE CAROLINA CENTINEL.

LINES

On the departure of — for Bermuda.

The anchor's weigh'd—unfur'd, the sail

Now flutters to the kissing gale,  
And swift the vessel wings her way,  
Dashing aloft the foaming spray;  
And now the spangled banner flies,  
More faint amid regret's pure sighs.  
Farewell, my friend—may gales of bliss  
Attend you on the blue abyss,  
And soon restore you to our view,  
To trim the lamp of joy anew.

Good Neptune, from thy coral caves,  
Propitious lord o'er the waves;  
Let Tritons and the Nereids float  
In playful circles round the boat—  
The silver sea-nymph's crystal ark,  
Orient hues, attend the bark;  
Let dolphins guide her giddy prow  
Through ambush'd rocks, engulf'd below,

And mermaids, in their gambols, sweep  
With minstrelsy the em'rald deep.  
And ye, fair Sylphs, who float the air  
On downy cygnets, void of care,  
Now breathe from summer-clouds, reclined,  
A lullaby in ev'ry wind,  
While I recline on my gently urge  
Her o'er the undulating surge.

And thou, bright orb, whose glories beam

The radiance of a Pow'r supreme,  
Assuage thy glowing heats—let shrouds  
Of lucid veils and fleecy clouds  
Lay cradled in empyreal light,  
To shelter rays too dazzling bright.

And when your glowing wheels you leave,  
Beneath the dark blue mountain-wave,  
And gild with fading gleams the west,  
In roseate bands of crimson dress'd,  
Let Dian shed her sylvan beam,  
To sparkle on the glassy stream,  
And wreath with rays of silver light,  
The jetty tresses of the night.

And thou, mysterious stranger, fly,  
Dread Comet, to some distant sky.

Rob'd in a blaze of fluid gold,  
With awe thy presence we behold,  
Lest on our planet you dispense  
Convulsions, storms, and pestilence.

Now cease, my Muse, your anxious prayer,

Nor sound the lute's symphonious wail,  
Quickly the Cadmean lyre prepare,  
To welcome the returning sail;  
The banquet then we'll spread once more  
And hail him to his native shore

SOPHRON.

FOR THE CAROLINA CENTINEL.

COMETS.

The recent appearance of a Comet in our northern hemisphere, has awakened the prying curiosity of the ignorant, alarmed the fears of the timid and superstitious, while, at the same time, it has afforded employment to, and elicited the observations of the learned, in almost every quarter of the world.

This eccentric visitor was not noticed in Newbern until the evening of the 7th inst. when it appeared in the breast of the Lynx. The 8th was cloudy; and it was not until the 10th that a partial observation was made by Mr. Price; which, alone, is not sufficient to enable us to calculate, with any degree of certainty, its course, the rapidity of its motion, its probable continuance, or the period of its return. Judging from the eye, alone, its situation on the evening of the 10th, was nearly on a line extended from Dubbe and intersecting the South Pointer in the constellation of Ursa Major, about 37 degrees from the latter star, and something more, perhaps, from the polar star—forming, with them, nearly an equilateral triangle. It disappeared at 35 minutes past 9 o'clock, P. M. and rose at half past 2 the next morning. Its apparent motion in the heavens, is so very slow as not to authorize a supposition as to the course it is travelling; I at first thought it was moving from the point above mentioned, towards the Great Bear. Should, however, this opinion respecting its movement be found (as perhaps it will) from future observation to be incorrect, the earliest opportunity will be taken to rectify it. In the mean time, it is expected that Mr. Price and others of our citizens versed in astronomy, who have the

means at their disposal, will make such use of them as to furnish some data for the calculations of those mathematicians who may feel disposed to pursue this bearded luminary "beyond the reach of mortal ken."

For the remarks which follow, respecting the appearance of the Comets of 1680, 1744, and 1759, I must acknowledge myself indebted to Dr. Long, and other authors, whose names it is needless to mention, but whose opinions I have embodied without the slightest variation as to fact. It is unnecessary to enumerate the several theories of Comets, each of which has gained its share of credence in the world—suffice it to say, they are as numerous as the authors who have made these bodies the subject of their inquiry.

The Comet of 1680 advanced so near the Sun, that its perihelion (that is, its nearest point of approach to that luminary,) was not above a sixth part of the sun's diameter from the surface thereof. The tail, like that of other comets, increased in length and brightness, as it came nearer to the sun, and grew shorter and fainter as it receded from him and the earth.

The Comet of 1744, first seen at Lausanne in Switzerland, increased in brightness and extent as it came near the sun. It was supposed to be equal in magnitude to the earth; its tail extended above 16 degrees from its body, and was in length no less than 23 millions of miles. Hevelius mentions that the tails of comets lengthen and shorten while we are viewing them—appearing to sparkle or shoot, as we term it; which phenomena are probably owing to the motion of our atmosphere.

The Comet of 1759, is only remarkable in consequence of its being the first whose return was exactly foretold.

The opinions of the learned respecting these blazing stars, (as before observed,) have been as various as the authors who have treated on them. Newton has calculated their heat and the possibility of their roasting us alive, should they come in contact with our planet. But suppose them to be bodies of water, fashioned like a lens, collecting the rays of the sun and throwing them off by the tail, is there not more danger of our being scalded or roasted, than of our being burned, unless the earth should pass through the focus of the sun's rays in the tail of a comet?

The Comet of 1681, presented a tail of 104 degrees in length, apparently reaching more than one fourth the distance round our globe, and in reality almost defying the power of numbers to express it. The tail of one in 1760 included an angle of 60 degrees at Paris, 70 at Boulogne, 97 at the Isle of Bourbon, and 90 at sea, between Teneriffe and Cadiz.

Appian, Cardon, and Tycho Brahe, supposed the tails of comets to be the light of the sun, transmitted through the nucleus, which they believed to be transparent, like a lens. Kepler thought the tail was formed from the atmosphere condensed. Descartes ascribes it to the refraction of light by the nucleus.—In fact, a hundred other theories might be found, equally credible or equally absurd.

Longomontanus mentions a Comet, that in 1618, December 10th, had a tail above 100 degrees in length. It is, however, admitted that the tails of comets appear of different lengths as the air is closer in one place than another, as the sight of the spectators varies, and as their situation in the heavens changes with respect to the sun and the earth. The nucleus of several of the comets has been observed to change its spherical appearance, becoming oblong, as when a lens is presented with the edge to the eye, at other times ragged; and again, they have appeared divided into two distinct parts, as was the case with the one which appeared in 1744; and other instances have occurred, in which they apparently separated, and formed several smaller bodies completely detached from each other.

So late as the beginning of the 18th century, a friend and companion of Newton, regarded them as the abode of the damned. Whiston has gone further, and supposes the punishment of the wicked in these bodies consists in the extremes of heat and cold, which are occasioned alternately by their near approach to the sun and the immense distance to which they recede from it.

I now come to the consideration of the influence, which many of the learned, as well as the ignorant and superstitious, have supposed comets to exercise over the affairs of this lower world—some supposing their appearance to forebode war, famine, pestilence, or other dreadful and unavoidable calamities. It would be folly in the extreme, to attempt either to confute or support such vague opinions. A detail of a few of the most remarkable occurrences which have followed in the train of these dreadful visitors, which "From their horrid hair shake pestilence and war," will, doubtless, afford more satisfaction to the reader, than any arguments I could advance, either in favor of or against so popular a superstition.

In 1331, two weavers settled at York, in the island of Great Britain—but there is no mention of any comet that year!

A comet appeared in 1533—the Bible was first translated into the English language the year following.

Another in 1588—the first newspaper published in England, called the English Mercury, appeared this year. One of them is now in the British Museum.

One in 1618—followed by the introduction of wigs into France in 1620.

One in 1665—two newspaper establishments, at Oxford and London, founded this year.

One in 1667—wigs first worn by judges two years after.

A remarkable one in 1680—this year the burning-glass and common mirror were invented, and Jesuits' bark brought into general use. Tauris, in Persia, had 15,000 houses thrown down by an earthquake, and most of its inhabitants destroyed.

One in 1729—Herculaneum, which was buried by an eruption of mount Vesuvius, in 79, was discovered in 1730. Many valuable manuscripts have been found in the ruins.

One in 1744—two years after which, Lima was destroyed by an earthquake, 74 churches, 14 monasteries, and 15 hospitals thrown down, and 5000 lives lost. The year following, a remarkable hail-storm in Yorkshire—the stones measured five inches round. Port Royal, (Jam.) destroyed by a storm the same year.

One in 1757—this was preceded by the destruction of Quito in Peru, and the overthrow of 2000 houses in the island of Mytelene, in 1755; at the same time Oporto and Seville suffered severely; and in the course of 8 minutes, at Lisbon, most of the houses, indeed whole streets were swallowed up and 50,000 human beings perished; Coimbra and Braga suffered and St. Ubes, was swallowed up; Fez sunk, with 12000 inhabitants, and above half the Island of Madeira was destroyed. This very year, one of the Azores was divided in two, and 10,000 people buried alive.

One in 1759—Truxillo in Peru swallowed by an earthquake the same year. Balbec shared a like fate. Damas in Barbary was nearly destroyed, with 60 thousand of its inhabitants. Tripoli was also nearly ruined, and there was an eruption of Vesuvius the year following.

One in 1760—followed by a most dreadful storm, the effects of which are still remembered by some of the old inhabitants of Newbern.

One in August 1774—128,000 packs of playing cards were stamped in England, and 5000 pair of dice, the year following. In '76, less than two years after its appearance, our Independence was declared, and subsequently achieved.

One in 1781—there was a riot in London the preceding year, and many people hanged.

In 1792, two appeared—this year the plague destroyed 800,000 people in Egypt, and the year following, 2000 died of the yellow fever in Philadelphia.

Among the events which have immediately preceded, succeeded or attended the visits of comets, none are more conspicuous than the establishment of Banks, which, by some, have been considered as hot beds, in which "the root of all evil" attains a forced & unnatural growth.

In 1780, with one of the most remarkable comets, the Bank of North America made its first appearance in Philadelphia.

Another comet was observed in 1784, and presently the Banks of Massachusetts and New-York were instituted.

In 1790, two appeared, followed the year after by the Bank of the United States and eight branches, and the bank of Providence—and accompanied by the Bank of Maryland.

Others were visible in 1792, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, and 98, each of which was attended by more or less banks or satellites.

There were 2 in 1799, attended by the Manhattan bank, and followed by three others. Inoculation by kine-pox introduced by Jenner in 1800.

1801, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, each ushered in their comets and their banks—the latter altogether more than twenty in number, and among them the banks of Newbern and Cape Fear.

The comet of 1807, came in with the attack on the Chesapeake, accompanied by embargo and non-intercourse, and followed by Steam Boats in 1808.

That of 1811, was cotemporary with the establishment of Gadsby's Tavern, in Baltimore, one of the best in the United States; and preceded, by one year, our late glorious contest with Great Britain.

1819.—This year several banks have stopped payment, many merchants failed, and the yellow fever commenced its ravages in Philadelphia. What is to follow, time only can unfold.

No! do I believe that if proper pains were taken, there would not be found in the catalogue of occurrences connected with these phenomena, as many events tending to the amelioration of the seemingly forlorn condition of mankind, as possibly can be produced of a contrary nature. In fact, mankind are too apt to overlook, or forget the kind dispensations of Providence, while they are ever ready to blazon their misfortunes and repine at the trials of adversity.

MISCELLANEOUS.

FROM THE LIVERPOOL MAGAZINE.

An Instance of Ingenious Depravity.

The age in which we live, though distinguished for many other striking peculiarities, is rendered remarkable for active benevolence, for a diffusion of light, an increase of pauperism, and for melancholy instances of moral depravity. To prevent, in some degree, the vices from becoming contagious, many salutary regulations have been proposed, respecting the distribution of criminals in our common jails, and not a few have been introduced, through which the juvenile offender is prevented from growing hardened in his iniquities, by associating with such veterans in guilt as nothing can reclaim. The necessity of these measures may be gathered from the following anecdote, which to many of our readers may appear perfectly new:

A man who had committed a robbery, attended with some peculiar circumstances of aggravation, was taken into custody, and consigned to the common jail, to take his trial at the ensuing assizes. As this was his first offence, he felt all the degradation and horror of his situation, which an awakened conscience could impart. Giving way to serious reflections, and anticipating his approaching destiny, he became so much dejected, that his conduct excited the attention of his fellow-prisoners; who being greater proficients in vice than himself, amused themselves with his weakness; and regardless of their own condition, sported with his approaching fate.

One among them, however, in whom art, impudence and criminality had combined, took an occasion more gravely to reprimand his melancholy companion, on account of his dejection; assuring him that unless he turned his attention to the means of eluding justice, the consequence would be serious. He was informed in reply by the young offender, that he had no hope of escaping, the evidence being strong and pointed against him; and that his own conscience directed him to plead guilty. "There is no case so hopeless," it was intimated, "from which a man, with a little money and good management, may not be extricated. If you have any money and will follow my directions, I will engage for a given sum, to bring you off with honor."

Revived a little at the prospect of a release, though only promised by a fellow-prisoner, the young criminal listened with much attention; and began to enquire, on what foundation he could rest his hopes? "That is a point," replied his instructor, "which I will not reveal. Your business is to secure the certain payment of the money on your acquittal; to plead not guilty at the bar; and, when discharged, to provide for your own safety; the rest of the business you are to leave with me." Shocked at the idea of pleading not guilty, in a case which he knew to be so clear, the young man hesitated to follow the advice given; since his only hopes of a mitigation of punishment arose from a consciousness of his penitence, and the compassion of his prosecutors. "Unless you will consent boldly to plead not guilty," replied the veteran, "I will have nothing to do with you; and you will inevitably be hanged." The hope of life being too strong for the voice of conscience, the young man consented to plead not guilty; and their affairs were soon arranged.

"You have now," said the instructor, "nothing more to do, than to make me acquainted with every minute circumstance connected with the robbery. Give me the time, the place, the light, the company, the dress, the conversation, with all the particulars of which you have any recollection." The young man again hesitated, being unwilling to put his life into the hands of a villain who had refused to confide in him even the secret of his own escape. This hesitation, however, was soon overcome, when he was informed, that "without it he must die on the gallows; and that, even if this effort to save him proved ineffectual, he could but be hanged at last."

Their affairs having reached this crisis, they retired to a corner, where the young man communicated every circumstance of the robbery which he recollected. This, by repetition, was soon impressed on the mind of his companion; who, by questions and observations, continued to increase his stock of information, until the day of trial arrived, which was to bring his ingenuity to the test.

The young man was first arraigned; and, contrary to the expectations of his prosecutor and of most present, who had been informed of his penitence, pleaded not guilty. The evidences were then examined, and the facts were authenticated in the most unequivocal manner. The prisoner had no defence to make; and the only thing which was now wanting to satisfy his doom, was the awful sentence of the Judge, which he every moment expected to hear pronounced.

At this eventful crisis, an unusual stir was heard among the prisoners who had not yet been brought to trial. On making inquiry into the cause of this disorder, one of them desired that the Court might be

informed that he had something of importance to communicate on the present occasion; and desired that he might be brought to the bar before sentence was pronounced on the prisoner then on his trial. The intelligence being communicated, he was ordered to appear, and to state what he knew relative to the affair then under consideration. This was just what he wanted; and having obtained liberty, he addressed the Court in nearly the following language.

"It is with the utmost shame that I acknowledge myself to have been, through a considerable portion of my life, a most abandoned character. But my career of wickedness is now brought nearly to an end; for I expected very shortly, to forfeit my life to the violated laws of my country. But, bad as I have been, I cannot think of permitting an innocent man to die for a crime of which I have been guilty. I am the person who committed the robbery, for which the prisoner is now arraigned; and am the only person who ought to suffer for it. And to prove to the satisfaction of the Court that my confession is true, I will relate all the circumstances connected with the robbery." Having said this, he began a history of the whole transaction, and entered into all the minute particulars of the time, place, manner and conversation, &c. with which the prosecutor and his witnesses were well acquainted, and appealed to them in their turns respectively for the truth of his declarations. And finally concluded his account, with a serious admonition to the witnesses, and to all present, to be particularly careful how they swore away the life of an innocent person under a delusive train of appearances.

On hearing this unexpected statement, the Court was confused; the witnesses looked upon each other with astonishment; and the prosecutor was visibly agitated; and even the judge himself was confounded. Recovering, however, from their surprise, the judge after some observations, ordered the prisoner to be acquitted, and set at liberty. In the meanwhile, the self convicted felon was remanded, while his indictment was preparing, with orders to appear and take his trial on the ensuing day, for the offence which he had thus voluntarily acknowledged.

On being brought to the bar, when the usual question of Guilty or not Guilty, was put to the utter amazement of all present, he pleaded not guilty. The astonishment which this excited, was scarcely less than that which his previous confession had produced. He was then reminded of the transactions of yesterday, and admonished not to indulge fallacious hopes of escaping Justice through the mere indulgence of pleading, which the lenity of the laws allowed no persons who were accused of offences.

Nothing could however intimidate him, or induce him to alter his resolution. He still persisted that he was not guilty; adding, when addressing himself to the Judge, "If you please my lord, the gaoles shall prove my innocence." On being asked to explain himself, he replied, "If you order the gaoles to look over his books, he will find that I was in gaoles when this robbery was committed." On searching the books, it was accordingly discovered that he had actually been lodged in gaoles on the day preceding that of the robbery, and his acquittal was the inevitable consequence. On the issue of his trial for his own offence, no account has been preserved.

EXTRACTS

From a recent publication, called 'Half a Travels in Canada and the United States, in 1816, and 1817.'

The sittings of Congress are held in a temporary building, during the repair of the Capitol: I attended them frequently, and was fortunate enough to be present at one interesting debate on a change in the mode of Presidential elections; most of the principal speakers took a part in it: Messrs. Gaston, Calhoun and Webster in support of it; Randolph and Grosvenor against. The merits of the question were not immediately to be comprehended by a stranger: their style of speaking was, in the highest degree, correct and logical, particularly that of Mr. Webster of New-Hampshire, whose argumentative acuteness extorted a compliment from Mr. Randolph: "self, albeit unused to the complimenting mood." Mr. Grosvenor, both in action and language, might be considered a finished orator, as far as our present notions of practical oratory extend. Mr. Randolph, whose political talents, or rather political success, is said to be marred by an eccentric turn of thought, which chimes in with no party, seems rather a brilliant than a convincing speaker; his elocution is distinct and clear to shrillness, his command of language and illustration seems unlimited; but he gave me the idea of a man dealing huge blows against a shadow, and waiving his dexterity in splitting hairs: his political sentiments are singular: he considers the government of the United States as an elective monarchy; "Torture the constitution as you will," said he, in the course of the debate, "the President will elect his successor, and that will be his son whether he has one old enough to succeed him." No expressions are used, which are approbation or the contrary; whatever