

# CAROLINA CENTINEL.

[VOLUME IV.]

NEWBERN, N. C. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1821.

[NUMBER 192.]

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY  
PASTEUR & WATSON,  
At \$ 3 per annum—half in advance.

## LITERARY.

FROM THE NATIONAL GAZETTE.

We have seen the new British work on this country, entitled "Views of Society and Manners in America, by an English woman." It is understood to be the production of a lady who visited the United States about a year or two ago, in company with a sister and without any regular companion of the other sex. She printed, if we mistake not, a poetical drama and some other verse, among us, but did not, we believe, inspire the American reader with a high idea of her qualifications for that department of composition. Her prose, in the present volume, is far superior to the poetry to which we refer, and her kindness for America is even beyond what could have been expected from the most benignant temper and liberal spirit.

She paints every thing *couleur de rose*; treats of our intellect, morals, manners, education, religion, politics, political history and institutions, scenery, &c. and makes the most favorable report of us on every topic. This lady is the opposite of Fearson, Howitts, and all the slanderous race of vulgar British travellers.—She is as much distinguished from them by dignity of tone and refinement of mental tastes and pursuits, as by her amiable and even enthusiastic feeling towards the United States. Her book will be read with interest and we think with some profit in this country. The American people must be pleased with so strong a testimony borne in their favor, altho' even the most self-complacent among them cannot fail to deem her representations rather too vividly and uniformly encomiastic to be strictly faithful.

We annex some extracts from "The Views," to exemplify their tenor. The amusing account of the Post Bag in the back settlements of New-York, does not appear to be meant to disparage the country, and is not we apprehend, liable to the charge of much exaggeration.

"I have been led to expect that the citizens of Philadelphia were less practised in courtesy to strangers than those of New-York. Our experience does not confirm the remark. We have only to bear testimony to their civility. There is at first something cold and precise in the general air and manner of the people. This coldness of exterior, however, wears off in a great measure, upon further acquaintance, and what may still remain, you set down to the cooling spirit and patriarchal father of the city, and respect it accordingly.

"The children of the peaceful and benignant William Penn, have not only inherited the fashion of their patriarch's garments, but his simple manners his active philanthropy, his mild forbearance, his pure and persevering charity, thinking no evil, taking no praise."

"The Americans are very good talkers, and admirable listeners; understand perfectly the exchange of knowledge, for which they employ conversation and employ it solely. They have a surprising stock of information, but this runs little into the precincts of imagination; facts form the ground work of their discourse. They are accustomed to rest their opinion on the results of experience, rather than on ingenious theories and abstract reasoning; and are always wont to overturn the one, by a simple appeal to the other.—

They have much general knowledge, but are best read in philosophy, history, political economy, and the general science of government. The world, however, is the book which they consider most attentively, and they make a general practice of turning over the pages of every man's mind that comes across

them: and they do this very quietly, and very civilly, and with the understanding that you are at perfect liberty to do the same by them.— They are entirely *mauvaise honte*.

"The constant exercise of the reasoning power gives to their character and manners a mildness, plainness, and unchanging suavity, such as are often remarked in Europe in men devoted to the abstract sciences. Wonderfully patient and candid in argument, close reasoners, acute observers, and original thinkers, they understand little play of words, or as the French more distinctly express it, *badinage*. The people have nothing of the poet in them, nor of the *bel esprit*. On the other hand, they are well informed & liberal philosophers, who can give you in a half hour more solid instruction & enlightened views, than you could receive from the first *corp littéraire et dramatique* of Europe by listening to them a whole evening. It is said that every man has his forte, and so, perhaps, has every nation: that of the American is certainly good sense; this sterling quality is the current coin of the country, and it is curious to see how immediately it tries the metal of other minds. In truth, I know no people who will sooner make you sensible of your own ignorance."

"It was finely answered by an American citizen to an European who, looking round him, exclaimed, "Yes; this is all well. You have all the vulgar and the substantial, but I look in vain for the ornamental." "Where are your ruins and your poetry?" There are our ruins, replied the Republican, pointing to a Revolutionary soldier who was turning up the glebe; and then extending his hand over the plain *st etche* d before them, smiling with luxurious farms and little valleys, peeping out from beds of trees—"There is our poetry."

"There is something truly sublime in the water scenery in America, her lakes, spreading into the inland seas, their vast, deep and pure waters, reflecting back the azure of heaven, unstained with a cloud; her rivers, collecting the waters of hills and plains interminable, rolling their massy volumes for thousands of miles, now broken into cataracts to which the noblest cascades of the old hemisphere are those of rivulets, and then sweeping down their broad channels to the far off ocean, the treasures of a world.—The lakes and rivers of this continent seem to despise all foreign auxiliaries of nature or art, and trust to their own unassisted majesty to produce effect upon the eye and the mind; without alpine mountains or moss grown ruins, they strike the spectator with awe.—Extent, width, depth—it is by these intrinsic qualities that they affect him; their character is one of simple grandeur; you stand upon their brink or traverse their bosom, or gaze upon their rolling rapids and rumbling cataracts, and acknowledge at once their power and immensity, and your own insignificance and imbecility. Occasionally you meet with exceptions to this rule. I recall at this moment the beautiful shores of the Passaic, its graceful cascades, its wall of wooded hills, and rich and varied landscape, all spread beneath a sky of glowing sapphires; a scene for Claude to gaze upon. These northwestern wasters, however, have nothing of this variety; you find them bedded in vast level plains, bordered only by sable forests, from which the stroke of the axe has just startled the panther and the savage."

VARIETIES.—In our last we gave our readers a charming delineation of private character from the pen of Miss Wright. The following anecdotes illustrative of the nation, and some of its brightest ornaments, are equally gratifying to the pride of our hearts, as Americans. She thus describes the circumstances of the mutiny of the Pennsylvania line, in

the seventh year of the revolutionary war.

"Fainting under the united hardships of military duty, and deficient of food and clothing they withdrew from the body of the army, demanding that which their officers had not to give, the immediate supply of their necessities. To awe them into obedience, Gen. Wayne presented his pistols; they pointed their bayonets at his breast.—We love and respect you, but if you fire you are a dead man. We are not going to the enemy; but are determined on obtaining our just rights." They withdrew in good order, with their arms and field pieces to a neighboring town, committed to devastations but persisted in their demands. Congress despatched some of its members to the mutineers, but before these arrived emissaries from the enemy appeared among them.—Unconditional terms were offered; gold, preferment, and the immediate cover and assistance of a body of royal troops, already on their march towards them. Their reply was the instant seizure of their evil tempers, whom they sent immediately under a guard from their own body to the same general who had pointed his pistols at their lives. At the appearance of the Congress's commissioners, their grievances were stated, and redressed; but when President Reed offered them a hundred guineas from his private purse as a reward, for their fidelity in having surrendered the spies, the sturdy patriots refused them. "We have done a duty we owed to our country, and neither desire nor will receive any reward, but the approbation of that country for which we have so often bled." A country peopled by such men, might be overrun, but could not be subdued."

## REGISTERS OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The following article, though intended only for the meridian of Virginia, is equally applicable and interesting to this District, and to every portion of our country that is similarly circumstanced. If Congress had the power, we should be glad to see a system established which should be uniform throughout the states, for registering births, marriages, and deaths. Regulations of some sort, having this object in view, ought to exist in every country where the laws recognize the institution of marriage and the right of inheritance.—*Nat. Int.*

FROM THE ENQUIRER.

I observed this summer copies of the late census posted up at many of the tavern doors. In one county the women of a given age were 537, and the men of a corresponding age only 45. Nature makes no such inequalities in our country; this state of things will never happen. On enquiring the cause of this outrage upon common sense and reason, I learned that the person employed to take the census was a drunkard and a vagabond, who paid no attention to it: thus, to favor half a dozen whiskey-drinkers, we have perhaps lost a member in Congress, and may have driven off 500 young men to Florida, convinced that they can never make a stand against such fearful odds.

Things are managed better in Massachusetts, Connecticut, &c. There no man, woman or child, is omitted; indeed, it is well for us if there are not more by the register than in fact, and instead of a representation of living black men, they have one of dead white ones; and thus a dead white man is equal in political rights to a living black one.

We Virginians should look into this matter. I was about to call the attention of the public to it, when I remembered a letter which I received in 1816 on the subject, from a distinguished philosopher and political economist of France, then residing in the United States. He has since died at Wilmington, and I now publish a translation of his letter, for the edification of the public, and as a small testimony of my sincere respect for the memory of his virtues and talents:—

"It is of great importance that there should be established in the U. States a regular method of ascertaining, from actual registers, the births, marriages, and deaths.

"Some of the northern states have already good regulations on this subject.—Others have good copies of marriage licences filed. The register of births is most im-

portant, and in that the U. States have a great political interest.

"When the British impress American seamen, they pretend that they are English, Scotch, or Irish.

"The identity of language, and the number of proper names which are common to all the four countries, give a color of plausibility to this supposition.—But it could not be pretended, if the person impressed presented an extract in legal form from the register, showing the birth of one, with the same name, of such a state, county, or township, born of such a father and mother, with the baptismal name of each.

"The certificates heretofore used for this purpose are a very imperfect substitute for an authentic register. Faith cannot be allowed them. We know that a neighbor seldom refuses to sign such a certificate. Any hearsay, or common report, is enough to satisfy their own consciences on the subject; but this is not sufficient to govern the intercourse between nations.

"There are many states which, for want of such a register, can certify only the nationality of adopted-citizens, because the act of naturalization is a public record. But these are precisely the records which neither Great Britain nor any other Sovereign will respect; all concurring in the principle that the newly contracted allegiance has the effect of destroying the original allegiance derived from birth.

"Registers of marriages are of use, to distinguish legitimate from natural children, who differ in the rights of succession, in nearly every country.

"Registers of deaths are necessary to decide with exactness in the inheritance of estates.

"In most countries of Europe, the ecclesiastics preserve their registers. But it has been found imperfect, because they embrace only those of their communion, and there are many communions, and very religious ones who have no clergy.

"In France it has been found advantageous to assign this duty to the mayors of municipalities, and their assistants, whose jurisdiction embraces not only citizens, but all inhabitants of every denomination. The law of France requires that the sex of the child should be noted; because legacies are often given to unborn children, on condition that they are of a peculiar sex, which may induce parents to conceal the actual fact, as happened to the famous Chevalier [Madam] D'Eon.

"There should be duplicates of the register to prevent destruction by fire and other accidents; a copy should be deposited among the archives of state.—There was an instance in France, when the curates were permitted to make entries as long as the register remained with them, of a return very prejudicial to the rights of the parties; it was, however, corrected by the copy of the office of the department, to which alone implicit credit was given.

"In incorporated towns, it is natural to leave the registration to the officers of police who have many facilities for the purpose.

"In this country, perhaps, the jurisdiction of a justice of the peace would be convenient.

"There should not be a citizen of the U. S. whom its government could not at once identify, when oppressed by a foreign power. There should be no one whose mother, and birth place at least could not be proved.

"I know many naturalized American citizens whose children born in Europe, could prove their filiation and legitimacy; but whose numerous progeny born in the U. S. could not claim their inheritance in any country of Europe, if their brothers and uncles born there should refuse it.

"This is a defect in civilized society; a chasm in the perfection of the social system and a political scandal."

Had the distinguished author been aware of the crying injustice resulting from our present mode of taking the census, he could not have omitted that circumstance, in the enumeration of evils resulting from the want of a register.—Such documents are the base of all calculations in political economy, and it is a matter of serious reproach to Virginia, that it should have been so long without them.

## HEALTH AND ECONOMY.

A small pamphlet was put in our hands some time since entitled "Brief observations on some of the diseases of indigestion, and of the deleterious effects of the Coffee of Mocha and the West Indies; with considerations on the sanative vir-

ture of Rye Coffee, and instructions for preparing it." Now, as we have never found it necessary to become acquainted with the origin of diseases, or the "craft of herbs and the force of elixirs," we are poorly qualified to speak of the pamphlet above named, written by Calvin Jones, M. D. of Raleigh, N. C. He speaks of the diseases which are caused by a derangement of the digestive functions produced by the quantity, quality and mixture of food and drinks taken into the stomach. And we find him at open war with what he conceives the two grand enemies of health, spirituous liquors and coffee. We are ready to join in battle with him against the former, who has slain his thousands and tens of thousands—the greatest destroyer of the peace and happiness of society as well as of health, and life itself. Rum has conquered more of the human race than ever Alexander or Bonaparte subdued, and will continue to carry on his conquests as long as vice and folly exist in the world. The divine may preach, the moralist reason, the physician warn, the wife and children plead with tears in their eyes, the parent remonstrate, and the grave yawn, but all will not do, the fool will still be a drunkard and the drunkard still be a fool.

We are not so ready to make war upon coffee, a very pleasant morning beverage, to which we have long been accustomed, and as we enjoy very good health ourselves, experience would not bear us out in pronouncing it with the doctor, "an indigestible and poisonous drug." But (says the reader) who knows best, you or the doctor? We must grant that he does, especially, as he gives numerous instances of persons who have injured their health by its use, and found themselves restored by abstaining from it. Another reason—he proposes a substitute, which is pure and healthful and cheap, being only one cent a pound, while Mocha and West-India cost 35. This would be a grand saving these hard times; and we venture to say if Rye Coffee comes into much use it will be on this account, rather than from fear of being poisoned with the deleterious bean from the Indies. We have drunk coffee made of Rye which was not only excellent, but would puzzle any one to determine whether it was made from Rye or imported coffee; but then it was carefully prepared by the hand of neatness, industry and attention.

"Drizzlers and slatterns," will not give you a good exhilarating draught in the morning, if they had the best coffee in the world; and such never will, and never need try to come up to the following directions of Dr. Jones; but all economical husbands, and good wives ought to give Rye Coffee a fair trial, because if it prove good, it will also prove a very important saving.—*N. Y. Journal.*

"To prepare Rye for use, it should first be scalded and washed, then boiled 15 minutes, afterwards remain in the water until somewhat swollen, and lastly thoroughly dried in the open air. The next process is to parch or roast it carefully, without burning. When ground, about 2 gills are by the admixture of cold water to be formed into a paste.—Three quarts of boiling water are then to be added, and the pot which contains it to be placed on the coals and kept boiling for a quarter or half an hour. It is improved by a slow and long boiling and leisurely depuration afterwards. When sufficiently boiled, it is to be removed from the fire, and a quantity of cold water, equal to that which has evaporated, is to be suddenly poured into the pot, and the whole slightly stirred up with a spoon. A little is then to be twice poured off and returned to the pot. After remaining 8 or 10 minutes longer, to give the grounds time to subside, it is to be poured off into another until the sediment is disturbed. The grounds on a little agitation, are rendered so buoyant that this decanting is necessary to preserve the liquor free from turbidness. Thus prepared, it is of a fine amber color, and, with a due portion of sugar and cream, has a rich balsamic taste, and a very grateful flavor. Some who employ it mix with the Rye one fourth the quantity of Coffee to give it the peculiar flavor of the deleterious bean—but this is the sacrifice of folly to a very silly prejudice. The rye flavour is superior to that of the coffee, when custom shall have rendered it familiar; and to retain the fourth of the evil for that consideration, is making very bad terms with an exposed and subjugated foe. Besides the articles are not suited to each other, they do not assimilate; they are wanting in natural affinity; the decoction from the mixture will not depurate readily, and the conjoined flavor is inferior to that of either of them taken singly.