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## Miscellaneous.

### PICTURE OF AMERICA.

FROM WALTER SCOTT'S NAPOLEON.

We think it very questionable, whether a resident of Great Britain was the proper person to write the life of Bonaparte—and whether any one with Mr. Scott's political opinions, is capable of judging properly of the French Revolution. But whatever may be thought on these two points, we believe it is generally admitted that the execution of the work bespeaks great talents, and, considering the time which has been devoted to it, very great research.

We know, that the work, has had in this country a very great sale. We understand that about 12,000 copies (each copy three volumes) have been printed; a most extraordinary impression to be undertaken by any bookseller; and that as far back as three weeks ago, from 8 to 9000 copies had already been sold. The press was still at work upon the impressions; and as each page was stereotyped, it is in the power of the booksellers to multiply the copies as they please; the whole labour of the composition being saved to them—and no other expense than paper, press work and binding.

We have not yet had it in our power to read it through, and form any definite opinion of its character. But the following passage has struck us, as being very interesting to an American reader; and as we have not yet seen it republished in the newspapers, we have concluded it would not prove unacceptable to such as have not read the work itself, to look at this picture of ourselves, drawn by so great an artist. It contains a few faults, which the sagacious reader will discover; and it passes over some features in the condition of our Society and in our form of Government, which are necessary to be considered, in order to understand perfectly the character of our Republic. We may notice, however, the inuendo towards the close of the description. Though he does no more than justice to the virtues and the talents of Washington yet it is certain that if Washington had been disposed to pursue a different course, he would have been restrained by the resolutions of his countrymen; and it is equally certain, that the influence of other great men was felt, as well as that of Washington, in setting, "social order upon an established basis."

Richmond Com.

"America must certainly be accounted a successful attempt to establish a republic on a much larger scale than those we have mentioned. But that great and flourishing empire consists, it must be remembered, of a federative union of many states, which, though extensive in territory, are comparatively thin in occupants. There do not exist in America, in the same degree, those circumstances of a dense and degraded population, which occasion in the old nations of Europe such an infinite difference of knowledge and ignorance, of wealth the most exuberant, and indigence the most horrible. No man in America need be poor, if he has a hatchet and arms to use it. The wilderness is to him the same retreat which the world afforded to our first parents. His family, if he has one, is wealth; if he is encumbered with wife or children, he is the more easily provided for. A man who wishes to make a large fortune, may be disappointed in America; but he who seeks, with a moderate degree of industry, but the wants which nature demands, is certain to find them. An immense proportion of the population of the United States consists of agriculturists, who live upon their own property, which is generally of moderate extent, and cultivate it by their own labor. Such a situation is peculiarly favorable to republican habits. The man who feels himself really independent—and so must each man who can use a spade or an axe—will please himself with the mere exertion of his free will, and form a strong contrast to the howling, bawling, blustering rabble of a city, where a dram of liquor, or the money to buy a meal, is sure to purchase the acclamation of thousands, whose situation in the scale of society is too low, to permit their thinking of their political right, as a thing more valuable than to be bartered against the degree of advantage they may procure, or of license which they may exercise, by placing it at the disposal of one candidate or another.

Above all, before considering the case of America as parallel with that of France, the statesmen of the latter country should have observed one great and radical difference. In America, after the great change in her system had been

effected, by shaking off the sovereignty of the mother country, the states arranged their new government, so as to make the least possible alteration in the habits of their people. They left to a future and more convenient opportunity, what father innovations this great change might render necessary; being more desirous to fix the general outlines of a firm and orderly government, although containing some anomalies, than to cast all existing authorities loose, in order that they might produce a constitution more regular in theory, but far less likely to be put into effectual execution, than those old forms under which the people had grown up, and to which they were accustomed to render regular obedience.—They abolished no nobility: for they had none in the colonies to abolish; but in fixing the basis of their constitution, they balanced the force and impulse of the representative body of the states by a senate, designed to serve the purposes answered by the house of lords in the British constitution. The governors of the different states also, in whose power the executive government of each was reposed, continued to exercise the same duties as before, without much other change, than that they were named by their fellow citizens, instead of being appointed by the sovereign of the mother country. The congress exercised the rights which success had given them over the loyalist, with as much temperance as could be expected after the rage of a civil war.

Above all, the mass of the American population was in a sound, healthy state, and well fitted to bear their share in the exercise of political rights. They were independent as we have noticed, and had comparatively few instances among them of great wealth, contrasted with the most degraded indigence. They were deeply imbued with a sense of religion, and the morality which is its fruit. They had been brought up under a free government, and in the exercise of the rights of freemen, and their fancies were not liable to be excited, or their understandings made giddy, with a sudden elevation to privileges, the nature of which was unknown to them. The Republic of America, moreover, did not consist of one huge and populous country, with an overgrown capital, where the legislative body, couped up in its precincts, like prisoners, were liable to be acted upon by the applauses or threats of a desperate rabble. Each State of America carries on its own immediate government, and enjoys undisturbed the privilege of adopting such plans, as are best suited to their own peculiar situation, without embarrassing themselves with that ideal uniformity, that universal equality of rights, which it was the vain object of the French Constituent Assembly to establish. The Americans know that the advantage of a Constitution, like that of a garment, consists neither in the peculiarity of the fashion, nor in the fineness of the texture, but in its being well adapted to the person who receives protection from it. In short, the sagacity of Washington was not more apparent in his military exploits, than in the manly and wise pause which he made in the march of revolution, so soon as peace gave an opportunity to interrupt his impulse.—To replace law and social order upon an established basis, was as much the object of this great General, as it seems to have been that of the statesmen of Paris, civilians as they were, to protract a period of insurrection, murder, and revolutionary tyranny."

### LETTERS FROM THE EAST.

Batavia is peopled by Europeans, Creoles, Malays, Chinese, and some few Bengalese and Arabs. The European population is small, composed chiefly of government servants, in the military, marine and civil departments. There are some English and Dutch merchants, whom, however, the policy of the Dutch government is fast driving away. The Creoles are principally the relics of the Portuguese; many of them are employed as under-clerks and servants to Europeans, they evince no genius, and no ambition above keeping distinct from the Malays, to whom, however, they are in many respects inferior. The Chinese appear to be the most numerous;—they are the life and soul of Batavia; are ingenious mechanics, and do all that is done in that line; are industrious merchants, engaging a large proportion of the Coffee trade excepting what is grown on Government account, and nearly all the Sugar trade. Some of them are very rich. They formerly migrated here in great numbers, but lately, as trade has fallen off, they have sought some other field of enterprise. They are quick at figures and counting coins, which makes them indispensable in every mercantile house as cashiers.—They possess their characteristics of craft and cunning, and never allow an European to get to windward of them. They live huddled together

in a part of the town called the Chinese Camp, in dirty miserable dwellings, where death makes dreadful havoc in the sickly season. They pay, however, no regard to this, being fatalists, in religion, and endure every inconvenience to gratify their insatiable appetite for wealth. An inveterate hatred exists between them and the Malays, who say, "Europeans chest us of our money, the Chinese of our eyes;" for this reason the Chinese are not met with in the interior, only in places where the Dutch can protect them. The Malays, those in and around Batavia, are miserable specimens of the human species—they are employed in all the menial offices, and the laziness and pride of the whites, make a large retinue of them indispensable in the house establishments; in their conduct they show a total unconcern for the morrow, and no ambition to rise above their condition, although they have the same opportunities with others; thus affording another example, that, in proportion as nature is liberal, man degenerates.

Among their virtues is a filial treatment of their parents, whom they protect and support in old age. The vice of intemperance is not known among them, and the use of liquors being forbidden by their religion, the Mahometan. They are harmless, inoffensive people, but are not destitute of cunning or boldness, and will invariably steal when an opportunity offers, and with astonishing impudence protest their innocence. They have a fine athletic, well proportioned bodies which seem ill suited to their indolent, unenterprising spirits. Their habit of chewing the betel nut, which they say keeps off disgusting appearance; a small piece of the nut is wrapped up in a bitter leaf with some Chunan or lime, which by chewing, turns their teeth black and the gums and lips a fresh blood color; their standard of beauty is the blackness of their teeth, (which they also file to sharpen) and the redness of the mouth, and they take as much pride in displaying them as an Europeaness her fine ivory teeth. The Europeans have introduced a taste for dress, which, however, their poverty prevents them from indulging in as much as they would wish; that of the males is a loose chintz frock, and a shawl wound round the waist, and covering the lower part of the body; the females have a cotton overall, after the fashion of a gown, but are often without any other covering than a cloth round the loins. They have a superstitious veneration for the alligators which infest the mouth of the canal. I have seen these monsters twenty or thirty feet long, lying on the water, catching at the offal ejected from the city into the canal, and so tame from habit that I have approached within ten feet of them in a boat; what is strange the Malays will swim round without their offering to touch them. The Malays look upon them as a sort of Genii having sickness and health in their keeping, and when attacked with sickness, make vows to them, and upon recovery offerings of food, which they trust on a calabash or plectrain leaf to the current of the canal, which bears it to the watching alligator.—Salem Gazette.

### Polar and North Western Expedition.

It is a remarkable fact that our two northern discoverers, Capt. Franklin and Capt. Parry, arrived at the Admiralty, on their return from their respective expeditions, on the same day, namely, Saturday last. Capt. Parry may be said to have totally failed in the object of his voyages, but yet he has made a discovery of considerable value, by proving the impracticability of that object, and adding a new fact to our knowledge of the currents of the ocean. It appears that in the high latitude of 82 degrees, there is a perpetual current from the north, which carries the whole body of ice in a southerly direction, and prevents the traveller from making any progress towards the Pole, whether he moves on the ice or the water. This defeats all the calculations made on the possibility of reaching the Pole, and seems peremptorily to forbid the approach of man to the axis of the world—to the metropolis of winter. We have no doubt that Capt. Parry did all which courage, sagacity and hardy strength could perform; and the narrative of his sixty one days toil on the icebergs will no doubt be highly interesting both to the scientific world, and to those who read from general curiosity. We subjoin the accounts of the arrival of our intrepid discoverers:—

**Return of Captain Parry.**—Captain Parry, on leaving the Discovery Ship, at the appointed place, off the Spitzbergen coast, betook himself to the sledge boats prepared for his conveyance over the ice, in pursuance of his original intentions and instructions, and was out for the space of 61 days: one of the boats being under his own charge, and the other under that of Lieutenant Ross. These two

boats were hauled over the ice by the crew of the ship—twelve men to each; and after undergoing incredible fatigue, they felt that, for a great part of the time, they were on floating ice-bergs which carried them southward, while they were stretching every nerve to proceed northward, and thus, of necessity, they were compelled to abandon the enterprise. To establish this important fact in the clearest point of view, we have to mention that during the last three days of the expedition, and on taking his observations by the chronometer, Captain Parry found that he had gained but *two miles only*. The expedition arrived at latitude 82, 45; and had it proceeded but 15 miles farther, Captain Parry and his men would have obtained the pecuniary remuneration to which they were entitled on reaching 83; but even this short distance was found to be altogether unattainable by any physical effort. Nearly in the same line they had proceeded, the boats returned to the Hecla. Immediately on reaching the ship, the expedition proceeded homeward, and was, by stress of weather, obliged to put in to the Orkneys, from whence Captain Parry, for the sake of dispatch, took his departure in the Chichester, as already noticed, and is now posting on to London, where he expects to arrive on Saturday, to lay before the Admiralty the details of the statement we have first the honour to present to the public. We are happy to add that Captain Parry, and his officers and men, are all in good health.—Inverness Cour.

### From Barrington's Sketches.

#### COL. BURR AND MR. GRATTAN.

"Col. Burr who had been Vice-President of America, and probably would have been the next President, but for his unfortunate duel with Gen. Hamilton, came over to England, and was made known to me by Mr. Randolph, of South Carolina, (with whom I was very intimate.) He requested I would introduce him to Mr. Grattan, whom he was excessively anxious to see. Col. Burr was not a man of a very prepossessing appearance,—rough featured and neither dresy nor polished; but a well informed, sensible man: and though not particularly agreeable,—yet an instructive companion.

"People in general form extravagant anticipations regarding eminent persons. The idea of a great orator and Irish chief carried with it, naturally enough, corresponding notions of physical elegance, vigour and dignity. Such was Colonel Burr's mistake, I believe, about Mr. Grattan, and I took care not to undeceive him.

"We went to my friend's house, who was to leave London next day. I announced that Col. Burr, (from America,) Mr. Randolph and myself wished to pay our respects, and the servant informed us that his master would receive us in a short time, but was at the moment much occupied on business of consequence. Burr's expectation was all on the alert! Randolph also was anxious to be presented to the great Grattan, and both impatient for the entrance of this Demosthenes. At length the door opened, and in hopped a small bent figure—meagre, yellow, and ordinary; ope slipper and one shoe; his breeches knees loose, and his cravat hanging down; his shirt and coat sleeves tucked up high, and an old hat upon his head.

"This apparition saluted the strangers very courteously:—asked (without any introduction) how long they had been in England, and immediately proceeded to make inquiries about the late Gen. Washington and the revolutionary war.—My companions looked at each other; their replies were costive, and they seemed quite impatient to see Mr. Grattan. I could scarcely contain myself; but determined to let my eccentric countryman take his course; who appeared quite delighted to see his visitors; and was the most inquisitive person in the world. Randolph was far the tallest and most dignified looking man of the two, grey haired, and well dressed: Grattan therefore, of course, took him for the Vice President, and addressed him accordingly. Randolph at length begged to know if they could shortly have the honor of seeing Mr. Grattan. Upon which our host, not doubting but they knew him, conceived it must be his son James for whom they enquired, and said he believed he had that moment wandered out somewhere to amuse himself.

"This completely disconcerted the Americans, and they were about to make their bow and their exit, when I thought it high time to explain, and taking Col. Burr and Mr. Randolph respectively by the hand, introduced them to the right honorable Henry Grattan.

"I never saw people stare so, or so much embarrassed. Grattan himself, now perceiving the cause, heartily joined in my merriment. He pulled down his

stockings, and, in his own irresistible way, apologized for the outrageous figure he cut, assuring them he had totally overlooked it in his anxiety not to keep them waiting; That he was returning to Ireland next morning, and had been busily packing up his books and papers in a closet full of dust and cobwebs! This incident rendered the interview more interesting. The Americans were charmed with their reception; and after a protracted visit retired highly gratified, whilst Grattan returned again to his books and cobwebs."

### From the New-York Gazette.

**New Packet Line to Gibraltar.**—Our readers will remark in our advertising columns that a Line of Packets is established between this port and Gibraltar, to sail monthly from each port. We understand the vessels are of the first class, & elegantly arranged for the accommodation of passengers. Judging by the constant intercourse kept up with the Mediterranean, we are a little surprised that a regular line of packets has not before been established. This line will afford great facilities to those who, apart from business, may be disposed to visit the most delightful portion of Europe, either for health or pleasure. A person may now leave this city for Gibraltar, spend a month in visiting Cadiz—Seville—Granada, with its Moorish ruins—Malaga, surrounded by its extensive and famed vineyards—and enjoy scenes and climate unequalled on earth, and return home in the space of three months. No voyage across the Atlantic is made with more comfort and interest to passengers than that to the Mediterranean; the tract being in a moderate and temperate latitude, and leading through the group of Western Islands, or Azores, Madeira, &c. For the accommodation of those who may have a view to business, we subjoin an extract from a commercial circular of the highest respectability:—

"Gibraltar has no Custom-House, & is, in every respect, a free port; the charges on merchandise are, therefore, the incidental ones of lighterage, portage, and storage; but as sales are generally made on landing, the two latter charges are avoided. The charge of lighterage is 7 a 8 dollars per load of 17 a 18 tons.—The whole port charges amount only to 8 a 10 dollars for a two masted vessel, and 10 a 12 dollars for a three masted vessel. Remittances can always be made in a great variety of articles, the produce of the Mediterranean states, in good bills, either on the British government, or private bills and Spanish dollars. No one port, perhaps, in the world, concentrates so vast a variety of produce as Gibraltar, as it is the general rendezvous and deposit of the productions of every country, particularly those of Spain, France, Italy, the Levant, the whole coast of Barbary, &c, which are bro't to this market to create funds for the purchase of English, American and colonial produce, and to this end are sold at very reduced prices—so that at all times, with few exceptions, investments can be made in these various productions on better terms here than at their place of origin.—For the sale of all descriptions of colonials, and the productions of the United States, particularly tobacco—in fact, every article subject to high duties and prohibitions in other countries—Gibraltar enjoys a decided advantage, as a smuggling trade is conducted from this to a vast extent. This fact and the existence of a heavy capital actively employed in speculations sustains prices here to a rate worthy the attention of those who extend their operations to the Mediterranean. As we are at all times in possession of the latest advices from every quarter of Europe, and particularly of markets up the Mediterranean, information to those interested can at all times be furnished for their guide."

**Morgan not found!**—The Albany Advertiser publishes an extract of a letter from a gentleman in Rochester to his friend in that city, dated the 26th inst. which says, that the body found at Oak Orchard Creek, and since interred at Batavia, proves not to be that of Morgan, but of a man from Canada. This is proved by the wife of the dead man which was found, that it was her husband. She proved that the clothes found on the body were those of her husband, or the same that he had on when he left home, and likewise that the shoes he had on were a pair that he bought at the time he left home; this was proved also by the person of whom he bought them. The tracts that were found in his pockets were proved to have been given him by a minister before he left. The wife and friends intend removing the body from Batavia to Canada, and have sent word to the Rochester committee of their intention. It is very generally believed that the body found, was not that of Morgan.