

King the whole cabin occupied by these horrid tenants, hissing and shaking their rattles, fled from the house by beating off the covering of the roof, and escaping in that direction.

The Camelion.—There are varieties of small Camelions.—They are apparently harmless animals; though when we have caught them, they show every disposition to bite. They will change in half an hour to all the colors of the prism. Green seems to be their favourite color, and when on a green tree that is their general hue. While in this color, the under part of their neck becomes a beautiful scarlet.

Their throat swells, and they emit a sharp note, like that of one of the larger kinds of grasshoppers, when singing. We have placed them on a handkerchief, and they have gradually assumed all its colours. Placed on a black surface, they become brown; but they evidently suffer, while under this colour, as is manifested by uneasy movements, and by strong and quick palpitations visible to the eye. They are very active and nimble animals, three or four inches in length.

Alligator.—The Alligator is the most terrible animal of this class. Numbers are seen in the slow streams and shallow lakes of Florida and Alabama; but they abound most on the Red River, the Mississippi lakes and the bayous west of that river. On these sleeping waters, the cry of a sucking pig on the bank will draw a shoal of them from their muddy retreats at the bottom. The largest alligator that we ever saw killed in these regions, measured something more than sixteen feet from the snout to the extremity of its tail. They have at times, especially before stormy weather a singular roar, or bellow. When moving about on their customary vocations in the water, they seem like old logs in motion. In fine weather, they doze in listlessness on the sand bars.

Such is their recklessness, that they allow the people on the passing steam boats to come within a few paces of them. The ascent of a steam-boat on an alligator stream, at a proper season for them, is a continual discharge of rifles at them. A rifle ball will glance from their bodies, unless they are hit in a particular direction and place. We witnessed the shots of a man, who killed them nine times in ten. They have large ivory teeth, which contain a cavity sufficiently large to hold a musket charge of powder, for which purpose they are commonly used by sportsmen. The animal, when slain, emits an intolerable smell of musk; and it is asserted that its head contains a quantity of that drug. They will sometimes chase children, and would overtake them, were it not for their inability to make lateral movements. Having few joints in their body, and very short legs, they cannot readily turn from a straight forward direction. Consequently, those who understand their movements, avoid them without difficulty, by turning off at right angles, and leaving the animal to move forward, under its impulse in that direction. They are chiefly formidable to pigs, calves, and domestic animals of that size. The skin of the alligator is valuable for the tanner.

Surgery.—A novel and important surgical operation was performed, with complete success, by Dr. S. Fomeroy White, of Hudson, in the state of New York, on the 23d. of October last. A Mr. Vanvalkenburgh, tailor, aged sixty, was afflicted with a tumour, as large as a child's head, accumulated in ten months upon his left hip, proceeding, it was at length found by instrumental examination, from an aneurismal sac, of five inches depth. To remove this it was agreed to take up and tie the *pluteal* or *internal iliac* artery, an operation never before attended with success in this country and seldom in Europe. Repeated hemorrhages, weakness, and danger, induced the patient to consent to the experiment. The artery was accordingly taken up below the disease, the ligature passed under (with the Philadelphia needle) one inch below the bifurcation, removed down about five inches (with Dr. A. E. Hosack's knot applicator) and tied firmly, and the incised parts united in the usual manner. The first dressing was on the eighth day; at the end of four weeks the ligature came away, and in ten days more the tumour had gradually subsided, and the patient

was so far recovered as to walk about his neighbourhood. The young surgeon was assisted by his father in the operation, and by other physicians in previous consultation. The details of the bold and fortunate experiment are given in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences; and we think that facts of this kind ought to be more generally communicated, as well for the credit of our skillful and enterprising practitioners, as for the common benefit of the public.

N. Y. Statesman.

From the American Daily Advertiser.

Mr. Foulson,

We observed in your paper a few days since, some strictures on the use and abuse of the Letter H—by persons from England. The following we give you as a specimen of the refinement of the English Language by some of the respectable Natives. A Merchant from England, in good credit in business and society, applied at a Broker's Office, in this city, and expressed himself as follows: I have got a *Hinvoice* and *Bill of Lading*, by ship —, from Liverpool, and I want a *Hentry* made. There is a *Herror* in the *Hinvoice*—it calls for three Packages *Marked Hel, Hem & Hen*—But there are but two in the *Bill of Lading*—which are marked *Hel* and *Hen*, so that in making out the *Hentry*, you must skip from *Hel* to *Hen*.

N. B. There is no exaggeration or addition in the above—it can now be substantiated by one or more respectable persons.

An instance of Bathos, not found in Martinus Scriblerius.—The following peroration to an eloquent harangue, addressed by a Lawyer in Ohio, to a jury, is a rare specimen of climacteric sublimity:

"And now the shades of night had shrouded the earth in darkness. All nature lay wrapped in solemn thought, when these defendant ruffians came rushing like a mighty torrent from the hills down upon the abodes of peace—broken open the plaintiff's door—separated the weeping mother from her screaming infant—and took away my client's rifle, gentlemen of the jury, for which we charge fifteen dollars.

We know but one sentence in the English language that can be compared with the above: "A judicious use of the poker is essentially necessary to the well being of an anthracite fire.

Merchants' Telegraph.

Curious Law Case.—The Court of Appeals in Bordeaux is agitated by a suit of an extraordinary character. A young fellow not long since presented himself to an old burgess of that city, who has a snug estate and no heirs apparent, and claimed to be the old gentleman's son Robert—long before supposed to be dead. The old gentleman put on his spectacles, and examined him from head to foot; but probably not liking his looks, or suspecting that he was one of those men not born to be drowned, and who are not over-creditable as connections, came to a negative conclusion, and dismissed him. The youngster grew warm—the senior ordered him out of doors—he refused to vanish into thin air, and the old gentleman landed him over to the police. He immediately fe'd a professional adviser, and commenced proceedings to make himself the old gentleman's son, whether the old gentleman will or no. What will be the issue, is yet unknown.—*Phil. Gaz.*

Cotton Seed Whiskey.—This modern discovery, like many others, was accidental. The gentleman, a Mr. John Gray, of Georgia, in a careless moment, suffered his cotton seed and corn to be thrown together; and corn being scarce, he threw the cotton seed with the corn into the brewery. The result, viz. the quantity of whiskey, arrested his attention. He then mixed half and half, and finally sold it without any detection in the taste. He then went on to try all cotton seed, throwing a peck of meal into each noghead, to cause fermentation. This produced a vigorous extrication of gas; and a large quantity of oil, black and of a drying quality, well suited for painting, was produced; and the quantity of whiskey was extraordinary from the cotton seed.—*Alabama Journal.*

Snow Hill, March 25, 1828.—On Sunday morning last, four criminals escaped from the goal of this county—they set fire to the door of the adjoining room, where the chimney was, and let themselves out of a breach, previously made by prisoners who escaped on a former occasion. They very generously put out the fire, ere they crept through the opening.

Soap.—This compound of fat and alkali is of great use in the arts, and has become an article of export from our country. Its history is a little curious.

The ancients, it seems, had no such thing; though they had some substitutes for it, of course. Thus the Hebrews, we are told, used the ashes of the herb *Borith* out of which they probably made a lye to wash themselves and their garments with. We read, also, that there was a part of Egypt called *Nitria*, in which there were lakes or pools from

whence in certain seasons were taken large quantities of a salt which incruised their borders when the sun had evaporated a part of their waters. This salt was called by the Greeks *natron*, and by the Romans *nitrum*, from the name of the country where it was procured. By the way, this *nitrum*, as it has been translated into English, *nitre*, is known to be the carbonate of soda, the same that is extracted from kelp and barilla. The scientific men who accompanied Bonaparte into Egypt, ascertained this by a thorough examination of the article as they found it there. And their conclusion is confirmed by the fact that after the Jews, Greeks, and Romans, soda has been used by modern nations to make soap, which cannot be made with our modern nitre; nor can we use this latter to clean and wash the skin, or garments, as we can a solution of the carbonate of soda.

But although the Hebrews were thus acquainted with a plant from the ashes of which they obtained an alkali, and the Greeks and Romans with the soda, collected in *Atrica*, yet none of these nations appear to have made soap, in the earlier periods of their history. And we find by consulting our authorities (Goquet and others,) that it was probably first invented by the Germans. We also read of *Sapo Gallicus*, Gaulish or French soap, of *Spuma Batavia* or Dutch lather, and *Spuma Caustica*, or caustic lather. The German soap was formerly reckoned the best and cleanest, and the French was next in quality and value; though in this country, Castile, or Spanish soap, has now the highest reputation for certain purposes. From the people of the north of Europe the knowledge and use of soap passed to the Romans, and afterwards to the Greeks.

When the Romans first became acquainted with it they called it *unguentum cineris*, or ointment of ashes. And some of the writers, we see, have treated of it under the denomination of "*Cinis*," or ashes itself. And they who used soap in those days were unknown by the appellation of "*cinerarii*" or ashes users.—(The *Cinerarii* of New York at the present time call themselves *Collectors* of ashes.) After a while, however, this detergent or cleansing ointment was distinguished among the Romans, during their decline, by the name of "*Sapo*." This is probably of Gothic or barbarian origin. Among the Parthians, at least, and some other nations bordering on the Roman empire, it appears that a ruler, or chief, was called *Sapor*, or guardian of the public safety. And it has been conjectured that the benefit which they derived from the *unguentum cineris*, in various ways, and particularly in promoting their health and comfort, led them to call it, by a correspondent appellation, *Sapo*. The Romans adopted the word into their language, and the Greeks borrowed it from them, with only a slight change, calling it *sapon*. And hence comes the French *savon*, and the English *soap*.

N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

Love and Laudanum.—On Tuesday evening, a young lady on a visit to a friend in Kennington, swallowed a quantity of laudanum, in consequence of being disappointed in a love affair with a gentleman, to whom she was devotedly attached.—The nuptial day appointed was for Tuesday, and on the Thursday previous every arrangement was made for the ceremony, the ring bought, and suitable apartments taken for their reception; the lover then took his leave, promising to return on the following day, but never made his appearance. On the marriage day the young lady purchased laudanum, in small quantities, at different chemists' shops in the neighborhood, which she swallowed at six o'clock in the evening. Scarcely had she taken the noxious drug, when the lover appeared to explain his absence; in an agony of despair she clasped him in her arms, confessing at the same time what she had done. Medical aid was instantly sent for, and the intended bride, upon the proper remedies being applied, was fortunately saved, and is now happily in a state of convalescence.—*London Exam.*

Punishment for scolding.—In the first code of laws in Massachusetts, we find the following wholesome provision made to restrain scolding: "Whereas there is no express punishment by any law hitherto established, affixed to the evil practice of sundry persons, by exorbitancy of the tongue in railing and scolding, it is therefore ordered that all such persons convicted before any court or magistrate, that hath proper cognizance of the case shall be gagged or set in a ducking stool and dipped over head and ears three times in some convenient place of fresh or salt water, as the court or magistrate shall seem meet."

Irish Anecdote.—Two Irishmen fighting together one of them knocked the other down, and seeing him lie motionless, thought he had killed him; taking him by the hand he cried, "O my dear Paddy, now be after speaking to me and I have killed you tell me honey!"—"To which the other answered—"No my dear Mac, I can't dead at all, but by my shoul I am speechless."

To the Public.—Gentlemen: about four years ago I invented a method of travelling through the air. I thought I would say nothing about it until I was able to make the experiment myself. I went to work hard 2 years, trying to make enough to try my experiment. I found that I could not: therefore I went to New Orleans, and published my inventions, and asked for assistance to carry my plans into effect; but travelling through the air it was thought impossible, and I laugh at for such an idea. Therefore, I went to work with double exertion 2 years more, trying to lay up enough to accomplish my design; but I found that I could not: therefore, I made a model of my plans and deposited them in the Patent Office, at the City of Washington. Any person seeing them, and thinking them practicable, I humbly solicit them to lend me 5, 10, or \$20 each, as they may think proper, to enable me to put my plans into effect. If I should succeed, I can pay back their money; if I should not, they can afford to lose it as well as I can all I have, besides my time and trouble, to make this important experiment. People in general think, because we have steam boats, there can be no more improvements, but I think the

Payment of the Public Debt.—We learn from the Washington papers, that it is determined at the Treasury, to pay off five millions of the principal of the public debt, on the first of July next.

Great sailing match.—A race was made last month at Key West, between the Mexican brig of war *Hemoine* and the U. S. Cutter *Marion*, supposed to be the two quickest sailers in the West Indies. The distance was 25 miles, and the *Marion* came in 5 miles ahead.

Endless Chain Propeller.—Mr. Henry H. Siler, of Geneva, N. Y. has sent to the Secretary of State, for the purpose of procuring a patent, a specification of a plan for propelling boats on canals, by means of an endless chain, to be moved by steam engines at fixed distances. The same plan, as applicable to the propelling carriages on rail roads, has been suggested by Mr. Tredgold, in his treatise on rail roads. Mr. Siler proposes to use an iron chain, seven miles in length, which, being doubled, extends three miles and a half, passing, at each extremity of that distance, round a horizontal wheel or drum. It is proposed to support the chain on the sides of the towpath by horizontal rollers at suitable distances, and at every deviation from a straight line, vertical rollers are to be fixed, by the use of which rollers, friction would be lessened. Steam engines would be required at stations, alternately, of three and a half miles apart, to turn the wheel and move the chain, up on one side of the canal, and down on the other, similar to two buckets over a windlass. The annual expense of this plan, for the whole line of the Erie Canal, would be \$408,699. This expense might be diminished by the substitution at various points, of water-power for steam.

How to tell a good Husband.—A few days since a gentleman from the green sod was engaged in loading his cart with boards which had recently been drawn from a raft, and placed his horse in a position which rendered it difficult to pass; two girls, one of them a smiling little egypt, not liking the obstruction, turned the horse out of the way.—Pat, who at the moment was tottering under the weight of a heavy plank burst forth a volley of abusive language, when this smiling girl stretched forth her finger and exclaimed, "I'll bet a dollar you whip your wife."

Virtue of kisses.—The notion of prolonging life by inhaling the breath of young women was an agreeable delusion; and one physician who had himself written on health, was so influenced by it, that he took lodgings in a boarding school to enjoy the benefit of the proper atmosphere. Philip Thicknesse, who wrote the *Valetudinarian's Guide to Health*, in 1779 seems to have taken a dose whenever he could. I am myself (says he) turned of 60, and in general, though I have lived in various climates, and suffered severely both in body and mind, yet having always partaken of the breath of young women whenever they lay in my way, I feel none of the infirmities which so often strike the eyes and ears in this great city of sickness (Bath) by men much younger than myself. [*Wrad's Memoirs.*]

Idleness.—The Jews have a proverb, that he who brings not up his son to some occupation, makes him a thief; and the Arabians say, that an idle person is the Devil's play fellow.

Punishment for scolding.—In the first code of laws in Massachusetts, we find the following wholesome provision made to restrain scolding: "Whereas there is no express punishment by any law hitherto established, affixed to the evil practice of sundry persons, by exorbitancy of the tongue in railing and scolding, it is therefore ordered that all such persons convicted before any court or magistrate, that hath proper cognizance of the case shall be gagged or set in a ducking stool and dipped over head and ears three times in some convenient place of fresh or salt water, as the court or magistrate shall seem meet."

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field is only fairly open for improvements.

FRANCIS SMITH.

The above machine will be exhibited in the Rotunda of the Capital today (Saturday) during the forenoon, and afterwards in the Patent Office.

Modesty makes large amends for the pain it gives the persons who labor under it, by the prejudice it affords every worthy person in its favor.

Archbishop Usher being requested by a Mr. Botton to write an Epitaph on his father, sent him the following:—
Oh, heav'n and earth, Oh, stars and pole!
That graves should be but Botton-holes.

From the Baltimore American.

We have been requested to publish the following letter by a friend of one of the unfortunate gentlemen now confined at Rio Janeiro:

We request that you will give the following lines publication; they are an impartial description of our place of confinement, in Rio Janeiro, together with a list of its annoyances and distressing attendants. They may serve as a check to some of our uninformed and adventurous countrymen; and impress others with a just indignation at the recital of our unwarranted treatment. We embarked under the Buenos Ayrean flag, from motives of an enthusiastic nature for the blessings of liberty, the innate principles of Americans, in a cause we considered just in the eyes of God and tremen; and for this cause, legally commissioned by Buenos Aytes, and suffering an imprisonment, which did it bear date from Algiers, or any other unchristian power, could not be transcended. As prisoners of war, we would scorn to complain; but when the prerogatives settled among Christian nations, for the good treatment and partial comfort of their prisoners, are here totally disregarded, we consider it a duty we owe our fellow countrymen and compatriots in arms, to give publicity to facts, that they may know and take steps to avoid a prison big with misery and distress that awaits them, should they be so unfortunate as to fall into their enemy's hands.

The prisoners of war confined on board the Press Gang prison ship, an old condemned 74, amount to three hundred and upwards, mostly English, French and Americans, among whom are 90 native Buenos Ayreans. The prison being one allotted to convicts, contains nearly 900 criminals; among whom are robbers, assassins, and in a word to sum up the whole—perpetrators of all the crimes that swell the black catalogue of impiety and sacrilege. Among such wretches and prisoners of war made equal, having the same allowance of provisions—the same deck to sleep on; the same labour to endure with very little difference.—The only mark of distinction they make, is in the quantity of iron, the criminals being chained with heavy links about 10 feet long in pairs, the prisoners of war have only a simple pair of irons around their ankles, two and two, having each a leg confined.

In this fettered condition are the prisoners compelled to work, frequently transported about the harbour under a guard of black soldiers, on board their water tanks, pumping the whole day, in a scorching sun, supplying their ships with water. But the day may be compared to paradise, (if I may use such an expression,) in comparison with what is suffered during the torrid and sleepless hours of night. Prisoners and criminals, as I before observed, are thrust down in a wedged like position in a confined place, scarcely sufficient for one half their number, the position they are stowed in, remains a stationary one the whole night—not able to seek momentary relief to their benumbed and contracted limbs from their close and shackled condition. It will be well to premise, that out of the 900 criminals, there are not 50 white men, the rest being negroes and mulattoes, with scarce covering enough to hide their nakedness, their tattered garments hanging a witness of the destroying hand of time—their bodies exhaling an odour, as if they had long been strangers to the wash tub or bath. Among such beings are prisoners of war thrust, laying in a filthy deck, its natural colour being hid by dirt a quarter of an inch thick, that engenders myriads of annoying insects.

Many other distresses are they a prey to. Will any one say we merit this for being legally captured in war? If any do, they know, or can form but a very faint idea of our sufferings under our accumulated bond of misery. When the feelings of man sometimes rise, and resent the brutality of our tormentors, our backs are made to feel the weight of the black centres palcos, a large club they always carry on duty, more fit to knock down cattle than to be applied to men's backs. Our provisions consist of 1 lb. of miserable fresh beef, old condemned beans and terina, which serves to keep us alive, and that's all; this is our invariable bill of fare.

The officers, prisoners of war, are somewhat better treated. They have the ward-room of the ship allotted them—are not in irons, nor are they made to work. Their provisions for the 24 hours, being the same as the men's, with an addition of one gill of Aguardenta per day. There are 45 American prisoners.

The Voice of the American Prisoners.