

been dead 4 hours, & no persuasion could prevail on the wife to save herself. She had three children whom she committed to the care of her mother. A woman called to undertake was preparing the pile. It was composed of bamboo, firewood, oils, rosin, and a kind of flax, altogether very combustible. It was elevated above the ground, I should say, 20 inches and supported by strong stakes. The dead body was lying on a rude couch, very near, covered with a white cloth. The oldest child, a boy of seven years, (who was to light the pile,) was standing near the corpse. The woman sat perfectly unmoved, during all the preparation; apparently at prayer, and counting a string of beads which she held in her hand. She was just 30 years old; her husband 27 years older.

The government threw every obstacle in the way of this procedure.

These obstacles delayed the ceremony until 5 o'clock, when the permit from one of the chief judges arrived—Police officers were stationed, to prevent any thing like compulsion, and to secure the woman at the last moment, if she should desire it. The corpse was now placed on the ground in an upright posture, and clean linen crossed round the head and about the waist. Holy water was thrown over it by the child, and afterwards oil by the Bramins. It was then placed upon the pile upon the left side. The woman now left the palanquin, walked into the river, supported by her brothers, who were agitated and required support more than herself. She was divested of all her ornaments, her hair hanging dishevelled about her face, which expressed perfect resignation. Her forehead and feet were stained with a deep red. She bathed in the river, and drank a little water, which was the only nourishment she received after her husband's death. An oath was administered by the attending Bramins, which is done by patting the hand in holy water and repeating from the shaster a few lines. This oath was given seven times. (I forgot to say the child received an oath before the corpse was removed. The brothers also prayed over the body and sprinkled themselves with consecrated water.) She then adjusted her own dress, which consisted of long cloths wrapped around her form and partly over the head, but not so as to conceal the face. She had in her hand a little box, containing parting gifts, which she presented to her brothers, and to the Bramins, with the greatest composure. Red strings were then fastened round her wrists—her child now put a little rice in her mouth, which was the last thing she received. She raised her eyes to Heaven several times during the river ceremonies, which occupied 10 or 20 minutes. She took no notice of her child; having taken leave of her female friends and children early in the morning.—A little cup of consecrated rice was placed by the child at the head of the corpse. She now walked to the pile and bent with lowly reverence over the feet of her husband; then, unaided, she passed three times around the pile. She now seemed excited by enthusiasm; some said of a religious nature, others by affection for the dead. I do not pretend to say what motive actuated her; but she stepped upon the pile, with apparent delight, unassisted by any one, and threw herself by the side of the body clasping his neck with her arm.—The corpse was in the most horrid putrid state. She put her face close to his; a cord was slightly passed over both; light faggots & straw, with some combustible resin, were then put on the pile, and a strong bamboo pole confined the whole: all this was done by her brothers. The child then applied the fire to the head of the pile which was to consume both parents. The whole was instantly on fire. The multitude shouted, but not a groan was heard from the pile. I hope and trust this poor victim expired immediately. She undoubtedly did, without one strug-

gle. Her feet and arms were not confined, and after the straw and faggots were burnt, we saw them in the same position she had placed them.

This was a voluntary act. She was resigned, self-collected, and perfectly herself. Such fortitude, such magnanimity, such resolution, devoted affection, religious zeal and mad delusion, combined, I had not conceived of, and I hope never to witness again. Hundreds witnessed this scene. Some admired the heroism of the woman—some were ready to tear the Bramins to pieces—for myself, I was absolutely stupefied with pity and horror at this dreadful immolation. I am grieved to say, this is not an uncommon instance.

I believe I have given you all the particulars; put them in a better form, and tell this almost incredible story to some of my friends. There were present about 40 Americans, and a few English. I do not know the number of natives, but may safely say many hundreds.

Yesterday was also one of the feasts of Juggernaut. In returning home, we passed through a street, 2 miles in length, entirely filed with temples, consecrated to that god, drawn by worshipping thousands and myriads, striving for that honor; they were offering gold, fruits, and the most beautiful flowers, to the different idols placed within these temples. The air was perfumed with the most precious odours. The house-tops were covered with people, dressed in the most expensive and fantastic manner, and children covered with jewels. Bands of native music preceded and followed each temple, making the most discordant sounds. People who had nothing to give, screamed and prostrated themselves before the innumerable idols that were standing in the streets. The horses were stopped twenty times at least by the crowd, gathering to offer sacrifices to these images. Guards were placed in all directions to keep order.

I can give you no idea of this country—I am awe struck, but feel no inclination to worship. I thank God, we are not Hindoos—and for all his mercies praise him.

Farewell, once more, my dearly beloved friends."

MISCELLANY.

From the Alex. Gaz. of March 11.

MR. SNOWDEN,

In a recent number of the 'Religious Remembrancer,' a paper edited in Philadelphia by a gentleman of very superior acquirements, and dedicated to the cultivation of rational piety, the following beautifully turned observations on the pernicious tendency of novel reading have been thought worthy of transcription from Harris's Encyclopedia.

I offer them to you in the persuasion that should their perusal incite a parent to superintend more circumspectly the course of reading of his child; or influence youth to restrain in any degree the indulgence of a vitiated taste or the delusions of romance, you will feel a sensible gratification in common with

Yours, &c. R. S.

NOVELS.

We feel it our duty to guard our youthful readers; particularly those of the female sex, against the perusal of Novels, considering them as seductive and dangerous publications; assured that they generally tend to produce inflamed passions, a distempered sensibility, and a prurient imagination; and that they frequently pervert the judgment, debase the morals, and corrupt the heart. We hesitate not to declare that those who have been fascinated in early life by the perusal of Novels and Romances, have deluded themselves with the hope of enjoyments never to be realized, qualifications neither to be attained nor even desired, and characters which are no where to be found. Of all the various evils which corrupt the minds of youth in the present day, there are many less specious, but none more inju-

rious than this. The morality to which these books often pretend only serves to disguise the poison they infuse, and excite a fatal degree of pride and self-complacency; while the pathetic tales and elegant distresses with which they abound, instead of inspiring sentiments of enlarged and disinterested benevolence, rather tend to steel the heart against the daily scenes of misery which it is our duty to compassionate & relieve. The creation of refined and subtle feelings, reared by the author of novels, has an ill effect, not only on our ideas of virtue, but also on our estimate of happiness.—Such a sickly, sort of refinement creates imaginary evils and distresses, and imaginary blessings and enjoyments which embitter the common disappointments and depreciate the common attainments of life. This effects the temper doubly, both with regard to ourselves and others; with regard to ourselves, from what we think ought to be our lot; with regard to others, from what we think ought to be their sentiments. It inspires a certain childish spirit of our own superior delicacy, and an unfortunate contempt of the plain worth and the ordinary but useful occupations of those around us. No sooner does a young female imbibe this fatal poison, than she immediately discovers herself to be unhappy.—Her daily employments, her accustomed pursuits and associates are no longer capable of interesting. The presence and converse of her relatives and friends become irksome and insipid. Introduced as it were into a higher region, and aspiring after more refined enjoyments, she sighs to meet some kindred spirit, who can share in all the exquisite feelings of her heart.—The sentimental and exalted endearments of love and friendship are in her eyes the only source of all genuine felicity; and as it is always easy to believe what we wish, if an object endowed with powers to please present himself, fancy will readily supply every deficiency, and pourtray a perfect character; while the most exquisite delights of which the human mind is capable, will be expected to result from his society.—Happy indeed will it be if inexperienced unsuspecting youth do not fall a sacrifice to base and designing seduction!—But supposing things to take the most favorable turn imaginable, and two congenial hearts, possessed of the most exquisite sensibility, after various extraordinary and most interesting adventures, at length happily united; can we suppose that the same blissful scene which winds up the novel or the play, will continue through many years in a series of uninterrupted delight?—Alas!—no!—The sky that seemed so bright and serene on the entrance into this enchanted path, will soon be obscured by chilling damps and gloomy clouds. If no calamitous event intervene, ennui and insipidity will certainly succeed. Many mortifying discoveries of imperfection on each side will be made, and a variety of vulgar, common cares intrude to engross the attention, sour the temper, and interrupt the enjoyment that had been so eagerly anticipated: and after all it will be well if that which began in the most extravagant attachment—an attachment built on too frail a basis to be permanent—do not terminate in indifference or disgust.

Such being the tendency and such the effects of novel reading, we would recommend to our young friends to prefer truth to fiction, and to desire lessons of instruction from the equally entertaining and vastly more interesting pages of history and biography.

FROM THE ENQUIRER.

RICHMOND, March 10.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

The following case is deemed interesting to those who are in the habit of sending bank notes by mail.

Fishback and Ward exhibited their Bill in the Chancery District Court of Richmond, vs. The President, Directors & Co. of the Bank of Virginia, charging that being Merchants in Culpepper county, and having occasion to

make a remittance to their correspondents in Philadelphia, they as is customary with merchants not convenient to banks, cut in two, four notes of the Bank of Virginia, three payable at Fredricksburg, and the other one in Richmond, the amount and numbers of which they specify, and enclosed a half of each note in a letter addressed to their said correspondents, which they put into the Post Office at Jefferson, in Culpepper county, to be conveyed by mail, but that the said letter and half notes never reached their correspondents and are lost or destroyed. That after waiting a reasonable time, they applied to the president and directors of the branch bank at Fredericksburg, for payment of the notes, and offered to give bond and security to indemnify them against any claim that might thereafter be exhibited against them on account of the said notes, and produced the halves of the notes in their possession, all of which, except 1 of which they make an exhibit, the bank retained, and paid them half the amount of the three notes payable at their office in Fredericksburg, but subsequently and after consulting the mother bank refused to pay any thing more. The prayer of the bill is that upon the complainants giving bond and security, &c. the defendants shall be decreed to pay them the residue of the money due on all the notes and for general relief.

The answer of the president & directors does not admit that the complainants were proprietors of the notes or sent the halves by mail as they state, and call for proof of the fact; and if proved, they contend that as the complainants cut the bills in twain, themselves, they have voluntarily destroyed their own security and cannot now look to the bank for payment, but that if the court should think differently, then they contend that the bank is not liable to pay the money upon the complainants producing the halves of the said notes only. 1. Because the innocent holders of the other halves might thereby be injured. 2. Because the bank cannot guard against surprize, as it will be impossible to identify the correspondent halves; for the numbers, dates, and letters of the halves produced will fit the same denominations on any other bills or halves of a similar description as well as those alleged to be lost.

They also aver that the payment at the branch bank aforesaid was without their knowledge and therefore ought not to bind them to further payment, but that the complainants ought to refund.

The complainants by the deposition of one witness prove, that they enclosed in a letter directed as they charge, and deposited in the post office, four half notes corresponding in amount with the half notes mentioned in the bill, but there is no proof that these half notes, were the halves of the notes set forth by the complainants, or that they agreed in any other particulars save in amount.

They also prove that the half notes retained by the bank, correspond in amount with those described in the bill.

The bank proved by the affidavit of Mr. Nekervis, agreed to be received as testimony, that if the bank notes of the kind in question be cut exactly alike, the half of one note will fit the halves of 399 other notes, besides its real corresponding half, and that the bank cannot discriminate. The Chancellor decreed in conformity with the prayer of the bill, from which decree the bank appealed.

Judge ROANE delivered the Opinion of the court as follows:

The court is of my opinion, that the bona fide owner of a bank note having transmitted one half thereof by the mail, which has been stolen therefrom, or is lost cannot demand payment from the bank of any part of its amount, in consequence of holding the retained half, merely; but that he is entitled to demand the whole amount of the said note, on satisfying the bank of the verity of the above facts, or establishing them by the judgment of a

court of equity—and giving, in either case, a satisfactory indemnity, to secure the banks against future loss; from the appearance and setting up the other half of such note. But the requisite proof does not exist in the case before us: the 1/2 notes on which the bill is founded, not being specifically and satisfactorily identified, as the counterparts of the halves transmitted—for want of which proof the decree is to be reversed and the bill dismissed.

Federal Republican

NEWBERN,
SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1813

NEWBERN ACADEMY.

The semi-annual examination of the Students of the Newbern Academy, took place on the 16th inst and was continued through that and the two succeeding days. The whole number of Students belonging to the Academy is one hundred and ninety, viz: fifty six males, fifty four females, and eighty in the Lancasterian Department. But in consequence of the prevalence of Hooping Cough and Measles and the inclemency of the weather during the two last days of the examination many students were necessarily absent. All who were present were publicly examined on the several studies which had occupied their attention during the last six months. The Trustees have much reason on the whole to be pleased with the result. It proves that the Teachers have faithfully performed the duties of their stations, and that with a few exceptions the pupils also have been industrious and diligent. They direct the following Report to be made public.

The examination commenced with the pupils in the Female Department who are placed under the immediate charge of Dr. Freeman.

Hannah Gaston was examined in the elements of reading and spelling, and performed very well.

A class composed of Sarah Jane Thompson, Justina Smith, and Margaret Watson was examined in reading and the elements of English Grammar—It is an excellent little class. No distinction can be made in it.

A class consisting of Susan Jane Gaston, Maria Dixon, Betsey Dixon, Eliza M'Cabe, and Eliza M'Lin, passed an approved examination on English Grammar and in Parsing. The order in which they are named shews their relative merits.

The next class was composed of Frances Carney, Drusilla Bell, Anne Hymen, Maria Hatch, Emeline Stewart, and Frances Vail. They were examined on parsing in the prose part of the Sequel to the English Reader, acquitted themselves well, and are named in the order of their respective merits.

A class more advanced was examined on parsing in the Sequel generally, as well in Poetry as Prose. This consisted of Nancy Bell, Fanny Wallace, Julia Burgwin, Caroline Lamotte, Sarah Clark, Penelope Shepard, Eliza Vipon, Mary Cheney, Mehetabel Masters, Caroline Crawford, and Eliza Fonville. Of these the four first named are probably best and next to them are Penelope Shepard & Eliza Vipon. The Trustees feel it due however to Mary Cheney and Mehetabel Masters who have been but a short time engaged in this study, and are classed with girls that have possessed superior advantages, to notice with commendation their visible progress and improvement.

A class composed of Mary Ann Mitchell, George Sears, Henrietta Smith, Eleanor Trotter, Sidney Hall, Mary Ann Trotter, Sally A. Crawford, Mary Wilkins, Jennett Wilkins, Frances Devereux and Ann Stewart, were examined in parsing Thompsons Seasons. They generally did well. The five first named are distinguished in the order in which they are placed.

Phoebe Hawks, Mary Ann Bryan, Betsey Webber, Alice Blackledge, Caroline Chapman, Jane Graham, and Louisa Blackledge composed a class which made a good examination on parsing Cowpers Task. It is difficult to distinguish accurately in this Class. The four first named are deemed the best and equal to each other.

Evelina Hawks, Hannah Shepard, Nancy Webber and Eliza Graham, passed a very approved examination in parsing Miltons Paradise Lost. The Trustees cannot discriminate between them. They notice however with peculiar