

Department of State

# Newbern Sentinel.

BY JOHN A. BACKHOUSE.

LIBERTY...THE CONSTITUTION...UNION.

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—WEEKLY—

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### TERMS.

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### POETRY.

**SIR WALTER SCOTT IN ITALY.**—In his declining years, Sir W. Scott was taken to Italy, in the hopes that the interesting objects there presented to him, might restore the dormant energies of his mind—but in vain. While there, his constant cry was, "Take me home!"—See *Reminiscences of Sir Walter Scott, in Fraser's Magazine.*

An aged man sat sighing  
In a lofty marble hall.  
Where gorgeously the setting ray  
Of a southern sun did fall.  
The perfume of the citron groves  
Swept o'er his brow in vain,  
It woke not in his slumbering mind  
Its energies again.

"And bear me hence," he murmured.  
"The sunshine is too bright:  
The flowers are too fragrant,  
For my spirit's rayless night—  
A gentle wind comes hovering o'er—  
The ocean's breast of foam—  
It hath a sweet, but mournful voice,  
Come home! it cries, come home!"

"I know this land is lovely—  
It once made bright my dreams;  
But I sigh for Scotland's glens,  
Wild rocks and rushing streams.  
The dreams that haunt my pillow now,  
Speak not of thee, oh! Rome;  
They have a voice—one only voice—  
Come home! it cries, come home!"

"I listen to the nightingale,  
Wearied of its sweet lay;  
The blackbird sings much sweeter,  
In the gloaming far away.  
The wild strains of a prison bird  
Float through this marble dome,  
I know the burden of its song,  
Come home! it cries, come home!"

### MY LAMENT.

Of wedded bliss, birds sing amiss—  
I cannot make a song of it;  
For I am small—my wife is tall,  
And that's the short and long of it.

When we debate, it is my fate,  
Always to have the wrong of it,  
For I am small, and she is tall,  
And that's the short and long of it.

And when I speak, my voice is weak;  
But hers—she makes a song of it;  
For I am small, and she is tall,  
And that's the short and long of it.

She has a brief command in chief,  
But I am Aid-de-Camp of it;  
For I am small, and she is tall,  
And that's the short and long of it.

She gives to me, the weakest tea,  
And takes the whole soothing of it;  
For I am small, and she is tall,  
And that's the short and long of it.

She'll sometimes grip my Crowther whip  
And make me feel the thong of it;  
For I am small, and she is tall,  
And that's the short and long of it.

Against my life, she'll take a knife,  
Or fork, to dart a prong of it;  
For I am small, and she is tall,  
And that's the short and long of it.

I sometimes think I'll take to drink,  
And hector when I'm strong of it;  
For I am small, and she is tall,  
And that's the short and long of it.

Oh if the bell would ring her knell,  
I'd make a gay ding-dong of it;  
For I am small and she is tall,  
And that's the short and long of it.

John Bull.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### CHEATS AT PLAY DETECTED.

Country Jaunts are often planned for no other purpose than to introduce a little "chicken hazard" after dinner; and which others join in as if by mere accident, although the whole has been settled purposely to fleece some young friend or two, for whom the LEADERS of the SNARE profess the warmest friendship and attachment. The wine, generally circulated with much vivacity, is seasoned by mirth and entertaining conversation; and, when the play is introduced the novices are generally allowed to win at the beginning, which, together with additional wine, generally encourages them to play for larger sums, soon to discover that their luck and their wits are running a race, for which they, the abandoned parties, have become mere starting posts. Indeed, cases out of number could be cited, where parties (after inebriety had wound up the play) had claims for large sums made upon them in the morning following, as for bets, or games

lost, of which the losers had not the smallest recollection; and where such scenes were wound up with angry declamations of "insulted honour," "satisfaction," "pistols across the table," "blunderbusses in a saw pit," in cases where the poor astonished dupes presumed to declare their utter ignorance of what had taken place after a given time. Not unfrequently thereupon to be catechised, additionally, by some of those affable, placid and soft spoken gentlemen, and whom generally you will find amongst the dramatic persons of such concocted parties; and who rather freely express themselves "quite shocked" at the breach of decorum, the outrage that has been offered to high gentlemanly feeling, and by mere novices in fashionable life, who, on the contrary, ought to be thankful for being admitted as companions, and grateful for the forbearance they had experienced, &c. &c. : thus to pronounce all manner of impertinence, shielded from resentment by mildness assumed, and by grey hairs. I will now give you a somewhat similar case of my own experiencing.

Some gentlemen of this description invited a young friend of mine and myself to pass the evening with one of them, who lodged at a very fashionable hotel. Half-guinea whist was proposed; and, although neither of us had seen more than twenty-two years, and although my friend and myself were partners, playing too against persons greatly exceeding us in age, and skill we rose to an early supper the winners of several rubbers! Hilarity and joking, with wine with one or the other at every laugh, seasoned our meal; during which a challenge was given and accepted between two of the seniors, as to a hit at back-gammon, for some champagne, and which the loser immediately ordered to be brought in. When the dice were about to be put by with the back-gammon-board, one of the party exclaimed, "Stop! what say you, shall we have a little hazard?" Some were for it, some pretended to be against it; and while the debate was going on, my young friend, whose purse was known to be stronger than mine, already, and dice-box in hand, sported his guineas: all joined him, I was urged to play also; but replied that I would look on for a little while, to instruct myself in the game, and of which I pretended ignorance, in order to ascertain, by concealed observation, if certain suspicions, which had arisen in my mind, were well-founded. The wine circulated freely, my young friend was very far gone, myself only elated, when the thought struck me, to make belief of being very much overcome with wine, as it would prevent my being feared as an observer: it answered! for the most barefaced tricks followed, which caused my friend to lose all his money; thereupon, and scarcely aware of what he did, to play on credit, and largely. I had laid my head on my arms on the table, to appearance a man completely drunk, and fast asleep, but using this deception to listen to what was going on; but the playing scene was soon wound up, for my poor, and in reality drunken friend, soon after fell off his chair. Having made futile attempts to rouse him, the confederates, for so they proved, ordered bed-rooms to be got ready for us; and whilst my friend was being carried to his, very ill, after shaking me to no purpose, but to pronounce me "dead drunk," they proceeded to settle their accounts with mercantile precision, deducting, under the head of "profit and losses," the whist losses, and the expense of the supper, nay of even the very champagne, from their united winnings; and after scolding some for plying us, and particularly "the little Prussian captain," as I used to be called by many of my gay and mostly gigantic companions, too fast, and with too much wine, they settled how much should be charged to me as my share of losses at pretended play, and how much to my friend; thereupon actually, and by the cast of the dice, to settle who should undertake to collect from, and, if necessary, to call out, either of us that might demur owing the money, or refuse payment! Passing many coarse and unprincipled jokes over these honorable arrangements, they disagreed as to the particular game at which I had been rather a considerable loser; and when one of them somewhat earnestly reminded the rest how necessary it was that they should not contradict each other in so important a particular, myself just then rising from the table, I addressed them nearly in these words:—"Gentlemen, I feel bound to spare you all this trouble, by declaring, that, with the exception of whist, I HAVE NOT PLAYED WITH ANY OF YOU! next, that I NEVER WILL play with ANY OF YOU!—and lastly, and most seriously, that I WILL NOT submit to be played WITH BY ANY OF YOU! However, and before I take my leave of you, I feel in honor bound to return you the money I so unaccountably won at whist," (throwing it on the table); "and I trust you will have the prudence to follow my example, by refunding to my friend what you have won of him: the amount I can apprise him of, since you have been so good as to furnish me with that particular with even your own lips! Good night gentlemen! pleasant dreams to you!" was followed by a confused bustle on their part, and by a rapid departure on mine, which some, more persuasively than rudely, sought however to prevent. When I saw my friend the next day, he told me that the whole of this money had been returned him whilst at breakfast, and by the senior member of the party, the same who had given the entertainment, and for the express purpose, as he assured him, to practise a joke upon him, "two young friends; but more particularly still to cure us of play, by giving us a little fright on account of our losses; and that the party

which I had overheard was only a sort of episode to the original plot adopted, because these were perfectly aware that I was neither tipsy nor asleep, but slyly listening. Whatever we thought of all this generous anxiety for our future welfare, we allowed this Zelacc-like version of defeat villainy to pass as sterling coin, since we had saved our own. I now will tell you

how other young men lost the benefit which they might have derived from these Mentors: of this very (at one time men of fashion, but since but two well-known in the annals of gaining,) two were shot in duels arising from play transactions, one hung himself and the rest were detected, and everywhere proclaimed as chasses, for being cheats at play, and ruffians, who clinched their robbers by bullying their dupes into payment.

#### A PRINTING OFFICE ON PUBLICATION DAY.

To see a Printing Office in all its glory, the uninitiated ought to visit a newspaper office on the day of publication, although they may assure themselves of a frosty reception at such a time. There is a breathless excitement in the scene. Not a sound is heard, save at times the slipshod step of a compositor creeping across the floor to the foreman's desk for more copy, or the continual click clicking of the types as they fall into their places in the composing stick. The compositors are stationed at their cases, noiseless and busy as Wordsworth's cattle in the meadow—there are "forty setting like one." Mark the diversity of figure and expression, and believe me, there is as great a diversity of talent among them. That thin stooping figure, with sharp face high nose, and dark motionless eyes, has a genius for setting advertisements. He is the uncontrolled master of that department. That fine-looking fellow with an oval border of black whiskers round his face, and corresponding curve of his leg, the wit, orator, and gay Lothario of the establishment, has a taste which the foreman himself does not disdain occasionally to call to counsel. The greasy-looking individual with a bald head, if you keep whiskey from him, and him from whiskey (no easy task by the by) will set you a whole column of "close dig" without one typographical error. Marry, Sir! of a Monday morning his types take strange vagaries. That demure gentleman, with his nose stuck in his composing stick, has a genius for "scheme work," which technical phrase designates what the vulgar call tables, &c. The paper is up—one by one the compositors have been desired for want of copy. They are now busied, under the superintendance of the foreman, who has arranged the matter and measured out the columns in tying them up. Now they slip them from the galleys on the stone, and arrange them in close parallels. The chase is placed around them, and the quoins inserted. A dozen anxious heads are bending over the solid mass of types, touching examining, scrutinizing, whispering eagerly. They who stand aloof are the apprentices—they are not allowed to interfere with this part of the ceremony. That slender handsome slip of a lad at the corner, has commenced journeyman this very day. His whole frame thrills as he fingers the chase. He feels himself a man. Now all draw back but two, who raise their mallets to drive the quoins home, and plain the surface of the form. As the clatter begins, the brawny pressmen issue from their den, and swing the ponderous mass from the stone, and disappear into the press room, whence the dull sound of their process may be heard to issue. One by one the compositors have assumed their jackets and dropped off. The day's work is over with them all, with the exception of the unlucky apprentice detained to fold the papers, who stands brooding bitter thoughts. While an eager and curious public is crowding the place of publication, to snatch the first damp sheets, the silence of loneliness settles down on the deserted compositors' room.

Scottish Monthly Magazine.

#### VOLUNTARY SUSPENSION OF ANIMATION.

In the East India Magazine for March, is the subjoined strange narrative. It is given by H. M. Tweedall to the editor of the India Journal of Medical Science.

"The facts and circumstances which are detailed in this account, were communicated to me, within these few days, by a gentleman, from whom I obtained permission to make them public. For the sake of greater accuracy, he consented to my taking a copy of a letter written by him to his family on that day that the grave was opened and the buried man resuscitated. The letter I have his permission to publish.

"I have just witnessed a singular circumstance, of which I had heard during our stay at this place, but said nothing about it before, the time for its accomplishment not being completed: this morning, however, the full month was over, and a man who had been buried alive that time, on the bank of a tank near our camp, was dug out alive, in the presence of Esaur Lal, one of the Ministers of the Muharawal of Jaisalmer, on whose account this singular individual was voluntarily interred a month ago.

"The man is said, by long practice, to have acquired the art of holding his breath by shutting the mouth and stopping the interior opening of the nostrils with his tongue; he also abstains from solid food for some days previous to his interment, so that he may not be inconvenienced by the contents of his stomach, while shut up in its narrow grave; and, moreover, he is sewn up in a bag of cloth, and the cell is lined with masonry and floored with cloth, that the white ants and other insects may not easily be able to molest him the place in which he was buried at Jaisalmer is a small building, about twelve feet by eight feet, built of stone; and in the floor was a hole about three feet long, two and a half feet wide, and in the same depth, or perhaps a yard deep, in which he was placed with his feet turned inward toward the stomach, and his hands also pointed inward towards his chest two heavy slabs of stone, five or six feet long, several inches thick and broad enough to cover the mouth of the grave, so that he could not escape, where then placed over him, and I believe a little earth

was plastered over the whole, so as to make the surface of the grave smooth and compact. The door of the house was also built up, and people placed outside, that no tricks might be played nor deception practised. At the expiration of a full month, that is to say, this morning, the walling up of the door was broken, and the buried man dug out of the grave. Trevelyan's moonshine only running there in time to see the ripping open of the bag in which the man was inclosed. He was taken out in a perfectly senseless state, his eyes closed, his hands cramped and powerless, his stomach shrunk very much, and his teeth jammed so fast to gether that they were forced to open his mouth with an iron instrument to pour a little water down his throat. He gradually recovered his senses and the use of his limbs, and when we went to see him, was sitting up, supported by two men, and conversed with us in a low gentle tone of voice, saying: "that we might bury him for a twelvemonth if we pleased." He told Major Spiers at Amjiers of his powers, and was laughed at as an impostor; but Cornet Machaghten put his abstinence to the test at Pookur, by suspending him for thirteen days shut up in a wooden chest, which, he says, is better than being buried underground, because the box, when hung from the ceiling, is open to inspection on all sides, and the white ants, &c. can be easier prevented from getting at his body while he thus remains in a state of insensibility. His powers of abstinence must be wonderful to enable him to do without food for so long a time, nor does his hair grow during the time he remains buried.

#### DILEMMAS OF A BACHELOR IN THE EAST.

To abstain from marrying when a man has attained a sufficient age, and where there is no just impediment, is esteemed by the Egyptians improper and even disreputable. For being myself guilty of this fault, (to use no harsher term.) I have suffered much inconvenience and discomfort during my stay in this country, and endured many reproaches. During my former visit to Egypt, having occasion to remove from a house which I had occupied for some months in a great thoroughfare-street in Cairo, I engaged another house, in a neighboring quarter; the lease was written, and some money paid in advance; but a day or two after, the agent of the owner came to inform me, that the inhabitants of the quarter, who were mostly sheikhs, (or descendants of the prophet,) objected to my living among them, because I was not married. He added however, that they would gladly admit me if I would even purchase a female slave, which would exempt me from the obprobrium cast upon me by the want of a wife. I replied that, being merely a sojourner in Egypt, I did not like either to take a wife or female slave, whom I must soon abandon; the money that I had paid was, therefore returned to me. In another quarter I was less unfortunate; such heavy objections on account of my being unmarried were not raised; I was only required to promise, that no persons wearing hats should come into the quarter to visit me; yet, after I had established myself in my new residence, the sheykh (or chief) of the quarter often endeavored to persuade me to marry. All my arguments against doing so he deemed of no weight. "You tell me," said he, "that in a year or two, you mean to leave this country: now there is a young widow, who, I am told, is handsome, living within a few doors of you, who will be glad to become your wife, even with the express understanding that you shall divorce her when you quit this place; though of course, you may do so before, if she should not please you." This young damsel had several times contrived to let me catch a glimpse of a pretty face, as I passed the house in which she and her parents lived. What answer could I return? I replied, that I had actually, by accident, seen her face, and that she was the last woman I should wish to marry under such circumstances; for I was sure that I could never make up my mind to part with her. But I found it rather difficult to silence my officious friend.—[Lane's Account of the Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians.]

Showing the nature of a mistake.—A gentleman, whose friend had absconded with a young lady, happening a short time after at a party in a neighbouring town, was inquired of, respecting the truth of the reports in circulation. Not caring to confirm it just at that time, he evaded it by promptly and coolly answering that although the report was current, it would certainly prove a *Miss-take*.

This answer satisfied the company, and the subject was dropped. One young lady, however, knowing him to be an ingenious punster, whispered her suspicions to the one next her, that he had probably in some way evaded the question; and after conning it over a short time, and not seeing through the *miss-take*, they concluded to press him a little more upon the matter. Accordingly, the young lady again introduced the subject, by asking him if he was sure it was a mistake, and if he could exhibit any evidence that it was such.

Half provoked, he rose from his seat, observing that he would endeavor to make it out, so at least to her satisfaction. Being rather an athletic man, he abruptly seized and took her in his arms, walking round the room all the while, kissing, tickling and otherwise behaving somewhat rudely. The young lady unable to extricate herself finding him approaching the door, remarked with much warmth, "Indeed sir I think your conduct requires some explanation." He replied—"My conduct, Miss A., explains itself—I am only showing you the nature of *Miss-take*."—Lowell Patriot.

### WOMAN.

It is truly mortifying to observe the disgrace into which one of the noblest of our Anglo-Saxon words is falling. *Woman*—to our shame be it spoken—is giving place to *lady* on the one hand—and *female* on the other. Mrs. Fanny Butler most justly ridicules the New Yorker who addresses her as a *female*. We read in our religious papers of a certain number of *females* being present at Church, as if some animals were intended. On the other hand, all are so ambitious to be *ladies*, that none are willing to be *women*,—*women's shoes* will soon be unknown, while the "lady who is being committed to Bridewell" is like to be in good American English. For a man to talk of "his lady," (his wife meaning) is exquisite *mauvais ton*, and redolent of the suburbs. If Dr. Webster will not raise up for the rescue of *woman-hood*, he is no true man.

Life.—Life is short. The poor pittance of seventy years is not worth being a villain for. What matters it if your neighbour lies in a splendid tomb? Sleep you with innocence! Look behind you through the track of time; a vast desert lies open in retrospect; through this desert have your fathers journeyed; wearied with years and sorrow, they sink from the walks of man. You must leave them where they fall; and you are to go a little further, where you will find eternal rest. Whatever you may have to encounter between the cradle and the grave, every moment is big with innumerable events, which come not in slow succession, but bursting forcibly from a revolving and unknown cause, fly over this orb with diversified influence.

BLAIR.

Cato's reason for marrying.—Cato the elder being aged, buried his wife and married a young woman; his son came to him and said, "Sir in what have I offended you, that you have brought a step-mother in your house?" The old man answered, "In nothing, quite the contrary, son; thou pleasest me so well, that I would be glad to have more such."

INHUMANITY TO WOMAN.—Can any one realize the fact that such scenes as the following are of daily occurrence in England! On Saturday one of those brutal exhibitions of depravity, the selling of a wife, took place in the butter market, Bradford. The ground of the separation was the incontinence of the wife, whose affections were stated to have been alienated by an old delver, who had occasionally got his dinners at his house. The husband was auctioneer, and the wife appeared with a new halter round her neck. The first and only bona fide bid, was a sovereign from the delver, which was immediately accepted, and the money being paid, the couple walked off amidst the execrations of the crowd.

PASTE AND DIAMONDS.—John Palmer, the author, had been, when a boy, a bill sticker. He was one evening strutting in the green-room in a pair of glittering buckles, when a gentleman remarked that they really resembled diamonds.

"Sir," said Palmer, with some warmth, "I would have you know I never wear anything but diamonds." "I ask pardon," replied the gentleman, "I remember when you wore nothing but paste." Jack Banister, jogging him on the elbow, added, "D—ce, Jack, why don't you stick him against the wall?" They make sausages of horse-flesh at New Orleans. A fine city to pass the winter in—a young man would be a considerable of a colt in the Spring, if he ate much. A few evenings ago, the Royal party at Windsor were dispersed in various parts of the drawing-room, and Earl Howe happened to be playing a rubber at one end of it. His Majesty, who was quietly turning a quid, was sitting, as is his custom, with his feet upon the hob, when he heard the following exclamation—"Why I declare this is the fourth time Earl Howe has turned up the Queen this evening." "Has he, by G—d," exclaimed William, starting from his reverie, "then it's time for me to interfere." This of course led to an explanation, and the matter dropped.

POPULATION.—According to Mr. McCulloch, the entire population of Great Britain and Ireland amounted, in May last, to 26,371,000, and including the Channel Islands, to 26,500,000—rendering Great Britain, with the exception of Russia, France, and Austria, the most populous state in Europe.

RATHER ODD.—In the outer office of the master in chancery, in Southampton buildings, and placed prominently over the fire-place, in the view of all suitors and others who have to do with the court of chancery, is an elaborately-colored engraving of a lunatic asylum.

We published yesterday the correspondence between the committee of whig merchants and the President of the United States. The substance of the address reported by the committee and adopted at the meeting, is as follows: "That to secure the blessings we still enjoy— notwithstanding the adversity which has overtaken us, we must rely upon a strict observance of the laws; that there is a remedy against oppression through the ballot boxes; that in the coming contest there should be no appeals to popular prejudice. On this point the address says:

"Tell them that the principle upon which Mr. Van Buren has uniformly acted, and uniformly succeeded is this, that the poor naturally hate the rich, and prove to them that if this really be the case, it is time that they should be convinced of their error—avow your belief that in a great majority of cases the possession of property is the proof of merit because in a country of free laws and equal rights, property, as a general rule, cannot be acquired without industry, skill and economy. Human sagacity may err in its calculation; disease may inter-