INCOLN COURIER.

"THE PUBLIC GOOD SHOULD EVER BE PREFERRED TO PRIVATE ADVANTAGE."

LINCOLNTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 8, 1849. NUMBER 25.

D PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY
MAS J. ECCLES.

Two dollars per annum, payable
$2 50 if payment be delayed 3
liscount to clubs of 3 or more.

ents will be conspicuously insert
square (14 lines) for the first, and
each subsequent insertion.

LONG AGO.

n at eve I sit alone,
nking of the Past and Gone—
le the clock, with drowsy finger,
ks how slow the minutes linger—
' the embers dimly burning,
l of Life to Dust returning—
hen, my lonely chair around,
With a solemn, mournful sound,
With a murmur soft and low,
Come the Ghosts of Long Ago.

One by one I count them o'er,
Voices that are heard no more;
Tears that loving cheeks have wet,
Words whose music lingers yet—
Holy faces pale and fair,
Shadowy locks of waving hair—
Gentle sighs and whispers dear—
Songs forgotten many a year—
Lips of dewy fragrance—eyes
Brighter, bluer, than the skies—
Odors breathed from Paradise;
And the gentle shadows glide,
Softly murmuring at my side,
Till the long and gloomy day,
All forgotten fades away.

Thus when I am all alone,
Dreaming o'er the Past and Gone,
All around me, sad and slow,
Come the Ghosts of Long Ago.

Random Sketches of Panama.

Steamship Oregon at Sea-May 25, '49
Two and a half miles out of Panama

Being at sea, and nothing to do, I will employ my time in journalizing such matters relative to Panama, as I think may be interesting to your readers.

Panama, as most of your readers know, is a walled town. The present city has been built nearly 200 years, and is situated on a point nearly west, and seven miles distant from the site of the old town of the same name, which was destroyed by the buccaneers in the middle of the seventeenth century. I should judge the wall to be about 25 feet high. It is of solid mason work and apparently well built. In fact it must have been well laid to stand so long in good condition. Outside of the wall, on the land side is a broad ditch 40 or 50 feet wide, which has also a wall of solid masonry, on the outside about ten feet high to sustain the bank, beyond which it is graded to a tolerably even surface. As far as I am capable of judging, the whole work must have been done in a substantial manner, and in a military view nearly equal to the modern fortifications. Part of the wall is directly over the sea on a ledge of rocks 25 to 40 feet high.

About a mile outside of the town, towards Gorgona is a piece of good Macadamized road, which is a favorite resort for parties of pleasure on horseback of an afternoon. This extends through the suburbs, and brings you to the compact part of the city outside of the walls. Then commences a street, 50 to 60 feet wide, and paved for a short distance with round stone, with uneven side walks. Next is a road a quarter of a mile in length, worn out of the lava rock, and side walks paved with round stone, which brings us to the plaza. This is a large open space, but as far as it has any regular bounds, is a triangle. On the street forming the base, is a large church, and a row of dwellings, one of which is now used as a hotel, called the Oregon House. The other two sides are open paved streets. Along the street side of the plaza are several stone benches used for seats, and a wall commences on each side, rising gradually until they join into one street, where it is as high as your head, and is continued on until it reaches the wall outside of the ditch, thus protecting the entrance of the city as far as the plaza. At the outside wall are strong abutments, similar to a gateway, which can be barricaded in a few minutes. The street thus walled in, and after passing the main gate, has a serpentine course, which brings it into the Calle de Merced, running at a right angle from the street outside of the town, directly through to the sea. All the other streets are laid out either parallel or at right angles to this, and are either paved or worn out of the lava rock, as mentioned before. In most of them there are narrow side walks slightly raised above the streets, which are protected from the sun and rain on one side or the other during the day by the balconies, or projections of the second stories of the houses. The streets are narrow, not exceeding 40 feet, while some of them are so narrow that an active person could jump from one balcony to the other. The buildings are generally, if not entirely built of stone, two or three stories high, white washed, and without windows. In place of windows there are either doors or arched openings, kept open during the day, for the purpose of admitting light and air, and closed at night by sliding blinds. I did not see a window in the city except in the churches, and they are scarce there. A few dwellings had a single square of glass set in the door. Many of the balconies of the second and third stories, are built of stone, with stone or brick floors and pillars. Some of the buildings show that they once made some display of fine architecture, or carving, but most of them are plain stone walls, with balconies and tile roofs. All the floors of the main story are either the bare ground or a pavement of brick or stone. There are several plazas or squares, the principal one being in front of the Cathedral, and named Plaza de la Cathedral. The Cathedral is large, and was once a very fine building, as is evident from the amount of fine work and carving, which yet remains. A part of it is much decayed, the doors and windows knocked out, the walls in some places crumbling down, and does not appear to be used. The other part fronting the square is still used, but is much decayed, the steeple windows and doors, being all knocked out, some of the carved work fallen off, the rest covered with dirt, moss and weeds, and the bottoms of some of the doors so much rotted off that rats can run in under them without crawling.—It has a city clock in the steeple, and a fine organ in the body of the building, which I heard playing, accompanied by a choir of female voices, as I passed it one morning. The others are numerous, and in a similar condition, only worse, and some entirely out of use. Inside of the ruined walls of one, I noticed a large tree growing, which I should think was 50 years old. Several are very large and enclose a much larger space than

dinary purposes of a church. There is also a large nunnery situated in a pleasant part of the city near the main gate leading out to sea. All through the city are to be found unoccupied and decayed buildings, sometimes half a street or half the side of a square together.

Outside of the walls the streets are laid out parallel with, or at right angles to each other, and generally 50 or 60 feet wide. The buildings are generally a stone wall for the lower story, which contains a hall leading to a court or yard in the rear, and a stair case leading to the upper story. The remainder of the lower story is occupied for stores, groceries, butcher shops, stables or whatever other use may be convenient, and the upper part for the family. The second story is generally built of wood frame work, and ceiled up with boards placed perpendicular and whitewashed. It is usually built with a projection of six feet, forming a shade for the side walk below. The apertures for light and air, are closed by a sliding shutter, as our farmers sometimes build their rear stable windows. The same state of decay prevails here, and perhaps to a greater extent than in town. Among the bushes and shrubbery at a considerable distance from the city, are frequently to be found, detached portions of walls, part of a summer house, an arched gateway, a pillar, or some other solitary memento of the former bounds and magnificence of the city.

I do not know of any official census or estimate of the population of the city, but should judge it to be about 6000 within the walls, and 3000 or 4000 outside. If populated as other cities of the same size are, it would contain 20 or 25,000 inhabitants, but there seems to be at least one half of the buildings unoccupied, and it is hard to estimate its present population more than 10,000 in all.

The town is situated at the head or northern extremity of a large bay 100 miles deep, which with the eastward curve of both North and South America towards the Isthmus, brings this city as much as 600 or 800 miles east of the regular track of vessels around the Cape for any part of the northwest coast.—This distance, and the difficulty of beating up to the northwest against the strong winds which prevail a greater part of the year, prevents vessels from coming in here for ordinary rates of freight or for supplies, and the city has of consequence no extensive foreign trade to support it, except what crosses the Isthmus, and a coasting trade with Peru and Chili.

The port is just no port at all. Vessels of much size are obliged to lay off three miles outside of a reef which canoes cannot safely pass over, except at high tides. All vessels are loaded or unloaded, passengers landed or taken on board entirely by canoes. There were off the port when I left, ten or twelve vessels of different sizes, and in port several small schooners and *dug outs* of 25 to 60 tons, besides, any number of canoes, capable of carrying from a single person up to five tons.

The inhabitants are mostly Spanish negroes, with a small sprinkling of nearly pure Castillian, and still less of the aboriginal blood. They are very fond of fine and gaudy dresses, but white is a great favorite for every day wear with both sexes, and they keep them remarkably clean, as well as their own persons. Women wear palm leaf hats instead of bonnets. The celebrated Panama hat is worn here by gentlemen, and of exceeding fine quality, some of them being sold as high as $25. Notwithstanding the hot sun, the brims of the most fashionable are very narrow, not over 2½ inches wide, slightly rolled up, and the crowns just high enough to clear the top of the head. One of the most noticeable characteristics of the people is their cruelty to animals; dogs, cats, hogs, cattle and horses are kept nearly starved. Hogs are frequently kept tied up to a tree, and fed so near nothing that they nearly starve. Pack horses, poor as carrion fed scantily, their blood sucked out by ticks, and over-laden, are driven without mercy, until they are hardly able to stand. Six or seven are tied together, the nose of one fastened by a short halter to the tail of another, and driven to water or on the road without care, whether rough or smooth, as fast as the driver on another horse can goad them on. One morning I saw a bullock tied by a rope run through his nose to the tail of a horse. Another bullock was tied by a similar rope, run through a hole cut in the flesh of the first one's rump. One man rode the horse, and another rode a second one in the rear, both hurrying on the horses and bullocks as fast as they could. They appeared much heated as if driven several miles, and were not in ordinary working order. Soon after they passed us, one of my [illegible] ness, and said by the time we reached the market the cattle were butchered in their hot blood, and were were for provisioning the California ship Iron bolt. You may judge from this, that their beef is pretty *blue*! I did not see a decent eatable piece while in Panama.—It is cut in halves, and thrown over the naked back of a mule, or dirty pack saddle full as bad, to be carried to market, there cut up in strips by the eye of the butcher, of the size of a man's two fingers, and sold by the yard, at a price equal to from 6 to 10 cents a pound.—Every part is saved and sold, even the inwards are dried and used by the natives.

Pork is of a better quality—fat but thin and soft, cut in strips 2½ or 3 inches wide, and marked off in pieces to be sold for a medio, real &c., which would make it 15 or 20 cents a pound.

A medio pronounced mareo is half of a real, and equal in value to fifty cents, but the word is also used for expressing the half of a dollar. It is a common way of pricing things to say, so many, for a medio. You will get 3 eggs for a medio 4 Plantains, 6 bananas, 8 limes, 2 or 3 oranges, 6 cigars, ground coffee sufficient for 3 persons a breakfast, 2 candles, a cake of brown sugar weighing 12 or 14 ounces, 4 sticks of chocolate equal to 3 ounces, or a bottle of checley beer, all for a medio. Yams and yuca, excellent substitute for potato, 3 to 5 for a medio, according to size, equal to about 1½ cents a pound. Pine apples 10 to 20 cents each, at Tobago 3 miles south of Panama only 5 cents each,—Indian meal one dime a pound. Beans, from four to six dollars a bushel, but I saw several lots sold at auction for $1,25 or $1,50, Corn $1.50 to $2.00, Pilot bread 10 to 12½ cents a pound, butter at auction 33 cents, I saw none any where else, Loaf sugar at auction 21 cents, good salt pork 25 to 50 cents and hams 26 cents a pound. Flour was about $16 a barrel, and pork 20. Many of these articles were frequently sold at auction for less prices.

Water for use in the city, is mostly obtained from several large and deep wells, about half a mile out, and is carried in jars containing from three to 4 gallons, at a dime each. Most of it is brought on horses, with a kind of rack holding two jars on each side. Many of the women carry their own. The jars are shaped like a goose egg, with a neck three or four inches in diameter on the large end. They fold a towel lengthwise, and lay it around the crown of the head so as to form a ring, in the middle of which, they set the small end of the jar, and carry it half a mile, balancing it without using the hands. Lately a huge unwieldly cask has been introduced into the water trade, which will carry a dozen or more, ten gallon casks. There are some wells in town from which water is obtained for washing and cooking, but it is not good to drink, or for coffee. Some of the large buildings have a court in the middle, in which a large cistern filled from the roof, which slants inward from all sides.

Early one morning a procession of women will be seen, with bundles of clothes going down to the wells, or to a creek one mile and a half distant, to wash, and their washing is well done in cold water, but fine clothes will not last long, as they thrash them on the stones or blocks, instead of rubbing or pounding them; then they are laid on the hot stones in the sun to dry.

Every body has heard of Mexican Fandangoes, so frequently mentioned by travellers in that country, for their novelty, and peculiar character, but no one can form any proper idea of them, without seeing them. At Gorgona and Panama, they can be witnessed in all their glory. They are usually held in the open air, commencing at nine or ten o'clock in the evening. The music is produced by one or more drums, of a rough construction, but capable of making a great noise—which the natives hold perpendicularly between their knees, and beat with great diligence, but tolerable good time, occasionally chucking the lower end on the ground, which changes and deadens the sound. Singing always forms a part of the music, and is conducted by a senorita in the leading part, singing one or two lines which she sometimes varies into a kind of chant, and accompanies by exciting gestures, to stimulate the dancers. At the end of the two lines she rests, while several others take up a chorus of the same length, when the leader resumes again, and thus it is continued till one sett of dancers is tired out. Generally only two persons dance at a time, but sometimes four, and as soon as one sett rests another immediately take their places. The spectators crowd around so close, that there is hardly room for four more. Talking, shouting, and screaming, during the dance. This is kept up till two o'clock in the morning, and frequently till daylight, and is nearly deafening to any person attempting to sleep within one or two squares of them. On the evening previous to Friday the 18th of May, which was celebrated in the churches as Ascension Day, and is a great holiday with Catholics, there were three of them in the street within 20 rods of my sleeping room, and a Coutillon and waltzing party in a house within the same distance. Also two men with a guitar, singing a kind of bachanalian duet, to a large crowd in the next street. Altogether there was as much "noise and confusion," as you will see in Yankeedom on any Fourth of July. I dropped in at the coutillon party a few minutes. Only one coutillon or quadrille was danced at once, and for comfort or cleanliness of the room, it might as well have been held in a crowded bar-room. The room was crowded with spectators, and all, both male and female smoked at every intermission. Most of the company were blacks or creoles, and the heads of the ladies were more profusely trimmed with tinsel and flowers, than any I ever saw before. Some of the Spanish dancers are very graceful in their movements, but most that I saw, were quite awkward.

Ascension Day, as I said before, is held as a holiday. The bells of the churches were constantly ringing through the day. In fact that is no novelty, for they do that nearly every day. Crosses were decorated with flowers. I noticed particularly one which stood on a small, mossy, decayed tower, near the wells, which was hung with wreaths, and loose flowers strewed at the base. Fandangoes are more numerous the evening of this day, and the evening previous, and are kept up later in the evening, and with more earnestness, than at any other time.

Waltzes and Polkas are played by instrumental musicians, in funeral processions. I heard one of our favorite polkas very well played, one evening, and a friend told me he heard the same played in a funeral procession of a lady, the day before.

Every morning and evening, a patrol of soldiers, five in number, march through the principal streets, and down to the battery, headed by a band of music, composed of two fifes, and two drums, which play part of the time, and several brass trumpets and a base drum, played alternately with the other music. There may be more soldiers some of the time, but I only saw five. Their uniform is a low, peaked or bellows fashioned cap, with red trimmings, white pants and round-about, a belt, cartridge box, and musket.

Smoking is as common here with all classes and both sexes old and young, as eating or drinking is in the States.—Cigars are bought at 40 to 60 cents a hundred, and no person is too poor to indulge in them. Women smoke them as much as the men do. Sometimes they have Cigaritas, made by rolling fine tobacco in white papers, which they smoke on Sundays, or extra occasions; these cost three cents for a bunch containing twenty-five.

Drinking is not indulged so freely, and I saw very few people that appeared in the least intoxicated. Checkley a pins, a kind of small beer made with pine apple, is a favorite drink. Also ginger beer, which is very good. Soda drinks can be had, and lemonade also. But for strong drink, brandy is used almost exclusively. Wines are kept at the best establishments, but I am told they are generally of a miserable quality, and made without much juice of the grape.

Thus endeth the chapter of Random Sketches of Panama. They are true to the life, but the facilities on board ship for writing or thinking, with 300 or 400 passengers constantly around me, render it impossible to arrange them with any regularity, or write them with much gramatical correctness.

Yours &c.

The Queen's Visit to Ireland.—The Queen of England is on a visit to Ireland, and great preparations are being made to receive and entertain her, to pay her court and homage. She will see nothing of the country, or its condition, and none of the mass of the Irish people, her subjects, and return to England about as wise as to the real condition of that part of her kingdom, as when she left London. Would that the pageant which surrounds her could be dispersed, and that incog. she could traverse ill-fated and oppressed Ireland, and see and hear and feel, their pressing wants, by mingling with the Irish people. She could in that way learn much, might have her sympathies aroused, she could and returning home, do much for their relief! But that she cannot do, and her visit will result in elevating still higher some already high enough, but in no good whatever to her subjects.—*Register.*

Gold Mining.—We stated in a recent number of our paper that it was our intention to give occasionally, brief notices of the operations at some of the most interesting of the gold mines in this section of our State, and in fulfilment of our design we now have the gratification to state to our readers on information from a friend, that a few days since, at the mine of Mr Wilson, better known as the Carson Mine, within three miles of our town, a large bunch of ore was struck by the workmen, which appears to be of a very rich quality, though as yet, sufficient work has not been done on the part of the vein newly exposed, to enable the operators to judge conclusively as to the yield the ore will afford in the Mill. A very large piece of the ore we have alluded to was taken to the store of W W Eims, in this place, where it can be seen by those who may desire to gratify their curiosity by examining a noble specimen of the ore of the precious metal.—We sincerely hope that Mr Wilson and those who are interested with him, may reap large returns for their skill and enterprize; and we shall certainly be glad if others would take encouragement from the success in the present instance, and persevere in searching for new deposites of good ore in some of the veins which have been only partially worked for some time past.—*Charlotte Journal.*

A very Apt Simile.—Somebody who does not think always as the books teach or as the world believes, says of an open countenance:

"It is not always a mark of frankness to possess an open countenance. An alligator is a deceitful creature, and yet he presents an open countenance when in the act of *taking you in.*'

The poor, starving plague stricken Irish have sent $100,000 to the pope. The same self denying liberality displayed in a good cause would redeem that wretched people from their degradation.

Large deposites of galena, containing a large proportion of silver, have lately been discovered in Sevier and Polk counties, Arkansas.