RALEIGH REGISTER,

AND

NORTH-CAROLINA STATE GAZETTE.

"Ours are the plans of fair, delightful peace,
"Unwarp'd by party rage to live like brothers."

Vol. II. Friday, February 11. 1825. No. 130.

THE REGISTER

Is published every TUESDAY and FRIDAY, by JOSEPH GALES & SON,

At FIVE Dollars per annum—half in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding 16 lines, neatly inserted three times for a Dollar, and 25 cents for every succeeding publication; those of greater length in the same proportion.... COMMUNICATIONS thankfully received..... LETTERS to the Editors must be post-paid.

From the St. Louis Inquirer.

A DREADFUL WORM.

Who has not heard of the rattlesnake or copperhead? An unexpected sight of either of these reptiles will make even the Lords of the creation recoil; but there is a species of worm found in various parts of this state, which conveys a poison of a nature so deadly, that when compared with it, even the venom of the rattlesnake is harmless.

To guard our readers against this "foe to human kind," is the object of the present communication. This worm varies much in size; it is frequently an inch through—but as it is rarely seen except when coiled, its length can hardly be conjectured—it is of a dead lead color, and generally lives near a spring or small stream of water, and bites the unfortunate people who are in the habit of going there to drink. The brute creation it never molests; they avoid it with the same instinct that teaches the annimals of Peru to shun the deadly Cova.

Several of these reptiles have long infested our settlement, to the misery and destruction of many of our citizens. I have therefore had frequent opportunities of being the melancholy spectator of the effects produced by the subtle poison which this worm infuses.

The symptoms of its *bite* are terrible. The eyes of the patient become red and fiery, his tongue swells to an immoderate size, and obstructs his utterance, and delirium of the most horrid character quickly follows. Sometimes in his madness he attempts the destruction of his dearest friends. If the sufferer has a family, his weeping wife and helpless infants are not unfrequently the objects of his frantic fury—in a word, he exhibits to the life, all the detestable passions that rankle in the bosom of a savage; and such is the "*spell*" in which his senses are racked, that no sooner is the unhappy patient, recovered from the paroxysm of insanity, occasioned by one bite, than he seeks out his destroyer for the sole purpose of being bitten again!

I have seen a good old father, his locks as white as snow, his steps slow and trembling, beg in vain for his only son to quit the lurking place of the worm.—My heart bled when he turned away, for I knew the fond hope he had cherished, that his son would be to him the "staff of declining years," and support him through many a sorrow.

Youths of Missouri, would you know the name of this reptile? It is called the *Worm of the Still.*

From late London Papers received at this office.

STRANGE REFUSAL OF PARDON.

The following is an account of a most remarkable case, in which the proffered mercy of the Crown was *deliberately refused.* It was that of Mr. Samuel Burt, who was tried and convicted at the Old Bailey Sessions, in July, 1766 for the *forgery of a banker's draught of* 100£; he was *recommended to mercy* by the Jury; and on being asked the usual question—Why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, he thus addressed the Recorder:—"My Lord—I am sensible of the crime which I have committed, and for which I justly deserve to suffer. My life I have forfeited, and I wish to resign it into the hands of him who gave it me. To gave my reasons for this would only satisfy an idle curiosity; no one can feel a more sensible heartfelt satisfaction in the hopes of shortly passing into eternity, wherein I trust I shall meet with great felicity. I have not the least desire to live: and as the Jury and the Court on my trial thought proper to recommend me to mercy, if his majesty should, in consequence thereof, grant me a respite, I here vow, in the face of Heaven, that I will put an end to my own existence as soon as I can. It is death that I wish for, because nothing but death can extricate me from the troubles in which my follies have involved me."

At the close of the Sessions, he was brought up with the other convicts, and received sentence of death, after which he was put to the bar, and informed that his Majesty, in his royal clemency, had been graciously pleased *to extend his mercy to him,* upon condition that he should be *transported during his natural life.* The prisoner bowed respectfully to the Court, and addressing himself to the Recorder, returned "his unfeigned thanks for the kindness of the Recorder, the Sheriffs, and the other gentlemen who had interested themselves in his favor, and had so effectually represented his unhappy case to the throne, that his Majesty, whose humanity could only be equalled by his love of virtue, had extended his mercy.—But, however flattering the prospect of preserving life might be to a man in a different situation, yet he, now that he was sunk and degraded in society, was totally insensible of the blessing. Life was no longer an object with him, as it was utterly impossible that he could be joined in union with the person who was dearer to him than life. Under such circumstances he was truly sensible of his Majesty's goodness and clemency, yet he must positively decline the terms offered to him; preferring death to the prolongation of a life which would not be otherwise than truly miserable." The whole Court was astounded at this address, and after consultation Mr. Recorder remanded the prisoner back to the goal, to be brought up again the first day of the next sessions—on which day he was brought up to the bar, and his pardon again read to him;—which being done, he made a very modest and sensible apology for having declined his Majesty's great goodness to him he *then* desiring to die, but *now* he most thankfully embraced the same, only wishing to be united to a beloved object, in despair of whom he had committed the fact which brought on all his troubles. The young woman alluded to humanely consented to marry this unhappy man, but she died before the marriage could take effect.

SUPPORT YOUR MECHANICS.

A practice is very prevalent in many towns of neglecting too much the mechanics of the place. Next to the farmers they are the most useful class of citizens, and yet a disposition is often felt to avoid employing them if possible, and to withhold from them such encouragement as would enable them to be as useful as they might be, and as they ought to be. If a coat or other garment is to be made; if a pair of boots or shoes, or a saddle, bridle or other article is to be procured, which a mechanic in the place ought to make or furnish, it is no unusual thing to employ a mechanic at a distance to perform the work; or to procure the article in some other way which may be nominally less expensive; but which in reality, considering the quality of it is considerably more so than it would be, if a mechanic of the place had been called on to manufacture it.

The practice is productive of various evils. It sends from a place the money which should be kept in circulation at home; it introduces a silly dependance upon the fashions of other places, or leads to the use of inferior articles and a corresponding expense; and by withholding such encouragement to mechanics of different kinds and of proper qualifications as they ought to receive, there is not a sufficient inducement to settle in a place to do its necessary mending, and consequently articles are frequently thrown away as useless, when a very small sum expended upon them would render them as serviceable as if they were new. Much more might be said, but we think the imagination of every reader can supply arguments sufficient to convince the citizens of any town that it is their duty and their interest to support their mechanics.

Del. Gaz.

POISON BY CIDER.

On Sunday last (says the Cornwall Gazette) the following singular circumstance occurred at North Tamerton in this county, which was likely to have been attended with serious consequences:——Some cider was given to a Mr. Chapman, who works on the Bude Canal, which he drew off in a coarse earthen pitcher, but on tasting found it to be so sour as to be totally unfit for drinking. He allowed it to remain for some time in the pitcher, and on again tasting it previous to throwing it away, was surprised at the extraordinary change that had taken place in its flavor, the cider now being as sweet and agreeeble, as it had before been sour and unpleasant. He communicated the circumstance to his wife, who, with him and a man partook of it. Soon after they had drank they were all taken alarmingly ill and medical advice was instantly had recourse to. On the arrival of the surgeon there was every symptom of their having been poisoned, on which he administered the remedies usually applied in such cases, we are happy to say with great effect. The medical gentlemen having ascertained that their illness proceeded from the cider they had taken, examined the pitcher in which it had stood, and found that the extreme acidity of the cider, had extracted the lead with which earthenware pitchers are usually glazed, and infused its poisonous quality into the beverage. Mrs. Chapman and the man who only partook sparingly, are quite recovered, but Mr. Chapman, who drank nearly a quart, is still very ill, though hopes are entertained of his recovery.

MURDER.

Jonesborough, (T.) Dec. 3, 1824.

An aggrevated case of Murder occurred in this county, on Saturday last, on Indian Creek, abont twenty miles south of this place. The name of the man killed was Higgins—that of the murderer, David Greer, who for perhaps the last twenty years had lived secluded from society, near the top of the Bald Mountain, 31 or 32 miles south of this place. Higgins, at the time of the murder, was under arrest, attended by Wm. S. Erwin, constable, and a Mr. Cooper, who were conducting him to a justice of the peace for trial. The cause of the quarrel was some trivial matter, the particulars of which it is unnecessary to relate. Greer had shot, from a place of concealment near the road, at Higgins, and missed his aim; after which he got ahead of the party, unperceived, and waited in a waste house on the road, until they came up, when he shot Higgins dead on the spot. The highest credit is due to Mr. Erwin for the intrepidity displayed by him in arresting the murderer.

Upon seeing his prisoner fall, he immediately burst open the door of the house where Greer had concealed himself, and attempted to arrest him. A violent scuffle ensued, the hermit's great strength rendering him a fearful enemy. Besides his rifle, he had armed himself with an axe, and after fighting for some time with the former, which, from the lowness of the joist, could not be used to advantage, he then strove to get hold of his weapon. In this attempt, Erwin, with a small cudgel, twice knocked him to his knees; yet still apprehensive that his purpose might not be effected, he directed Cooper to shoot him. Cooper fired and wounded him in the hand, when he submitted and was secured. Notwithstanding the hurry and confusion of a scene so appalling, Erwin's resolution and self-command appear not to have for a moment forsaken him. On the next day the murderer was safely lodged in the jail at Jonesborough, there to await his trial. It has been thought for many years past that he was the subject of a slight mental derangement.

FRANCIS BAKER.

The following is an extract from the notice of the death of Mr. BAKER, who was murdered by Desha in Keutucky, published in a paper at Natches: The intelligence received by last week's mail of the horrid and untimely death of Francis Baker, Esq. late senior Editor of the Mississipian, has caused the greatest affliction to his friends and relatives, and powerfully aroused the indignation of the public.

Nature had endowed Mr. Baker with talents of the first order: as an Editor and a scholar, his reputation had extended far beyond the immediate circle of his acquaintance. His chaste and manly style afforded the purest gratification to his readers; and the warm emotions of his soul seemed to be poured out in the vivid feeling which characterised his compositions. He seemed to revel with delight in the regions of poesy and imagination. and whether devoting his talents to the higher and more lofty strains of impassioned feeling or indulging in the social song or festive friendship, delicacy never blushed, nor was virtue ever offended in the writings of Francis Baker.

In private life he was beloved by numerous friends, who knew and justly appreciated a disposition warm, sincere and affectionate; ever ready to wipe the tear from sorrow's eye, and to 'pluck the thorn from affliction's pillow.' He is gone; but he has left behind him many, who remember the virtues, and weep for the untimely fate of Jersey's favorite bard.

EAST INDIA BURIAL SERVICE.

During the funeral service, which is solemn and affecting, the Brahmins address the respective elements to the following purpose:

Oh Earth! to thee we commend our brother: of thee he was formed, by thee he was sustained, and unto thee he now returns.

Oh Fire! thou hast claimed our brother: during life he subsisted by thy influence in nature: to thee we commit his body, thou emblem of purity. May his spirit be purified on entering a new state of existence.

Oh Air! while the breath of life continued our brother respired by thee: his last breath is now departed; to thee we yield him.

Oh Water! thou didst contribute to the life of our brother: thou wast one of his sustaining elements. His remains are now dispersed: receive thy share of him who has now taken an everlasting flight.

[*From the Atlantic Magazine.*]

GEOLOGY.

The attention of our geologists has latterly been directed towards that interesting tract of country called West-Jersey. It consists entirely of alluvion, or what, in compliance with the latest fashion, we are to call the tertiary formation. It is in this region that the useful marl is so abundant, and its employment as a manure, has within the last fifteen years doubled the value of land in that country. The marl has recently been examined by Dr. Harlan of Philadelphia, and determined to be a ferruginous clay, abounding more or less with fossil shells, bones, &c. The occurrence of iron pyrites in a large proportion, of course injures the quality of the marl, and explains why some kinds are injurious when used too freely as manure. Dr. H. supposes this fertilizing quality of marl does not depend upon its consisting of decomposed animal substances, but rather that as the soil of this region is naturally a loose sand, the marl gives consistency to the earth, and allows the vegetables to take root.

BOTANY.

The first volume of the Flora of the Northern and Middle States, by Doct. Torrey, of this city, has just issued from the press. The learned author has embraced all the botanical discoveries made in this country up to this date, and comprised his own, which are neither few nor unimportant. The lovers of botany anxiously look for the appearance of his second volume.

ZOOLOGY.

Mr. J. J. Audubon of New Orleans, has been for the last twenty years collecting materials for a history for the birds of this country. We have had an opportunity of inspecting the drawings for this work. They amount to 400 in number, and every drawing is of the size of life. It is estimated that the expense of the engravings alone, if executed in this country, will exceed one hundred thousand dollars.

NEW LAW OF SOUTH-CAROLINA.

And be it enacted, That the act entitled, "an act to regulate the mode in which married women shall become sole traders or dealers, and for other purposes," paased on the 20th day of December, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, be, and the same is hereby amended, so that the notice required by said act to be given by publication, shall include the name, place of residence, and occupation or profession of the husband of the sole trader, to the intent that the individual giving notice may be better known.

And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this act, if any person shall utter and publish, either by wirting or verbally, any words of and concerning any female, imputing to her a want of chastity, the said person so uttering and publishing said words, shall and may be liable to be sued in a civil action for damages, by the said female of whom said words may be uttered and published, without proving any special damage; subject, nevertheless, to the rules of evidence at common law.

And be it further enacted, That no female shall hereafter be liable to be arrested by any writ of capias ad satisfaciendum.

BY AUTHORITY.

An act authorizing repayment for land erroneously sold by the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That every person, or the legal representative of every person, who is, or may be, a purchaser of a tract of land from the United States, the purchase whereof is, or may be void, by reason of a prior sale thereof by the United States, or by the confirmation, or other legal establishment of a prior British, French, or Spanish grant thereof, or for want of title thereto in the United States, from any other cause whatsoever, shall be entitled to repayment of any sum or sums of money, paid for, or on account of, such tract of land, on making proof, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury, that the same was erroneously sold, in manner aforesaid, by the United States, who is hereby authorized and required to repay such sum or sums of money, paid as aforesaid.

Washington: Approved, Jan. 12, 1825.

An act authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to adopt a new Hydrometer for ascertaining the proof of liquors.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized, under the direction of the President of the United States, to adopt and substitute such Hydrometer as he may deem best calculated to promote the public interest, in lieu of that now prescribed by law, for the purpose of ascertaining the proof of liquors; and that, after such adoption and substitution, the duties imposed by law upon distilled spirits shall be levied, collected, and paid, according to the proof ascertained by any Hydrometer so substituted and adopted.

Washington, Approved, Jan. 12, 1825.

State of North-Carolina.

Tyrrell County.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 4th Monday in October, 1824.

Enoch Hassell,
vs.
Amelia Hassell,

IT appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the Defendant in this case is not an inhabitant of the State: It is ordered that publication be made in the Raleigh Register for three months, to notify the said Amelia Hassell personally, to be and appear at the next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, to be held for the County of Tyrrell, and shew cause if any she can, why she shall not be removed from the guardianship of the minor heirs of Joseph Hassell deceased.

Witness, Wilson B. Hodges Clerk of said Court at Office the 4th Monday of October 1824. WILSON B. HODGES, C.T.