THOMAS J. LEMAY,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS.

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*A Novel Case of Difficulty* has recently transpired in Washington county, Missouri. Some years ago a man and woman were married, and continued to reside together as man and wife. Recently they discovered that the person before whom the ceremony was performed was not authorized by law to tie the marriage knot, and that their marriage was a nullity. When this discovery was made, the woman insisted upon having the ceremony gone over again before a legally constituted officer, but the husband refused. Subsequently, the husband, having reflected that the principal part of the property which he held had been derived from his wife, changed his resolution, and became desirous to have the knot legally tied: but at this period the woman had altered her purposes, and therefore refused. Following up her resolution to remain free, she evicted the husband from his possession of the property, and our informant says that the last he heard of the case was the application of the husband to a justice of the peace for some process to restore him to what he had once supposed to be his own.

*An American Baron.*—The St. Louis Gazette states that a citizen of that place has recently "come to his fortune," by the devolution upon him of a baronial title with large estates, besides ready money in the East Indies, amounting to the comfortable sum of $1,000,000.

# RALEIGH STAR,
## And North Carolina Gazette.

Vol. XXXIII } "NORTH CAROLINA—Powerful in moral, in intellectual, and in physical resources—the land of our sires, and the home of our affections." { No 7.

RALEIGH N. C. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 1842.



ABSURDITIES.—There are many courses which people pursue that, with a little reflection, will appear absurd to every man of common understanding. The individual himself who is looking for absurdities is generally the one in whom they are first found.

A man wants to see the person against whom he has the greatest reason to guard himself. Let him take a glance at the looking glass, and he will see a very fair likeness of the man he is searching for.

It is absurd to despair when the clouds lour. We should look upward for comfort. When the heaven over our head is dark, the earth under our feet is sure to be darker.

It is absurd to lend money to a man whose friendship you are desirous to preserve.

It is absurd for an infidel to tell you to abandon your bible. Tell him you will do so when he will bring you a better book.

It is absurd to exhibit violent passion in your family, foaming and fretting at every little annoyance that may cross you, and at the same time expect them to be placid.

It is absurd, if you have half a dozen children, all of different dispositions and capacities to give them all the same education, with the expectation that they will all shine in the same sphere.

It is absurd not to go to bed when you are sleepy, because it is not a certain hour.

It is absurd to see a man professing Christianity bristling up with anger twenty times a day like a hedghog.

It is absurd to suppose that a Leghorn hat, loaded with flowers, will cure the head-ache.

It is absurd to suppose that a gold watch will cure the consumption.

It is absurd for people to say they have no time to read. Every body can find time to inform his mind by the perusal of some book. People who make such assertions are generally those who pay no particular attention to their families. We want to see a man attentive to his children. People who have no time to read are generally those who have plenty of time to hunt, to fish, to fiddle, to play cards, to be carousing anywhere but at their own houses, to do nothing, but have "no time to read." Such men generally have uneducated children and unhappy firesides. They have no energy, no spirit of improvement, no love of knowledge. They live "unknowing and unknown," and die unregretted and unwept.

It is absurd to suppose that an editor will stand the humbug of writing puffs and notices of this and that man, and this and that society, when, just as sure as it is done, so surely do we see their advertisement in other papers, paid for, in which not a word is said, but the money is pocketed.

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY.

We heard to day of two ladies in this city, who were travelling, one of whom was very fond of coffee and the other of tea.—It came to pass that as they staid at a public house at night, the good landlady came to *Mrs. C.* requesting to know whether she would have tea or coffee; and the interrogatory was propounded in such a manner as to make the impression that they would be furnished with only one species of beverage. Mrs. C. knowing that Miss C. preferred tea, out of *politeness* requested the old lady to make *tea*, albeit she did not love the herb of the Celestial Empire. The lady of the house then had a private interview with *Miss C.* upon the momentous question, who out of consideration to *Mrs. C.* requested *coffee*, her own taste to the contrary notwithstanding. When the *entertainment* appeared upon the table the ladies were astonished to see a preparation both of tea and coffee. *Mrs. C.* who loved coffee and eschewed tea was obliged to swallow the latter, while *Miss C.* who detested coffee was forced to gulph it down,—all for consistency's sake. SERVED RIGHT!

MIKE

*New Way of Paying Old Debts.*—Many people in Mississippi, like many people in other parts of the world, dislike to pay their debts—(we don't allude to the "Bond Question;")—some because they can't—others because they won't. One Mr. Dolittle, of Mississippi, owed his neighbor Long, in the way of business, the sum of fifteen hundred dollars. Long was a shrewd, cautious man, who disliked a scrape, but disliked more to lose his money. He heard one day that Dolitle had received a large sum of money, and called upon him.

"I hear, friend Dolittle," said he, "that you have received a large amount of money to-day. You must remember that little sum of fifteen hundred dollars has been due me a long time. Could not you oblige me by paying it now?"

Mr. Dolittle looked at Mr. Long in a very hard way.

"This is the second time," said he, "you have bored me about this matter. Three years ago I gave you the assurance of a gentleman, that I would pay the debt when I got ready. Not satisfied with that, you come and *dun* me. Now I give you notice, if you ever presume to ask me for the money again, I'll pull your nose. Your better way is to leave my office in about half a second, or I'll kick you out."

Long looked into the face of his neighbor, but saw nothing there, save calm resolution. His discretion, therefore, obtained a victory over his valor.

"*Verbum sat sap*, Mr. Dolittle," said he, "a word to the wise is sufficient. Allow me to say, that you speak exceedingly well upon every subject introduced. I travel, Mr. Dolittle; I tote myself out of here.—*Good morning*, Mr. Dolittle," and away went Long, not by any means satisfied that this mode of paying debts was the most acceptable.

"*That'll do Sally.*"—One of our Washingtonians, last Monday evening, said he knew a farmer in Connecticut, in very good circumstances, who used frequently to get drunk. He had a very nice wife, and one winter he would often come home so drunk that she would have to undress him and put him to bed, when she would carefully tuck in the bed clothes all around for the purpose of keeping him from tumbling out. One evening he got particularly boozy, and mistaking the gate which led to the barn for the door of the house, went to the pig pen, climbed over, and fell into the trough. The pigs probably thinking it was something to eat, commenced rooting and turning him over with their noses. After a while supposing it was his good wife performing the customary office of tucking in the bed clothes, the old man stammered out, "That'll do, Sally, come to bed."—*Exchange paper.*

*A singular Weasel Story.*—A friend gives us the following story, the truth of which is vouched for. Two gentlemen, who were passing near the cemetry recently, observed a weasel and a rabbit, whose singular movements attracted their attention. They were "*eyeing*" each other very intently, at a short distance from the observer. The weasel was evidently aiming to drive the rabbit into a wall that he might entrap him. The rabbit, not liking the appearance of things, seemed inclined to avoid his adversary. The two creatures, kept their stations for some time, casting horrible glances towards each other, and neither willing to move lest the other should gain some advantages. The ground was covered with a light snow, which was several inches deep Suddenly the weasel disappeared—the observers did not notice the direction he took. The rabbit, perhaps, suspicious still of the movements of his adversary, and not knowing in what didrection to look for him, and fearing that he might fall into his devouring jaws, kept still upon the spot. In a few moments, on the spot where the rabbit stood the weasel and rabbit, were seen in a deadly conflict. The latter became the victim. The observers approached the spot; the rabbit was dead, and the weasel had "taken to his heels." On examination, *it was found that the weasel had entered the snow where he was first seen and worked his way beneath it and come out again exactly under the unwary rabbit.* By this cunning course he succeeded in capturing him.—*Lowell Curier.*

A SCENE IN A COURT OF JUSTICE.

I have frequently seen counsel in our courts of law, who were attempting to be very witty at the expense of some adverse witness, get the laugh completely turned on themselves by the happy retorts of the party under cross-examination. In the spring of the year 1838, a very amusing instance of this kind occurred, in which the laugh was well turned against a counsel who was doing his best to beat once severe and witty at the expense of an adverse witness. Th latter was one of the skin-and-bones class of persons, and by a curious coincidence so was the counsel. You could not look on either without coming to the conclusion that to partake of a substantial meal must be an era in his existence.

"So sir," says the counsel to the witness, in the regular browbeating style, "So, you have been in the prosecutor's house?"

Witness: I have.

Counsel: Have you been often?

Witness: Sometimes. [A laugh.]

Counsel: That, sir, is not an answer to my question. I ask, have you been in this person's house often?

Witness: (With much archness of manner.) I don't know what you mean by often.

Counsel: Have you been twenty times?

Witness: I never kept count how many times. [Laughter]

Counsel: Come, sir, don't be rude. I ask you, have you been twenty times in this man's house?

Witness: I can't speak positively as to the number of times.

The Bench: About the number of times speaking according to the best of your belief?

Witness: (With great readiness and politeness) I should think, my lord, I have been in the prosecutor's house from fifteen to twenty times.

Counsel: With great harshness of manner. So, sir, though you could not answer the question when put by me, you found no difficulty in answering it when put by his Lordship?

Witness: His Lordship put—

Counsel: (Interrupting witness.) Stay a little, if you please, sir.

Witness: O, certainly; as long as you like: I'm in no particular hurry. [Loud laughter.]

Counsel: Perhaps, sir, you would condescend to tell the Court what your object was in going to the prosecutor's house?

Witness: The Court has not asked me the question. [Renewed laughter.]

Counsel: Don't be insolent, sir; I have asked you the question.

Witness: Then I can't answer you.

Counsel: You must answer me, sir.

Witness: I can't; for I often went without knowing the reason why. [Laughter.]

Counsel: Can you inform us, then, about what particular hour you were in the habit of visiting his house?

Witness: (Looking towards the Bench.) Is it necessary that I should answer that question, my Lord?

The Judge: If you can, I do not see why you should not.

Counsel: Come, sir, answer the question.

Witness: I should suppose it generally was between one and two o'clock.

Counsel: (His countenance brightning up, as if he had made some important discovery.) O, I see; that was about the dinner hour, was it not?

Witness: I never inquired what was the dinner hour. [Laughter.]

Counsel: Perhaps not; but I dare say your nose would be of some service in enabling you to ascertain it.

Witness: My nose, sir never asks questions. [Loud laughter.]

Counsel: (His face coloring with confusion.) But, though your nose does not speak, I dare say it has acquired considerable dexterity, from experience, at discovering when a good dinner is on the table of a friend, and enabling you to regulate your visits accordingly.

Witness: You must be judging of my nose from your own, sir. [Roars of laugher, in which the Bench jo ned.]

Counsel: (Laboring to conceal his mortification.) You seem disposed to be very witty to-day, sir.

Witness: I think *we* are, sir.

[This sarcastic, though only implied allusion to the efforts of the counsel to be witty, told with admirable effect.]

Counsel: You say that your favorite hour for visiting this man's house was between one and two o'clock.

Witness: I never said any thing of the kind.

Counsel: (Pulling himself up.) What, sir, do you mean to deny what you have just said? Recollect, sir, you are on your oath.

Witness: I said that was generally about the time; but I never said any thing about *favorite* hour."

Counsel: Well, sir, perhaps you would have no objection to tell us whether you were in the habit of partaking of the prosecutor's dinner, when honoring him with visits at the particular time you mention.

Witness: I do not see what that has to do with the present case.

Counsel: It's not what *you see*, sir. Pray, sir, answer me the question, whether you were in the habit of partaking of this man's dinner on such occasions?

Witness: Whether I partook of it or not depended on circumstances.

Counsel: On what circumstances, sir?

Witness: Why, on whether I was *asked* to partake of it or not. [Loud laughter.]

Counsel: Yes, I dare say you never declined an invitation when you got one.

Witness: (With renewed emphasis.) Never, sir. Never refuse a good dinner when I can get one. [Renewed laughter.]

Counsel: Ay, I can well believe that. And I am sure you would do the dinner of any friend ample justice.

Witness: I always do my best, sir, on such occasions. [Loud laughter.]

Counsel: I don't doubt it; you have always I suppose, a good appetite & capacious stomach when at the table of a friend.

Witness: Always, sir.

Counsel: Ay, you look the very picture of a hungry fellow.

Witness: *We* look as if we were kept on starvation allowance.

[The walls of the Court resounded again with the shouts of laughter which followed this severe retort, the effect of which was greatly heightened by the peculiar archness of manner in which it was made. The learned gentleman was completely crest-fallen and made no further efforts to be witty at the witness's expense.]

The Richmod Star gives a history of a distressing case—one of those instances of deep devotion which woman's faithful bosom only can show, has occurred in that city within the past few days. It but gives another proof of how little even those who mean kindness for a loved child can direct or decide, where the affections have already given their allegiance to another. It seems that a young lady of beauty and most amiable disposition, had, in all the truth of her young heart, given her love to a young man, by whom her feelings were reciprocated.—They were engaged to be married, and even the wedding clothes were prepared, when about Christmas day her father, no doubt for what he thought good reasons, told her she must give up him upon whom she had poured out the rich treasure of her deep and confiding love. It was a hard struggle—one that shook the strong cords of life itself. She mourned in silence; a deep melancholy came over her, and gradually but silently she sunk, until a few nights since her true, grieving heart broke, and her young spirit passed to that clime where peace and unshadowed joy live forever. And those who fulfilled the last sad offices of affection, laid out the cold form in its bridal robes, the same as she had hoped to have been dressed in—in a happy hour. She lay, a lovely bride of death, and a sad, a fearful witness of that intense love which forms the ever redeeming beauty of woman. And who could stand over that youthful victim, and not feel a mysterious sympathy as they gazed upon her form—so early, so sorrowfully cut down! And who that reads this shall hereafter say to a dear child: Your love *must* go to this one—or it *shall not* to that! The affections are tender plants, and no rude hands should hastily pluck them from their native soil.

There is a man in these parts who takes pride in paying his honest debts!!! His friends are making arrangements to have him conveyed to the Lunatic Asylum.—*Ex. Pa.*

A woman of New York has been going about that State marrying all the young men she can make dupes of. Her name is JONES, and she has already effected four marriages in that State, and carried off considerable plunder. She changes her name and represents herself to be a rich English widow, possessing sometimes an annuity of $1,500 a year, and sometimes half a million dollars in the funds. When last heard from she was figuring in Canada, and had decamped after living with a new husband at Toronto about a week, and possessing herself of about $1,500 of valuables, which she had induced him to procure. She is said to be no other than the celebrated Frances Partridge.

The Marietta (Ohio) Gazette notices an improved apparatus for feeding the silk-worm, recently invented by Dr. A. Spaulding, of that city, which seems to us to combine numerous excellencies.

1. It secures the most perfect ventilation to the worm in all its stages.

2. It enables the feeder to change them as often as he pleases, with the utmost rapidity, even a hundred thousand per hour at any stage.

3. It furnishes the most complete winding chambers for the worm, exactly suited to its wishes.

4. The cocoons can be gathered from these chambers 500 per cent. faster than from any other known.

5. It may be adapted to a room of any size, and may be used in a parlor without inconvenience.

6. It can be made by any one who can use a handsaw and hammer.

7. It can be furnished by the inventor at an expense very little exceeding plain shelves.

A patent is about being secured, and in the course of a few weeks it will be in market.

Further information may be obtained by addressing Dr. A. Spaulding, Marietta, Ohio—postage being paid.

*Swiftness of Man.*—It is said that men who are used to it, will outrun horses, by holding their speed longer. A man will also walk down a horse; for after he has tired, it requires long rest to enable him to proceed, but the man will be as fresh for motion as at the beginning. The king's messengers walked to Ishpan, 108 miles, in 14 hours. Hotentots outstrip lions in the chase, and the savages who hunt the elk, perform journeys of 8,000 miles in less than six weeks.

EXTRACT FROM THE SPEECH
OF THE
HON. J. A. MERIWETHER, OF GEORGIA,

Delivered in the House of Representatives of the United States, on the 29th and 30th of December, 1841, in reply to the charge of extravagant expenditures of the public money by the whig party.

But the gentleman from New Hampshire, [Mr. EASTMAN,] in the ardency of his zeal to assail his opponents, has dashed headlong into the assault, without even reviewing the ground he must assume. Impelled by the recklessness of his feelings, he has hurled his missiles at his opponents, without reflecting that the very shaft which he aims at us must spend its force against his own exposed bosom. And the shame of the attack will but add to the criminality of the deed he seeks to escape, and fasten upon his opponents. That gentleman has adverted to the charge of *extravagance* made against the last administration. He admits the accusation, but asserts that the appropriations complained of were made by the 25th Congress, and that the Whigs had the majority then and perpetrated the extravagance so justly censured by the people. It is true, sir, that upon the 25th Congress falls the indignant condemnation of the people. It is to its legislation, unprecedented in its extravagance and folly, that is to be attributed the now present bankrupted condition of your Treasury, the prostration of the energies of your Government, and the entailment on the people of a heavy national debt. Never did the frantic gambler sport his fortune with more fiendlike desperation at the gambling board, nor the maniac dash with more disregard of danger upon the frightful precipice, than did that Congress, infatuated with its power, in its folly conceive, and in its madness execute, its schemes of waste and ruin upon the public Treasury. It commenced its existence with the installation of Martin Van Buren into power. He had triumphed with an overwhelming majority over the pride of New England, the statesman of the West, and the illustrous patriot of Tennessee. The name of Jackson was the magic spell that transferred the influence of his popularity to the successor. His followers believed that under his name, they had found the ægis of another Mohammed; and that, while the inhabitant of the "Hermitage" but deigned to smile, it would be sacrilege itself to doubt their infallibility, and under such convictions acted. But suffer me to tell the gentleman that, improvident as was the Congress, it manifested infinitely less of recklessness in its legislation than he does disregard of justice in his allegations, when he imputes its conduct to the dominion of a Whig majority.

That Congress began, in legal contemplation, 4th March, 1837, and expired 3d March, 1839. During that period there were three sessions. Now, sir, let us see what were its appropriations.

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|---|---|
| The extra sess. appropriated (Doc. 37, 1st sess. 25th Cong.) | $2,109,000 03 |
| The 2d session appropriated (Doc. 509, 2d. sess. 25th Cong.) | 36,364,648 93 |
| The 3d session appropriated (Doc. 249, 3d. sess. 25th Cong.) | 36,862,242 78 |
| Making in two years an amount of | 75,335,891 76 |

independent of what are called *indefinite* appropriations.

We should suppose, from these appropriations, that there was indeed an overflowing Treasury. But what were the facts? In September, 1837, this same Congress authorized a loan of ten millions of dollars; in March, 1838, authorized another loan of the same amount; and in March, 1839, another loan of five millions of dollars; thus rendering it necessary, by reason of such heavy appropriations, to contract loans to the amount of twenty-five millions of dollars, instead of reducing expenditures so that the income might meet them. But, sir, the whole amount of these loans, though authorized, was not made until after the close of the 25th Congress; by the power then given, however, they have since been made. To meet the payment of the loans made in pursuance of this authority, other and larger appropriations were made during the 25th Congress than those I have stated.

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|---|---|
| For the payment of a part of the loan authorized by act of 1837, there was appropriated for the years 1838, (see Treasurer's report, December 3, 1838) | $8,089,440 64 |
| For payment of loan contracted under former act, and that of 1838, there was appropriated for 1839. (see Treasurer's report, December 3, 1839) | 9,891,759 83 |
| Making | 17,981,200 47 |
| Adding the amount of other appropriations | 75 335 891 76 |
| We have an aggregate of | 93,317,092 23 |

as the appropriations made by the 25th Congress, and making an average for each year of $46,658,546 15!

But the wanton extravagance of this Congress stopped not here. The first or extra session of 1837 created four additional offices, offices to be supplied with officeholders at an annual salary of $3,800. (see Senate document No. 87, 1st session 25th Congress.)

The third session created ten new offices, with salaries amounting to an annual charge of $37,100 upon the Treasury, and increased the salary of the public gardener from $1,000 to $1,200. (see House document No 249, 3d session 25th Congress.)

The second session created thirty-three new offices, exclusive of the army, at an annual charge of $20,000 per annum. As to the army its permanent increase was great, expensive, and absolutely useless. The troops, if wanted, could always be supplied by volunteers, who were ready at the call of their country; they were cheaper troops, better and braver soldiers, and who fought bravely, because they fought for their firesides and their families. Yet, notwithstanding, a permanent increase was made at a time when your Treasury was exhausted, and the Government compelled