

# THE WEEKLY GLEANER.

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## The Weekly Gleaner

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## MISCELLANY.

FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

### AMERICAN ENTERPRISE.

Gentlemen: In performing some of the duties assigned me by the Secretary of the Navy, during the past summer, I had occasion to address a circular letter to a number of masters and owners of the whale fishery, and fur seal and other trades in the Pacific, with a view of collecting such information as they had treasured up, in the numerous voyages they had made in high Southern latitudes, that might be useful to the Navy Department, in directing the operations of the exploring expedition, now preparing for the enterprise. Answers were readily returned to my letters; log books and journals were freely offered for examination, and a disposition to communicate freely was evinced in every personal interview I had with the intelligent gentlemen engaged in the several branches of the business of the Pacific. This information has been combined in a report to the Department. In the course of these researches, many anecdotes, strongly illustrative of the enterprise, hardihood and success of our mariners, have been collected by me, and which were either too minute, or did not come within the objects of my report, which, however, I esteem of great value, and shall preserve for future use. One of this kind I have recently received from Capt. E. Fanning, a gentleman distinguished for his adventurous and successful voyages in the southern hemisphere, and I cannot forbear to communicate it to the public, as it ought to be known, to show our enterprise, and Russian justice and liberality. Respectfully, yours, &c.

J. N. REYNOLDS.

"While on the business of discovery, [says the Captain,] I cannot but digress, to mention a little circumstance, to the credit of American enterprise, viz: The two discovery ships sent out by the late Emperor Alexander of Russia, on their voyage around the world, being between the South Shetland and Palmer's Land, but much the nearest to the islands, were becalmed in a thick fog; when the fog cleared away, they were surprised to find one of the Stonington South Sea Company's barques, a little vessel of about fifty tons, between the two discovery ships, which immediately run up the United States' flag, when the frigate and sloop of war set theirs, and the Russian Commodore despatched a boat and officer, with an invitation to Captain Palmer, of the American vessel, to come on board, which he readily accepted.

"When he arrived on the Commodore's deck, he was asked what islands those were in sight, and if he had any knowledge of them? "Yes, sir," replied Capt. Palmer, "those are the Shetland islands, I am well acquainted with them, and a pilot here. I belong, Sir, to a fleet of five sail, out of Stonington, under the command of Captain B. Pendleton, whose ship is now at anchor in a good harbor in that island; and if you wish for water or refreshments, I will pilot you in, and my Commodore will be much pleased to render you any assistance, to obtain for you such refreshments as the country affords." "I kindly thank you, sir," said the Russian Commodore, "but previous to being enveloped in the fog, we had a sight of those islands, and concluded we had made a new discovery; and behold, when the fog lifts, to our utter surprise, a beautiful little American vessel, to all appearances in as fine order as if she had but yesterday left her port in the

United States, is discovered along side my ships, the master of which readily offers to pilot my vessels into port, where his Commodore will tender me every aid for refreshments! We must surrender the palm of enterprise to you Americans," said the Russian Commodore. "Sir, you flatter me," replied the American Captain; "but there is an immense extent of land to the South, and when the fog is entirely cleared away, you will have, from your mast head, a fine sight of its mountains." "Indeed," observes the Commodore, "you Americans are a people that will be before us, and here is now in your information, and what is, now before my eyes, an example and pattern for the eldest nation in Europe.—Where I expected to make new discoveries, I find the American flag, a fleet, and a pilot!"

After treating Captain Palmer in the most friendly manner, the Russian Commodore was so much struck by the circumstance that he named the coast Palmer's Land, and it bears his name, at this time, on the recent Russian and English charts."

**A Horse Leap.**—A most extraordinary accident, and 'hair-breadth escape,' happened last week to an old 'gray mare,' in the village of Mount Pleasant, in Westchester county, N. Y. the details of which "may be interesting to our readers!" This fortunate old animal was employed in carting stones to a new building erected a little distance from the west bank of a mill pond, and, when urged to a slight retrograde movement, plied her perambulators so dexterously that way, as soon to be unable to maintain her equilibrium or foothold, and then plunged side-long into the 'depths below,' being a precipitous descent of fifty feet, carrying with her the cart, stones, and shrubbery, into the water. After remaining a few moments under water, eight or ten feet deep, she again made her appearance on the surface, and made use of her best exertions to regain the opposite shore, which she effected without having injured hide or hair of her.

**Mr. Noah's best.**—We perceive by the Congressional proceedings, that Mr. Johnson has presented the Anti-Auction memorial, which is said to have been 250 yards long. During our revolutionary war, Sir George Saville presented to the House of Commons a petition against the American war, from the county of York. He unrolled the memorial, and leaving part of it outside the door, presented it, saying, "Mr. Speaker, here is the head of a petition from my constituents, against the American war—the end of it is in the county of York." Mr. Johnson should have done the same, saying, "Mr. Speaker, here is the head of a memorial to put down Auctions—the tail of it is in Pearl-street," and then we should all have said, "What a long tail our puss has got."

**Hints to Mechanics.**—Avoid giving long credits even to your best customers. A man who can pay easy will not thank you for the delay; and a slack doubtful paymaster is not too valuable a customer to dun sharply and seasonably. A fish may as well attempt to live without water, or a man without air, as a mechanic without punctuality and promptness in collecting and paying his debts. It is a mistaken and ruinous policy to attempt to keep or get business by delaying collections. When you lose a slack paymaster from your books, you only lose the chance of losing your money—and there is no man who pays more money to lawyers than he who is least prompt in collecting for himself.

Minds ashamed of poverty, would be proud of affluence.

**Customs of Nantucket.**—A major part adhere to the old method of riding in a horse cart, without either springs or seats. When ladies ride in them, the cart is backed up to the door, the lady brings out her chair, and steps from it into the cart, and then drawing her chair after her, sits down in it, and the carriage drives off. As fashion rules in every thing, this is just as well as any other way, since the first and wealthiest make use of it as well as the poorest.—In this place, as a man is neither known by the company he keeps, nor the coat he wears, the wealthiest merchants have been often taken for common draymen, when driving their carts, and have often been called upon to act in that character. While we were there, some strangers from the continent on arriving at the wharf, pressed into their service two cartmen, whom they loaded most unmercifully with baggage, and put their services in requisition in unloading and stowing away, at their boarding house, but found, to their utter mortification and surprise, upon offering to pay for those services, that their cartmen were two of the richest men on the Island, who of course refused any compensation, saying, with a good natured smile, that whenever they wanted their services again, they would know where to call. There is not a public house on the island, but if all the boarding houses are of a similar character to the one at which we stopped, no one can complain of his accommodations. Besides, the known hospitality of its citizens always insures to a respectable stranger every proper kindness and attention.

[Worcester Yeoman.]

The following is the most singular remedy for intemperance we ever heard of. After this, Dr. Chambers' famous prescription must "hide its diminished head."

A drunkard in the town of Lewes, England, had been long yoked in matrimony, and was surrounded with a hopeful progeny. His wife at length finding if her husband drank so much, she and her children must leave off eating, determined to follow him from pot-house to pot-house, which she did, seating herself at his side, calling for the same beverage, regaling herself in the same manner, and singing songs in concert. She neglected her children, returned home jovially drunk, always in company with her husband; the man swore—the woman chimed in—the husband left home—she followed. At last, he was disgusted with the public house, because his phantom wife was there—and the thought of his children made him a convert. He left the public house—so did his wife; he attended to his business—so did she; he became a good father—she a good wife; thus exemplifying a new way of curing a husband.

Some persons are very particular in sowing their seeds in a particular time of the moon. Let such regard their moonshine—it may make the negligent plant their seeds in season. But he that has his ground well prepared, and plants good seed, and does it early, will find that sunshine will affect his crop more than moonshine.

Weak people, are apt to be positive.