

The Old North State

SALISBURY, FRIDAY, NOV. 19, 1870.

JANETTE'S HAIR.

"Oh, loosen the hood that you wear, Janette, Let me tangle a hand in your hair, my pet..."

THOMAS H. BENTON.

SOME RACY SPECIMENS OF HIS TALK ABOUT HIMSELF.

Tyler was a trifling man, and to this character he owed his preservation at the bastion of the big gun on board the Princeton. Word had been given out that a song was to be sung in the cabin, and he rushed down to hear it. I was saved by my characteristic habit of inquiry and investigation. I had been going around all day, looking into everything, and, as a compliment to the interest I took in the ship, I was invited to witness the thing and had just before been requested to change my position that the smoke might not prevent my observation, by which I was removed from the point of danger. Tyler was a man of great good luck. It was a common saying in Virginia, that whoever stood in his way would die, and so they predicted the early death of Harrison.

Mr. Clay once retorted terribly on a South Carolina man. Mr. Clay had censured severely some disunion sentiments recently expressed by a person from that State, when this man rose and stated that the author of the remark was a relative of his. Mr. Clay straightened himself to his full height, his eyes flashed fire, and in a voice of thunder he cried out, "I care not whose relation he is; he is a traitor who utters such statements!" "Good God! It sunk him to the earth, sir; he was never heard from afterward."

Mr. Cass is very timid, poor man!—a afraid to take a decided stand. Silas Wright truly said of him: "He is an amiable man, but afraid of his own shadow." Though very peaceful in his private relations, never quarreling with any one, in the senate he is always for a war with England. He uttered so often in his speeches, "war is inevitable!" that it became a by-word. I once turned it on him, very much to the amusement of the senate. After one of his war speeches, I rose, and speaking of the little danger of war, ended with his words changed; "Peace is inevitable."

Douglas was driven into the Kansas-Nebraska bill by Atchinson and others, the fire-eaters of the South. They threatened to drop him if he did not yield to all their demands. To advocate disunion is to gain the favor of the administration (that of Pierce). The last foreign appointment was an editor from Mobile to Mexico, whose last editorial was in favor of disunion. Those disunion dogs, vulgar fellows, get the appointments. One wrote that nasty, stinking letter from Turin. As soon as it was known there, they dropped him, sir; would not notice him at all as a man; that refined circle; paid him only the attention due a representative from the United States; made a distinction between the man and the representative; you understand it, sir.

In Missouri, last summer, when I was stopping the State, two anti-Benton men wished to get a look at me for the first time, but would not come into the room, and so peeped in at the door. I was standing up, engaged in an unflattering conversation with some friends, and suppose I looked more vigorous than usual, and one turned to the other and said: "Good God! we shall have to fight him these twenty years!" I kept my health by horseback riding. I might be taken by a foreigner for General Pelissier, on my black horse. But few ride as well as I ride. I was once, when riding on my black horse, with my little grandson on his white pony, taken for a riding master. Few public men have kept horses to ride. Mr. Randolph, who rode much on horseback, was an exception.

Contrary to the general opinion, Mr. Randolph was a very industrious man, and labored much in the committee-room. My seal was given me by him, after his duel with Clay. You will see all about it in my "Thirty Years' View." He ordered it for me in London, searching out the coat-of-arms of the Benton family.—He said the motto should be Factis et Verbis instead of Factis non Verbis. John Quincy Adams was the most industrious man I ever knew. I have often been compared with him in this respect, though I cannot compliment myself so highly. I am now engaged on my "Abridgement of the Debates of Congress," in about sixteen volumes, which will occupy me about two years. I hope to live till 1860, and the remaining two years I intend to devote to a history of Pierce's administration. I have no favors, however, to ask of this administration; none, sir. Mr. Pierce had the high honor to

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