The Old North State
CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

BY HAMILTON C. JONES. SALISBURY, N. C. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1836. VOL. V—No. 18.—WHOLE No. 226.

TERMS.

The WATCHMAN may hereafter be had for Two Dollars and Fifty Cents per year.

A Class of FOUR new subscribers who will pay in advance the whole sum at one payment, shall have the paper for one year at Two Dollars each, and as long as the same class shall continue thus to pay in advance the sum of Eight Dollars the same terms shall continue, otherwise they will be charged as other subscribers.

Subscribers who do not pay during the year will be charged three Dollars in all cases.

No subscription will be received for less than one year.

No paper will be discontinued but at the option of the Editor, unless all arrearges are paid up.

☞ All letters to the Editor must be *post paid*; otherwise they will certainly not be attended to.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING—*Fifty Cents a square for the first insertion, and Twenty-Five Cents per square for each insertion afterwards.*

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Advertisements will be continued until orders are received to stop them, where no directions are previously given.

Advertisements by the year or six months will be made at a Dollar per month for each square with the privilege of changing the *form* every quarter.

MARKETS.

SALISBURY,

Beeswax per lb. 16 a 17 cts.; Brandy, Apple per gal. 25 a 30 cts; Cotton per lb. (in wool) 3 cts; Cotton bagging per yd. [35] cts; Coffee per lb. 16 a 18 cts; Castings per lb. 4 a 5 cts; Cotton yarn, from No. 6 to No 11, $1 62 a 1 87 cts; Feathers per lb; 50 cts; Flour per bl. $6 00; Wheat per bush. $1. Oats per bushel 20 cts; Corn per bush 40 cts; Iron per lb. 6 a cts; Lead per lb. 8 a 10 cts; Molasses per gal. 75 cts; Nails per lb 9 a 10 cts; Beef per lb 0 a 0 cts; Bacon per lb 15 cts; Butter per lb 12½ cts; Lard per lb 15 cts; Salt per bushel $1 25 cts; Steel, American blister, per lb. 10 cts; English do. per lb 20 cts; Cast do. per lb 25 a 30 cts; Sugar per lb 12½ a 15 cts; Rum (Jamaica) per gal; $3; Yankee do. $1; Wool (clean) per lb 30 cts; Tallow per lb. 10 cts; Tow-linen pr yd. 16 a 20 cts; Wine (Teneriffe) per gal. $1 50. Portugal do. $1 50 a $1 7 cts; Claret do per gal. $1 3 a 1 75 cts; Malaga, (sweet) per gal. $1; Whiskey per gal. 35 a 40 cts.

CHERAW.

Beef in market per lb 4 a 6 cts; Bacon per lb 14 a 15 cts; Hams do. 14 16 cts; Beeswax per lb 18 a 20 cts; Bagging per yard 16 a 30 cts; Bale rope per lb a 12½ 14 cts; Coffee pr. lb 14 a 16 cts; Cotton per 100 lbs $17 18 a 17 00; Corn per bushel 65 a 00 cts; Flour from wagons per brl $8 9 50, from stores per brl. $9 00 a 0 00; Iron per 100 lbs $5 00 a 6 50; Molasses per gal 45 a 55 cts; Nails cut assorted per lb 8½ 2 a 9 cts; Wrought do. per lb. 20 cts; Pork per brl $ 0000; Rice per 100 lbs $4 a 5 00; Sugar per lb. 12 1-2 a 15 cts; Salt pr sack $3 $000; Salt per bushel 75 cts; Steel American blister pr lb 10 cts; Tallow per lb 10 a 12 cts; Tea Imperial per lb $1 25 a 1 37½ cts; Hyson do. pr lb $1 a 1 25 cts; Tobacco manufactured per lb 10 a 15 cts.

FAYETTEVILLE

Brandy, peach 50 a 60. Do. Apple, 40 a 42 Bacon pr lb 16 a 17; Cotton pr lb 16½ a 18½ cts Coffee pr lb 12½ a 14; Flour bbl. $8½ a 9½ Flaxseed pr bh $1 30 a 40; Feathers pr lb 00 a 45 Corn pr bush 65 a 65; Iron pr lb 5½ a 6; Molasses pr gal 45 a 50; Nails cut 7½ a 8; Salt pr bush 60 a 90; Sugar pr lb 10½ a 12½; Tobacco; leaf 6 a 7; Wheat pr bush $1 30; 40 Whiskey pr gal 37½ 40, Beeswax 25 a 00

BAD NEWS FROM FLORIDA.

The Register of Saturday evening last, contained the following. Nothing came to hand yesterday to change the aspect of affairs. We fear the report is but too true:

Rumors reached town this morning of a disastrous and distressing state of things in Florida. Before the Mobile boat left Pensacola on yesterday intelligence was received from the seat of war that Col. Lane with the friendly Indians had an engagement with a large body of Seminoles under Oceola and had sustained a signal defeat. It is said that the Indians under Col. Lane's command acted cowardly if not treacherously, and that writhing under the pangs of discomfiture and feeling the responsibility resting upon him Col Lane in a moment of desperation put *a period to his existence.*

In a few days we shall receive the particulars of the movements in Florida and will lay them before our readers. In the mean time we cannot but express the hope that what we have heard is exaggerated and that things are not as bad as has been represented.

From Apalachicola, we have received the following information. It is from a highly respectable source, but it does not go to confirm the melancholy intelligence:

APALACHICOLA, 18th Oct. 1836.

Dear sir—This will inform you that I returned from Tampa Bay yesterday by the way of the Withlacoochie and St. Marks. A few days previous to my leaving Tampa Bay one of our friendly chiefs had an interview with one of the hostile chiefs for the purpose of making peace with the whites and Seminoles, but he states that he had very little success, as the hostiles are determined not to leave the land of their nativity alive. The hostiles further say that they have once starved and whipped the whites and they can do so again They also stated that they had met the Tampa troops at the Withlacoochie and whipped and drove them back, which must be false, as the said troops have been heard of leaving Suamy Old Town, to join Gen Reid at the Withlacoochie, but when I left the latter, they had not arrived that I could learn; but there had been no communication up the Withlacoochie, in consequence of the steamer Yallawbusha, belonging to the U. S., having stranded at the mouth of the Withlacoochie, on the 16th instant, by getting on two oyster banks at the entrance of the harbor. I leave this for Tampa today. Should any thing transpire before I return, I will inform you on my return.

I am, with due respect,
Your obedient servant,
D. W. S.

From the New Orleans Bulletin Oct. 29.

LATEST FROM TEXAS.

By the arrival of the schooner Pennsylvania yesterday, from Velasco, Texas, we are in possession of dates from that country to the 12th. So little dread of an enemy prevails, in the country at present that the inhabitants are quietly cultivating their lands, and attending it would seem, theatrical performances. Some Thespian corps have oppened the Temple, and made a debut at Columbia, under favorable auspices The army remains stationary, and somewhat impatient to be engaged in more active duty, in which, notwithstanding threats of formidable preparations on the part of their enemies, we suspect they will be disappointed, as time will disclose. We a long time since prophesied that not another hostile gun would be fired in Texas, and as yet, we have lost no faith in our prophetic gift as to this particular.

The papers containing the proceedings of their newly organized Congress, furnish no matter of great public interest, the members as yet being engaged in regulating the minutiæ of matters of order and etiquette prior to entering upon their more serious deliberations Santa Anna is still in confinement, which is rumored, to be not so rigid as formerly, there being on foot some measures preparatory to his release. Should it be true, and he is to be released, Texas would require something in the way of a ransom, to enable her to discharge some of the heavy liabilities incurred by her beligerent operations.

The vacancy as commander-in-chief, occasioned by the election of General Houston to the Presidency, will be filled, it is said, by one of the three candidates, Generals Thomas Rusk, Green, or Felix Houston.

From all that we can hear and read of the initatory operations of the Texians in their governmental concerns, we are induced to believe that they enter upon their new and untried career, with as much of the requisite ability and honest sincerity of purpose, as any pepole ever did, and with sufficient to enable them to take their independent stand among the sovereignties of the earth.

From the Texas Telegraph Oct. 12.

Sunday morning, the 9th instant, Major General Samuel Houston, the President Elect of our Republic and suite, arrived in town.

According to the result of the general election, Major General Samuel Houston is elected President of the republic of Texas by a large majority; and M. B. Lamar, is elected Vice President. The votes for annexation to the United States, and for the Constitution as it is, were almost unanimous.

Our distinguished fellow-citizen, Samuel Houston, having been called to the Chief Magistracy of the nation, by an overwhelming majority of the people, it will become necessary to fill the vacancy of commander-in-chief of the army, at the earliest possible period.

This is a subject in which all Texas is deeply and vitally concerned; for on that appointment will depend, in a very considerable measure, her future existence as a nation.

The former incumbent of that office has won for himself and his country, imperishable honors; his name is destined to be handed down to posterity, through the pages of history, as one of the greatest of men; and the monument of his fame, which is to be found erected in the hearts of his countrymen is much more solid than the most solid brass.*

He has been called, by an almost unanimous vote, to higher and more responsible duties; and we hope that his civil administration will be as successful as his military career has been splendid and glorious.

In the appointment of successors there may be some difficulty, because the essential qualifications to make a good general are known to fall to the lot of very few men. He should be brave without rashness, prudent without fear, considerate in council, experienced in war, cautious in his plans, energetic in his actions, impetuous in the battle. He should combine the prudent policy of a Fabius, with the desperate daring of a Leonidas when the emergency of the case may require it. He should be high-minded and honorable in an eminent degree. He should possess the most powerful influence and connexions; he should be a man of such character and popularity, that the gallant and chivalric of every clime and of every country would be proud to rally around his banner.

We would most respectfully ask—Does Texas at this time possess such a man?

Far be it from us to detract in the least possible manner, from the well-earned honors of any of our officers. And we would here take an opportunity to avow that to Brigadier General Thomas J. Rusk, the present commanding officer, Texas owes a debt of lasting gratitude which she may probably never be able to pay.

Generals Green† and Felix Houston also deserve our just commendation for the ardent and disinterested zeal with which they have evinced in our cause—Their services entitle them to the highest consideration; and although ingratitude has been charged against all republics, we trust that Texas will prove a rare exception.

We believe we hazard nothing in expressing conviction that the good of the country is the moving principle with these three officers, and that they would most cheerfully unite in sustaining and supporting the commander-in-chief whom the government might think proper to appoint.

If then, amongst ourselves, the man who is exactly qualified in every respect cannot be found, our eyes would naturally turn to the United States, for the purpose of selecting such an individual. To that country we have always looked with an anxious eye in the hour of peril, and from the citizens of that country we have uniformly received the warmest support, without which it would have been absolutely impracticable to have sustained ourselves as a nation.

In that country are to be found many, very many officers who possess in an eminent degree the qualifications required. From that country, we are inclined to believe we can call into requisition the services of a general in every way competent to control the destinies of our army; of one whose thrilling war cry would be heard from the Atlantic to the Sabine; and whose banner would scarcely be unfurled, before thousands of the bravest hearts would flock round his standard, and thus enable Texas to dictate terms to Mexico for peace.‡

* Twice as solid, likely.

† Hurra for our *Jef*: if desperate daring is the word, then stand aside, my lord, and let the Parson cough.

‡ If not another hostile gun is to be fired in Texas, what is the necessity for such a flaming General.

TEXAS.

New Orleans, Oct 25.

By a letter from Vera Cruz, published on the Exchange Board, we announce the arrival there of a Government Brig of War, of 367 tons, mounting eighteen pounders, and well armed and equipped for a six months cruise. This vessel has been recently built at Baltimore for the Mexican service. We notice further that Gen. Bravo is about to put himself at the head of 18 or 20,000 men, to make a grand descent upon Texas, and that the Mexican Government have raised a loan of 800,000 dollars to defray the expenses of their belligerent movements. Bustamente is also to be recalled, and will shortly arrive, it is said, from France, where he has been in exile, to be placed at the head of the administration of the government. The Central System will be fastened upon the people, notwithstanding the opposition of a large majority to clerical and military domination. This is the substance of the most recent news from Mexican sources.

The Texian navy has but little to fear from this augmentation of the marine of their enemy; and as for the army, still less will be apprehended by them, from the forces destined to be marched against them.—Union in their ranks, and unrelenting hatred to tyranny, a stern and unflinching devotion to their country's cause, and the same spirit which animated them in the battle of San Jacinto, still characterise, and will continue, as we trust, so to do the Texian army, and will enable them to contend victoriously against armies of foes, forced into service, and moved by no higher impulse, than tyranny can infuse into the hearts of servile followers.—*Bee.*

TEXAS.

The young cavalry cannot precisely be said to have

"Sprung forth a Pallas, arm'd and undefil'd,"

Nevertheless she seems to be rapidly taking suitable steps to vindicate her claim to a place among nations. Her Congress assembled on the 3d of October. Richard Ellis was chosen President of the Senate, *pro tem.* and Ira Ingram, Speaker of the House. On the 4th and 5th, the Committees were appointed, and other preliminary business transacted, and the Message of President Burnet received.

According to the official returns of the late elections, the votes were as follows:

For President, Houston 3,885—Austin 581—Smith 144—Green 42—Rusk 1—Archer 4

For Vice President Lamar 2,738—Rusk 1,159—Zavala 23—Smith 2.

For maintaining the present Constitution as it is, 3 199, for giving Conventional powers to Congress to alter it, 222.

The vote in favor of annexing Texas to the United States, was 2,279; for a separate republic, 91.

BURNING OF THE ROYAL TAR.

The Boston papers of yesterday furnish a number of painfully interesting particulars, obtained from passengers who have arrived in that city. Although we have devoted much space to this unhappy event, we think our readers will not object to some additional extracts.

From the Boston Post.

Communicated by Mr. Fuller.

Immediately after she came to anchor, fire was discovered around the whole space occupied by the boiler, below the deck. Those who first became aware of the fact, fled to the boats. At this time I was sick in my berth—my attention was first called to the fact that something unusual had taken place, by observing that every person but myself had left the cabin. When I reached the deck, I saw the long boat full of people, a quarter of a mile to the leeward—they were rowing hard, and were soon out of sight. The small boat in which was Capt. Reed, who took possession of it following the long boat to the leeward lay about fifty yards astern; three persons swam off and were taken into her, though the wind was blowing a gale, and a tremendous sea running. He then bore away for the land windward, about two miles At this time a great many persons jumped overboard, & were drowned. The screams of women and children; the horrid yells of the men; the roaring of the storm, and the awful confusion baffle description. The pilot, capt. Atkins, of Portland, the mate, Mr Black of St John, with assistance of those who still had their senses, after hoisting a signal of distress, slipped the cable and made sail. The sails, however, caught fire and were soon burnt.

The steamer then broached to, and was shortly completely enveloped in flames amidship The fire interrupted all communication between the fore and aft—and neither those in the bows nor those in the stern could see or know the fate of each other. All but myself fled from the quarter deck. I sat on the stern rail, till my coat took fire. I looked round and seeing not a soul around me in the boat, I fastened a rope to the tiller chain and dropped over the stern, where I found about 15 others hanging in different places mostly in the water. In fact the water washed over all of us almost every minute.

While holding on I saw several drown—some were beaten from their hold by the waves, & some falling into the sea for want of strength to sustain themselves any longer. I had fastened to my rope the chair, which held out against the fire much longer than the other parts to which many were suspended. I wound the rope round my neck and leigh, and was enable to bear up the additional weight of three men and a lady who hung securely to me. Not far from me hung Capt Atkins the pilot,—he held up a lady with his foot; her arms failed her at last, he caught her head with his feet, and held her full five minutes, till the sea washed her off, and she drifted by; a kind wave threw her up against an Irishman hanging on my left, and she seized hold of him, and assisted perhaps, by our encouraging, and the Irishman's also kept up. When the cutters boat passed under our stern Atkins & I begged, for Godsake, that she would take those two even if they left us—as we thought we could weather it a little longer.

The gig passed within six feet of those two, who we expected would be lost every minute. The officer of the gig was afraid, and left them and us to our fate. We were all saved—that is, the Irishman, lady, Atkins, and those attached to my person—by Capt. Reed in his small boat, and conveyed to the cutter. The cutter was not in sight when I first went on deck. I had been in the water, beating about under the stern two hours before I was taken off. Thirty three lives in all were lost, including six children. I escaped without shoes, stockings or hat, & lost every article of property on board—as also did the others who were saved by Capt. Reed. The entire loss in money and other property independent of the boat was about $150,000. The boat was worth $50,000. Macomber Welsh & Co's if the elephant be recovered, will not be less than $15,000 beside the private funds belonged to the hands; four of whom by the by were lost. Capt. Waite, of Portland, lost $7000 in cash.

From the Transcript.

The chief engineer had been up all night, and was in his berth, and the engine was under the direction of N. Marshal, the second engineer, who at the time of the disaster had entrusted the care to a fireman, who was acting as his assistant. The son of the pilot discovered that the lowest cock refused to yield water, which indicated a deficiency. The lad told his father who notified Marshal, but the latter disregarded the information, and gave both pilot and boy to understand that he knew his own business best. In a few minutes the empty boiler became red hot, and ignited a couple of wedges placed on it to aid in supporting the elephant.

The animals on board were an elephant, six horses, two dromadaries, two lionesses, one leopard, one Bengal tiger, one gnu, a pair of pelicans and a number of other creatures belonging to the caravan, besides Burgesse's collection of serpents and birds, Dexter's locomotive museum, with its six horses and valuable contents, and all the musical instruments belonging to the band. The unfortunate caravan men were paid off a St. John's & were then bringing home the proceeds of their summer expedition in specie, all which they lost and are left penyless.

From the Atlas.

The regular engineer had been dismissed by the owners from motives of economy, and one of the former firemen had been promoted to this office with a smaller salary, who had advanced another of the firemen to the post of the second engineer. It is said that neither of these men was well qualified for the office, and their conduct would seem to justify this opinion.

Capt Waite had about $5000 entrusted to him which was lost, he secured himself and trunk on the steps of the boat, until the rope to which they were attached was burnt off—when still retaining possession of his treasures, he swam to another part of the vessel, where he sustained himself and property, until a cabin passenger, a lady floated near him, when he let go his trunk, seized and sustained the woman till she was saved.

CINCINNATI, Oct. 24.

Charleston and Cincinnati Rail Road.—The Books closed on Saturday; the amount taken in this city is *one hundred and twenty two Shares*, equal to twelve thousand two hundred dollars, of which Mr. JOSEPH BONSAL took *fifty*. The whole number taken at Newport the residence of the richest man in the Mississippi Valley, & one who will be benefited to the amount of a million or more, is *one hundred and fifty Shares*: whilst Covington, spirited little Covington, took nearly or quite SEVEN HUNDRED SHARES—the exact number we do not know. We have watched the Louisville papers closely during the last week, but saw no mention of the subject. At Lexington there was a county meeting called to take the matter into consideration for Saturday last—the result we shall learn in a few days. The last *Maysville Eeagle* is silent upon the subject.

We understand, (says the Army and Navy Chronicle,) that Gen. Gaines has been recalled from the immediate and personal command of the troops on our southwestern or Texian frontier; and that those delicate and important duties have been entrusted to Brevet Brigadier General Arbuckle. This is preparatory, we presume, to the investigation before the Court of Enquiry to be holden at Frederick, in which Gen. G. is interested.

Generals Gaines and Scott, still continue in command of their respective department—*Southern Patriot.*

We learn with pleasure that the Hon. Samel Prentiss, the present estimable Senator from Vermont, has been re-elected by the Legislature of that State, for Six years from the 3rd of March next, when his present term will expire.

National Intelligencer.

A letter of recent date, to the editors, from an intelligent gentleman at Montpelier, the seat of Government of Vermont, where the Legislature is now in session, says, "We are wide awake, and shall carry the State for Harrison and Granger, by from 6,000 to 10,000 majority."—*Ib.*

A bill has unanimously passed both branches of the New Jersey Legislature, appointing Tuesday and Wednesday, the 15th and 16th of the present month, for the election of Presidential Electors by the People.

In the lower House, a committee of five was appointed to take into consideration what measures were proper in relation to the distribution of the surplus revenue. *Ib.*

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.

JOHN D. PHELAN to be Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, in the place of BYRD BRANDON, resigned.

Loss of Twenty five Lives—Under date of Point due Lac, October 18, it is stated that a violent gale on Lake St Peter, had broken up four rafts. Twelve men were lost from one.—Another raft was found scattered upon the beach, from which thirteen men met a watery grave. Their bodies were scattered upon the shore in a horrid state of mutilation.

Burning of the Theatre at Cincinnati.—We noticed the burning of this building in our last. The destruction of the Theatre on Third street by fire was entire. It took from a lighted candle being left near a bottle of turpentine. It is feared that Mr. Martin, the carpenter, was buried in the ruins. The theatre was owned by Mr. Caldwell of New Orleans, and his loss is estimated at thirty or forty thousand dollars—The loss of Mr. Russell, the lessee, in scenery, dresses, &c. was also very great.—*Sat. Cou.*

Editorial Duel in Louisiana.—V. E. Howard, Esq. editor of the Mississippian, and J. G. A. Bouchelle, Esq, editor of the State Rights' Banner, went out and had a shot at each other. The latter gentleman wounded in the thigh—but the most important part of the intelligence is, *that it was not mortal.*

Two men crushed to death—The St. Louis Bulletin states that the staging of a new church, going up at Alton, gave way, and two men—one a German—were buried beneath the ruins, and instantly killed.

Important Invention.—A London Mechanic has succeeded in manufacturing most beautiful cabinet furniture from *slate*. The embossing is said to be truly elegant. The same article has also been used for door pannels, ornamented with beautiful groups of flowers, fruits, &c. Will it not come into general use in this country, where we have lately discovered the finest slate in the world?—*Sun.*

Shipwreck.—Loss of 80 Lives.—Capt. Perry, of the ship Eclipse, arrived at Salem, from Calcutta via St. Helena, on Saturday last, reports that he was informed at St. Helena that the English Ship Doncaster, from the Isle of France with upwards of 80 passengers on board, had foundered at sea, at the Cape of Good Hope, and all were lost. A part of the wreck and a number of bodies had drifted ashore near Cape Aquilbas.

Remarkable Circumstance.—David Thompson, an old soldier who fought eighty years ago, at the siege of Fort William Henry, when it surrendered to the French under Montcalm, died lately at East n, (N H) at the age of 106 years. His grandmother was Mary Hampton who died in 1709, aged one hundred and five. It is related of her by the Lowell Courier that at the sinking of Port Royal, Jamaica, by an earthquake, she clung to the sill of her house, floated away on it, and was taken off by a vessel safe, when all but three of the inhabitants of that ill fated town perished in the ruins. Several years had elapsed after the disaster, when these came to the tavern in Dorchester, (N H,) where she served as a waiting-woman, a traveller, whom she instantly recognized to be her husband. He was at sea when their house was sunk, and had never before received tidings of her.

A soft bed fellow—The New York Sun notices the marriage of a gentleman of that city to Miss Jane C. *Ironside.*

Tobacco Chewers—A society of ladies is about forming in Philadelphia, for the purpose of discountenancing this practice. On proof of any member having been kissed by a chewer, of the 'wicked weed,' she is to be expelled.

"Saw my leg off!"—Many humourous illustrations of absence of mind have lately been registered in the newspapers—but the latest and best, is the one we subjoin from the Eastport (me) Sentinel:

Dr G——t, of the United States Army, being called upon to perform an amputation at the thigh of one of the men, he opened his amputation case, sat down, and deliberately sawed his own leg off! The mistake was not observed by him until he attempted to walk!

From Astoria, by Washington Irving.

SHREWD INDIAN TRADER—A DEADLY INSULT—SHOCKING MASSACRE—EXPLOSION OF THE MAGAZINE AND LOSS OF THE TONQUIN.

We have already stated that the Tonquin set sail from the mouth of the Columbia river on the fifth of June. The whole number of persons on board amounted to twenty three. In one of the outer bays they picked up, from a fishing canoe, an Indian named Lamazee, who had already made two voyages along the coast, and knew something of the languages of the various tribes. He agreed to accompany them as an interpreter.

Steering to the north, Captain Thorn arrived in a few days at Vancouver's Island, and anchored in the harbor of Newcetee, very much against the advice of his Indian interpreter, who warned him against the perfidious character of the natives of this part of the coast. Numbers of canoes soon came off, bringing sea otter skins to sell. It was too late in the day to commence a traffic, but Mr. M'Kay, accompanied by a few of the men, went on shore to a large village to visit Wicananish, the chief of the surrounding territory, six of the natives remaining on board as hostages. He was received with great professions of friendship, entertained hospitably, and a couch of sea-otter skins was prepared for him in the dwelling of the chieftain, when he was prevailed upon to pass the night

In the morning, before Mr. M'Kay had returned to the ship, great numbers of the natives came off in their canoes to trade, headed by two sons of Wicananish. As they brought abundance of sea otter skins, and there was every appearance of a brisk trade, Captain Thorn did not wait for the return of Mr. M'Kay, but spread out his wares upon the deck, making a tempting display of blankets, cloths, knives, beads, and fish-hooks, expecting a prompt and profitable sale. The Indians, however, were not so eager and simple as he supposed, having learned the art of bargaining and the value of merchandise from the casual traders along the coast. They were guided, too, by a shrewd old chief named Nookamis, who had grown gray in traffic with New England skippers, and prided himself upon his acuteness. His opinion seemed to regulate the market. When Captain Thorn made what he considered a liberal offer for an otter skin, the wily old Indian treated it with scorn, and asked more than double. His comrades all took their cue from him, & not an otter-skin was to be had at a reasonable rate.

The old fellow, however, overshot his mark, and mistook the character of the man he was treating with. Thorn was a plain, straight-forward sailor, who never had two minds nor two prices in his dealings, was deficient in patience and pliancy, and totally wanting in the chicanery of traffic. He had a vast deal of stern, but honest pride in his nature, and moreover, held the whole savage race in sovereign contempt.—Abandoning all further attempts, therefore, to bargain with his shuffling customers, he thrust his hands into his pockets, and paced up and down the deck in sullen silence. The cunning old Indian followed him to and fro, holding out a sea-otter skin to him at every turn, and pestering him to trade. Finding other means unavailing, he suddenly changed his tone, and began to jeer and banter him upon the mean prices he offered. This was too much for the patience of the captain, who was never remarkable for relishing a joke, especially when at his own expense. Turning suddenly upon his persecutor, he snatched the proffered otter-skin from his hands, rubbed it in his face, and dismissed him over the side of the ship with no very complimentary application to accelerate his exit. He then kicked the peltries to the right and left about the deck, and broke up the market in the most ignominious manner. Old Nookamis made for shore in a furious passion, in which he was joined by Shewish, one of the sons of Wicananish, who went off breathing vengeance, and the ship was now abandoned by the natives.

When Mr. M'Kay returned on board, the interpreter related what had passed, and begged him to prevail upon the captain to make sail, as from his knowledge of the temper and pride of the people of the place, he was sure they would resent the indignity offered to one of their chiefs. Mr M'Kay, who himself possessed some experience of the Indian character, went to the captain, who was still pacing the deck in moody humor, represented the danger to which his hasty act had exposed the vessel, and urged him to weigh anchor. The captain made light of his councils, and pointed to his cannon and fire-arms as a sufficient safeguard against naked savages. Further remonstrances only provoked taunting replies and sharp altercations. The day passed away without any signs of hostility, and at night the captain retired as usual to his cabin, taking no more than the usual precautions.

On the following morning, at daybreak, while the captain and Mr. M'Kay were yet asleep, a canoe came alongside in which were twenty Indians, commanded by young Shewish. They were unarmed, their aspect and demeanor friendly, and they held up otter skins, and made signs