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 BY GEORGE HOWARD.
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Miscellaneous.

There is as much truth as poetry in the
 following effusion, and the reader will
 agree with us in saying that it contains
 some of both. If those who have been
 calculating for a fortune will set these
 lines to music and go to work at some
 lively tune, the times would grow better
 instead of worse.—*Troy Budget.*

From the Trenton Emporium.
THE TIMES! THE TIMES!
 Uncle Toby went down 'tother day with
 invention
 To get a grist ground by old miller
 Grimes,
 But he found that his neighbors had call'd
 a Conversation
 At the tavern that day to consider the
 times—
 So he turn'd honest Dabbin's head round
 to the wagon,
 To eat at his leisure his lichen of hay;
 And determined on foot to the meeting
 he'd jog on,
 And hear what the wise ones assembled
 would say.
 And there was assembled from many
 miles wide,
 The merchants and lawyers, and doc-
 tors and cits,
 The bankers and brokers, and land-job-
 bing tribe,
 And many good people who lived by
 their wits;
 And in truth it seemed more like a holi-
 day greeting,
 To an eye unaccustomed to modern dis-
 tress,
 And it was hard to remember the theme
 of the meeting
 'Mid the splendor of equipage, foery
 and dress.
 Mater Dumps with his span of bay match-
 es that cost
 A thousand this spring was presiding in
 state,
 And Lumpkin was proving the country
 was lost,
 While two servants were holding his
 coach at the gate.
 Some said that the cotton trade caused
 all the row,
 Some said 'twas the Treasury order alone,
 And that Jackson and Benton, and Martin
 Van Buren
 Ought to suffer for mischief so wholly
 their own.
 At last when the big ones had settled affairs
 And rung all the changes of coin again,
 And resolv'd that 'twas time now to tight-
 en their cares
 With a good slice of beef and a glass of
 champagne—
 Uncle Toby stepped up, wiped his brow
 with his sleeve,
 And said though he came there to say
 not a word,
 Yet, if no objection was made, with their
 leave,
 For one single moment he'd like to be
 heard.
 "Mr. Chairman," said he, "the hard times
 that you speak of,
 Though they seem to be very mysteri-
 ous to you,
 Will probably last 'till some habits you
 break off
 And turn into work as all honest men do.
 You have gone very far for the causes of
 ruin,
 But to me it is plain they lie right in
 your way,
 You've been living like lords upon other
 men's money,
 Now pay day has come and you've noth-
 ing to pay;
 Buying houses and lands on what's call'd
 'speculation,'
 At no matter how much of paper & pelf,
 In the hope that you'd certainly find in
 the nation,
 To buy them some still greater fool
 than yourself.
 Now you, Mr. Farmer, have but to go yonder
 To your harrow and plough, and your
 old fashion'd ways,
 Put more lime on your land, turn a clover
 crop under,
 And the hard times will disappear one
 of these days;
 And you, Mr. Merchant, just take one
 short day for
 The task of dismissing your trumpery
 and wares,
 Import no more goods than you see how
 to pay for,
 And soon you may whistle like me at
 the times.
 And as for you, gentlemen, sharpers and
 so on,
 Who have lost all you had, and had noth-
 ing to lose,

Your course, as you please, you in wel-
 come may go on,
 To the Baile or Halifax, just as you
 choose?
 Uncle Toby here stopped—and some hiss'd
 and some clapped him,
 But he turn'd and walk'd quietly off on
 his way—
 Got his post and drove home, and the
 worst that mislapp'd him,
 Was the loss of three hours labor that
 day.

FOR THE TARBORO' PRESS.

PIANOS.

The generality of persons in
 purchasing valuable and costly
 goods of any kind are particular,
 and frequently very cautious in
 finding out the real quality of the
 article they desire to get; and for
 fear of acting unwisely, often call
 in sufficient aid to prevent being
 imposed upon, and of succeeding
 in effecting what is called, a good
 bargain. But strange to say, that
 a great majority of persons who
 go to buy such an article as a
 "Piano," not infrequently do it
 without the least help or advice
 from a single soul other than the
 seller, who, certainly is not a pro-
 per person to judge in the case;
 for it is well known by every one,
 that no store keeper will cry down
 his own goods, and indeed it
 ought not to be expected he
 would. Such persons go into a
 store where Pianos are displayed,
 and after examining the exterior
 of the instruments and learning
 the different prices, come to the
 conclusion to purchase what is
 termed a low priced one; and it
 arises from the fact, that there
 seems to be very little if any dif-
 ference, in the outward appear-
 ance, whilst there is a considera-
 ble difference in their price.

Now, although the writer of this
 little scrawl may not succeed in
 converting any one to his own
 opinion on this subject, yet he
 ventures to give his ideas because
 he knows they can at least do no
 harm, and what he says is done
 under the correction of amateurs
 and professors in music.

The majority of Piano Fortes
 made in the present day are invari-
 ably very handsome outside; a
 two hundred and fifty dollar Piana
 of the old English action, (the
 common action in use,) in most
 cases is as handsome externally
 as a French Grand Action at three
 hundred and fifty dollars. So
 that a person who is not a judge
 will choose a two hundred and fifty
 dollar Piano in preference to
 the higher priced one, because
 they seem not to differ in appear-
 ance, whilst at the same time the
 one is not to be compared with
 the other in regard to quality or
 durability; the French Grand Ac-
 tion instruments keep in tune much
 longer, are much more sweet, and
 last in credit five times as long as
 the others, besides being much
 more desirable on account of the
 peculiar construction of the action
 enabling good performers to exe-
 cute in a very different style to
 what they would if they had the
 other action. English Action Piana-
 nos, (that is, Pianos without man-
 y generally have but one pedal in place
 of two, and the workmanship in-
 side totally and entirely different
 from those above alluded to; is it
 not therefore much better to give
 fifty or a hundred dollars extra
 for a Piano, and get one of the very
 best and one that will keep in
 tune and last for an age, than to
 give a small price for one that in
 a few years becomes almost use-
 less? Those who are able to give
 two hundred and fifty or three
 hundred dollars, are just as able
 to give fifty dollars more as oth-
 erwise, and why not give a good
 price and get a first rate article at
 once, an article that will reflect
 credit upon the makers and afford
 pleasure and contentment to him
 that purchases it? Some will say,
 "my neighbor has a sweet Piano
 which he only gave thus and so

for;" yet depend on it in the end
 you will never regret getting a
 French Grand Action Piano Forte.
A strict Observer.

Serpent-tongued infant.—A cor-
 respondent of the Fall River Pat-
 riot, under date Tiverton, (R. I.)
 May 22, gives the following des-
 cription of a strange and wayward
 production of nature:—

We were invited into an ad-
 joining room, in one corner of
 which we beheld, tied in a small
 chair, a most horribly emaciated
 little child, apparently about two
 years old. I am aware that I
 shall totally fail in giving you any
 thing like an adequate idea of the
 miserable object before us. Im-
 agine, if you can, an infant, or mere
 child, of about the age above sup-
 posed, reduced to a very skeleton,
 hairless, and covered with a parch-
 ed and shrivelled skin, dark
 and unelastic as the corresponding
 structure in the withered octogen-
 arian. Its little red, fiery eyes,
 rolling restlessly in the deep re-
 cesses of its fleshless sockets, sent
 forth horrid flashes of indignation
 when the door of its apartment
 was thrown open. The little suffer-
 er opened its mouth, and in the
 place of its tongue, a *serpent's*
head and neck were thrust out, vi-
 brating and hissing with an inten-
 sity peculiar to the more venem-
 ous varieties of that repulsive spe-
 cies of animated nature. I could
 not for several minutes muster suf-
 ficient courage to approach the
 object of my curiosity. I was
 fixed to the spot which I at first
 occupied, while the serpent-head-
 ed tongue continued to dart forth
 and recede with the quickness of
 thought; its little forked and fiery
 tongue at the same time playing
 about the lips and nostrils of the
 child, equalling in velocity the
 lightning's flash!

Mr. W. the father, gradually
 approached the child, all the time
 speaking very soothingly to it,
 and in a few minutes succeeded in
 producing quiet—the head reced-
 ed, the lips closed over it, and
 the infant exhibited only the as-
 pect of extreme emaciation. But
 the moment I moved towards the
 child, even but a single step, the
 mouth would open, the head sud-
 denly dart forth, and the same
 dreadful spectacle I have already
 imperfectly described, would again
 be presented. The father, how-
 ever, beckoned me to approach,
 which I did; but never shall I for-
 get the tremendous hissing which
 came from the serpent-headed
 tongue of the little sufferer. It
 was several minutes before quiet-
 ude could be produced, and even
 the slightest motion on my part
 would cause an instantaneous pro-
 trusion of the unsightly organ, ac-
 companied by a hissing sound,
 more or less intense, according to
 the fears of the little child. I had
 several fair opportunities of seeing
 the strange member, and will en-
 deavor to give you a description
 of it. Its color is dark copper,
 shining, and in places inclining to
 streaks of green. Its eyes are jet
 black, and when the light strikes
 them favorably, no diamonds ever
 send forth more brilliant scintil-
 lations of light! A bright yellow
 ring encircles the neck, and really
 has much the appearance of gold.
 The mouth of this serpent-headed
 tongue is quite large, and was al-
 ways slightly open when the head
 was protruded beyond the lips.
 Its little forked tongue, as I have
 already said, was incessantly in
 motion. We stayed in the room
 just 30 minutes, during the latter
 part of which time the child be-
 came very quiet, and took freely
 of milk, its usual food. The father
 told me that he had known the
 tongue to bite several times, and
 once when it fastened upon one of
 his fingers, much swelling and
 soreness followed; indeed he was

only relieved by a copious bleed-
 ing. He informed me also, that
 the child eat voraciously of milk,
 and sometimes of other kinds of
 food, but that it preferred the for-
 mer. The child is of the female
 sex. He stated further, that several
 eminent physicians and sur-
 geons had been to see the child,
 and that it had been recommend-
 ed by one, the eminent Dr. W.,
 that the tongue be extirpated. I
 coincided in this opinion, and ad-
 vised that the Doctor be called in
 to perform the operation. The
 father, Mr. W., is about twenty-
 eight years old, and the mother, I
 should judge, about twenty-two.
 She is very beautiful, has been
 married about five years, and this
 is the first and only child. I have
 omitted names in this brief sketch,
 at the request of the parties con-
 cerned. Yours, &c.

A Valuable Couple.—There
 resides in one of the interior coun-
 ties of this State, a man and his
 wife who have *eighteen children*
 living, all of them married, and
 having among them, *eighty-two*
children, so that the united house-
 hold is *one hundred and twenty*.
 Truly here is a goodly train.
Wilmington Adv.

The "Washington National
 Monument Society" has given
 public notice that several designs
 for said monument have been sub-
 mitted to the Society during the
 past year, no one of which has
 been selected. Neither has the
 site for the erection of the struc-
 ture been fixed upon. We hope
 that when this great temple is
 built, it will be such an one as
 ages will look upon with aston-
 ishment and admiration. Let it
 pierce the heavens, to guide our
 benefactions to him whose name
 is alone among mortals. Let its
 foundations sink deep into the
 earth, to signify the strength and
 durability of our affections. When
 the pyramids of Egypt shall have
 crumbled away, and no vestige re-
 main to tell of their being, then
 would we have the "Washington
 Monument" towering alone, the
 one only wonder of the world...ib..

**Another new theory in regard to
 America.**—A paper has been read
 before the Geological Society of
 London, by Mr. Roy, in which he
 advances the opinion that there
 existed in former times on the con-
 tinent of America an immense in-
 land sea, bounded on the west by
 the Rocky Mountains from the
 table land of Mexico, to the paral-
 lel of 47 degrees of latitude; on
 the north by the barriers separa-
 ting the head waters of the Lakes
 from those of the Northern rivers
 and extending below Quebec; and
 on the east by the Alleghany
 mountains extending to the Gulf
 of Mexico. The area of this vast
 sea was 960,000 square miles.
N. Y. Sun.

Great Match Race.—A match
 race has been made between La-
 dy Clifden and Charlotte Russell,
 for \$10,000 a side. The former
 is under the care of Col. W. R.
 Johnson, and the latter, who is a
 full sister to Trifle, is in the stable
 of Col. Wade Hampton, of South
 Carolina. The race is to take
 place at Camden the day before
 the regular meeting at that course
 next fall.—*Balt. Pat.*

Remarkable Incident.—An al-
 tercation took place lately at Lit-
 tle Rock, (Arkansas,) between a
 Dr. McWilliams and a Mr. Pew,
 sub-editor of the Arkansas Ga-
 zette, in the presence of many ci-
 tizens; Dr. McWilliams, having
 had some quarrel with Mr. Pew,
 charged him with gross and wilful
 falsehood. In a few moments
 Mr. Pew was observed to turn
 deadly pale—a fearful change
 came over his countenance—and,

to the horror and astonishment of
 the beholders, he fell and died
 without a struggle or a groan.

Another Sarah.—The St. Louis
 (Missouri) Republican says: A
 gentleman from the southern part
 of the State, vouches for the fact,
 that, last week, in Jefferson coun-
 ty, the wife of a respectable citi-
 zen, herself 60 years of age, pre-
 sented her husband with twin chil-
 dren. The husband who was
 thus honored was at least 80
 years of age!

Fanny Wright the Second.—
 There is a very pretty woman lec-
 turing at Tammany Hall, named
 Rose, (Mrs. Rose—a sweet name!)
 Every Sabbath afternoon, she edifies
 the unbelievers who attend
 there with a beautiful discourse
 upon the community (agrarian)
 system. A friend who heard her
 lecture day before yesterday, in-
 forms us that her style of rhetoric
 is far more pleasing than that of
 the celebrated Madame Darus-
 mont. Next Sunday we mean to
 stay from church and attend her
 discourse.—*N. Y. Sun.*

What constitutes an Apprentice?
 One of the Courts in New Hamp-
 shire decides that a boy may be
 an apprentice without indentures.
 The decision is that the appren-
 tice is under the direction and
 control of the master, whether
 bound by written indenture or
 not, and that no parent or guar-
 dian can interfere to the injury of
 the master, either by taking the
 apprentice home, or placing him
 under a new master, without ren-
 dering himself liable for damages.
 If any other person employs an
 apprentice without consent from
 the master, he is not only liable
 for damages, but for the earnings
 of the apprentice from the time of
 his employment.

**The Wilmington and Roanoke
 Rail Road.**—We can but admire
 the spirit with which that noble
 undertaking is going forward.
 The State subscription has not
 only been secured, (we believe
 paid over,) but the work is going
 on bravely at both ends. In the
 mean time, a steamboat line from
 Charleston to Wilmington has
 been established, which is to con-
 nect temporarily with the Ports-
 mouth Rail Road by means of
 stages. When the road is com-
 pleted, this steamboat line will
 be kept up, and considering that
 by this inland route the dangers
 of our most dangerous coast are
 avoided, viz: *Frying Pan Shoals;*
Cape Look Out; Cape Hatteras;
 the very sound of which names
 are stormy; considering too, the
 greater certainty of getting to a
 destination at a given time, it
 would seem that this route must
 take most of the travelling that
 now goes by the steam packets,
 and therefore *must be profitable.*
Salisbury paper.

The Legislature of the State
 of Mississippi has passed a law
 prohibiting the introduction of
 slaves into that State for sale or
 hire. The penalty is a fine of
 \$500, and imprisonment from one
 to six months for each slave im-
 ported. All contracts for pur-
 chase or hire are declared void.
 The law passed on the 11th of
 May, and took effect from its
 passage.

Rhode Island Banks.—The
 Legislature of Rhode Island was
 in session the last week, and had
 before it a bill to compel the
 Banks of that State to pay specie
 for their notes in circulation. The
 subject gave rise to a very warm
 debate, and it was discovered that
 a large majority were opposed to
 their suspending operation. It
 was stated in the course of the de-
 bate that one of the banks of the

State, at the time the suspension
 of specie payments took place,
 had a circulation of thirty or
 thousand dollars and only one dol-
 lar and twenty-six cents of specie
 in its vaults. It was said how-
 ever, that the bank was known to be
 perfectly solvent and could com-
 ply with all its obligations!!

Cotton.—The late advices from
 Liverpool state that, Cotton has
 now fallen to a point which at-
 tracts the attention of speculators,
 and some improvement in value is
 manifest. The stock in Liverpool
 is called 200,000 bales excess over
 same time 1836, while the deliv-
 eries for consumption are 39,600
 less. The state of trade for a long
 time to come will prevent much
 advance, whatever may be tho't
 of present prices.
N. Y. Star.

The Crops.—The farmers are
 now busy with their scythes. It
 is the beginning of the wheat har-
 vest, and the work goes merrily
 on. The neighboring counties of
 North Carolina—Currituck, Cam-
 den, Pasquotank, Perquimans,
 &c. have fine wheat grounds and
 industrious husbandmen. They
 calculate on 50 per cent. above an
 average crop. From Pennsylvania,
 Maryland, Western Virginia
 —in short, generally throughout
 the wheat growing country, the
 report is not less favorable. So
 much for the predictions of the
 "crop-croakers."
Norfolk Herald.

Pleasures of a Tropical climate.
 Insects are the curse of tropical
 climates. The vete rouge lays
 the foundation of a tremendous
 ulcer. In a moment you are cov-
 ered with ticks, chigoes bury them-
 selves in your flesh and hatch a
 large colony of young chigoes in
 a few hours. They will not live
 together, but every chigoe sets up
 a separate ulcer, and has his own
 private portion of pus. Flies get
 entry into your mouth, eyes, and
 nose. You eat flies, drink flies,
 breathe flies. Lizards, cockatri-
 ces, and snakes get into your bed;
 ants eat up the books; scorpions
 sting you on the foot, and every
 thing bites, stings, or bruises; ev-
 ery second of your existence you
 are wounded by some piece of ani-
 mal life that nobody has ever seen
 before, except Swammerdam or
 Merriam. An insect with eleven
 legs is swimming in your tea cup,
 a non-descript with nine legs is
 struggling in the small beer, or a
 caterpillar with several dozen eyes
 in his belly is hastening over the
 bread and butter; all nature is a-
 live, and seems to be gathering all
 her entomological hosts to eat you
 up as you are standing out of your
 coat, waistcoat, and breeches.
 Such are the tropics.

Mosquitos.—How there came
 to be any mosquitos at Oahu, is
 satisfactorily explained in the fol-
 lowing narrative:—
 Mosquitos were introduced at
 Oahu by a gentleman from New
 England, who being much attach-
 ed to his native country and its pe-
 culiarities, could not sleep without
 the "bizz, bizz, wizz, wizz, ne-
 e-e-e" of that delightful little
 detestable. So to regain the lost
 charms of home, the gentleman
 imported a pair of genuine mos-
 quitos from "Yankee-chussets,"
 and we have them now in abun-
 dant perfection.

Receipt.—Soap suds, says the
 Genessee Farmer, should not be
 thrown away at this season of the
 year, but be sprinkled over mel-
 ons, squashes, cucumbers, cabbages,
 young grafts on trees, &c.
 It will not only assist the growth
 of these vegetables, but destroy
 the worms, bugs, flies and lice
 that generally infest them about
 these days.