

# WEEKLY COMMERCIAL.

THOMAS LORING, Editor and Proprietor; TWO DOLLARS Per Annum, invariably in Advance.

VOL. 5.

WILMINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1852.

NO. 39

## THE OLD BACHELOR'S FATE.

What in the name of common sense are you doing James Edgar?" asked Theodore Sykes of a proud, happy looking gentleman, who was playing with a chubby, rosy-cheeked babe, on the front piazza, on a pleasant evening in May.

"Taking care of my own," replied Edgar; and permit me to ask in return, what you are about Friend Sykes?"

"Steering wide of that MacIstroom" answered Sykes, who had stopped at the door to have a friendly chat with his neighbor.

"You may use any metaphor you please Mr. Sykes; but I think you have rather a hard time to stem the popular current that threatens to engulf you."

You are insulting Edgar; knowing as you well do, my sincere aversion to the "conjugal state" as you please to term it."

"You are averse to it Mr. Sykes, because you look only on the dark side of the picture, and know nothing of the beauties of the bright one."

"I think, Edgar, if it ever had a bright one, it was cast in the shade when our first Mother, disobeyed her first commandment, and thereby forfeited her claim as a faithful hand-maiden, and entailed unnumbered woes upon the whole of her daughters."

"All Nature felt that wound, Mr. Sykes! the earth trembled at her foundations; and do you pretend to affirm that Man, of all creation, stood alone in the native purity and innocence with which he came forth from the hand of his Maker?"

"I deny the insinuation Edgar."

"Well, as you have dated your standard as far back as that, let us speak of their remaining virtues and mutual assistance. We read that man was created perfect and had every thing in choice profusion that could please the eye or benefit the body; and had he been left to himself, he perhaps, never would have dreamed of an additional pleasure, or thought of his lonely condition; but the great Master builder knew the requirements of his nature and said, "It is not good for man to be alone," and in his wisdom and power created for him a "helpmeet." You dare not attribute it to folly in Him Mr. Sykes."

"I do not question the propriety, wisdom or necessity of that proceeding Edgar; but I do say, that marriage, like all other necessary evils, should be avoided when it is possible."

"I differ with you there Sykes; for I have tried both states, and experience proves that I am a happier man now than when I was single."

"You earn your happiness Edgar, for do not the numberless cares, troubles and expenses that throng your pathway merit some reward?"

"I am willing to be deprived of the happiness and bliss you speak of for the ease, quiet and unmolested enjoyment I take in my rational way of living."

Here their conversation was interrupted by a lively little girl who skipped up to her Pa and told him Ma requested him to walk in to tea. After slyly kissing her Pa she danced back to her Ma and told her Mr. Sykes was with her Pa.

Mrs. Edgar immediately came to the door and joined her invitation with her husband's for him to stay to tea, both of which he declined and arose to depart. As he left the door, he caught some tender expression of love that passed between husband and wife as they greeted each other; and as he walked home he could not help exclaiming, "Edgar must be a happy man after all."

Mr. Sykes was a bachelor of some 37 years, but was not thought incorrigible by his friend Edgar. Consequently, he tried to persuade him by gentle means to change his mode of life, and to convince him by arguments of the necessity and importance of marriage. But he was always ready to refute any logic and repel any persuasion. He lost his mother when young, and having no grateful sister to love and protect, and sufficient wealth to defray all current expenses, he naturally became selfish, morose and ungenerous. When he was 22 he became enchanted by a beautiful girl of 17 and determined to marry her. Accordingly he paid her great attentions, which he fancied she received with unbounded pleasure. One day he called on her and found her in company with another gentleman, whom she treated with the same graceful politeness that had always characterized her deportment towards him.

What! a smiling face for every one, thought Sykes as he tried to monopolize her whole attention. Fortunate am I to discover

her treachery in time. After a few commonplace remarks, he informed her he had called to request the pleasure of her company with him during a morning ride; but as she was engaged he would not insist on it; and took his hat and left her forever.

After he reached home he thus soliloquized: "I once thought her an angel in disguise! Oh! Woman, how fascinating but deceitful are your charms. I am more than thankful for discovering your shameful treachery in time. My neck is out of that halter; and thanks to Cupid, I will keep it out! Thus we might trace his train of thoughts up to his 37th year when he was introduced to the reader. His nearest relative died a year previously and he took a house and engaged a colored woman and boy to manage his household and kitchen furniture. He fancied unequalled happiness and contentment in his solitary home, with no companion but an old gray cat that he allowed the liberty of staying in the room for the sole purpose of destroying the mice which annoyed his gravity unmercifully, by their daily gambols and midnight revels; but so great was his aversion and horror of pets of all kinds, that he no sooner heard of an addition to his canine family, than he consigned the whole litter to a watery grave. He generally bought sufficient provisions for his family, but through the mismanagement of the cook who did not consider herself at all interested in his welfare, he scarcely ever had any thing palatable; and his larder wanted replenishing so often, the reality almost gave him convulsions. In vain he discharged one cook and engaged another; all were of the feminine species; and none pleased him; none appreciated his selfishness, none studied his interests. When he returned from the comfortable and happy home of James Edgar, the first sound that greeted his ears was the voice of Molly complaining of having nothing for her Master's supper. "Yes," says Molly, Massa'll be her presently, looking as demure as an old hen that has to scratch for a dozen chickens; and he's got nothing of the sort and heben knows his no pity, for he cant afford enough for himself by the look of us here pantry. There's old Jim across the street that has 8 children and a sick wife and he lives better every day of his life than Massa does."

"More grumbling Molly," interrupted Sykes, who had heard enough to know another demand was made on his pocket. Is it possible that all the provision, for which I paid 25 dollars week before last is gone?"

"Yes sir," said Molly.

"Confound you waste fulness; have I nothing for supper?"

"No Massa, nothing but a few cold scraps left from dinner." He was about to order them spread on the table, but recalling to mind the supper table of his neighbor Edgar, he stalked out of the kitchen and told Molly it was "too late to purchase any thing thing and he would wait till morning."

After seating himself in his comfortable rocking-chair he could not help contrasting his cheerless condition with that of his friend Edgar. Yes, thought he "Edgar has to exert himself more than I do; but then he has a cheerful fireside and a palatable supper prepared for his return without any precaution of his, and in addition he has a family that adore him, a wife that loves him, while I, poor fellow, have none in the wide world that cares a straw for me, farther than interest demands. But what can I do? If I cannot afford the comforts of life for one; I cannot for two! That is a self evident proposition!" and to dispel the uncommon gloom and disquiet from his mind, he walked out into the street. He passed several squares before anything diverted his attention. At last, the soft warblings of a female voice, accompanied by music from the piano attracted his notice; and looking up he observed the music proceeded from the house of the gentleman who married the lady "that had a pleasant smile for every one." He listened attentively, and then mentally exclaimed, "Yes that is the voice of the eldest daughter of her whom I once loved; how proud she must be of her offspring!" While he thus soliloquized, one of the front windows of the parlor was thrown up and his early love and her husband took their seats on the sofa beneath it to listen to the music, and enjoy the balmy air that floated through the room.

The room was brilliantly illuminated and he could distinctly see the comfort and happiness that reigned within; and the idea of the lonely quiet and dreary lassitude of his own home, sickened him; and turning his footsteps homeward he exclaimed "Too thick by far, but still thriving!" He soon retired to rest, but not to sleep; and after tossing on his pillow till midnight, and holding a most des-

perate conflict with conscience, he determined to marry if he could suit himself. But this was another rub; he discussed the merits and demerits of every girl of his acquaintance; he proposed this one, and rejected that one; and at last he decided to take the belle of 18, whose vocal powers and musical skill had so completely charmed a few hours since.

Accordingly he dressed with great care on the morrow, and after Molly had given him a breakfast, he walked out and determined to call at her home on pretence of business, and cultivate her acquaintance. He knew it would create suspicion, but what of that?—When a bachelor becomes disgusted with his mode of life and determined to change it he battles all etiquette and is one of the most unceremonious fellows in existence. He is prepared for climbing the Alps, "swimming the Hellespont" or to cross the lady's lap-dog. He stamps from his lofty eminence, hitherto unapproachable, and prepares himself to pick up the smallest, youngest and most feeble of the whole flock of lambs into his fatherly protecting arms. However, he had the precaution to consult his gold repeater to know it was too soon to call at the house which he had never entered; and taking a paper from his pocket he took a seat beneath a shade tree a few rods from her door and pretended to read. After a few moments he saw the object of his thoughts and his "early love" enter the porch to twine some woodbines that were running on the latticed balusters. He thought he was unobserved, but he was sufficiently near to her to hear exclaim "Oh! Ma, there's Sykes, the old bachelor. I wonder he never married."

"Perhaps he has never determined to take that step yet, Ellen; but I should not be surprised if he's changed his mind yet—They say he has a very hard time of it at home; and I pity him, though people say he is a hater of all females."

"I am not sorry for him," ejaculated Ellen; he deserves a hard lot, for why did he not marry when he had something to recommend him to notice. I would like to bring him to my feet for the sole pleasure of spurning him—Would it not be capital Ma? "I think the daughters should resent the slights of their Mothers."

"Oh! no Ellen, you are too young yet to know how to retaliate, and if Mr. Sykes never married I never knew him to trifle with the feelings of a single lady. That demands some respect for him." "Perhaps you know best Ma, but I do think his selfishness deserves punishment. His variegated looks how his origin, and his face is wrinkled; and do you suppose any girl of sense would marry the man who was contemporary with her mother's girlhood? I know I would not have him to brush Pa's boots, for I know he cannot see well enough now to polish any thing."

Sykes stopped to hear no more, but stalked off with all the grandeur of an iceberg surrounded by its broken fragments. "What! said he, am I the butt of all that fery wit and biting sarcasm? or are all woman a treacherous, deceitful, complicated mass of sin and foolishness? I am rightly served for deserting my cherished principles. Thanks to fortune, I am a little in advance of her; as ancient as she considers me."

"While in this reverie he met Edgar whose face was drenched with tears, and who appeared in an agony of despair."

"What ails you Edgar?" asked the bachelor after recovering from his surprise.

"My eldest boy is dying!" replied Edgar.

"Dying! did you say Mr. Edgar?" "Yes the physician just informed me he can live but a few hours longer!"

The two gentlemen were too much affected to remark farther and they separated, the one for the house of mourning the other for the house of cheerless solitude, to brood over his fancied wrongs and fortunate escapes. He never recovered from the blow his pride and self-esteem sustained; and never contemplated marriage again. "I pity Edgar from my soul, for I know how well he loved his boy; fortunate again am I; for if I have nothing, I can lose nothing; for better is it not to have, than to have and then to lose."—He lived to an old age in solitary seclusion, or "single blessedness" as he termed it, and managed to preserve a calm, satisfied exterior until Tiedoloreau, with all its insupportable agonies marked him for its victim. Several sisters of charity, hearing of his afflictions, ventured to visit him, but he received their attentions with so much cold indifference, and positive scorn, they were afraid to approach him again, lest he should order them out of the house. Consequently he was left alone with Molly, who cared not a farthing for him provided her pantry was kept supplied.

The physician was regular in his attendance, knowing there would be a plenty of gold to liquidate his bill.

After suffering death in a thousand forms, his spirit took its final flight and left his body to be buried decently or otherwise according to the option of his survivors. He died without a loving voice to bid him look beyond the grave for unalloyed happiness, or a gentle hand to administer a cooling draught, or perform a single act of kindness!

Mr. Edgar survived the loss of his child and submitted with christian fortitude, and in the end was enabled to bless the hand that dealt the blow! He also had other cares, troubles and disappointments incident to manking in general, but he was blessed with the love and kindness of a devoted wife and affectionate children. He survived the wife of his bosom a few years, but nothing that duty required or love suggested was withheld by his children; and as his last hours drew near a close, they clung closer around him and caught the last accents that fell from his lips and wiped the last moisture from his brow, when his happy spirit took its flight to meet its mate in the region of the skies!

VIOLA.

FOR THE COMMERCIAL.

## JUNE.

Ah here she comes, bright leafy Jane, Sweet May has gone to give her room, She comes in crowned with many a gem From Nature's brilliant diadem. How pleasant to roam in the forest free, To sit beneath the shady greenwood tree, And list to the murmurs of the rippling brook, As it winds its way through the flowery nook. 'Tis Nature's mirror, the bright waters clear Where the Indian maid doth deck with care, Her flowing tresses of raven's hue, With buds and flowers all bathed in dew. On the mossy bank of the silvery stream, Where the brightening rays of the sunlight beam, The lonely Violet lifts its head, As if conscious of its beauteous bed. The Wild-wood rose with its clusters fair, Throws fragrance on the balmy air, The lily bell fair, with its petals white, Presents to the eye a pleasing sight. The silvery cascade's musical sound, As it leaps from the rocks, to the moss covered ground, Enchants our ear, attracts our eye, And causes our hearts to look upwards on high, To thank him, the bounteous giver of all, For the unnumbered blessings that on us doth fall.

EVA.

SELECTED FOR THE COMMERCIAL, BY K.

"Wanted, an Honest, Industrious Boy." We lately saw an advertisement headed as above. It conveys to every boy an impressive moral lesson. "An honest, industrious boy" is always wanted. He will be sought for; his services will be in demand; he will be respected and loved; he will be spoken of in terms of high commendation; he will always have a home; will grow up to be a man of known worth and established character. He will be wanted. The merchant will want him as a salesman or clerk; the master mechanic will want him for an apprentice or journeyman; those with a job to let will want him for a contractor; clients will want him for a lawyer; patients for a physician; religious congregations as a pastor; parents for a teacher of their children, and the people for an officer. He will be wanted.—Townsmen will want him as a citizen; acquaintances as a neighbor; neighbors as a friend; families as a visitor; the world as an acquaintance—may, girls want him as a beau, and finally for a husband. "An honest, industrious boy!" Just think of it, boys; will you answer this description?

## CONGRESSIONAL AMUSEMENTS.

The following capital hit at the late mode of conducting Congressional debates, we clip from the "Lantern." It purports to be a prospective debate in the House of Representatives, furnished by a claryvoyant reporter, writing under a Washington date of July 5th, 1852, indicating a length of session not altogether to our mind, but still neither unprecedented nor improbable:

Mr. D. Facer (Dem. Ky.) brought forward a motion for the suppression of oral discussion in the Legislature. The honorable member proposed, as a substitute, that all questions at issue should be settled by single combat, with bowie knife or pistol. Honorable members were, up to the present period, in the habit of sticking at nothing and he, Mr. Facer, thought that his proposal would certainly obviate such a state of things, by giving them something to stick at.

Mr. Barker (Dem. Va.) seconded the motion, and also would be happy to second any of the combatants in want of his assistance. He believed that his qualifications in this respect were well known to that Honorable House; and if any member was ignorant of them, he would take the liberty of recapitulating. The Hon. member was here proceeding to give the details of several sanguinary "difficulties," when he was interrupted by Mr. Whittle (Whig, Tenn.) What does the honorable member mean by thrusting the details of his duels on the House? Good wine needs no bush, and a successful duelist needs no praise. There was no danger of the honorable member's deeds not being

trumpeted forth to the world, because, every body knows "that murder will out!"

Mr. Barker—You are a liar and a thief! (No sensation whatever.)

Mr. Whittle—The Hon. rascal opposite has called me a liar and a thief. I believe that the House will support me, when I term him a forger and assassin. (Less sensation than before.)

Mr. Barker—Who robbed the man on board of the steamboat? A-h-h!

Mr. Whittle—Who ran away from the Revere House without paying his bill? Eh-h!

Mr. Barker (shaking his fists)—Silver spoons!

Mr. Whittle—I didn't insure my house for double its value, and then set fire to it.

Mr. Barker—If the Honorable Member isn't a coward, he'll have it out with me now.

Mr. Whittle (jumping on the table)—come on you ruffian!

The Speaker—Fair play, gentlemen! Recollect, if you please, that our proceedings will be reported.

The Honorable Members then had a set-to, in which both displayed considerable science, and great animosity. Bets ran high as to who would win, and we understand that the Speaker speculated heavily. After five rounds, however, Whittle gave in, and was chaired home by his triumphant friends. We believe that a meeting between the two gentlemen is arranged to come off to-morrow. This incident agreeably relieved the monotony of the week's debates, which were growing exceedingly tedious.

From the Raleigh Standard.

## Proceedings of the Council of State—Called Session of the Legislature.

Pursuant to a call of the Governor, the Council of State met in this City on the 15th inst., and a quorum not appearing, the Council adjourned to the 20th, when a quorum was attendance. Wilson S. Hill, Esq., was chosen President, and Mr. W. H. Jones, Secretary.

We have been permitted to copy, for the information of our readers, the proceedings of the Council in relation to a called session of the Legislature.

The following communication was received from Gov. Reid, and considered:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
Raleigh, May 20, 1852.

GENTLEMEN: The construction placed on the 2d clause of the 1st section of the 3d article of the Constitution of the United States, requires the vote for President and Vice President in 1852 to be according to the Census of 1850. This construction has been generally acquiesced in, and will, I presume, be adopted by all the States. Although I have not been officially informed of the fact, yet it is well understood that North Carolina, according to the late apportionment, will only be entitled to ten Electoral votes in the next election. The act of the General Assembly of this State at the session of 1852-3 divided the State into 11 Electoral districts. Therefore the act of Assembly provides for the election of eleven Electors, while the State under the late apportionment will only be entitled to ten Electoral votes. The next election for President and Vice President will take place before the regular period appointed by law for the meeting of the General Assembly. It is provided by law that "the Governor may, with the advice of the Council of State, call a meeting of the General Assembly, if the same shall be absolutely necessary, at a sooner day than the same may be adjourned to or appointed to meet." I submit to your consideration, whether under the circumstances it does not become necessary to convene the General Assembly at an earlier day than is provided by law for its regular meeting, to have further legislation to avoid illegality in the election for President and Vice President. If your body should advise the General Assembly to be convened for the purpose I have mentioned, the question then arises as to the most appropriate time for the meeting. It occurs to me that it should not be called together till after the next August election.

The Constitution provides that "the Senate of this State shall consist of fifty representatives biennially chosen by ballot, and to be elected by districts; which districts shall be laid off by the General Assembly, at its first session after the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-one; and afterwards at its first session after the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one." It is also provided that the apportionment of the members of the House of Commons "shall be made by the General Assembly, at the respective times and periods when the districts for the Senate are herein before directed to be laid off." If the General Assembly should be called together before the regular period it would of course be a session, and the first after the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one. The language of the Constitution is not the first regular and biennial session, but "at its first session." It would, therefore, seem that if the Legislature is convened the Constitution requires the Senatorial districts to be laid off and the members of the House of Commons to be apportioned. It is convened before the next August election it will be composed of members chosen in 1850, who, I presume, were not elected with a view to laying off the Senatorial districts and apportioning the members of the House of Commons. I therefore submit whether a regard for public interest and a respect for public opinion, do not require that the time for convening the General Assembly should be postponed till the first Monday in October next. The Legislature then called together would be fresh from the people, and fully prepared to reflect their will on these subjects and all others.

The next session of the General Assembly will in all probability be one of more than ordinary length. Laying off the Congressional and Senatorial districts, apportioning the members of the House of Commons, and acting upon the Report of the Commissioners appointed to revise the Statutes, added to the ordinary business of legislation, will protract the session. The people might go on and in their primary meetings nominate their candidates for Electors, and the General Assembly, when convened, might pass the necessary act in time for the Presidential election.

The Legislature could then proceed to lay off the Senatorial districts and apportion the members of the House of Commons, for the session, the net fixing the time for the meeting of the General Assembly, and then act upon the Report of the Commissioners appointed to revise Statutes, or upon any other business of legislation. In this way it seems to me the expense and inconvenience of an extra session might be avoided.

This communication, you will observe, is predicated upon the fact that the term of the members of the Legislature commences at the regular biennial election in August. Upon this point I think there can be no doubt. It has been said that this construction would operate as an inconvenience, for if the office of Governor were to become vacant after the election in August, then there would be no speaker of the Senate to succeed him. Even admitting this to be true, it argues nothing; for we all know that an inconvenience experienced from a provision in the Constitution does not authorize us to change its construction. The Constitution provides that members of the Assembly shall be biennially chosen. All seem to admit that they are elected for a term of two years. In 1835 the Constitution was amended, and instead of each county having a Senator and two members of the House of Commons, a different mode of representation was substituted. Although the amended Constitution was ratified in November, 1835, an ordinance of the Convention postponed its operation till the 1st of January, 1836. The Constitution which went into effect on that day, abolished the Assembly elected under the old Constitution, and consequently the first Assembly chosen under the new Constitution was elected at the summer elections of 1836.—The term of the members of that Assembly commenced at the election then, it must be so now, for the Constitution has not been changed since that time.

I most respectfully ask your advice in relation to convening the General Assembly. I am, very respectfully,  
Your obt. servant,  
DAVID S. REID.

TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE.  
WHEREUPON IT WAS ORDERED, that the Council of State do advise the Governor to call a session of the members of the General Assembly to be elected in August next, to meet in the City of Raleigh, on the first Monday in October next, as proposed in the preceding communication.

W. S. HILL, Pres. Council.  
No further business coming before the Council that body adjourned.

## Shocking and Fatal Rail Road Accident.

Boston, May 20.

Last evening on the Fitchburg Railroad, at Waverly, Mr. William Sawyer, an eminent lawyer of Charlestown whilst riding in an open carriage with his wife and three daughters, attempted to cross the track of the railroad, and came in contact with the down train, running at the rate of forty miles per hour. The carriage was completely demolished, and Mr. Sawyer, and his daughter were instantly killed, whilst the driver received fatal injuries, and Mrs. Sawyer had her skull so badly fractured as to cause the brain to protrude. The dreadful occurrence is attributed entirely to the rashness of the driver in attempting to cross the track.

## The way an Emperor and Empress Travel.

We have already stated that the Emperor and Empress of Russia had arrived at Warsaw on the 2d instant, and on the 6th the King and Queen of Prussia left Berlin to meet them at the frontier. The Emperor goes to Vienna, thence to Prague to visit the Ex-Emperor of Austria, and afterward comes for a few days to Berlin. Extraordinary preparations were made on the road from St. Petersburg to Warsaw for the journey of the Emperor and her numerous suite. When the Emperor travels alone he generally does so in a more simple manner. A gentleman who came a little in advance of the Imperial train, describes the spectacle along the whole line as extraordinary. The road for 400 English miles was repaired and swept by hand, every stone being removed, and at every post station 176 horses were kept ready harnessed, that not an instant might be lost.

## THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

The Finance Committee of the City Council of Savannah (Georgia) have recommended that the Mayor of that city be authorized to remit to the Hon. Elisha Whittlesey, general agent of the Washington National Monument Society, one hundred dollars; and that an ordinance be enacted, in virtue of which it shall be the Mayor's duty to make for the same object, on the anniversary of Washington's birth-day every year, until a sufficient sum is collected for the purpose, an annual donation of not less than one hundred dollars. Such an ordinance (says the Savannah Republican) will ensure a yearly contribution of one hundred dollars until a sufficient amount shall have been collected to build the Monument, and we are sure that no citizen of Savannah will grudge the amount thus proposed to be contributed. The movement is worthy of imitation by other corporations.