

THE STAR,
and North Carolina Gazette,
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TERMS.

Subscription, three dollars per annum—one half in advance. Subscribers in other States cannot be allowed to remain in arrears longer than one year, and persons resident without this State, who may desire to become subscribers, will be strictly required to pay the whole amount of the year's subscription in advance.Advertisements, not exceeding fifteen lines, inserted three times for one dollar, and twenty-five cents for each continuance. Letters to the Editors must be post-paid.

Vacant Professorships.

The Committee of Appointments, on behalf of the Trustees of the University of North Carolina, will proceed to fill, on the first Monday of September next, two vacant Professorships in said University, viz. *Prof'r Rhetoric and Belles Lettres*, at a salary of one thousand dollars; and *Prof'r of Modern Languages*, at a salary of seven hundred and fifty dollars. Applications (post paid) to be addressed to the undersigned, at Raleigh, N. C. On behalf of the Committee,
CHARLES MANLY.
Raleigh, July 10, 1833 30 7w

Baltimore Saturday Visitor,
A FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Containing the Foreign and Domestic News of the Week—a Price Current of the Market, carefully corrected—Prices of Stocks, and Bank Note List—together with a Variety of Miscellaneous Matter, for the Instruction and Amusement of its Readers.

The publishers, on commencing a new volume, have considerably improved the paper, and made such arrangements as will enable them to obtain selections from the most popular Periodicals of the day. They therefore may confidently promise the patrons of the "Visitor," to present them with *Reading Matter* of the choicest description, and at as early a period as any of their contemporaries. Great care will be observed in the speedy receipt, up, to blend the useful with the entertaining.

The Baltimore Saturday Visitor, is published weekly, on the largest size sheet, by CLODB & POUDEL, No. 1, S. Gay St. Balt. The terms are only \$2 per annum; if paid in advance.

To the Sheriffs of
NORTH CAROLINA.

At a meeting held in the city of Raleigh during the last session of our General Assembly, it was resolved to address the people of the State on the subject of revising the Constitution, and to request the Sheriffs of the several counties, to open a poll for taking the vote of the people, for and against a change of the Constitution, at the separate elections to be held in August, 1833, for members of a General Assembly, and report the result to His Excellency the Governor. In part compliance with this resolution, a committee have published an "address to the free men of North Carolina," in which the subject is fully, ably and candidly discussed. It is gratifying also to perceive that the conductors of the public press have in all parts of the State, opened their columns to this subject and lent their aid to circulate information on this important question; so that few among us will have any difficulty in voting understandingly on it.

The undersigned, as chairman of this meeting and in their behalf now most respectfully solicit the Sheriffs of this State to lend their assistance in procuring an expression of the public will in the manner indicated by the said resolution. True it is that no law has armed this request with the force of a mandate; but he has no much confidence in the intelligence, republican spirit, and courtesy of the Sheriffs of North Carolina to believe that they can slight a request of this sort, where it has emanated from so respectable a body of their fellow citizens. It is requested that you should give your official aid, to embody public opinion, and you cannot fairly or decorously refuse it; for I apprehend you all will admit that an acquiescence can result in no possible injury, unless indeed it be an evil to permit the people to a free state to express their sentiments about public affairs. Permit me to add that an easy and uniform plan for notifying the people that these polls will be opened, would be, that each Sheriff should advertise the fact in some newspaper (where one is published) in his district, as well as by notices put up at public places in his county. In these notices it is desired that the people should be immediately informed that their opinion is asked "For a change of the Constitution," or AGAINST a change of the Constitution." It is believed that a majority be in favor of a change, the Legislature may be safely entrusted with providing their plans of procuring the changes which are necessary, subject however to the ultimate determination of the people. The various plans which have been suggested, are eagerly considered with the practice, and principles of the American States, as well as fully and carefully discussed and discussed in the address before referred to, and their consideration does not properly belong to this communication.

This method of addressing the Sheriffs of the State, has been adopted in preference to a letter by mail to each one, because the communication is more certain to meet their attention, and because it is much less liable to misrepresentation. The meeting before referred to had no hidden projects, and I have no concealment to make in this behalf.

The undersigned, embraces this opportunity of inviting the aid of the county committees (appointed last winter) in distributing the address and other information on this subject among the people, and also in procuring a vote of their respective counties, "for or against" a change of the Constitution. The liberality manifested by the conductors of the press, induces him to hope, that they may find it as agreeable and convenient to give circulation to this communication, by inserting it 2 or 3 times in some conspicuous part of their Journals.

Respectfully,
THOMAS G. FOLEY, Chairman.
Raleigh, 1833.

From the Charlottesville Advocate, Friday, July 5
New Plan of a Rail Road.—We understand that Mr. John Hartman, Jr. of Scottsville, a gentleman alike remarkable for his public spirit and mechanical ingenuity, has invited and obtained a patent for a new mode of constructing Rail Roads, which is likely to be of signal benefit to the Southern country. Mr. H. has recently been to the North, and we understand was assured, by gentlemen of acknowledged skill and judgment in such matters, that his plan is entirely practicable, and promises very beneficial results. The rails are to be of wood, instead of iron, and as the usual graduation is not a part of the plan, it is estimated that an excellent road, with a double track, may be constructed upon this system for little more than a thousand dollars a mile. We trust that the enterprize

of our countryman may be heartily seconded by public spirit generally, that the practicability and utility of his plan may be fairly and speedily tested. To this end, we learn that Mr. H. actually intends making the experiment on a small portion of the Scottsville Turnpike, at his own expense.

Curious Anecdote.—In 1747 a man was broke alive on the wheel at Orleans for a highway robbery; and not having friends to bury his body, when the executioner concluded he was dead, he gave him to a surgeon, who had him carried to his anatomical theatre as a subject to lecture on. The thighs, legs and arms of this unhappy wretch had been broken, yet on the surgeon's coming to examine him, he found him surviving, and by proper applications of proper cordials, he was soon brought to his speech.

The surgeon and his pupils, moved by the sufferings and solicitations of the robber, determined on attempting his cure; but he was so mangled, that his two thighs and one of his arms were amputated. Notwithstanding this mutilation, and the loss of blood, he recovered, and in this situation the surgeon by his own desire, had him conveyed in a cart 50 leagues from Orleans, where, as he said, he intended to gain his livelihood by begging.

His situation was on the road side close by a wood, and his deplorable condition excited compassion from all who saw him. In his youth he had served in the army, and he now passed for a soldier who had lost his limbs by a cannon shot.

A drover returning from market, where he had been selling cattle, was solicited by the robber for charity, and being moved by compassion threw a piece of silver. "Alas!" said the robber, "I cannot reach it—you see I have neither arms or legs" (for he had concealed his arm which had been preserved behind his back) "so for the sake of heaven, put your charitable donation into my pouch, and Lord bless you."

The drover approached him, and he stooped to reach up the money, the sun shining, he saw a shadow on the ground which caused him to look up, when he perceived the arm of the beggar elevated over his head, and his hand grasping a short iron bar. He arrested the blow in its descent, and seizing the robber carried him to his cart, into which having thrown him he drove off to the next town which was very near, and brought his prisoner before a magistrate.

On searching him a whistle was found in his pocket, which naturally induced a suspicion that he had accomplices in the wood; the magistrate, therefore, instantly ordered a guard to the place where the robber had been seized, and they arrived within half an hour after the murder of the drover had been attempted.

The guard having concealed themselves behind different trees, the whistle was blown, the sound of which was remarkably shrill and loud; and another whistle was heard under ground, three men at the same instant rising over the midst of a bushy clump of bamboes and other dwarf shrubs. The soldiers fired on them, and they fell. The bushes were searched, and a descent discovered in a cave. Here were found three young girls and a boy. The girls were kept for the officers for servants and the purposes of lust; the boy, scarce 12 years of age, was a son of one of the robbers. The girls, in giving evidence, deposed, that they had lived three years in the cave, had been kept there by force from the time of their captivity; that dead bodies were frequently carried into the cave, stripped and buried; and that the old soldier was carried out every day, and sat by the road side for two or three hours.

On this evidence the murdering men were condemned to suffer a second execution on the wheel. As but one arm remained, it was to be broken by several strokes, in several places, and a coup de grace being denied he lived in tortures for five days. When dead, his body was burned to ashes and strewn before the winds of Heaven.

A THRILLING TALE.

The following thrilling tale is said to have been related by Sir Walter Scott, and furnished by a correspondent of Campbell's Magazine:

It happened several years ago, when I was traversing the Highlands, along with a much beloved, but now departed friend; one who was rich in classical and legendary lore, but still more in sterling and moral virtues, for it has been my lot to possess friends and companions from whom I have been ever gaining, till my store has become somewhat bulky. Alas! there are so many deserters from the corps by this time, who shall no more return, that I wish to cherish the persuasion, that to be gone and be with them, will be far better. My friend and I were among the thickly strewn mountains and ragged rocks of the wildest branch of Highlands, where there is a remarkable ravine, which

we visited and explored. It is, rather than a ravine, a fearful pit or dungeon, descending deep among the yawning rocks. It is as if a volcano had boiled there, but in course of time had spouted out his lava, forming strange adjacent peaks all around, thus leaving the furnace or crater dry and empty. It is a terrible throat wide open, on the very edge of which one may stand and look down to the bottom.

There is a mode of descent into its depths which visitors may command. This is by means of rope and windlass, as it were into a coal pit, which are fixed and worked from a prominent brow of the highest frowning peak. To the main rope a machine is attached, called a cradle, by four shorter cogs, that tie to distinct corners. He that descends takes his stand or seat in the cradle, within the stretch of the four diving cords that meet his head. A rough old Highlander presided at the windlass, who appointed my friend first to go down. Ere the cradle came up for me again, a presentiment of some horrid accident about to happen to one of us began to take hold of my nature, and I could not resist inquiring if all was right with my friend below. "Hoo, surely," was the answer. "And the cradle will be ready for you in a minute; ye are as heavy as two o' him."

"Is the rope frail?" "No, very away; the last one was rotten; it broke and let a man fa," was the alarming reply. "Was he killed, say you?" "Killed, though, he had a hundred lives, he wad hae been killed; he was smashed to pieces down on yonder jagged rock," quoth the hard-hearted Celt. I examined the rope, and it appeared much worn, and to be old. "How old is it?" inquired I. "Just five years old; the last was a month auld before it brake," was the next piece of tantalizing information. With some irritation of manner, I put it to him, why he had not been provided before any risk could attend a descent; and to make things worse, he provokingly announced, "we are to get a new one in the morn; ye'll likely be the last one to try the auld."

But already the cradle waited for me to step into it; I could not disappoint my companion by not doing as he did; and ashamed to seem to hesitate before the Highlander, at once took my seat. It was perhaps to encourage me, that he said, as he let me off, "A far heavier man than you gaed down yesterday." "Then he strained the rope," cried I; but it was too late to return, and, after all, I got safe down. The sun shone brightly, and made every intricacy, even in the deep crater, clear and open to the eye. The floor might allow a hundred and fifty people to stand on it at once; and consists of a fine sand that sparkles with pebbles, which have dropped from the surrounding and impending rocks. The face of these rocks is also grimed by thousands of the same sort that glittered beautifully in the sunbeams, all of which has naturally suggested the idea of a work of enchantment, for it is called the Fairy's Palace. But I confess, though a palace, it had few attractions for me; for besides the disheartenings the Highlander fired me with, ere my descent, my friend, now that I was down, though without any mischievous intent, crowded my fears, by giving with startling effect, the following narrative: "A young man once ascended from this, but when he came to the top, he incautiously stood bold, upright in the cradle, and the moment ere it was landed, being impatient to get out of it, he made an adventurous leap for the breast of the rock. But the cradle being still pendant in the air, without a stay, fled back on the impulse of his spring, and fearful to think, let him fall between it and the landing place." "Horrible! most horrible!" was my most natural exclamation. "But," continued my friend, "keep ye your seat in the cradle till it be firmly landed on the rock, and all will be safe." He ascended and I prepared to follow.

I thought of the young man's leap and fall, I figured to myself the spot where he alighted, and the rebound he made when he met the ground, never more to rise. And as I took my seat, my limbs smote one another, and my teeth chattered with terror. When I had descended I kept my eyes bent downwards, and was encouraged the nearer I got to the bottom. But on my ascent, though I looked all the while upwards, I was tremblingly alive to the fact, that I was ever getting into higher danger. I held the spread cords as

with the grip of death, never moving my eyes from the blackened creaking main rope. "There! there it goes!" I grasped the words; for did I not see one ply of the triple twisted line snap asunder as it happened to touch a pointed piece of granite? And when once cut and liberated, did the ply not untwist and curl away from its coils? Did I not see another ply immediately follow in the same manner; leaving my life to the last brittle thread, which also began to grow attenuated, and to draw so fine, that it could not long have borne its own weight? I was speechless; the world whirled round; I became sightless, and when within one short foot of being landed, I fell into the grasp of my friend, who seeing me about to tumble out of the cradle from the stupor, opportunely snatched and swung, cradle and all, upon the rock. When strength returned, I ran from the edge of the precipice, still in the utmost trepidation—shaking fearfully and giving unintelligible utterance to the agony of my awe-struck soul. And if my hair did not undergo an immediate change of color, I was not without such an apprehension, for certainly it stood on end during my ascent from the floor of the Fairy's Palace.

Com. Downes and the Frigate Potomac.—We publish, from the New York Commercial Advertiser, a statement by a correspondent, of the "affair of Quallah Battoo," under the direction of Com. Downes, of the frigate Potomac. It rejoices us to assist in circulating a defence of this gallant officer, and in recording the spirit and enterprise of his noble crew. We regretted the attacks that have been made on Com. Downes; for his alleged conduct towards the natives in that affair. We know this officer too well to believe him capable of any act that does not comport with his own and his country's honor. Our gallant officers glory more in humanity to a foe, than in a triumph. It was this feeling that won their fadeless laurels in the late war. We never believed that Com. Downes had given any order, or sanctioned any act, that would deprive him of that enviable satisfaction which the humane conqueror only can feel. Every body will be satisfied with the following statement of the case.

Commercial Herald.
From the New York Commercial Advertiser.
Lima, Feb. 16, 1833.

By a late arrival we have received a number of papers, and I am sorry to see the abuse that has been heaped upon Commodore Downes and officers, respecting the affair of Quallah Battoo. They have, while absent from their country and unable to defend themselves, been held up to the censure of their countrymen, and the indignation of the world, as "vain boasters, plunderers and savage murderers of helpless women and children." I have been informed by an eye witness, an actor in the scene, that the particulars contained in the official return are all strictly true; that there is not a vain boast in the letters, that it was a most perilous enterprise, and would have been attended with the most disastrous results, had there been the slightest want of firmness or prudence. A great deal has been said about the number that were killed; and an attempt has been made to impress the public mind with a belief that they were murdered in the dead of the night, naked and unarmed. Many, it is true, were killed, in open day and with arms in their hands. The officers engaged in the expedition are no doubt as deeply impressed with the sacred character of humanity, and are as much under its benign influence as those who have raised so great an outcry against them. They were placed, however, in a critical situation; they had two alternatives to choose between—to kill their opponents, or to be killed themselves. They chose the first, and so would any one but a madman. They were not quite so quixotic as to be killed rather than defend themselves. If a sordid passion for plunder had placed them in this situation, then humanity might have entertained a doubt as to the propriety of defending themselves at the expense of the attacking party. But their sordid passions did not place them in this perilous situation. They were ordered there in the execution of their duty—a painful and dangerous duty, it is true—but not the less imperative on that account. I have understood their Government ordered them to land and surround the forts and town, and demand restitution of the property plundered

from one of their ships, and the punishment of the murderers. They did so, and mark the result: The first fort that was approached and surrounded for this purpose, opened its fire upon the officer and his men, while he was making his demand, in as intelligent a manner as his imperfect knowledge of their language would permit.

Here was a rude and violent stop put to any thing like parley and negotiation; the murderous cannon and muskets spoke in language not to be mistaken, as we will give you no satisfaction—no indemnity for the robbery and the murders we have committed upon your defenceless countrymen." This language was understood and properly appreciated by the officers composing the expedition, and they without hesitation pursued the only proper course. They not only punished the piratical band, but they deprived them of the means of again murdering the defenceless trader by destroying their arms and their strong holds. It is my candid belief, from what I have heard from various sources, that not one woman was killed, knowing her to be such. One, however, was wounded, but it was done in disarming her after she had fired a ball through the hat of one of the men, wounded him in the head with a javelin, and almost cut his thumb off with a sabre. This is a proof of their being of a mild, inoffensive race of people, like the *Orakaitans*, more shinned against than sinning. It will also confirm in a signal and most conclusive manner the statement of a writer in a Boston paper who signs himself "An American," wherein he says "that with a launch's crew, and a few marines, he could surround the town and dictate his own terms without the shedding of a drop of blood." He must have studied military tactics under a certain renowned Captain Bobadil, so celebrated in the story book, who defeated in his own valiant person, by detail, a whole army of some thousands of men. It is a pity that he is so wanting in patriotism as not to have written over his own proper name, for so long as his modesty keeps him unknown, his country will be deprived of his knowledge and wonderful courage. Such men ought to be known and cherished by the government. It is a base and infamous falsehood, that a single child was killed, or injured or harmed, in any way, and there is no question that those who have given circulation to the report, did so with the conviction strongly impressed on their minds that they were circulating the basest calumny.

It has surprised me not a little to find that there are some among our respectable editors of newspapers, who have allowed themselves to be influenced by "ex parte" statements, and have made comments upon the affair highly injurious to the characters of those concerned. They have not waited for access to a legitimate source for information, but have hastily seized upon the ridiculous and always overwrought letters of the honest but illiterate Jack. I will again repeat that I am surprised at this, for that truly respectable class of men, in our country, have always been remarkable for the honesty of their intentions, and a determination to preserve the purity of the press sacred from the pen of the calumniator and slanderer. By a reference to the history of the late war, it will be seen that the gallantry and patriotic zeal of Commodore Downes is too imperishably recorded, for him to suffer any injury from anonymous publications, equally as dishonorable to the writers as the publishers. The Commodore may have departed from the strict letter of his instructions, but there is no question that he has conformed to the very spirit of them. He could not himself land, and without committing an impropriety, and violating the usage of the service; he therefore had to delegate his power to another. His orders, I take it for granted, were to land, surround the town and forts, and demand indemnity for the outrage that had been committed, and the punishment of those concerned in the barbarous and horrid massacre of the Friendship's crew. The landing was effected just before the dawn of day, about one and a half mile to the northward of the town. It took some time to land and form the men, and to march this mile and a half in deep heavy sand; and by the time the different divisions reached their forts, it was broad and perfect day light. Consequently it was not a bloodbath massacre committed at the dead of night. Soon after the march commenced, a Malay was

discovered on the beach, who immediately fled. He could have been killed on the spot; but humanity, not policy, spared him, as bloodshed and a deviation from orders were, if possible, to be avoided.

When in the neighborhood of the first fort, a division was detached and ordered to surround it. By the time the division reached the rear of the fort, and while the officer, Lieut. Hoff, was trying to enter into a parley with the pirates, the main body of our force had gained the front of the fort, and were passing it on their way to the others, when the fort opened its whole fire upon Lieut. Hoff, and also the main body. Lieut. Hoff then commenced the attack, and succeeded, after a most desperate resistance, in carrying it by storm. The other divisions proceeded on to the town for the purpose of surrounding the other forts. They did not wait to receive the first fire, for several reasons. 1st. At the principal fort they were seen in the act of firing a cannon, ("not a rusty musket that would not go off.") which would have destroyed many of them, and perhaps caused the defeat of the expedition, in which event all hands would have been massacred. 2d. They had already been fired upon by the first fort, consequently, by anticipating them in this instance, they could not be accused of firing the first shot. 3d. It was very evident, from what had taken place at the first fort, that all attempts to enter into a negotiation would be more than madness; there were, therefore, two alternatives for the officer in charge of the expedition to choose between, viz. either disgracefully to retreat at a great sacrifice of the lives of those entrusted to his judgment or firmness, and report to his Commanders that he had been fired upon, and driven on board, or push on and destroy the piratical barbarians, who had not only murdered his inoffensive countrymen when trading with them, but had dared to fire upon those who came twelve months afterwards to demand satisfaction for their ruthless murders and piracy.

From the above statement, I think it will be evident that the officer in charge of the expedition could have pursued no other course without bringing disgrace upon himself and country. Although he had to determine upon the course proper to pursue under circumstances peculiarly trying, and on the spur of the moment, surrounded by a fierce and cruel enemy, who neither gave nor would receive quarter, yet, notwithstanding a twelve-months has elapsed, and he has had ample time to reflect upon all the circumstances of the case, to view it in the different colors in which party spirit and a squeamish humanity has presented it to the public, and has also had the advantage of reading the opinions of those dignified heroes who have calmly dissected the transaction in their closets, only ten thousand miles from the scene of action, still I have not a question but what he would act precisely in the same way to-morrow, if placed in a similar situation.

It is proper to state, that the division of seamen and marines which were ordered to surround the forts in the rear, had to proceed through the town to gain this station—a movement which they executed without committing any act of hostility. The division of seamen was unable to find the fort it was in search of, and rejoined the main body after the latter had commenced the attack upon the principal fort, on the beach, in front of the town, and which, from its great strength, could not be reduced without the co-operation of all the divisions. The division of marines was more fortunate;—when they had reached the gate of the enclosure that surrounded the fort, and while in the act of forcing the gate, before they had fired a single shot, they were very unexpectedly fired upon from the thick jungle in which the forts are situated; the jungle was so thick that they could not discover the persons of their enemy; but it led to a discovery of an unfinished part, which had been commenced in anticipation of a visit from some of our vessels of war. It ought also to be stated, that when the marines, with great difficulty, had forced the gate of the enclosure with their axes and crowbars, they found several women and children, (the men retreating to the fort,) who were much terrified; and it was with great difficulty that they were soothed and pacified, and carefully put into a place of safety until the action was over, when, I need hardly state they were kindly dismissed.