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—:o:—

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THE LIVING PRESENT.

DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, MORALITY, POLITICS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

VOL. 1. WARRENTON, N. C., FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1869 NO. 28.

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ORANGES, Lemons and Cocoanuts, just received, and for sale by G. R. SLEDGE.

March, 27th 1869.

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Meal and Flour, of the best kind, constantly on hand at G. R. SLEDGE'S.

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March, 27th 1869 no-12tf

TO THE PEOPLE OF WARRENTON AND VICINITY.

HAVING made arrangements to move to the West, I would most cheerfully recommend to my former patrons and friends,

DR. V. E. TURNER,

of Henderson, N. C., who is a graduate of the "BALTIMORE DENTAL COLLEGE," and who doubtless will give satisfaction to all who may favor him with calls.

Dr. Turner, proposes to make regular visits to this place, and will occupy during his stay, my old rooms.

IN taking my leave of Warrenton, and the people surrounding, who have so generously encouraged and patronized me while one of them, I desire to express publicly to them, my thanks for the same, with the wish for the individual welfare and prosperity of each one of its good people.

Very truly,
R. D. FLEMING.

Warrenton, N. C., March, 23, 1869. 12.

Jones & Plummer,

GENERAL COMMISSION Merchants and Grocers,

No. 114 Sycamore St., East Side, Petersburg Va.

Solicit Consignments of Cotton, Tobacco, Wheat, and all other kinds of Produce and Merchandise. Orders for Goods filled at Reasonable Rates.

ROBERT H. JONES, Late Inspector at Moore's Warehouse.

HENRY L. PLUMMER, Late of the Firm of N. M. Martin, Plummer & Co., and W. K. Martin & Co.

No-5-6m

Notice of Copartnership.

WILMINGTON, N. C., April 15, 1869.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVE this day entered into Co-partnership, under the firm name and style of BANISTER, COWAN & CO., for the purpose of conducting the business of a Real Estate and Financial Agency, with principal offices at Wilmington, N. C., and New York City.

We respectfully offer our services to the public.

LEMUEL BANISTER,
D. S. COWAN,
J. C. KENTON.

For further information, address BANISTER, COWAN & CO. Wilmington, N. C.

May, 7th 1869. 3m.

W. H. CHEEK, C CAPEHAR

CHEEK & CAPEHART,

GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

And Cotton Factors,

No. 35 Commerce street, NORFOLK, VA.

No.-1.6m.

[From "XIX Century," an Illustrated Monthly, published in Charleston, S. C.]

Adventures of Confederate Blockade Runners.

How a Confederate Blockade Runner Hoodwinked a British Naval Officer.

The "Kate" was as clean as a new pin, officers and men dressed for company, and Captain Tom, with the easy courtesy of a man of the world, quickly made every individual on board feel as if he, she and it were his own personal guests. No man knows how to plant and reap blessings better than Tom Oakey. The fine band of the second West India Regiment—all blacks—was on board, and added to the zest of the occasion with music that would not be discreditable in the Tacon Theatre or Hyde Park. I ought to tell you, by the way, that this regiment is composed entirely of negroes, every one of whom is a picked man, six feet in height, and when they appear on parade, dressed in their zouave uniform, and drilled so that they move like a vast machine, there is not a more striking spectacle on a small scale to be seen on this mundane sphere. The officers are all white, and, as a general thing, educated.

After steaming around for three or four hours, we ran up to the eastward and came to an anchor. The awnings were spread and the decks cleared for a dinner. Meanwhile, the steward and his assistants had prepared the handsomest banquet which the place and circumstances could afford: and if ever the royal road to people's hearts was found through the human stomach, it was certainly discovered on that occasion. The dignitaries of the Island were all graciousness, and as the wine flowed and tongues loosened, I saw the target at which Captain Tom was driving his hospitable lance.

It's so easy to blind a man's eyes with a good dinner. In nine cases out of ten, a basket of champagne will warp a man's conscience to the most accommodating degree; and it has not unfrequently proved the fact that when a government official is concerned in contraband transactions, the [illegible] of charity itself—"it covereth a multitude of sins."

An evidence of the intensity of feeling at this time among the islanders, was furnished on our trip back in the afternoon. The mate of the vessel lying at one of the wharves, seeing us approaching with the English colors at our masthead, ran up to his own fore peak the cross of St. George beneath the stars and stripes. This act so enraged the citizens that they went on board of the American vessel, tore down the American flag, and in a moment rent it in a thousand tatters. On landing, the officers of the West India Regiment, who had been our guests, likewise excited at what they deemed an insult to the Queen, rushed into the crowd, gathered all the fragments they could obtain and carried them to their quarters. The upshot of the affair was, that in the course of an hour the captain of the vessel came on board of the "Kate" and apologized for what he called the unwarrantable act of his drunken mate. Tom, as a matter of course, took the apology with all the dignity of a bloody-minded and indignant Englishman, and was not appeased until the skipper balanced accounts with a case of the best brandy in port. Consul Sam. Whiting—a jolly good fellow, by the way—was not so easily satisfied, and making complaint the next day to the Governor of the island, every blessed West Indian who had a fragment of the unfortunate banner as big as a ten cent piece, was obliged to deliver the same to the irate representatives of the United States of America, after which, suitable apology was made by the authorities of the island.

The way was now paved for the accomplishment of our object, which was to obtain a cargo of arms and ammunition of war, that had been ordered by the Confederate Government, and which it was vitally important should be placed in the hands of our Western army, then in the vicinity of Corinth, with the least possible delay.

This war material had been brought to Nassau by an English brig, and a part of her cargo was unloaded at the dock, but as suspicion had been aroused that things were not exactly what they seemed, she had dropped down some distance from the town and lay in the stream awaiting our arrival. As many vessels were constantly coming and going, these movements occasioned no especial comment. In two days after our excursion party we coaled, and steaming up to the dock took in the portion of cargo which had been deposited as above described. We then dropped down alongside of the English brig.

The custom house officer detached to attend us, was as black as your hat, but, nevertheless, a courteous and intelligent official. Oakey had industriously cultivated this fellow's acquaintance, and he was so completely magnetized by the peculiar manipulations of the old blockade runner, that he never saw anything which was not proper to be seen, except twenty dollar gold pieces or a bottle of wine, and for all Confederate purposes was as blind as an owl in the sunlight.

The arms and accoutrements were packed in boxes and marked "Hardware," and in all probability the custom house official aforesaid, is to the present day, prepared to swear the most horrible oath that they contained in truth only legitimate spades and and shovels, manufactured in Springfield, Massachusetts.

We had been hurrying in the cargo for about three hours, when the captain of an English gunboat rowed alongside and came on board. He was a gruff, hearty old fellow, of the bull-dog stripe, chunky, broad shouldered, yellow haired, and red faced, with those pretty blossoms on his rosy features, which are the unmistakable symptoms of a devotee at the shrine of John Barleycorn. Tom knew his man in a minute, and guessed his errand; and you never saw one of the feline species proceed to play with a captive mouse more adroitly than was done on this important occasion.

Vast interests were at stake. None knew better than Captain Oakey that perhaps the Confederate success in the daily expected battle of Shiloh depended on the safe transit and delivery of these arms, and no man could possibly feel the responsibility of the hour more gravely than himself, for before our departure, letter upon letter had been sent to Charleston from both officers of the army and of the government, begging us by every consideration to forward them with all possible dispatch. 'Good morning captain, I am glad to see you,' was Oakey's off hand greeting. They had met before on previous visits of our blockade runners to Nassau.

"Putting extending a fat, freckled hand, that looked as if at some time it had been the flipper of a turtle.

'Just in time,' said Tom, 'I've just ordered a toddy; d'ye ever drink?'

'Drink sir, drink sir, aye, aye, by Jove try me; I'm like the Irishman, sir—the Irishman; if I don't drink, d——n it, make me drink, sir, make me drink." After these pyrotechnic ejaculations the venerable mariner gave vent to a series of abdominal cackles, which shook his corporosity like the premonitory tremors of a young earthquake.

'Walk aft,' said Tom.

'By the way,' remarked the old salt, as they moved towards the cabin, 'the guv'ner yonder has a fancy that you are shipping arms for the Confederates—ha! ha! good joke, sir, good joke; shipping arms under Her Majesty's nose. Wanted me to come off and see what you're doing—egad, sir, what' you're doing. And I've come, I've come, sir."

'That's right,' said Tom, 'I'm glad to welcome you. Look around for yourself; there's a pile of hoes, some shovels and spades, and when you go below we'll have the boxes opened, and I'll show you the prettiest lot of hardware ever shipped from Great Britain. But come along to the cabin and let's drink first."

With that Oakey ushered his visitor into the private cabin of the "Kate," and closed the door on that side of the ship from which she was every moment receiving her warlike cargo.

'What shall it be? I've a little of all sorts.' 'Take some champagne,' said Tom.

'A little brandy first, cap'n—brandy first. Brandy's a sheet anchor, cap'n a sheet anchor—no water, thank ee, no water; they don't agree, as the Irishman said, when he gave the Pope a recipe for making punch.'

'How was that?' asked Tom.

'First pour in the brandy, then add the sugar, but, 'gad, sir, every drop of water you put in after that, spoils the punch, sir, spoils the punch.'

Oakey plied his guest with questions, and kept him busy with answers, every three or four minutes putting in a liquid punctuation point in the shape now of brandy, and now of champagne, until the British captain was in an uproarious state of personal felicity. At first he was strictly and most impartially neutral—the very essence of a representative Briton, dutifully engaged; but the more he practiced multiplication with Joannes Barleycorn the kinder grew his sympathies, until finally dindled into enthusiasm, about fifteen glasses deep, he threw his arms affectionately around Tom, and exclaimed with intoxicated pathos, 'Nev'r mind 'e 'ardware, cap'n—nev'r mind! Ye see, ye see, hic—it's all right—by Jove, all right, hic. I'm with ye, hic—with ye 'eart an' soul, by Jove—'eart and soul, hic.' The last words were grandly emphatic, accompanied with a stroke on Tom's back, which the old salt doubtless intended to be particularly fraternal, but which Tom avers, to this day, was very much like the descending stroke of a spile driver, and always gives him a rheumatic twinge to think about.

Three or four more drinks did the business, by which time Tom was safe from all fears of inspection.

Between the Otard on the one hand and the necessary official dignity to be observed on the other, the old Briton, as he leaned lovingly on Tom's arm in the passage from the cabin to the ship's ladder, found it exceedingly difficult to maintain his specific gravity. As he rolled over the side, his parting words were, 'Her Majesty's officer after 'ardware—hic, 'ardware. Ha! ha! good joke, sir, by Jove, hic; God bless yer, cap'n, hic—an' safe v'yage—safe v'yage back.' When last seen the worthy captain was stretched out in the stern sheets of his cutter, snoring an unconscious accompaniment to 'When the swallows homeward fly.'

We had now only to finish loading, get our clearance from the custom house, and turn our bow homeward. The 'Kate,' although a trim and beautiful boat, was not the fastest of our blockade runners; but fortunately we were not put to a trial of speed on the return trip. Our cargo being too important to warrant the ordinary risks incurred in running the blockade of Charleston or Wilmington, Captain Oakey determined to land at Smyrna, on the coast of Florida, which was safely done. The Confederate authorities, duly advised of our arrival, then took the cargo in hand, and in the course of ten or fifteen days the arms and ammunition were on their way, in hundreds of wagons, across the country to the nearest railroad that would convey the long expected aid to the army of the West. I need only add that they reach[illegible] was time, and [illegible] with the 'Hardware' over which the sturdy John Bullian had been made so boisterously fuddled.

Tom left the ship at Smyrna in charge of the first officer, and came to Charleston; and so ended that trip.

We copy the following from a recent article in *Blackwood*:

It cannot be asserted by the severest moralist that the ballet, though it partakes of the character of a pagan festival, is of necessity indecent or immodest, and that it may not be made the source of much innocent and refined enjoyment. It is a mistake, too, to suppose that the ballet has exclusive attractions for men. Educated and accomplished women, both young and old, love to see a handsome girl, handsomely dressed or draped, displaying herself in the graceful figures and movements of the dance, upon the same principle that they admire a picture, a poem, a flower, a tree, a landscape, or anything in the works of God or man that appeals to the sence of beauty, proportion and harmony. And if one such young woman is a beautiful sight, fifty or a hundred or more of such women, dressed alike, or slighly differing for the contrast of color, are, *pari passu*, a beautiful spectacle when they perform the gyrations and evolutions upon the stage, and neither by gesture, nor sign, nor suggestion convey, or seek to convey, to the mind of beholder any impression but that which springs from the legitimate exercise of their art.

The scanty drapery of the ballet girls, when not carried to the extreme that suggests, not dancing, or the ease and grace of dancing, but something else, is no offence either against modesty or good manners. Yeever since the days of Martial, and pehaps long before, the Prudes, Puritans, and sterner moralists of society have seen in the public dance a means for the corruption of public manners through the eye, which they have never wearied in denouncing. Addison in the article in the *Spectator*, from which extract has already been made, has a good-natured fling at the stage dancers of his day when ballet was yet unknown. "I," he says, "no know nothing of women but from seeing plays, can give great guess at the whole structure of the fair sex by being innocently placed in the pit, and insulted by the petticoats of the dancers—the advantages of which pretty persons are a great help to a full play." The costume of the modern ballet of thirty years ago, when Taglioni's graceful skirts barely displayed the knee, was objected to by the prudes of both sexes. In spite, however, of objections, good natured and otherwise the ballet has continued to grow in popularity, and the skirts of the dancers to grow less; and such entertainments have spread from the Italian opera houses to the great, and afterward to the minor theatres, and finally have invaded and taken possession of the music halls.

Bailey's lovely statue of "Eve at the Fountain," in which there is not the slightest pretence of drapery or concealment of the divine form, fresh from the hands of the Creator, is purity itself; and any one who sees impurity in it has the impurity in his own heart. In the same manner, there is no indelicacy in the display of the pretty bare legs of little maidens of from four to five years old, or in the bare feet and ankles of the bonny Scotch lasses, innocent alike of shoes and stockings and of evil intent, though there would be indecency in the display of a naked leg and foot in the streets of London or Edinburgh, by full grown damsels, who made the display for a meretricious purpose. There are statues and statuettes to be seen all over Europe in which nudity is as complete as it is beautiful; but when such statues or statuettes or imitated by purveyors of obscenity, and crowned with a modoern bonnet, wrapped in a modern shawl, and encased in modern stockings, and nothing else, their vile intention becomes apparent, and they fall properly under the cognizance of the police. The display is not indecent *per se*, as when an actress of high attainments and genius, in default of an actor of truthfulness and talent enough to undertake the part, appears as Romeo; any more than it is indelicate or improper for a man to hide the form by appearing in petticoats to play the part of one of the witches of 'Macbeth.' The intention is everything, just as is in killing. If yon intend to kill, you are a murderer, and deserve the murderer's fate. If you kill in self defence, and in a just and patriotic cause—like a soldier—you are not blamable, but virtuous. In like manner the scanty drapery of the ballet for the purposes of [illegible] is not [illegible] of good manners; but if the ballet girl—not for the sake of art, but for the sake of attracting lewd attention—overdoes the scantiness and betrays the immodesty of her mind by her motions or gestures, she commits an offence, and ought to be hissed from the stage which she disgraces.

If at any place or public entertainment the undress of women is of a character to deter men from introducing their pure-minded mothers, wives, sisters or daughters to witness the performance, such place of entertainment is doomed to bankruptcy. It may drag on a precarious existence for a while by keeping within a hair's breadth of the penalties of the law that prohibits the immodest exposure person, but the world and the world's opinion are against it, and it must go the way of all anachronisms and offences against the public conscience. But let us not, in the outcry against short petticoats, commit treason against an art that ministers, like other arts to the gratification of the sense of beauty. All true art is like music—it cannot be indecent or improper in itself, and is only made so by the extraneous association of words and thoughts that come out of the mind of the observer, and not out of the things observed. "To the pure all things are pure." "In dancing," says Sir Richard steele, "all the charms of an agreeable person are in their highest exercise; every limb and feature appears with its reflective grace. As all art is an imitation of nature, so this is an imitation of nature in its highest excellence. The business of dancing is to display beauty, and for that reason all distortation and mimicries, as such, are what raise aversion instead of pleasure. * * * The dancers on our stage are very faculty in this kind, and what they mean by writhing themselves into such postures as it would be a pain for any one of the spectators to stand in, and yet hope to please those spectators, is unintelligible." And it is in this respect that reform is, in our day, still more needful than it was in the days when Addison and Steele were the arbiters of taste and the high priests of criticism.

The agent for the office in which we are insured says a married man should insure his life for many reasons. But the most important of all is, that it would prove a great help to his wife's second husband, and might be the means of starting him in business.

"What blessings children are!" as the parish clerk said when he took fees for christening them.

Sweet Potato.

Since the remarks of 'Ben Radical' about raising sweet potatoes without barnyard manure, we have looked into the matter somewhat, and find that it has been done, and without encouraging results. Mr. Wm. D. Frost tried it on a small scale last year and the result was such that he has determined to try an acre on the same plan this year. He used muck that had been thoroughly pulverized by the action of the frost, and peruvian gurao. He weighed the guano used and put half a cent's worth in each hill mixed with about a quart of muck. The potatoes raised on this compost were set ten days later than those raised on barn-yard manure, but when dug, they yielded several pounds more to the hill than the others, although the yard manure cost very nearly three times as much, or a cent and a half to the hill. Had the potatoes been set at the same time, the difference in favor of the compost would undoubtedly have been much greater.—For the acre he proposes to raise this year, Mr. Frost has two cords of muck that has been exposed to the action of the frost till it is well pulverized. With that he will compost two bags or a little over 330 pounds of peruvian guano, by spreading a layer of muck and then a layer of guano. He will make this compost under cover of course. Exposure to rain would render it worthless. Of this compost he will use about one quart to the hill. We have been thus minute with the description for the benefit of those who may wish to try the same manure for sweet potatose. It is much cheaper than yard manure. If it answers as good a purpose as it really seems to do, it will be very important to Hammonton.—Hammonton *Republican.*

Medical Properties of Celery.

I have known many men, and women, too, who, from various causes, have become so much affected with nervousness, that when they stretched out their hands they shook like aspen leaves on a windy day, and by a daily moderate use of the dried foot stalks came as strong and steady in limb as other people. I have known others so nervous that the least annoyance put them in a state of agitation, and they were almost in constant perplexity and fear, who were also effectually cared by a daily moderate use of celery as a salad at meal times. I have known others cured by using celery for palpitation of the heart. Everybody engaged in labor weakenin to the nerves should use celery daily in season, and onious in its stead when not in season.—*Cor. Prac. Farmer.*

A young man named Jos. Wagner, living in Charlestown, West Virginia, professed to have the power charming snakes. Last week, having captured a rattlesnake, he was giving some friends an exhibition of this power. After fondling the snake for a time in his arms, he threw it on the ground and switched it until it writhed with rage. He then took the reptile up in his arms again, and saying, 'Are you mad? Kiss me and make up,' he put its head in his mouth. The snake bit his tongue, and he died in about an hour afterward.

The Norfolk *Virginian* learns that letters have been received from Dr. Galt, on board the French corvette *Curieux*, from which it appears that the fever is rapidly abating, the last cases being of a very mild type. It also learns that all danger of the infection spreading is at an end, as there are none of the ship's crew who have not been attacked. The ship will probably have left the Roads by the time this reaches the eyes of our readers.

WANTED—AN EASY PLACE.—Rev. Henry Ward Beecher some time since received a letter from a young man, who recommended himself very highly as being honest, and closed with the request, 'Get me an easy situation, that honesty may be rewarded.' To which Mr. Beecher replied:

'Don't be an editor, if you would be 'easy.' Do not try the law. Avoid school-keeping. Keep out of the pulpit. Let alone all ships, stores, shops and merchandise. From large politics Keep away [illegible]. Be not a farmer, practise medicine; neither a soldier nor nor a mechanic; don't study. Don't think. a sailor. Do [illegible]. None of them are easy. Don't work. [illegible]st friend, you are in a very O my h[illegible]d. I know of but one real hard w[illegible]lace in it. That is the grave.' 'easy' [illegible]

[illegible]dness for gambling seems to [illegible]ing all over the world. In A fo[illegible] horse-racing has recently be increa[illegible] Duke of New Castle and England [illegible] ruined the [illegible] bankruptcy. sent him into [illegible]

JUST RECEIVED

FRESH Cakes and Crackers, Confectionaries, Old Nash Brandy, Gin, Whiskey, New Flour &c. JOHN A. HYMAN.

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—:o:—

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No.-1-6m.

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GENTS WEAR!

HAVING LAID IN A COMPLETE and splendid assortment of SPRING CLOTHING, direct from the best market, we are now prepared to offer to the trade and public generally the best inducements to be found in our line in the Southern market.

Our stock of Clothing is complete, embracing everything desired for Gent's wear.

Splendid Business Suits,
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COLLARS AT ALL PRICES,

And everything else usually found in a first-class wholesale and retail Clothing establishment.

Wedding and other suits made to order at shortest notice.

The attention of the merchants of Eastern North Carolina is particularlp invited to our stock.

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ap-23-no-16-12m Petersburg, Va.

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P. T. NORWOOD & CO.

No 41 Sycamore Street,

PETERSBURG, VA.

[illegible] pie and fancy Dry Goods, Rich Silks, Embroideries, Lace goods, Cloaks, and a full line of Mourning and Wedding goods.

We keep every article usually kept in a first class store. We invite the attention of our North Carolina friends to the same.

No.-1-5m.

WARREN COUNTY LANDS WANTED.

I shall issue in a few weeks, my second descriptive circular of lands for sale, and request all who wish to dispose of their lands, to furnish me with description and price, that I may advertise them. No charge will be made unless a sale is effected.

I am establishing sub-agencies, throughout Virginia, Maryland, Pensylvania, Delaware and New Jersey, and will soon have perfected one of the most complete and extensive Real Estate agencies in the Union. All who wish to sell lands, will find it to their interest to place it in my hands.

May 20, 1869. tf B. F. LONG

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April 23d, 1869. no-16-12m.

NOTICE.

A FINE top BUGGY which has never been used for sale, very cheap. Apply at this Office. May-28-tf.

J. ROUTH,

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