

Miscellaneous.



FOR THE FREE PRESS.

A Picture of the Times in Town.

"These are dull times," sayeth the Merchant.

The genius of business has fled,
To the tomb of departed things drear;
Our market looks gloomy—nay, dead,
But how looks the merchant? Oh, dear,
Sad enough.

He steps to the door and peeps out,
Despondency marks his sad look;
In the place of a smile there's a pout,
There's no entry to-day on his book,
'Tis very discouraging.

He looks up the street and looks down,
Through the vista of buildings to see,
If there be a debtor in town,
But, a matron with poultry sees he,
Padding towards him.

Ay, a matron with poultry to sell,
For "sweetening, cape, truck and cap;"
"Do ye want to buy chickens, my friend?"
"No, 'tis not the right sort o' pap,
"I prefer money—

"So away with your poultry," says he,
"With chickens my debts I can't pay;"
"You can sell um again, Sir," says she,
"Umph! away with your poultry, I say,
"I'm no chicken merchant."

She wheels round and bids him "good bye,"
And homeward she tramps out o' heart;
The merchant he heaves a deep sigh;
But, he cheers up, for here comes a cart
After salt, may be.

The said cart arrives in a trice,
The driver he greets with a smile;
He shakes his rough paw once or twice,
And they chat about farming awhile,
But not long—

For the booby has no tongue for chat—
"Dont ye want some sweet tatars," says he,
"I will take a jewsharp and a hat,
If ye'll take all my tatars—will ye?"
"No, I dont want 'em."

Now his prospect for selling o' salt,
Is thus at once blighted—alas!
The lad in his tumbrel doth vault,
And homeward he hurries his ass,
With all his tatars.

With fury the merchant doth rave,
With chagrin he's fit to despair;
He wishes himself in his grave,
But recants, for here comes the fair,
To trade, no doubt.

They enter his store in a group,
All garnish'd like goddesses gay;
The merchant he makes a low stoop,
With, "what can I sell ye to-day,
"Sweet ladies?"

"Have you any thread edging, dear Sir?"
"Indeed have I, madam—oh, yes;"
"Is it fine?" for fine we prefer—
"I can suit ye, sweet ladies, I guess."
Steps about most gracefully.

He exhibits his thread edging fine,
And in it he takes a great pride;
But, "this, Sir, is not the right kind,
"It's entirely too coarse and too wide;"
And they walk out.

Enraged he stamps the hard floor,
And rips out a sweet oath or two;
"I've a great mind to shut up my store,
"For this is poor business, 'twont do,
"I shall perish."

But again, Sir, he steps to the door,
With barely a hope in his heart;
But now his repinings are o'er,
They're removed by the sight of a cart,
Going after herrings.

The cart at his door doth halt,
And out pops a grey headed dad:
"I want, Sir, a bushel o' salt,
For corning o' herrings and shad:
How do ye sell it?"

"I sell it at eight shillings pay;"
"Can't ye take no less, Sir, than that?"
"No"—"Oh, you can"—"I cannot, I say"—
"Well, I have some av it, by rat—
"I'll take a peck."

He measures the salt, and shuts up his store,
This night, for the sun's flown away;
So twenty cents cash and not a cent more,
Is the amount of his sales to-day:
'Tis poor business.

*A low bow.

Congress.—In the Senate, on the 6th inst. the amendment of the Tariff bill, laying a duty on lead, being under consideration:

Mr. BRANCH tho't he could propose an amendment to the amendment which he could reconcile to all parties. One gentleman opposed the amendment because the lead mines belonged to the United States. Now, said Mr. B. the gold mines in North-Carolina belong to individuals, and not to the United States. As

North-Carolina had the most abundant means to supply this country with gold, he would move that the amendment be amended so as to add a protecting duty in favor of the gold of North-Carolina as well as of the lead of Missouri. He thought gentlemen on both sides stood pledged to vote in favor of this amendment. Mr. B. then moved that the following words be added to the amendment: "On gold dust thirty-three and a third per cent. ad valorem."

Mr. Dickerson said his objection to this amendment was, that there were no means by which gold could be prevented from coming into the country duty free. Gold dust and coin are so nearly allied as to their value, that we might as well attempt to stop the tides with a pitchfork as to prevent the introduction of foreign gold duty free.

Mr. Branch said, that of all manufacturers, those who worked in gold derived the least profit in proportion to the capital employed. He could see no reason why the constituents of the gentleman from New-Jersey should be protected in the making of iron, and the people of North-Carolina not be protected in the making of gold. The protecting system was one he was not much in favor of; but really, if it was to be practised at all, he thought the people of his State ought to be protected in one of their most important productions.

Mr. MACON opposed the amendment in some observations which were not heard. The attempt, he thought, to prevent gold from coming into the country, would be like the attempt of some other countries to prevent gold from coming out of them; and that he feared we would soon be doing here.

Mr. Branch then said, as his colleague, for whom he felt the greatest deference, had opposed the amendment, he would withdraw it—and it was accordingly withdrawn.

Gold Mines in South-Carolina.—The editor of the Pennsylvania Gazette gives the following as an extract of a letter, dated Camden, April 15:

"Within a short time, gold has been discovered in Chesterfield District, in this state, (South-Carolina) near Flat Creek, on Mr. Brewer's plantation. The average amount of gold found, has been from four to ten dollars per day for each laborer: last week, one hand collected the value of fifteen dollars in a single day. The largest pieces yet found, do not, however, exceed a dollar in value.

"Gold has also recently been discovered on Mr. M'Leod's plantation, three miles from Brewer's mine, in Kershaw District. It has not been much worked, but promises well. Also, eight miles from Brewer's, in Lancaster District, some hands are working with a good prospect before them. Accounts state, that Brewer's mine, in this State, is richer than any in North-Carolina.

"Some early settlers in this State have, at various times, asserted, that the Indians were for-

merly in the habit of offering gold dust in barter, for European goods; this assertion, though at one time discredited; is at present altogether probable; for the mines of which I have spoken, present evident indications of having been worked at a former and more distant period."

Shocking Murder.—We learn, that on Sunday, the 27th ult. Mrs. Long, wife of Mr. George Long, of Cabarrus county, was killed by a negro fellow belonging to her father, Mr. George Kizer. The fellow bore a bad character, and had been forbidden, by Mrs. Long, to visit her house, which he had been in the habit of doing clandestinely, for the purpose of seeing a negro girl belonging to the family: He consequently determined upon revenge; and on Sunday, about 3 o'clock, while Mrs. L. was passing alone along to her father's, the negro rushed from an ambush where he had been lying all day, seized and strangled Mrs. L. with two handkerchiefs, tying one round her neck, and stuffing the other in her mouth. The fellow was apprehended the same day, and confessed the murder. The negro girl was also apprehended, as an "accessory before the fact," she having furnished the fellow with food while he was lying in wait, and being privy to his designs on Mrs. L.'s life. They were both put in prison, and will be tried at the Superior Court which sits this week in Concord.—*Western Car.*

Easy method of dislodging poison from the Stomach.—Place the patient so that his mouth shall be considerably lower than the stomach—as when a man's body is lying across a chair or on a sofa, and his face is brought near the floor—and then, if necessary, press on the stomach with the hand. The cardiac orifice opens readily in such a case, and the stomach empties itself like any other inverted vessel.

A Rational Ambition.—Among the greatest of all blessings, that of being contented with our lot is one of the most desirable. No matter what that lot may be: if to labor under a fierce and intolerable sun, or to repose in comfortable obscurity in a cottage—if to pine amid the luxuries of a palace, or to live neglected in the bustle of a populous city, there is still a virtue, a philosophy in making ourselves contented with our condition. In not aspiring to what we cannot attain, or rendering ourselves miserable in disappointed efforts to soar beyond our reach. Contentment is happiness, is wealth, and we have every motive to be content with our lot from the reflection that, however miserable we may imagine ourselves, there are others, tho' unseen by us, more miserable.

Good Breeding.—A farmer who came up to town to visit his brother, having given some offence to his sister-in-law, who piqued herself upon her gentility, by something that did not accord with her ideas of good manners, she pertly told him that he was very ill-bred

and did not even know what good breeding was—"Why, look, ma'am," replied he, "as for that, I consider myself as well bred as you, for all your fine airs—my mother had seventeen of us in sixteen years—and I take that to be good breeding."

Idleness.—The Jews have a proverb, that he who brings not up his son to some occupation, makes him a thief; and the Arabians say, that an idle person is the devil's play fellow.

A man seeing a scholar that look'd very much a-squint, sure, says he, this lad must be more learned than his fellows; for with one cast of his eyes he can read both sides of his book at once.

Religious Notice.

THE ROANOKE UNION SOCIETY will commence holding their Annual Meeting at Bradford's Chapel, near Enfield, in Halifax county, on Friday, the 6th day of June next.—There will be public preaching on the two following days at said meeting.

Our Brethren of the Union Society generally are requested to attend, as we expect there will be business of much importance to be acted on at this meeting. The Rev. Wm. W. Hill, and other preachers from a distance, are expected to attend. May 13, 1828.

Mrs. D. Womble,

HAS just returned from the North, and is opening a most superb and extensive assortment of

Ladies' Fancy Goods,

Direct from the City of New-York, Comprising a general assortment in her line of business—Among them are
Leghorn Flats, different numbers,
Patent summer Bonnets of the latest N. York fashions,
Straw Bonnets, in great variety,
Children's Leghorn, Straw and Silk Bonnets,
Superb head dresses,
Plain and figured Silks and Satins, Grand de Naples, &c. assorted colors,
Wreaths and bunches of artificial flowers, a great variety,
Gauze handkerchiefs,
Bobinet Veils, of different prices,
Thule, bobinet and blown Lace,
White, black and patent Crape,
Gauze, satin and lutestring Riband, assorted colors,
Gimps, fancy and silk Cord, &c. &c.

Mantua-making, in all its varieties, executed with despatch in a superior style and after the latest N. York fashion. Halifax, April 14, 1828.

Notice.

ALL Persons are hereby cautioned against purchasing from Isaac D. Guion, the land of Thos. Guion, deceased—the Subscriber having a lien on said land, under authority of the will of said deceased, for the sum of \$1500, which must be paid before the said Isaac D. Guion is entitled to the land.

W. M. R. DUPREE

Jan. 24, 1828.

Notice.

STRAYED from the Subscriber's Stable in Scotland Neck, near David Clark's, on the 3d March, a large

Chesnut Sorrel Horse,

Having a white spot in his forehead, with the letter R branded on his left shoulder, bad hipshot in the left hip, and both hind feet white. Any person that will stop said horse and deliver him to me shall receive a reward of Five Dollars...or in proportion, if secured so that I get him again.

W. M. L. HUNT

April 7, 1828.