

The Abbeville Banner.

"LIBERTY AND MY NATIVE SOIL."

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(FOR THE ABBEVILLE BANNER.)

INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL.

LETTER VII.

The pass of the James River through the Blue Ridge is also a magnificent and truly sublime spectacle. As the immortal Jefferson has so eloquently portrayed the pass of the Potomac through the same chain, we could not interest you with a description of the James; for the scenery is more bold and imposing at the former. But, sir, a day spent there appears little more than an hour, to those, who are fascinated with contemplating the romantic and the beautiful in the works of Nature. The James comes stealing along the side of the Blue Ridge, winding out and in at every sinuosity apparently seeking an opportunity to make its escape. The North River glides on in the opposite direction, also in quest of a pass, until they meet. Then as with a giant effort a narrow chasm is opened in the massive rock, and the liberated waters bound and dash with frantic fury through the craggy channel.

The Balcony rock about midway in the Ridge, rises to the height of several hundred feet almost perpendicularly, and some of the points of mammoth dimensions are projecting in a very menacing attitude. At the base of this tremendous rock, the canal passes, having its bosom densely interspersed with boats, laden with the exuberant products of the great valley. In connexion with this there are several canal locks of exquisite workmanship. These objects blended together most delightfully associate the wild with the dulce, and all are heightened by the bold and the beautiful in the pencilings and colorings of Nature.

In the fork of these two rivers, and about a mile from their juncture, is Yallings Mountain, which appears to have been raised out of the Blue Ridge, and thrown out there by some mighty convulsion of laboring nature, to furnish a passage for the James and North Rivers. On the summit of this Mount you may obtain prospect of the Blue Ridge, that is so extensive, as to give the Ridge the appearance of an immense amphitheatre. And the enchantments of the scenery are so captivating that the eye can never tire surveying the tasteful and the beautiful in this panorama of natures handy work.

The alum Springs is also a place of considerable resort for the gay and fashionable, during the warm season. The water is strongly impregnated with alum, and four or five other mineral substances. And is of sterling value in scrofulous and dyspeptic diseases. In consequence of not losing its medicinal virtues, by transportation, large quantities are used as an article of commerce—particularly at the port of New Orleans. It emanates from a bank, which is upwards of an hundred feet high, and composed entirely of slate stone. And what is passing strange, the water is more strongly impregnated with its mineral properties during the rainy seasons. This is a splendid retreat for invalids, and those who wish to spend the summer pleasantly and fashionably amidst the balmy fragrance of a mountain atmosphere. It is a matter of deep regret, that Mr. Campbell the enterprising and hospitable proprietor has lost by fire, nearly all his valuable improvements; but nevertheless, arrangements have been made for accommodating com-

fortably a respectable number of visitors during the summer.

There are various caves, and many other curiosities which we have not time to enumerate.

A very striking item of interest and importance in Rock Bridge is the immense quantity of Marble imbedded in her Mountains. When the rich and valuable soil with all its exuberant fruits are exhausted; then that real value of the country will be drawn upon. The marble treasures which are now hoarded up in the coffers of her mountains are destined in time to enrich the citizens, and beautify, and adorn the magnificent mansion of the wealthy and tasteful inhabitants, even of New Orleans. The quantities are inexhaustible, and the quality is of about as fine a texture as the best Egyptian and Italian. The country is greatly indebted to the energy and enterprise of Messrs. Maybin & Kelly for opening and applying these vast resources of wealth and refinement. When we contemplate the wealth, intelligence, marble, and enterprise of Rock Bridge, we are ravished with the animating thought that our artisans will no longer have to leave their native home for the enervating suns of an Italian clime to acquire skill in Statuary; but that, by the men and material of our own soil, we will be furnished with the most exquisite specimens of the most accomplished masters. Without any pretensions to prophecy, I look forward to a period when Lexington will exceed Athens in the taste and eloquence of its sculpture.

WRITTEN FOR THE ABBEVILLE BANNER.

BAD HABITS IN TEACHERS.

It is a bad habit in teachers to be always stern and austere to their students; it is much better to gain their esteem by a mild, gentle and familiar deportment, and their respect by uprightness of conduct; for mild and gentle means will often effect what coercive measures could never accomplish. It is a bad habit to whip a child in anger, for then the child naturally thinks it was done to gratify spleen. It is a bad habit to punish children without first convincing the judgement that they have acted wrong, and very frequently talking to them in an affectionate manner to convince them that they have behaved improperly is punishment enough to answer the end; for like our Creator we should use punishment to produce reform. It is a bad habit for teachers to mimic, ridicule, or call their scholars ill names, such as "fool!" it can answer no good purpose, and may do much harm; children are sensitive little creatures, and such a course may produce disgust which can never be removed. It is a bad habit in teachers to permit the girls and boys to mingle together; boys should be brought to respect the girls, and to treat them with politeness; and girls should be taught to behave modestly, mildly, and politely to the boys, never allowing them to take improper liberties; by so doing they will very soon understand the prerogatives of the sexes. Now if these hints should do any good to any of the birch loving, sour looking teachers, I shall be well paid for this fragment.

THE TEACHER.

MADAME RESTELL.—This notorious woman who has lately been tried in New York for the murder of mothers and their innocents, in an indirect manner, to conceal the shame of the former, has at last been sentenced to twelve months imprisonment in the Penitentiary at Blackwells Island. Since which an arrest of judgement was issued by the Supreme Court, and the papers say, Madame Restell, will be spared the mortification of being sent to prison.

How they served monsters of this sort in Paris, in a comparatively, dark age is thus told in an extract made by the New York Sun from an authentic work:

About the year 1673, a midwife at Paris had, by her great skill in her profession acquired the support of a great number of the inhabitants, the most wealthy of whom she attended at their residences; but for those who from inclination, or fear of exposure, wished to be privately delivered, she had accommodations in her out house; to which many females resorted.

By chance, however, a gentleman who lived next door to this midwife, observed that although many pregnant women went to lie in at her house, yet comparatively but few children were brought out; and his suspicions of foul practices towards the infants acquiring fresh strength daily, he at

length consulted with several of his neighbors upon the matter, who joined him in soliciting from a magistrate a warrant to search for some plate they pretended to have lost; but in order to alarm the midwife, and put her on her guard, they began their sham search at the distance of nine or ten houses from her.

When, however, they came to her residence, she affected the utmost unconcern, desiring them not to hurry themselves, but to proceed in their task with all possible circumspection. They did so and on coming to the privy, they put down a hook which they had brought with them on purpose, and drew up the body of a child newly destroyed. They continued the search until they had found the remains of no less than sixty-two infants. The midwife was immediately apprehended and brought to trial, and being found guilty upon the fullest evidence, besides her own confession, she was confined, she was condemned to die, which sentence was executed in the following horrid manner on the 28th May, 1673.

A strong kind of gibbet was erected, under which a fierce fire was kindled; and the prisoner, being brought to the place was suspended from the gibbet in a large iron cage, in which were also placed sixteen wild cats, which had been caught for the purpose. When the torment of the flames began to be unbearable, the furious animals attacked the woman, as the cause of the agony they endured. In about fifteen minutes they tore out her eyes and entrails, yet still she continued alive and sensible, imploring some charitable spectator to put her quickly to death; but no one caring to comply with her intreaties, she remained in this frightful condition for the space of thirty-five minutes, and then died in unspeakable misery. At the time of her death, twelve of the cats had expired, and the other four survived but a minute or two longer.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Saturday, Dec. 4, 1847.

Mr. Yaney gave notice that on Monday next, he would ask leave to introduce a Bill to enable David L. Adams to emancipate his negro slave Charles.

Under the rule of the House, Mr. Yaney begged leave to announce the motives and reasons of this application for the emancipation of a slave—which was in contravention of the policy of the state. The slave Charles was a servant of gallant young Lieut. Adams, of the Edgefield Volunteers, attached to the Palmetto Regiment now engaged in the Mexican war. At the reduction of Vera Cruz—on the march to Alvarado, which proved so fatal to our Regiment, and on its progress to Puebla, he was ever by the side of his gallant young master, whatever position was assigned him. When the Regiment and the Army were on the march from Puebla to the city of Mexico, the extreme rear guard, which was commanded by the brave corporal Brooks, of the Edgefield Company, was attacked by a party of Mexican lancers—the slave Charles who was nearer to the Regiment than the rear guard, seized a musket and ran and fought by the side of the lamented Brooks, who was one of the mess upon which he waited. In the terrible Battle of Contreras and Churubusco, where the Palmetto Regiment gained immortal honor for itself and the State, in positions of the greatest danger, Charles with weapon in hand, was ever by the side of his young master, exhibiting, (upon the report of the brave Lt. Abney, of the Edgefield company,) courage as unquestionable, and a desire as ardent for the success of our arms as any soldiers in the army. At the Battle of Churubusco, where the gallant Adams fell while bearing aloft the standard of his company, and in that dreadful carnage when half the Palmetto Regiment were bleeding to death, Charles lay a day and night by the dead body of his master, and only left him to procure a few comforts for the brave Abney, who had fallen upon the field. As an act of gratitude to the memory of his lamented son and high appreciation of this untiring devotion and gallant conduct to his slave Charles, the father desires to be allowed, by an act of the Legislature, to give him his freedom. These remarks are submitted, that the House may be placed in possession, in advance, the reasons why the Legislature will be appealed to, to depart from the salutary policy of the State.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME WHIG.—In the 16th century there arose in England a party opposed to the King, and in favor of a Republican form of Government, in which the people would have a voice. This party adopted as their motto, "We Hope In God," the initials or first letter of each word combined, read Whig, and were used to name or designate the party. Thus the word Whig originally meant opposition to Kings and Monarchies, and friendship for the very form of government under which we now exist. It originated in England a century and a half before our Revolution.

(WRITTEN FOR THE ABBEVILLE BANNER.)

LINES,

To her who will understand them.

Thy name is e'er the magic spell,
Recalling holier days to me,
Sweet memory, save to love, it well
And whispers fondly oft of thee.

When falls thy voice upon mine ear,
Entrancing with each silvery tone,
Music herself might, blushing, fear,
Celestial notes beyond her own.

Thy smile like sun-light pitying beams
Thro' sorrow's wildly darken'd hour,
'Till joy forgotten, save in dreams,
Returns with strangely thrilling power;

Bringing the hope, tho' sadly far
From thee, lone fate yet bids me stay,
That thou, my first, last, only Star,
Will once more shine upon life's way.

Then lady! say not love is false—
An idle fleeting dream, that dies
And fades from human hearts like
clouds

In April's wild inconstant skies.

Such is not love—that Eden thought,
That angel hearts with ours share,
That mystic chord divinely wrought
That links us to a brighter sphere.

Pure as the dew-drop on the flower,
That glitters in the sun's first beam;
But wild as storm-lash'd ocean's power,
Is love's first sinless, deathless dream.

Erskine College.

CONRAD.

ODE

On the Evacuation of N. York by the British Troops.
WRITTEN IN ITALY.

Far on the deep with swelling sail
Expanded to the evening gale
The waves the Briton ploughed;
But parted not as once he came,
Replete with hope—on fire for fame—
Of gaudy legions proud—

Still o'er the heaving Ocean's breast
Rose the blue mountains of the West
'That seemed to laugh in scorn!
And slighted Freedom's rising flame
With Lexington's heroic fame
Before his mind was borne.

The sword unsheathed on Bunker Hill
Fort Moultrie baffling force and skill,
And Trenton's dreadful night:
With Saratoga's scene of blood
With Cowpens' plain, and Monmouth's wood,
All crowded on his sight.

He thought of Kosciusko's zeal,
Of Lafayette's avenging steel,
And Washington's great name,
Of Freedom's starry flag unfurled
In triumph to the admiring world
A trophy of his shame!

He thought how many a heart of worth
Lay moulding 'neath that fatal earth,
How many a naked bone
Bleached in the wild and in the wood.
'That drank erewhile the noble blood
Of chief forever gone.

He thought of what was lost—and won—
And, as Columbia's mountains shone
Still dimmer through the night—
HE CURSED THEM AS THE FIRST BARRIER
OF QUEENLY ALBION'S PROUD CAREER;
And drifted out of sight. J. C.

Three swords have just been finished in Philadelphia to be presented to General Taylor, General Butler and Major Barber.

Too Poor.—A man walked into our sanctum the other day, and kindly accosted us with

"Got a paper to spare, Mr. Printer?"

"Yes," we replied, "here is one of our last. Wont you subscribe for it, and get it regularly every week?"

"No, I am too poor," was his reply as he hastily walked off.

That man had just returned from the circus, where he paid 50 cents for admission; time lost from his farm worth 75 cents; for whiskey and tobacco, judging from the smell of his breath, and the quantity of juice in the corners of his mouth 25 cents—making \$1.50 actually thrown away, and then begging a newspaper alleging that he is too poor to pay for it.

CHOLERA AND LOCUSTS IN PERSIA.—The following letter, from the New York Courier, gives sad intelligence, especially interesting to the friends of American Missionaries in the East:

"MOUNT SIER, OROOomia, Aug. 27.
"You will be sorry to hear that the Cholera has broken out again at Oroomia. It is now a week since the first case appeared, and the deaths have been numerous. I was absent in the mountains the first four days

after the appearance of the disease in town; and since my return I have not been able to spend any time in the city, so that I can say nothing from personal observation of the malady, whether it be of a mild or malignant character.

"The season is unfavorable. It is mid-summer, and fruit most abundant, and tho' not always wholesome, is the principal food of the mass of the people. And more than all, the Musselmans are now in the midst of the Ramazan, the month when they neither eat, drink, smoke or snuff from daylight in the morning until the dusk of the evening. They in consequence become very hungry these long days, and when the cannon is fired at night as a signal that they are at liberty to eat, they go beyond the bounds of gormandising most egregiously. In this state of things, I fear the ravages of this dread disease will be terrible.

"We first heard of the scourge this year in Tiflis, Russia. It appears to have moved gradually in this direction, carrying off multitudes at the intervening places. It is said to have swept over Georgia with awful violence.

"Locusts have been swarming in the country for some weeks past, and they have not yet gone. They first, like the cholera, spread over Georgia, and then come on to Oroomia. Their devastations in some places have been truly awful. Whole fields of wheat, barley, cotton, grass, &c., have been swept clean by them. It is a cause of thanksgiving that in this province the wheat, which is the staff of life, had so far ripened that the did not fancy it, as they much prefer what is green. When the wind blows they sometimes fill the air like a thousand swarms of bees and it may almost be said they darken the sun in the heavens. They are not confined to the fields, but come into the city, swarm in our yards, and come up into our houses."

DISTANCE OF STARS.—Sir John Herschel, in an essay on the power of the Telescope to penetrate into Space, a quality distinct from the magnifying power, informs us that there are stars so infinitely remote as to be situated at the distance of twelve millions of millions of millions of miles from our earth; so that the light, which travels with the velocity of twelve millions of miles in a minute, would require two millions of years for its transit from those distant orbs to our own, while the astronomer, who should record the aspect of mutations of such a star would be relating, not its history at the present day, but that which took place two millions of years gone by!—*Mechanic's Mag.*

Postmasters should, in every instance, bear in mind the following extract from the instruction to postmasters, page 20, section 118:

"In every instance in which papers that come to your office are not taken out by the persons to whom the are sent, you will give immediate notice of it to the publisher, that they are lying dead in the office.

In all cases where postmasters render themselves liable for the subscription money for a paper by a neglect to notify the publisher that it remains dead in the postoffice, the Postmaster General reserves the right to admonish the postmaster for his neglect, and require him to pay for the paper, or remove him out of office."

AFFECTING INCIDENTS.—The following affecting extracts are from a letter written by Capt. Merrill, of Batavia, to his brother. Capt. M. was in all the battles:

I cannot forbear noticing two touching incidents that fell under my observation.—among the brave and good who have this fallen was my friend Burwell, of the 5th Infantry. He fell early in the action, from a wound in the leg. On the slight repulse of our troops he was inhumanly murdered by the enemy's lancers. His faithful dog, a beautiful pointer, had accompanied him there; he also was wounded. During the action he became separated from his master. After it had subsided, the noble form of Burwell, manly as in life, was discovered and beside him, and even licking his face and wounds, was his poor dog, who regardless of the hour of danger, and there, upon the same field to die. This affectionate scene touched the hearts of many.

Again, after the fury of the battle was over, I saw a camp woman, of the infantry who came upon the field to look for her husband. Almost frantic with despair, she ran from one to another to inquire after him, but getting no information she immediately went to search for him among the slain.—passing from body to body, she at length found him—dead. Kneeling over his corpse she endeavored to raise it, but finding life extinct, she gave utterance to shrieks and lamentations truly touching to hear. Her all had fallen. She continued to remain on the field (under fire of the enemy) until his lifeless body was carried off, which she followed in the deepest grief. Such is efficient woman!