

NILES' WEEKLY REGISTER—JUNE 17, 1837—LETTER FROM MR. RUSH.

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Baltimore street bridge, and so choked up the arches that the water rose to within a few feet of the pavement. About four o'clock, the accumulation became so great that the structure was unable to resist the tremendous pressure against it, and a portion of the upper side of the centre pier gave way and fell in to the distance of six or eight feet from the edge, carrying away the whole of the stone parapet and iron railing.

The foot bridge leading from the Bazaar in Harrison street across the Falls to Front street, was swept away in the early part of the freshet.

The timber, planks, &c. which were carried down the current of Harrison street made a lodgment in large quantities against the railing of the Centre Fountain, and finally tore away a portion of the railing and overturned the marble fountain from which the spring water flows. The interruption to the course of the current formed by this impediment, divided the stream and caused the water to flow down both sides of Centre market space. In the rear of the fountain and under the upper end of the market house the pavement is torn up and large holes excavated. Most of the benches, blocks, &c. in the market house were carried off.

On both sides of Market Space all the stores were filled with water, and large quantities of merchandise injured. Where all suffered so severely it is impossible to particularise. In many of the stores the water reached the ceilings, destroying completely every article in them. In Swan street, a short avenue running from the Space to the Falls, are several livery stables, from which it was impossible to extricate the horses. These animals, when the water rose so high as to lift them off their feet, sustained themselves by swimming until they could again stand on the ground. Of all of them one horse only was drowned.

In Second street, from Frederick street to the Falls, all the cellars and stores were inundated, and much injury done. The foot bridge leading across the Falls, from the Fish market, was carried away.

In Frederick street, from Baltimore street to Pratt street, all the houses are in the same condition. At the corner of Water street the pavement is greatly torn up.

In Concord street the water was eight feet deep.

In Pratt street, from Frederick street to the bridge, the water flowed into almost all the stores, doing more or less damage. McElderry's and Dugan's wharves and all the ground between them and the falls were overflowed, but, compared with the losses of some others, the injury sustained is much less.

On the Falls Avenue, the water stood about four feet deep. Between Water and Pratt streets, a number of carts and drays, and some lumber were swept away, but from Pratt street to the draw-bridge we could not learn that any injury was sustained, the ground being principally occupied as depositories of coal, lumber, &c. Neither the draw-bridge nor the bridge at Fleet street was injured.

The stone bridge at Pratt street being below all the wooden structures which were carried away, and being composed of three arches, intercepted every thing brought down by the current, until an immense mass, consisting of fragments of mill dams, bridges, fences, sheds, &c. was piled up against it. Like the stone bridge above, it could not resist the immense pressure, and nearly one half of the structure gave way and fell.

On the eastern side of the Falls, except on the immediate margin of the stream, but comparatively little damage was sustained. Directly on the banks various out houses, &c. were carried away, and in the vicinity of Gay street bridge the tannery of Mr. Wm. Miller was swept clean. On that side, the water inundated all the houses from Pratt street bridge to Baltimore street, standing near the banks of the stream, and filled many cellars on Albemarle street. The basement of Washington Hall, occupied by Mr. Carter, was filled with water.

On the western side of Front street, from Baltimore street to Low street, all the cellars were filled with water, and the fences and out houses swept off.

The stone walls on both sides of the Falls, which have been erected since the great flood of 1817, are more or less injured and carried away.

We annex some additional items from the evening papers of Thursday.

From the Gazette.

A number of instances of providential escape are related, which we have not now time to insert—one of them was the case of a boy five years of age who was discovered floating on a bed, and was rescued from the flood in North street—he was supposed to be the only survivor of a family who occupied a house that was entirely swept away.

Another instance was that of a young man who was sleeping soundly in the basement story under

the Washington Hall—he was awoke by the friendly paw of a faithful dog, when his bed was nearly afloat, the sudden rising of the flood leaving scarcely a minute's time for his escape from a watery grave.

The destruction of property on the line of the Falls out of the city, for several miles in extent, is, as we anticipated, very great—and, we fear, the loss of life is not less so. The bridges, with very few exceptions, have been swept away—houses have been taken from foundations and borne on the overwhelming flood to destruction—immense trees torn from their fastnesses—mill races and dams destroyed—indeed the destruction produced by this flood can be better imagined than described.

About two miles up the Falls, a family who had just finished a shantee for their residence, were warned of their danger by kind neighbors, but they told their advisers to "mind their own business, that they would look out for themselves" and in a few moments afterwards the shantee with its inmates were carried off by the current, and it is supposed they were all drowned.

We were informed by a miller, who resides about three miles from town, that he had saved, by extraordinary exertions, the life of a little boy, and that there was another, who manfully braved the storm, swam to the shore and thus saved his life—a man was lodged by the current on the top of a high tree, and he continued to cling to the branches from twelve o'clock till seven this morning.

We learn from the same source, that it rained incessantly and very fast for about two hours, from 9 until 11, when an immense body of water fell from the clouds, evidently the bursting of a water spout, which produced an immediate and extraordinary rise of the water in the Falls.

From the Patriot.

We have heard of some narrow escapes, two of the most extraordinary of which are the following—One of our German residents was started from his slumbers by the alarm, and on descending to the first floor found himself up to his waist in water. He immediately returned to the sleeping apartments, and having taken his sister succeeded in forcing his way out and along the streets to one of the bridges, with the view of crossing to Old Town. The bridge gave way and carried both the individuals along with it. They floated down the stream for some distance; and finally succeeded in getting hold of a fence and extricating themselves from the water.—But the stream continued to rise rapidly, and the German was compelled to keep his sister above water by holding her up by her hair. They then contrived to cling to a tree, and there remained till morning.

A boy of twelve or fourteen, had fallen from the drift, which clogged Baltimore street bridge, into the swollen and whirling current of the river, and being unable to swim was passing rapidly and helplessly down the stream, only the top of his head above water, and had once entirely disappeared, when two young men bravely dashed into the stream and just as the drowning youth was about to be drawn under the drift or lumber, &c. which clogged in like manner the bridge below on Pratt street, he was snatched exhausted and almost lifeless from death, and restored to his family. The name of the humane and heroic person who thus nobly at the hazard of his own life saved a fellow creature, probably unknown to him, is LEWIS SPIESE, a young man of this city, a mechanic, whose humanity and heroism would in the best days of Rome have entitled him to the laurel crown. He has, however, what no doubt he will esteem of far more value, the delightful consciousness of having saved the life of a fellow being, and the hearty applause of the numerous spectators. We have not learned the name of the other no less meritorious individual, who threw himself into the raging stream without recollection that he could not himself swim; but he trusted to a plank with which he endeavored fruitlessly to force his way to the rescue of the drowning boy.

Lives lost by the freshet.

We are indebted to J. I. Gross, esq. coroner, for a list of inquests held by him over the bodies of persons drowned in the freshet of Wednesday night:—

Christopher Wiest, wife and three children, Saratoga street.

Dougherty, corner of Concord and Water streets.

Catherine Donnelly, Pratt street.

James Doyle, Long wharf.

Jacob Ockley, Falls road.

A woman and daughter, names unknown.

The following persons have been drowned, but the bodies are yet unrecovered:

James Kelly, Henry Linehan, Mr. Donnelly and five persons on the Falls road, names unknown.

POSTSCRIPT. We learn from an authentic source that some damage was done to the embankments on the Susquehanna rail road, but the travelling will not be impeded longer than a day or two. On the branch leading to Timonium several hundred feet of embankment have given way, and one or two culverts were destroyed.

A contractor named Noonan lost seventeen horses.

Seven persons resident on the line of the road are reported to have been drowned, but it is likely the most, if not the whole of them, have been reported by the coroner.

The injury done to the Falls turnpike road is much greater than had been previously stated to us. The bed of the road is in many places so much washed away as to be impassable, and we learn that, besides the bridge at the first turnpike gate, another bridge over the Falls, about six miles from the city was also swept off.

The editor of the Baltimore Chronicle has been furnished with the following statement of the injury done to the dams on Jones' Falls, including a distance of six miles from Baltimore:

Pedin's factory dam, partially injured.

Washington do. do. sound.

Beatty's Rural mill do. partially damaged.

Cox's Woodberry do. entirely swept away.

Ellicott's do. partially damaged.

Ellicott's do. entirely swept away.

Tyson's do. partially damaged.

White's do. entirely swept away.

Bradford's do. do.

Evans' factory partially damaged.

Water company's (late Keller & Forman) do.

LETTER FROM MR. RUSH.

From the Washington Globe.

Copy of a letter to the editors, dated London, April 24, 1837.

GENTLEMEN: I have understood, since the last arrivals from our country, that the whig presses have abused me for the share I was supposed to have had in the reprint here last autumn of a portion of the letter addressed by the late vice president of the United States to the honorable Sherrod Williams, a member of congress from Kentucky. I say understood, having neither seen nor read the abuse. On my own account, I would not notice it; but the whole occurrence is too remarkable not to be improved under public views; and I therefore ask the favor of being allowed to make you this public communication on the subject.

On arriving in this capital in September, I had soon occasion to observe that those who were in the interest of the bank of the United States lost nothing by omitting to sound its praises. The London journals of almost every day brought forth articles of this nature, with the rough handling of those who thought differently. Ignoramuses, simpletons, factionists, demagogues, these, or terms alike choice and mannerly, were applied to our countrymen who had raised their voices against the bank. I will own that I sometimes felt an inclination to present to that portion of this community who cared any thing about the question, some other views of it, never having up to that date seen or heard of any others in English newspapers. The writing and printing was wholly on one side. Nevertheless, I abstained. I published not a line upon the subject. I wrote not a line; nor did I ever, in the slightest manner, instigate others to do either, though London, it may be supposed, is seldom wanting in pens ready to obey this kind of instigation. I was entirely passive—innocent of laying a straw in the bank's way. I scarcely as much as opened my lips about it in English circles, it being rarely a topic with those I chanced to be among. During all this time there was one thing struck me as very improper. Our presidential election was pending; and nothing was more common in these articles, or others prepared in the same spirit, than to see it affirmed or insinuated that Mr. Van Buren, if chosen, would be friendly to the bank. Still I remained totally silent.

So matters stood, when the letter to Mr. Williams arrived. If I rightly remember, this was in October. Republished in any of the newspapers where the bank spirit so predominated? To be sure it was not. It could hardly have been expected. As far as I know, it was never alluded to in them; but, the part about the bank contained, at all event Mr. Van Buren's opinions. These, though often and unequivocally before his own country, had been stifled or perverted in this. The letter moreover unfolded his opinions generally and very fully on the connection proper to subsist between our go-