

# MARYLAND GAZETTE.

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## Miscellany.

### AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY.

HERE has lately been published at Philadelphia, by Bradford and Inskeep, a work entitled, American Ornithology; or Natural History of the Birds of the United States, illustrated with plates, engraved and colored from original drawings taken from nature. By Alexander Willson. Imperial 8vo, pp. 160, vol. 1. Price 12 dollars.

Extracts from a Review of the above Work. UNDER a plain, unassuming title page, we have been surprised, (say the Reviewers,) by the appearance and contents of the first volume of a new work, which, if continued through the succeeding volumes in the same degree of elegance, and with equal fidelity to nature, will not only do honour to the individual and the country that gave it birth, but serve as a model to the Ornithologists of Europe, where it is not likely soon to be surpassed. The advantages of correct, well coloured engravings, in books of this kind, are so great, and their effects so great, that they are almost indispensable. In a few moments they speak more to the understanding, through the medium of the eye, than could be contained in a volume by words; and the impressions are not only received with more pleasure, but rendered much more lasting. When to these are added interesting details of the objects themselves, in language at once familiar and elegant, the labours of the writer are endeared to the good wishes, at least, of every man of letters, and friend to literature. The present volume has every claim to the above merits. The descriptive part of the book commences with the history of the *Blue Jay*, a well known American species.

The great length of this interesting and very interesting article prevents our inserting it in this Gazette.]

The *Baltimore Bird*, (*Oriolus Baltimoreus*) the Singing Bird, is particularly described. The extent of its range, the singular formation of its nest, and the errors of European writers respecting its manners, are fully described. The circumstances of building and migration are thus delineated.

On yon poplar clad in glossiest green,  
Orange, black-capp'd Baltimore is seen,  
Broad extended wings still please him best,  
With their bending skirts he bangs his nest;  
His sweet mate, secure from every harm,  
In her spotted store and wraps them warm;  
To the noontide hum of busy bees,  
Partner's mellow song, the brook, the breeze;  
Day by day the lonely hours deceive,  
Dewy morn to slow descending eve.  
Heeds claps'd, behold a helpless crew!  
All her care and her affection too;  
Wings of love th' assiduous mirror fix,  
Leaves and boughs, abundant food supply;  
Beholds their guardian as abroad he goes,  
Singing breezes rock them to repose.

The history of the *Blue Bird* is the subject of an interesting article, and gives us back the images with which, in early life, we have all been familiar. The visits of this bird in Spring to the "box in the tree," or "the hole in the old apple tree," cradle of some generations of his ancestors—his soft, pleasing warble on the fences and barn tops—his single melancholy note at the approach of Winter, as if seeming to denote the defoliation of Nature, are all truly characteristic of this well known bird. The poem in which the author has here celebrated the *Blue Bird*, is tender and descriptive. Our limits will not permit the insertion of the whole, but the following stanzas are selected:—

Low piping frogs make the marshes to ring;  
Warm gloss the sunshine, & fine is the weather;  
Blue woodland flowers just beginning to spring,  
Spiraeas and sassafras budding together;  
To your gardens ye housewives repair!  
Walks border up; sow and plant at your leisure;  
Blue Bird will chant from his box such an air,  
At all your hard toils will seem truly a pleasure.  
Through the orchard, he visits each tree,  
Red flow'ring peach & the apple's sweet blossoms;  
Cape up destroyers wherever they be,  
Seizes the catfish that lurk in their bosoms;  
Drags the vile grub from the corn it devours;  
Warns from their webs where they riot & welter;  
Song and his services freely are ours.  
All that he asks is, in summer a shelter.  
Ploughman is pleas'd when he gleans in his train;  
Searching the furrows, now mounting to cheer him,  
Gard'ner delights in his sweet simple strain,  
Leans on his spade to survey and to bear him;  
How ling'ring school boys forget the; 'll be chid,  
The gazing intent as he warbles before 'em.  
Tangle of sky-blue, and bosom so red;  
At each little loiterer seems to adore him.  
In all the gay scenes of the summer are o'er,  
Autumn slow enters so silent and slow,  
Millions of warblers that charmed us before,  
Are fled in the train of the sun-seeking swallow,  
Blue Bird, forsaken, yet true to his home,  
Lingers, and looks for a milder to-morrow,  
Fore'd by the horrors of winter to roam,  
Sings his adieu in a lone note of sorrow.

The Reviewers of this work conclude as follows:—

Upon the whole, we have been highly gratified with the appearance and perusal of this very splendid volume. The paper, which is from the manufactory of Mr. Amies, and the letterpress by Mr. Robert Carr, stand unrivalled by any thing we have seen from Europe. The numerous synonymies prefixed to the history of each species, and the very minute descriptions of their plumage, economy, &c. &c. together with the elegance and high finish of the engravings, must render it peculiarly valuable to every scientific naturalist. And when we consider how much this, as well as many other branches of the history of our country, has been misrepresented by foreigners, and how humiliating it is for any enlightened people to be obliged to send to a remote quarter of the globe for information respecting the productions of their own territories; when, moreover, we see a work, that even in Europe would scarcely be adventured on, unless under the protecting patronage of princes and nobles, undertaken in our own country, without even the solicitation of a subscription, until the publication of the First Volume should indicate the character of the Work, we cannot withhold our most sincere wishes for its complete success and honourable termination.

Select Reviews, Feb. & March, 1809.

### NEW PLAN OF EDUCATION.

IN a late Edinburgh Review there is a long account of a new work, entitled, Outlines of a Plan for educating Ten Thousand Poor Children, by establishing Schools in Country Towns and Villages; and for uniting Works of Industry with useful Knowledge. By Joseph Lancaster, London.

We have made several interesting extracts for this day's Gazette from the same, giving an account of the method of instruction pursued by Mr. Lancaster in his school, &c. The improvements he has made in education, are, in the cheapness of schools, their activity, their order, and their emulation. The reading, cyphering, and spelling cards, suspended for the successive use of 3 or 400 boys; the employment of sand and slate instead of pen and ink; and particularly of monitors instead of ushers, must, in large seminaries, constitute an immense saving.

#### Outlines of the Plan, &c.

The first or lowest class of children are taught to write the printed alphabet, and to name the letters when they see them. The same with the figures used in arithmetic. One day the boy traces the form of the letter or figure; the next day he tells the name, when he sees the letter. These two methods assist each other. When he is required to write H, for example, the shape of the letter which he saw yesterday assists his manual execution; when he is required to say how that letter is named, the shape of the letter reminds him of his manual execution; and the manual execution has associated itself with the name.

In the same manner he learns syllables and words; writing them one day—reading them the next.

The same process for writing the common epistolary character, and for reading it.

(A) This progress made, the class go up to the master to read; a class consisting perhaps of 30. While one boy is reading, the word, *ex. gr.* Ab-so-lu-ti-on, is given out with a loud voice by the monitor, and written down by all the other 29 boys, who are provided with slates for that purpose; which writing is looked over by the monitors, and then another word called, and so on. Whoever writes a word spells it of course at the same time, and spells it with much more attention than in the common way. So that there is always one boy reading, and twenty-nine writing and spelling at the same time; whereas, in the ancient method, the other twenty-nine did nothing.

(B) The first and second classes write in sand; the middle classes on slates; only a few of the upper boys on paper with ink. This is a great saving in point of expense. In books the saving is still greater. Twenty or thirty boys stand round a card suspended on a nail, making a semicircle. On this card are printed the letters in a very large character. These letters the boys are to name, at the request of the monitor. When one spelling class have said their lessons in this manner, they are dispatched off to some other occupation, and another spelling class succeeds. In this manner, one book or card may serve for 200 boys, who would, according to the common method, have had a book each. In the same manner, syllables and reading lessons are printed on cards, and used with the same beneficial economy.

(C) In arithmetic the monitor dictates a sum, *ex. gr.* in addition, which all the boys write down on their slates. For example,

7	2	4
3	7	8
9	4	6

He then tells them, aloud, how to add the sum. First column—6 and 8 are 14, and 4 are 18; set down 8 and carry 1 to the next column; and so on. In this manner, the class acquire facility of writing figures, and placing them; and, by practising what the monitor dictates, insensibly acquire facility in adding. Again, they are placed round arithmetical cards, in the same manner as in paragraph (B) and required to add up the columns. This method evinces what progress they have made from the preceding method of dictating; and the two methods are always used alternately.

It is obvious, that a school like this of Mr. Lancaster's, consisting of from 700 to 1000 boys, would soon fall into decay, without a very close attention to order and method. In this part of his system, Mr. Lancaster has been as eminently successful as in any other; contriving to make the method and arrangement, so necessary to his institution, a source of amusement to the children. In coming into school, in going out, and in moving in their classes from one part of the school to another, the children move in a kind of measured pace, and in known places, according to their number, of which every boy has one. Upon the first institution of the school, there was a great loss and confusion of hats. After every boy has taken his place there, they all stand up, expecting the word of command: *Sling your hats!* upon which they immediately suspend their hats round their necks by a string provided for that purpose. When the young children write in sand, they all look attentively to their monitor, waiting for the word, and instantly fall to work, with military precision, upon receiving it. All these little inventions keep children in a constant state of activity, prevent the listlessness so observable in all other institutions for education, and evince (trifling as they appear to be) a very original and observing mind in him who invented them.

The boys assembled round their reading or arithmetical cards, *take places* as in common schools. The boy who is at the head of the class wears a ticket, with some suitable inscription, and has a prize of a little picture. The ticket-bearer yields his badge of honour to whoever can excel him; and the desire of obtaining, and the fear of losing, the mark of distinction, creates, as may easily be conceived, no common degree of enterprise and exertion. Boys have a prize when they are moved from one class to another, as the monitor has also from whose class they are removed. Mr. Lancaster has established a sort of paper currency of tickets. These tickets are given for merit; two tickets are worth a paper kite; three worth a ball; four worth a wooden horse, &c. &c. &c.

"It is no unusual thing with me to deliver one or two hundred prizes at the same time. And at such times the countenances of the whole school exhibit a most pleasing scene of delight: as the boys who obtain prizes commonly walk round the school in procession, holding the prizes in their hands, and a herald proclaiming before them: 'These good boys have obtained prizes for going into another class.' The honour of this has an effect as powerful, if not more so, than the prizes themselves."

A large collection of toys, bats, balls, pictures, kites, is suspended above the master's head, beaming glory & pleasure upon the school beneath. Mr. Lancaster has also, as another incentive, an order of merit. No boys are admitted to this order but those who distinguish themselves by attention to their studies, and by their endeavours to check vice. The distinguishing badge is a silver medal and plated chain hanging from the neck. The superior class has a fixed place in the school; any class that can excel it may eject them from this place, and occupy it themselves. Every member, both of the attacking and defending classes, feels, of course, the most lively interest in the issue of the contest.

Mr. Lancaster punishes by shame rather than pain; varying the means of exciting shame, because, as he justly observes, any mode of punishment, long continued, loses its effect.

The boys in school appointed to teach others are called monitors. They are in the proportion of about one monitor to ten boys. So that, for the whole school of 1000 boys, there is only one master. The rest of the teaching is all done by the boys themselves. Besides the teaching monitors there are general monitors, such as, inspectors of slates, inspectors of absentees, &c. &c.

## Foreign Intelligence.

BOSTON, APRIL 20.

Yesterday arrived here, the brig *Albatross* capt. Wildes, in 37 days from London bringing papers from that place to the 28 March. On a careful perusal of these journals, we do not find that they contain any events of extraordinary importance. The report of a rupture between Austria and France, was gaining ground daily; but no facts had been disclosed, on which the event of an actual declaration of war could be founded. It was, however, certain that large bodies of French troops were marching towards Germany; that the confederated states were ordered to prepare the quotas of men; and that the emperor was expected to set out for the Austrian dominions immediately. The good understanding said to have been brought about between England and the Ottoman Porte, now fully confirmed, by an official notice of Mr. Secretary Canning. The British accounts from Spain, are not so late as those received direct from that quarter. Russia was still expected to oppose Buonaparte's plans on Austria.

Some persons at Londonderry had memorialized parliament against the American government for detaining flax-seed, which they had paid for and shipped to America previous to the embargo, when American property was not detained in Great-Britain.

MADRID, JAN. 23.

THE public entry of the king of Sweden into this city, was announced yesterday, at 22d, at the break of day, by a salute of hundred cannons.

His majesty, entering by the gate of Alcala, traversed the Prado, proceeded through the street of Alcala, the gate of the S. the street of Las Garetas, of Atocha and Toledo, to the church of St. Isidore. The crowd was immense throughout, and manifested its joy by continued acclamations.

The Suffragan bishop addressed his majesty in an excellent discourse, worthy of his character, and proper for the day, the place and the event.

His majesty spoke in these words:—  
"Before rendering thanks to the Supreme Ruler of the Kingdom, for my return to capital of this kingdom intrusted to my care, I wish to reply to the affectionate reception of its inhabitants, by declaring my secret thoughts in the presence of the living God, who just received your oath of fidelity to my son.

"I protest then, before God, who knows the hearts of all, that it is my duty and science only which induce me to mount the throne, and not my own private inclination. I am willing to sacrifice my own happiness because I think you have need of me for establishment of yours.

"The unity of our holy religion, the independence of the monarchy, the integrity of its territory, and the liberty of its cities are the conditions of the oath which I have taken on receiving the crown. It will not be disgraced upon my head, and if, as I have doubt, the desires of the nation support efforts of its king, I shall soon be the happy of all, because you through me will be happy."

FEB. 3.

His majesty has ordered the captain and rector-gen. and minister of the marine *Joseph Mazaredo*, to repair to Ferrol Coronna, in order to put the marine there to the most flourishing state.

HEIDELBERG, FEB. 1.

Last night a messenger arrived here announcing, that a considerable number of French troops would pass through this city, which are going from this country near Mainz, towards Swabia.

RANAU, FEB. 10.

Last night at the head quarters of g. Oudinot, an order was received that the belonging to that general should immediately march to Augsburg. To-morrow in that corps is to proceed by regiments of new destination.

FRANKFORT, FEB. 14.

The articles which have from time to time appeared in the French and German papers concerning a rupture of peace on the continent, added to the numerous couriers who, a few weeks, have passed daily between Paris and Vienna; have had a very disadvantageous influence upon the Austrian paper, which suddenly fell considerably, and continues to fall. But here we are far from considering war as certain, or even proba-