

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED

JONAS GREEN, PUBLISHER, 25, BALTIMORE STREET, ANNAPOLIS.

Price—Three Dollars per Annum.

From the New-York Evening Post.

MORRIS' ORATION.

We have just perused an "Annual Discourse, delivered before the New-York Historical Society, by the Hon. Stephen Morris, president, on the 10th of October, 1816, from the press of Messrs. T. and W. Mercein. This is a rare example of elegant literature engaged in the cause of religion...

The reflection and experience of many years have led me to consider the holy writings, not only as most authentic and instructive in themselves, but as the clue to all other history.

From the same pure foundation of wisdom, we learn that vice destroys freedom; that arbitrary power is founded on public immorality, and that misconduct in those who rule a republic, necessary consequence of general licentiousness...

It is a trite maxim, that man is governed by hope and fear. The desire of pleasure, wealth, and power, the apprehension of poverty, pain, and death, prompt generous reward, speed severe punishment...

When that ligament is torn, society is disjointed, and its members perish. The nation is exposed to foreign violence and domestic convulsion. Vicious rulers, chosen by a vicious people, turn back the current of corruption to its source.

The most important of all lessons is, the denunciation of ruin to every state that rejects the precepts of religion. Those nations are doomed to death, who bury in corruption of criminal desire, the awful voice of an existing God, cast off the consoling hope of immortality...

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But we must hasten the interesting and affecting conclusion.

Gentlemen—By the occasion which called us together, we are reminded that Hudson discovered, in 1609, the river which bears his name. Imagine his amazement, had some prophetic spirit revealed, that this island would, in two centuries from the first European settlement, embrace a population of twice fifty thousand souls.

Europe witnessed, in eight years, four events, which had great influence on the condition of mankind. The race of English monarchs expired with Elizabeth in 1603. Henry the Fourth of France was assassinated in 1610. In the same year the Moors were expelled from France. And, in the next, Gustavus Adolphus became king of Sweden. These events excited, as they ought, much attention. But the discovery of Hudson's River, within the same period, was of such trivial estimation as to occupy no space in public annals.

Oh man! how short thy sight. Topierce the cloud which overhangs futurity, how feeble. But why be surprised that European statesmen, two centuries ago, were indifferent to what passed on the savage coast of America, when, at the same time, the existence of Russia was unnoticed and almost unknown.

Little more than a century has elapsed since the decisive victory of Pultowa introduced the empire of the Czars to the society of European nations; an empire which stretched out from Germany to Kamtschatka, from the Black Sea to the Frozen Ocean, contains a greater extent than ever was traversed by the Roman eagle in his boldest flight. That vast empire so lately known, and so little understood, resisted, unshaken, the shock of embattled Europe, poured the rapid current of conquest back from the ruins of Moscow to the walls of Paris, and stands a proud arbiter of human destiny.

A mission of no common sort was lately about to proceed from the New World to the Old. From that which in 1600 was a dreary wilderness; that which in 1700 was a cold morass. It was contemplated that a vessel of novel invention, leaving this port, should display American genius and hardihood in the port of St. Petersburg. If this expedition be suspended or laid aside, it is not from any doubt as to its practicability.

There are persons of some eminence, in Europe, who look contemptuously at our country, in the persuasion that all creatures, not excepting man degenerate here.—They triumphantly call on us to exhibit a list of our scholars, poets, heroes, and statesmen. Be this the care of posterity. But admitting we had no proud names to show, is it reasonable to make such a heavy demand, on so recent a people.—Could the culture of science be exacted from those who, in cultivating the earth, were obliged, while they held the plough in one hand, to grasp a sword in the other? Let those who depreciate their brethren of the West, remember that our forests, though widely spread, gave no academic shade.

In the century succeeding Hudson's voyage the great poets of England flourished, while we were compelled to earn our daily bread by our daily labor. The ground, therefore was occupied before we had leisure to make our approach. The various chords of our mother tongue have, long since, been touched to all their tones by minstrels, beneath whose master-hand it has resounded every sound, from the roar of thunder, rolling along the vault of heaven, to the lascivious pleatings of a lute. British genius and taste have, already, given to all "the ideal forms that imagination can body forth." "No local habitation and a name." Nothing then remains, for the present age, but to repeat their just thoughts in their pure style. Those who, on either side of the Atlantic, are too proud to perform this plagiarist task, must convey false thoughts, in the old classic diction, or clothe in frippery phrase the correct conceptions of their predecessors. Poetry is the splendid affect of genius moulding into language a barbarous dialect. When the great bards have written, the language is formed; and by those who succeed it is disfigured. The

reason is evident. New authors would write something new, when there is nothing new. All which they can do, therefore, is to fill new moulds with old metal, and exhibit novelty of impressions; since they cannot produce novelty of thought.—But the novel expressions must vary from that elegance and force in which the power and harmony of language have been already displayed.

Let us not then, attempt to marshal against each other, infernal and celestial spirits, to describe the various seasons, to condense divine and moral truth in mellifluous verse or to imitate, in our native speech, the melody of ancient song.—Other paths remain to be trodden, other fields to be cultivated, other regions to be explored. The fertile earth is not yet wholly peopled. The raging ocean is not yet quite subdued. If the learned leisure of European wealth can gain applause for meeting out, by syllables reluctantly drawn together, unharmonious hexameters, far be it from us to rival the Manufacture. Be it ours to boast that the first vessel successfully propelled by steam was launched on the bosom of Hudson's river.—It was here that American genius, seizing the arm of European science, bent to the purposes of our favourite parent art the wildest and most devouring element.

The patron—the inventor are no more. But the names of Livingston and of Fulton, dear to fame, shall be engraven on a monument sacred to the benefactors of mankind. There generations yet unborn shall read, Godfrey taught seamen to interrogate. With steady gaze, tho' tempest-lost, the sun, And from his beam true oracle obtain, Franklin, dread thunder-bolts, with daring hand, Seized, and averted their destructive stroke, From the protected dwellings of mankind. Fulton by flame compell'd the angry sea, To vapor rarified, his bark to drive, In triumph proud thro' the land founding surge.

This invention is spreading fast in the civilized world; and though excluded as yet from Russia, will, ere long, be extended to that vast empire. A bird hatched on the Hudson will soon people the floods of the Wolga, and cygnets descended from an American swan glide along the surface of the Caspian sea. Then the hoary genius of Asia, high throned on the peaks of Caucasus, his moist eye glistened while it glanced over the ruins of Babylon, Persepolis, Jerusalem, and Palmyra, shall bow with grateful reverence to the inventive spirit of this western world.

Hail Columbia! child of science, parent of useful arts; dear country, hail! Be it thine to meliorate the condition of man. Too many thrones have been reared by arms, cemented by blood, and reduced again to dust by the sanguinary conflict of arms. Let mankind enjoy at last the consolatory spectacle of thy throne, built by industry on the basis of peace, and sheltered under the wings of justice. May it be secured by a pious obedience to that divine will, which prescribes the moral orbit of empire with the same precision that his wisdom and power have displayed, in whirling millions of planets round millions of suns, through the vastness of infinite space.

THE LATE ACCIDENT! Charleston, Sept. 18.

Finding it impossible to obtain a satisfactory account, of the accident that happened on board the Steam-Boat Enterprise, we addressed a Note to Capt. Howard, requesting of him, all the information he possessed, on the subject. Capt. H. very politely complied, and this morning, we received the following letter:

Sir, I have received your Note, enquiring my opinion of the cause of the dreadful disaster, on board the Steam-Boat. Being engaged below, at that moment, I can only draw my conclusion, from the facts of the case, which are as follows:—

We left Town about 4 o'clock, for the Island: the weather was so very threatening, that I would not have gone down, if I had not been aware, that there were persons on the Island, who depended on the Steam-Boat, to get up; on the way, we had a heavy squall, but arrived in safety, about half past five it

blew a dreadful gale, but moderated a little, and at six we started. I have always cautioned the fire-men, against raising the full power of the steam, until we were out of the Cove; and upon this occasion I particularly ordered them, to make no more fire, than was actually necessary to work her, till we should be out of the Cove; as it was ebb tide, we were obliged to back out, and the sea broke into the cabin windows; as soon as we were under way, I went below, to put in the dead-lights; and while thus engaged, the explosion took place;—the thunder and lightning were very severe, about that time; I immediately ran on deck, ordered the fires in the furnaces to be extinguished, and had the Boat brought to anchor, until I could ascertain the extent of the injury.

Feeling satisfied that the boat was now safe, I went aft, to endeavor to allay the apprehensions of the passengers, and, while assuring them that the danger was over, the Mate came to inform me, that a fire had burst out in the fore-castle; I made immediate arrangements to extinguish it, by getting the fire buckets, and procuring axes, to cut away the deck, if necessary to get at it; but, being very doubtful of success, as the smoke rendered it difficult to be got at, I thought it my duty to provide for the safety of the passengers, and hailed for boats from the shore—but, we soon succeeded in putting the fire out. In the fore-castle, we found one unhappy man, just expiring; his face was livid, and he had every appearance of being struck with lightning; which I have no doubt was the case, from various indications. I presume the lightning struck the top of the chimney, passed through the boiler, and went out forward, probably, by its action, increasing the elasticity of the steam; and, by the suddenness of the jar, starting some of the rivets. We had, at the time, less than five pound to the inch weight, on the safety valve; and the fires had been kindled but a very short time. The top of the chimney was carried away; and it is more probable, that it would have been the lower parts, where it is inserted into the boiler, if done by steam—in fact, it is incredible, that the explosion by the steam, should carry away the top of an iron chimney, which was nearly 12 feet from the boiler, and not have started a thin board partition, which was very near, or blown up the decks; or, otherwise, wrecked the vessel—the same cause would have affected the other boiler, if done by excess of steam; but, that was uninjured, and brought us up the next day safely.

If you think these remarks will be interesting to your readers, you are at liberty to publish them. I am, sir, respectfully, Your obedient servant, SAMUEL HOWARD.

From the Trenton (New-Jersey) Federalist, Sept. 30.

On Monday, the 16th inst. the Electoral College of the state of Maryland, lately elected, assembled at Annapolis, and on the 17th, according to the constitution of the state, elected the senate for five years.—The list comprises fifteen of the most distinguished and respectable citizens of Maryland. A perusal of their names recalling the memory of their characters, agreeably reminds us of the times of Washington, when the only enquiry concerning the candidates for office was, "If he was honest? Is he capable? Is he faithful to the constitution? a state of things, to which Mr. Jefferson fifteen years since, assured the New-Haven merchants he wished to return; but which we are sorry to say, under the government of himself and adherents, has not generally arrived. At the head of the list is the illustrious John Eager Howard—the friend of Washington—the co-patriot and companion of Greene, and one of the most distinguished of that band of heroes who delivered their country from a foreign yoke. At the Cowpens, at Guilford, at Eutaw Springs, and many other hard fought fields, during the revolutionary war, he was, for military valour hardly exceeded by Washington or Greene.

He is the same man to whom two British regiments, on the 17th January, 1781, on being desperately

charged by him, at the head of his regiment, threw down their arms, as related by Dr. Ramsay in his history of the American Revolution, see 2d volume, page 209. On this occasion a silver medal was presented him by Congress in testimony of their approbation of his extraordinary valor. During the times when the federalists prevailed, he was sometimes Governor, at other times a senator of Maryland; but being a federalist, was, with Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, who signed the Declaration of Independence, displaced during the reign of the pretended republicans to give place to the Bowies, the Johnsons, the Strickers, and the Stanburys of the day. One of the first acts of the Federalists, who have now completely established their preponderance in every branch of the government of this respectable state, is to restore John E. Howard to their senate, of which he will probably be the President.

From a Philadelphia paper.

Extract of a letter from an officer on board the American squadron, dated U. S. F. United States, Gibraltar Bay, July 28.

"It is not in my power to give you any correct information respecting the present state of our affairs with Algiers—indeed, I do not believe there is any information on that head, without the confines of its walls. When I last wrote you, by the John Adams in April last, war appeared inevitable, unless government should condescend to purchase with a present, what might be enforced by the bravery of our arms. The expiration of the armistice, then entered into by our commodore, I believe is at hand—but whether the Algerines will choose to add a new enemy to the English and Dutch, or whether our government will choose to comply with their demands, as well as the insolence of the bankrupt Spaniards, must finally determine the question of peace or war. As to the British I believe, they have evinced an indifference to insult and injury, in the conduct of the Algerines, unprecedented in their history.

We were at Algiers in May last, at which time we were informed, that some British captains, belonging to Lord Exmouth's squadron, had been most barbarously treated in the streets; one of them stripped naked and flogged; another having his fingers cut off, &c. &c. the consul and his unfortunate family were imprisoned. Through the intercession of the American and other consuls, it was understood however, that the lady and her children were set at liberty; but we have been since informed (I do not pretend to vouch for its correctness) by a Swedish ship that arrived at Malaga, that the consul and his family have since been put to death!—I have seen an extract of a letter in an American paper, which states the Dey to be a humane and enlightened man—in my humble opinion, the very existence of such a monster, and his nest of barbarous piratical adherents, is a disgrace to christianity and the world. "We have received four months provisions on board, and are to follow the new Commodore (Chauncey) to Naples, from whence, it appears to be the opinion of some officers, we shall return to the U. States. If such an event should not take place before fall, as much as I wish to get home, I should be disagreeably disappointed, for a winter spent here, is much more pleasant than a winter spent in the United States."

Public Sale.

By virtue of a decree of the Honourable Chancellor of Maryland, the subscriber doth expose to public sale, on Saturday the 12th of October next, if fair, if not the next fair day thereafter, Sunday excepted.

Part of a Tract of Land called "Cheney's Run," lying on South-River, in Anne Arundel county, belonging to the heirs of John Jacobs, deceased. A credit of twelve months will be given for the purchase money on the purchase giving bond with approved security, for the payment of the same with interest from the day of sale to commence at 10 o'clock on the premises. Benjamin Smith, Trustee. Sept. 26.