

ANECDOTE OF THE REVOLUTION.

From the American Quarterly Review.

When the British army held possession of Philadelphia, Gen. Howe's headquarters were in Second street, the fourth door below Spruce. In a house which was before occupied by Gen. Cadwallader. Directly opposite resided William and Lydia Darrah, members of the Society of Friends. A superior officer of the British army, believed to be the adjutant general fixed upon one of their chambers, a back room for private conference; and two of them frequently met there, with fire and candles, in close conversation. About the 2d of December, the adjutant general told Lydia Darrah that they would be in the room at 7 o'clock, and remain late; and that they wished the family to retire early to bed; adding, that when they were going away they would call her to let them out, and extinguish their fire and candles. She accordingly sent all the family to bed; but as the officer had been so particular, she took her sword, and put her ear to the key-hole of the parlour, and overheard a march out late in the evening of the fourth, and attack Gen. Washington's army then encamped at White Marsh. On hearing this she returned to her chamber, and had down. Soon after the officers knocked at the door, but she arose only at the third summons having fast asleep. Her mind was so much agitated, that from this moment she could neither eat nor sleep; supposing it to be in her power to save the lives of thousands of her fellow countrymen, but not knowing how she was to convey the information to Gen. Washington, not daring to confide it to her husband. The time left was short. She quickly determined to make her way, as soon as possible, to the American posts. She informed her family, that as she was in the way of doing, she would go to Philadelphia for some time, her husband insisting that she should take the servant with her, but to his surprise she positively refused. She got access to Gen. Howe, and solicited what he readily granted, a pass through the British lines on the 11th. Leaving her bag at the mill, she hastened towards the American lines, and encountered on her way an American lieutenant, colonel (Craig) of the light horse, who, with some of his men, was on the lookout for information. He knew her, and inquired where she was going? she answered, in quest of her son, an officer in the American army, and prayed the colonel to alight and walk with her. He did so, ordering his troops to keep in sight. To him she disclosed her secret, after having obtained from him a solemn promise never to betray her in dividuality, as her life might be at stake with the British.

He conducted her to a house near at hand, directed something for her to eat, and hastened to head-quarters, with a negro Gen. Washington accompanied with what he had heard. Washington made, of course, all preparation for baffling the meditated surprise. Lydia returned home with her flour, sat up alone to watch the movement of the British troops; heard their footsteps; but when they returned, a few days after, did not dare to ask a question, though soliciting to learn the event. The next evening the adjutant general came in, and requested her to walk up to his room as he wished to put some questions. She followed him in terror; and when he locked the door and begged her with an air of mystery, to be seated, she was sure that she was either suspected or had been betrayed. He inquired earnestly whether any of her family were up the last night he and the other officer met; she told him they all retired at eight o'clock. He observed, "I know you were asleep, for I knocked at your chamber door three times before you heard me; I am entirely at a loss to imagine who gave Gen. Washington information of our intended attack, unless the walls of the house could speak. When we arrived near White Marsh, we found their cannon mounted, and the troops prepared to receive us, and we have marched back like a parcel of fools."

Lexington, March 30. The motion to discharge Isaac B. Davis, on the ground of the unconstitutionality of the venue law, has been overruled by the court, and the prisoner permitted to enter into a new recognizance for his appearance at the June Term. The trial was continued on the motion of the attorney for the commonwealth—several of the most important witnesses being absent from the state.

It is stated in a Philadelphia paper that Mrs. Opie, the accomplished authoress, and the celebrated Mrs. Fry, the benefactress of Newgate, are about to visit this country, and it is believed are on their passage, accompanied by Anna Braithwaite. It is expected they will be in Philadelphia in time to attend the Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends.

Governor Lincoln has been re-elected Governor of Massachusetts.

SINGULAR PRESERVATION.

From the Delaware Watchman.

The feelings of the citizens of this place and its vicinity, were yesterday much excited by an accident that occurred at the residence of Mrs. Darrah, near St. James's Church. It was thought necessary to have the well, which was walled with stone, cleaned out; and a person by the name of John Patton was employed for that purpose, and to enable him to descend, he had fastened a rope to some part of the curb, by which he was in the act of going down. When he had descended about half way to the bottom, or about fifteen feet, he halted either to rest, or to examine some part of the well, and placing his feet against one side of the well and his back against the other, he remained in that posture some time, and when just in the act of descending again, he put his feet against a stone that appeared to project a little farther out than the rest, and as it was in a position, when, dreadful to relate, it instantly gave way, and with it fell the wall for many feet above him tumbling promiscuously upon him in the same place where he was covered up by the stones. Such a situation can certainly be better conceived than described. Although by those above, it was supposed that he was crushed to instant death, yet the stones had fallen in such a manner around him as to form a kind of arch, by which his life was miraculously preserved. One very large stone was slightly fastened a little above his head, which perhaps was the only thing that saved him. As soon as it was ascertained that he was living, the intelligence quickly spread, and a great many repaired to the spot to assist if possible to extricate him from this dreadful situation. A windlass and pulley were procured, and the work of removing the rubbish immediately began with the greatest caution, as the man himself fancied them of the danger he was in, from the great stone above mentioned being so slightly fastened that with the least violence it might be loosened and dash his head by the fall. They therefore proceeded with the greatest diligence and care, and between four and five o'clock his fellow beings had the satisfaction to draw him from the dreadful prison where he had been between five and six hours, and strange to tell, without receiving any material damage.

One of our Subscribers.

Stanton April 3, 1827.

AFRICA.

The U. S. schr. Shark, Lieut. Com. Norris, arrived at St. Thomas on the 17th ult. from a cruise on the coast of Africa, all well. The Shark left Mesurado on the 12th February, at which date the inhabitants were in good health.

Sailing Master Porter died on board the Shark, while cruising on the coast.

AFRICAN JUBILEE.

A meeting was held at the Flican meeting-house in Albany, the 27th ult. for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of celebrating the abolition of slavery in the state of New York, which is to take place on the 4th day of July 1827. After an appropriate address from the Rev. Mr. Paul, minister of the African church, the following resolve was passed: That whereas slavery, by the laws of this state is abolished, on the 4th day of July next, we deem it a duty to express our gratitude to Almighty God, and our public benefactors, by publicly celebrating the same.

A motion was made and carried, that the said celebration should be postponed until the 5th, that it might not interfere with the arrangements of the white citizens on the 4th July. A committee of arrangements of twelve were appointed to carry the first resolution into effect.

A TROPICAL CLIMATE.

Insects are the curse of tropical climates. The veté rouge lays the foundation of a tremendous ulcer. In a moment you are covered with ticks, Chigoes bury themselves in your flesh, and hatch a large colony of young chigoes in a few hours. They will not live together, but every chigo sets up a separate ulcer, and has his own private pus. Flies get entry into your mouth, into your eyes, into your nose. You eat flies, drink flies, and breathe flies; Lizards, cockroaches, and snakes, get into the bed—ants eat the books—scorpions sting you on the foot—every thing stings, bites or bruises—every second of your existence you are wounded by some piece of animal life, that nobody has ever seen before, except Swammerdam and Mariani. An insect with eleven legs is swimming in your tea cup—a non descript with nine wings is struggling in the small beer, or a caterpillar with several dozen eyes in his belly is hastening over the bread and butter! All nature is alive, and seems to be gathering her entomological hosts to eat you up as you are standing, out of your coat, waist-coat and breeches. Such are the tropics. All this reconciles us to our dew, logs, vapour and drizzle—to our apothecaries rushing about with gargles and tinctures—to our British constitutional coughs, sore throats, and swelled faces.—Edinburg Review.

BOLD LANGUAGE.

Montreal March 27.

We may well say that a crisis is approaching. There can be no doubt that the question will soon be tried in Canada whether our representative government is to exist or to be extinguished. An awful and tremendous crisis approaches, not only for Lower Canada, but for Upper Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and it will extend itself to Jamaica.

It is now announced by the Quebec Mercury of the 27th inst. an official paper—that as often as the people of this province—the freeholders and land holders of this country, return into the Assembly, gentlemen who will not surrender to the Executive the unconquered dominion over the taxes, of their constituents, and consequently, will not give up all their influence and power in the Constitution, the Government will turn them out; yes, fellow-citizens, the expression in the Government Paper is—will turn them out—mind that fellow Citizens—and if you have the feelings of free men—if you are not fit to be trampled into the mire by tyrants and Clergicalties, what sensations will it excite.

The Mercury of the same date conducted by official men, announces another project which equally with the tyrannical exercise of the prerogative, will annihilate our constitution. Unless the House of Assembly surrender the Taxes of the country to the Executive, and consequently place the whole country and all its concerns at the mercy of the Executive, the Legislative Council, the majority of which receives a large amount of the public moneys at pleasure of the King and the Governor, will in future pass no money Bill for any object, Charities, Improvements, or others, will harass, punish, and injure the country, and the Governor, following precisely the doctrines of Charles the first of England, is to take according to his discretion and pleasure out of the funds of the country whatever he pleases.

These are the projects announced in an official paper. Let the country not disregard them; let session their practice commence. Now if the Country is not roused by these official declarations, it is the basest, the vilest country on the Globe—it is below Naples or Spain in wisdom or spirit. But what is to be done? all that the Constitution and the Law allows, while the Constitution and Law exist. Establish Constitutional Committees in every Parish and County; establish a Central Committee; form Resolutions and addresses to the King and the House of Commons; and as the Principles with which we are menaced may be brought to bear against other Colonies, let Addresses be sent to all our sister Colonies, and in time, Commissioners to the House of Assembly in each.

Canadian Spectator.

FROM THE MONTREAL COURANT OF APRIL 4.

HORRIBLE.

It is this day our painful duty to record an act of the most cold-blooded and base nature that ever stained the character of humanity—one which is without a parallel in this country, and which from its dastardly atrocity, might hold a conspicuous place in the annals of a savage nation. On the evening of Friday last, about ten o'clock, as Robert Watson, Esq. of this city, was sitting in a room on the first floor of his house, in company with the Rev. Mr. Mathieson, of St. Andrew's Church, and in the act of reading a newspaper, the report of a gun was heard at a window, and immediately the house was filled with smoke. Mr. Watson started up and exclaimed, "What's that?" at the same time placing his hand upon his right side. On first hearing the noise, Mr. Mathieson was not aware from whence it proceeded, but perceiving Mr. W. place his hand on his side, he inquired of Mr. Watson if he was hurt; to which Mr. W. replied, "I fear I am." Mrs. Watson, who a few minutes before had gone into an adjoining apartment, immediately upon hearing the noise rushed into the room, when her eyes encountered a spectacle, the effect of which upon her would be much more easily conceived than described. "Do you think they have killed you," she exclaimed with a tender and anxious solicitude, to which he replied, "I believe they have." His vest was then removed, when it was discovered that a vast number of wounds were inflicted in his side by shot of various sizes. Mr. Mathieson then gave the alarm, and as speedily as possible got medical aid. As one of the shot was found to have little more than penetrated the skin, and as Mr. Watson was corpulent, it was hoped that none of it had reached the vital parts—but Mr. W. himself said he felt it in his bowels. On Saturday morning Mr. Watson said the pain had almost totally abated, and found himself able to sit up in his bed; the most sanguine hopes were now entertained for his recovery; in this state he continued with little intermission until the afternoon, when the symptoms became more alarming, and by six o'clock his medical attendants gave up all hopes of his recovery. Mr. Watson himself seemed sooner aware of his dangerous situation than those by whom he was surrounded, and bore with the greatest patience the ideas of his approaching dissolution. About seven o'clock he expired. It was discovered on examination of the body the following evening, that some of the shot had penetrated the diaphragm, one hundred and fifty-nine marks were counted on his side. From the distance which these marks were ascertained, considering the short distance which the murderer stood from his unsuspecting victim; (only about three yards) it is supposed that a blunder-buss was the instrument made use of in the commission of the horrible deed. Several of the shot were also found in Mr. W's clothes, and a number also was got in his pocket, which had struck against some money, and almost obliterated it. There is no doubt but that the deed was a premeditated one, and the most deliberate precaution observed before it was executed. On the Monday night previous, a part of the window blind had been removed, so that a person without could have a full view of those in Mr. W's sitting room; and it is said that a person was observed watching about the house for some time previous. Mr. Watson had been spending the evening in a friend's house, and had but a short time returned, when the dastardly assassin put his design in execution. Thus perished by the murderer's hand, in the bloom of life, a gentleman whose character as a private individual was the most respectable—as a man of business, was marked by principles of the strictest integrity; and whose aversion of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance—whilst his benevolence and charity had largely contributed to lessen the wants of the indigent. Mr. Watson did not we believe express his suspicion of the murderer; for as he knew of none against whom he had harboured ill-will, or from whose hands he could have expected revenge in even its gentlest form, the villainous outrage was as unexpected as it was base. On Saturday last, a man named Cameron was taken up and lodged in jail to await an examination, on a supposition from a number of connecting circumstances, which, as they will be adduced in their proper place, and their truth or falsity ascertained, we will forbear mentioning.

FROM SMYRNA.

Smyrna papers to the 26th of January, have been received at Boston. The seizure of Athens continues—but Favier has carried some relief to the Acropolis. The Greeks have just received 60,000 francs from France. Conduittis is said to have rendered himself absolute master of the Heloponnesus, with the concurrence of Colocotroni. Canaris has been appointed captain of the frigate Helas, under Admiral Miaoulis; but by the latest accounts, he had left her in consequence of some dispute with the Admiral. The frigate was still at Ezyra.

FRANCE.

Paris, Jan. 20.—Since Col. Fabvier has been in the citadel of Athens, Caray Pacha has redoubled his watchfulness, and has constructed new batteries, and has received a reinforcement of 3000 men, who have been employed by him to press the blockade, and prevent any communication between the Acropolis and the country without.—Fabvier has made eighty Philhellenists out of the number of twenty which he had with him. Robert, the chief of a battalion who has been a companion in arms of the Colonel, died a few days after.

FROM ENGLAND.

English Journals by the packet ship York, at New York from Liverpool, whence she sailed on the 25th February, furnish a few additional items of intelligence.

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Arrived at Timbuctoo.—We are happy to learn, that letters have been received from Major Laing, dated subsequent to his arrival at Timbuctoo; but by some oversight, the particular date is not inserted. The state of this city, so much talked of, and so much sought after by Europeans, together with the rivers and country adjoining, will soon be made known, and by a hand fully able for the work. We regret, however, by these letters, to learn that, instead of proceeding down the river Niger, thence he, as he intended, Major Laing intends returning home by way of Tripoli. What was occasioned this change in his route, whether ill health, or finding insurmountable obstacles to his progress eastward and southward, we have not heard and cannot take upon ourselves to determine.

Glasgow Courier.

It is reported that the ministers are willing to adopt some suggestions to relieve the distress of the ship owners, and that various expedients are to be submitted to them. The most prominent is the withdrawing of part of the duty on timber from North America, and discriminating duty on corn imported into England, in favour of the flag of that country. The ship owners want also a renewed assurance that the ministers will not relax relative to the intercourse between the W. Indies and North America.

Mrs. Fry is well received in Ireland. She had inspected Newgate, (Dublin). She was afterwards introduced by the Governor, Mr. Bourne, to the Commission Court. She sat for a short time on the Bench with the Judges, during which she kept up with their Lordships an animated conversation. She was attended by her sister-in-law, Miss Fry, by Mr. Gurney, and some ladies of her own persuasion.

The shock of an earthquake was felt at Carnarvon, (Wales) at its vicinity, for miles round, on 14th of February. Its duration was scarcely a minute. The congregation in the Dissenter's chapel rushed out in great confusion, imagining that the building was falling. In one house a clock fell down, and in another an ornamental cup fell from the mantle piece, in Bangor, and at the quarries, 14 miles off, the shock was also felt, but not in so great a degree.

France.—Paris dates are to the 22nd. In the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies of the 19th, M. Bonnet reporter of the Commission appointed to inquire into the project of law on the police of the press, presented the result of the general discussion which took place on that subject. The Commission persists in the amendments of this law, which constitute a law of suppression, rather than a law of prevention. The chamber was engaged in the discussion of each of the articles taken separately.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

The packet ship Alexander, Baldwin, has arrived at Philadelphia from Liverpool, whence she sailed on the 10th March. The Corn law question had been before the House of Commons on the 6th of March, when Mr. Canning submitted a plan on which progress was reported and adjourned to the Thursday following. A good deal of speculation and excitement appear to prevail among all classes at the result. The plan submitted is to increase the duties as the prices of wheat and other grain decrease; and in like manner to decrease the duties on shilling for every two shillings advance. In consequence of these resolutions 4s 6d of bond Br. rose from 4s to 6s per bushel. American Flour, new, in bbls, 95s to 27s per bbl. of 195 lbs. Intelligence received from India dated early in November, gives very unfavorable accounts of the Indigo crops.

Extract of another letter—dated Liverpool; 9th March, 1827.

The value of free wheat has been enhanced by Mr. Canning's proposed measures and bonded articles are quite neglected.

FROM ENGLAND.

English Journals by the packet ship York, at New York from Liverpool, whence she sailed on the 25th February, furnish a few additional items of intelligence.

FOREIGN.

There is some discussion as to who will be the successor of Lord Liverpool, as premier of England; it being conceded, apparently, that though that nobleman's health was somewhat improving, he can never resume his official station. Mr. Canning is spoken of.

A Liverpool [Sunday] paper of the 25th says:—The debate on the