

From the United States Gazette. Extract of a letter written by an officer on board the United States ship Delaware, dated August 1833.

During the past two months, we have been advantageously employed in visiting almost all the ports of Sicily, some heretofore unfrequented by vessels of so large a size. Much astonishment and surprise were evinced; we were consequently surrounded by gaping multitudes; and not unfrequently visited by 3 or 400 daily. On leaving Malta we went to Syracuse, one of the most interesting places in the Mediterranean—but a small portion of the anciently large city remains; but it still serves as a monument of the tyranny of Dionysius, greatness of Archimides, and friendship of Pythias. We were quarantined five days—two more were occupied in looking at its curiosities and antiquities—of which the Ear of Dionysius, ancient Catacombs, Amphitheatre, Fountain of Arethusa, Museum, Baths, remains of the Temple of Jupiter and Minerva, were the principal. Little attention was extended to us by the miserable inhabitants of this city—except the wretched 'Lazzaroni,' who, in multitudes, almost naked, with diseases originating in filth, and covered with vermin of every description, surrounded our ship and followed us in our walks. Here, and at Messina, were you to see these scenes of misery, you would almost exclaim happy, happy! America, with feelings of humanity and patriotism. Only by comparing the degradation of people of foreign countries, horrible and heart-rending as it is, can we possibly be able to appreciate duly the happiness enjoyed in our own dear country. The miserable poor of Messina, &c. instead of finding the various comforts of well conducted almshouses, to alleviate their sufferings, are seen half naked and nearly starved, reposing, or endeavouring to do so, upon the heated pavement of their cities—continuing in this dreadful state of existence until the kind hand of death relieves them from their sufferings.

Then and there only, can we judge of the comparative happiness of our unfortunate peopled, who bitterly complain, while in the daily enjoyment of more than the weekly pittance of some of these poor Sicilians.

After a few days stay at Syracuse, Capt. H. two or three other officers, and myself, left the vessel on a visit to Catania, distant about 45 miles. We chartered a small packet boat, in which contrary winds and head sea, obliged us to pass a most uncomfortable night, under the lee of an old peninsula, uninhabited. The evening succeeding, we arrived at Catania, at the base of the mountain. It is built over the ruins of three cities, destroyed by succeeding eruptions, and is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever seen. We passed the evening at the opera, and were much pleased with the professional skill and personal charms of the prima donna; she so far eclipsed the other actresses, as entirely to throw them in the back ground. I suppose our fair countrywomen could now tolerate the Italian mode of dancing, as I understand that Mad. Achille has become quite a favourite.

The men exhibited in their gymnastic exercises, (I cannot call it dancing,) much strength but little activity.

On the succeeding morning, we commenced our ascension, with 9 mules—4 for guide and sumpter mules, carrying our beds for the night, provisions, &c. and two muleteers, who, when the roads were rough, cheered the poor mules by their peculiar shouts, to undertake the task. The first 10 miles well deserves the name given it—"Fertile Region"—producing apples, nectarines, peaches, oranges, almonds, apricots, lemons, &c. with grapes in the greatest abundance and highest degree of perfection; of the latter it is said that two crops are produced annually, making wine an article of very considerable exportation. The appearance of the country is wild and romantic; lava, the remains of former eruptions, mounds and craters of small volcanoes, are frequently met with; soil decomposed; lava soil remarkably good, with a fine flourishing village every few miles, in which the culture of the silk worm is carried to a considerable extent; their product is manufactured at Catania in various articles, which form a considerable part of their exportation. You will thus perceive, that these unseemly looking, industrious little creatures, make a very important link in the chain of communication between countries widely separated.

After resting our mules and taking refreshments, at Nicholsonze, (the last village,) we crossed a barren plain of about two miles in extent; then entered the Woody Region, which is uninhabited. The trees at their trunks were large, and of apparently luxuriant growth; but they soon met with the blighting clouds, which almost continually envelope their tops, giving them the appearance of having been lopped off; they are seldom higher than 20 or 25 feet, with an abrupt termination, occasioned by the change of temperature and dampness. This region extends about 8 or 9 miles further, at the end of which, under a large tree, and at the mouth of a grotto formed of lava, we dined, exchanged our clothes, for some better calculated to protect us from the sudden change of temperature soon to be expected; we again got un-

der weigh" for the barren region; the roads here became rugged and steep, and our poor mules required the muleteers to encourage them to undertake the labour.

This region extended about 9 miles further; we soon called into requisition our over coats on entering it, in consequence of a severe gale of wind and violent hail storm. You can well imagine how sensibly we felt this sudden imputation, in the morning at Catania the thermometer was 85 degrees, now this, by whose invitation we are here assembled. Its objects are certainly as worthy as those of any institution in the land; and it would be impossible, I conceive, to imagine one, whose purpose should be better. It aims at the relief of the Fatherless and Widow—of her who has lost her nearest friend, and of them who are deprived of their best earthly guardian. If suffering ever has claims upon our sympathy, it is when presented under such circumstances as there are those who, from principle as they say, refuse assistance to the man who can obtain the means of supplying all his wants, by his daily labour. But can they withhold relief from her, who comes in her desolation and weakness; woman, who, by the law of her being, is excluded from paths in which coarser man may find a livelihood, and by the customs of society, is obliged to accept less than half of what the most stupid of the other sex can earn, as a compensation of her unintermitted toil? Can any turn with a close hand, and a colder heart, from orphans, in their childhood and misery, friendless, cold, starving children? No; he is not sound in mind, who can do this. His reason is disordered, he is more to be pitied than the wretched sufferers who would bless him even for a kind look. The widow! shall I attempt to depict her grief? shall I draw the outlines of her condition? Her sufferings are too holy to be often made the objects of public gaze. Yet sometimes we may lift the veil from such misery, in the hope of awakening compassion.—The widow, by a single, perhaps an unexpected event, brought to the nearest sense of loneliness, the most bitter experience of loss. He who was her friend, her adviser, her solace, her reliance, is taken from her; he, with whom she shared her hopes and fears, her anxieties and joys, the intimate and inmate of her bosom, in whose life her own seemed to be involved, has been removed; his body is in the dark grave, his soul in the unseen, unknown world. Must not despondency weigh down her heart, and in the agony of her grief, will she not exclaim, it is more than I can bear?

"Still this solitary woman, has not sounded the depths of anguish. Her neighbour is not only a widow, but a mother. Fatherless, helpless children are dependent on her. They must be fed, and she has not a morsel to put in to their hungry mouths, nor a garment in which to wrap their shivering limbs. May she not exclaim?

"Weeping, and weeping, I have waked; my tears
Have bowed as if my body were not such
As others are, and I could never die."
"I assure you, my hearers, I mock you not with a tale of imaginary distress. I tell you of suffering which has been borne, and has been relieved by the society, in whose behalf I address you. I remind you of misery which I have known to exist in this city. It is not fiction which describes a mother wretched to the bone by watching and fatigue, over the sick bed of her husband, left after his death heart broken and penniless, with little children crying to her for the bread she knows not how to get, but from charity or by theft. Such a one was she who left her infant in the care of a neighbour, (who was only less indigent than herself,) and who, after weeks, in which she vainly sought a home, returned to her only friend, and asked if it would be a sin to destroy her own child.

"I have often thought, when visiting the lonely widow in her destitute chamber, says one of the managers, that if the friends and patrons of this society could witness the gratitude and joy there expressed, it would amply compensate them for all their liberality. One woman, whose story interested me very much, observed if the kind hand of charity had not been extended to her in a time of great need, she should not now have been numbered with the living. She said, when she came to this city a few years since, her prospects were bright and flattering; she then had a kind and tender husband, and lived in happiness and plenty. Soon business called him to the South, where he fell a victim to the fever, leaving me a lonely and helpless widow. I was then obliged to leave my boarding place with all its accommodations, and retire to an upper chamber in an obscure part of the city, which was the birth place of my dear, fatherless child. The contrast in my situation was so great, so trying, so heartrending, that nature sunk under it. I was driven, to despair, and thought death was my only relief. One night, one dreadful night, I went to the water side, with a full determination to thrust myself into a watery grave; but through the goodness of that Being, in whose hand my life is, I was snatched from a doom so dreadful, and brought back to my helpless child. The thought that my child would suffer want and hunger, and I have nothing to relieve her, was insupportable; but, said she, I ought to be

truly thankful that God has spared my life, and raised me up so many kind friends. From them and this benevolent society, I have had many, very many wants supplied. Had it not been for these charities, I must have suffered with hunger and cold, if not died."

From the Christian Mirror Oct. 10.

We thank our obliging correspondent for his lively description of a rare, if not unparalleled event, and for his instructive and scientific account of the victims of an unheard of warfare, as given below.

HARPSWELL, MAINE, GRAND NOVEL FISHERY.
On Monday forenoon of this week, a school or shoal of large fish, some of them between 20 and 30 feet in length, was discovered in Harpswell river, on the eastern side of Harpswell Neck. A few hardy fishermen of that town discovered them, and engaged in the chase, drying them up the river, and firing at them with musket balls. The alarm was soon communicated along the shore—a whale! a whale! was the cry—and the water was in a short time covered with boats, carrying from 60 to 80 warriors to battle, armed with muskets, harpoons, broad axes, hatchets, and whatever deadly weapon could be seized upon at the moment. Those who first dashed in amongst the school, fired at them incessantly, and killed several, who sunk in the river, where they still lie. The greater part were driven from the river into a cove, directly east of Harpswell meeting-house, between Orr's Island and Great Island. The water was here shallow, and now commenced an assault and method of fishery never before witnessed. The fish were known to yield a valuable oil like that of the whale. The largest would yield from four to five barrels, worth 30 or 340. The eagerness of attack, therefore, on the part of the fishermen, who were accustomed to draw up from the depth of many fathoms the small and comparatively worthless codfish, may be easily imagined. To catch a fish worth 340 was no trifling affair.

First, as became him, the Representative of the town of Harpswell, Mr. Curtis, a very respectable man, assaulted the largest of the school. Armed with a broad-axe, he threw himself from his boat astride a monster 22 feet in length, and rode him a number of rods, (all the while cutting into him with the greatest industry,) before he despatched him. Classic story tells us of Arion who was carried ashore on the back of a Porpoise; but Harpswell—true history will long boast of their representative, who rode aboard on the back of a Grampus.

Mr. Reed, another of the adventurers, was not so fortunate. Several had attacked in vain an unmanageable fish; when he, having previously landed, waded out to him, saying he could bring him ashore, up to his mid-body in water; he accordingly seized the animal by his head, as one would take a dog by the ears, but the brave man soon found he was not in his element—for the fish, with a swing or two of his head, tripped up his heels and made him glad to retreat, so as to keep his head above water! Young Mr. Dunning pursued two large fish ashore, and slipping the painter from his boat, he made a noose in it, and getting it over the head and fins of the largest, he fastened him to a tree—while snatching another rope, he slipped it over the tail of the other, and fastened him to a bush; and then hastened to make new conquests, for it was the law of the chase, that every one was to have what he could kill or catch and secure. One of the school was struck with a harpoon, and his fury was tremendous. A sea of several feet was made along the shore. The result of this adventure is, that 22 men, the successful part of the company, killed 71 fish, being, with those sunk in the river, the whole school. It is not known that one escaped. The blubber has been stripped, and is expected will yield seventy-five barrels of oil, worth, perhaps, from six to seven hundred dollars.

Some of the Harpswell people called this fish Black Fish, others Pot Fish. Both names are very appropriate, for the fish is black like a coal, and the head is of the form of a pot kettle. Dr. Mitchell of New-York, and other learned men would say, it is no fish at all, for it has no gills, and like the whale, has a heart and lungs, and warm blood, and is viviparous. It spouts water through a large spiracle or hole in the top of its head. One man thrust his fist as a stopper in the spiracle of one of the monsters, in the hope, that by confining the air, the animal would blow up, and thus be floated more readily in shoal water; but he found himself in danger of being blown up into the air! The largest was 22 feet in length and 18 feet in circumference; the pups still at the breast were 7 or 8 feet in length.

It is remarkable, that amidst all the confusion and peril of the battle, not a man should have been hurt in the conquest of such a multitude of fierce and powerful animals. The protection no less than the bounty of Providence, calls for the grateful acknowledgement of those bold and successful adventurers.

MEN AND BARRELS.

It is with men as with barrels—the emptiest makes the most sound.

ELEPHANT HUNTING.
Extract of a letter from a Medical Officer, dated Hambentoti, Island of Ceylon, February 26th.

"I have just returned from beholding a sight, which, even in this country, is a rare occurrence, viz. an Elephant hunt, conducted under the orders of Government. A minute description, though well worth perusal, would be far too long for a letter; I shall therefore only give you what is generally termed a faint idea. Imagine two or three thousand men surrounding a tract of country six or eight miles in circumference, each one armed with different combustibles and moving fires, in the midst suppose three hundred elephants, being driven towards the centre by the gradual and regular approach of those fires, till, at last, they are confined within a circle of about two miles; they are then driven by the same means into a space made by the erection of immense logs of ebony, and other strong wood, bound together by cane, and of the shape, in miniature, of the longitudinal section of a funnel, towards which they rush with the greatest fury, amidst the most horrid yells, on the approach of fire, of which they stand in the greatest dread. When enclosed they become outrageous, and charge on all sides with great fury, but without any effect on the strong barricade. They at length gain the narrow path of the enclosure, the extreme end of which is just large enough to admit one elephant, which is immediately prevented from breaking out by strong bars laid across. To express their passion, their desperation, when thus confined, is impossible; and still more so, to imagine the facility and admirable contrivance by which they are removed and tamed. Thus it is, a tame elephant is placed on each side, to whom the wild one is fastened by ropes; he is then allowed to pass out, and immediately on his making the least resistance, the tame ones give him a most tremendous squeeze between their sides, and beat him with their trunks until he submits; they then lead him to a place ready prepared, to which he is strongly fastened, and return to perform the same civility to the next one. In this way, seventy wild elephants were captured for the purpose of Government labour. The tame elephants daily take each wild one singly to water and to feed, until they become quite tame and docile. The remaining elephants were shot by the people. I took possession of a young one, and have got him now tied up near my door; he is quite reconciled, and eats with the greatest confidence out of my hand; he is, however, too expensive to keep long, and I fear I must eventually shoot him. Some idea of the expense may be supposed, when I tell you that in one article alone (milk) his allowance is two gallons per day. I was at this scene with thirty other officers and their ladies, and we remained in temporary huts for nearly ten days."

THE LOST PLEIAD.
Not in the sky—
When it was seen;
Nor on the white tops of the glistering snow;
Nor in the mansions of the hidden deep—
However green,
In its unexplored caves of mystery,—
Shall the bright watcher have,
Applaud, nor once again proud station keep,
Gone, gone!

Oh! never more to shine
The mariner, who holds his course alone,
On the Atlantic, thro' the weary night,
When the waves turn to watchers & do sleep,
Shall it appear,
With the sweet fixedness of certain light,
Shining upon the shut eye of the blue deep;
Oh! when the shepherd from Chaldean hills,
Watching his flock, in unbarrowed pain,
Shall look in vain for thy pale beam to come,
And fall asleep upon the sky-kim'd rocks,
How shall he waken when dew silence fall,
The scene, to wander at the weight of night,
'E'en tho' her blessed mellowness dim, the
The quietude that never dwells with light,
Vain, vain!

Is less than vain, shall he look forth,
The sailor from his bark—
(How'er the North
Dost raise his certain lamp when tempest lower)
To catch the light of the lost star again—
The weary hour,
Shall be to him more weary, when the dawn
Fails to display the lone flame on her tower

A strain—a mellow strain
Of parting music fill'd the earth and sky—
That parting music in unbarrowed pain,
The brightest of their train!
Alas! it is the destiny—
The shortest lived are loveliest,
And like you full orb shooting down the sky,
Are always brightest when about to fly
From the lone spot they bright!

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGES.
Meet in their respective states on Wednesday the 31 December, at their several seats of government. The vote by distinct ballots, and make distinct lists of persons for whom the vote. The polls are then signed, certified, sealed, and sent to Washington. On the second Monday of February next, the votes are opened in the presence of the Senate and House, and counted. Whoever has a majority of all the electoral votes, is declared President, and the same as regards the Vice-President. The certified lists are sent to Washington by special messengers paid for that purpose.—N. G.

TRANSPLANTING FRUIT TREES.

Mr. Editor,
It is possible that the following hints may be useful to some of my less experienced brother farmers.
Within a few years I have transplanted on my farm several hundred apple trees, some of which have been set in spring and some in autumn. But not remembering to have lost a single tree, I am unable to say which time is the best.
The method I have generally pursued is this, wherever the soil is thinner, or the land drier than I could wish, I direct the holes to be dug as much as four feet in diameter, and about 2 feet deep. And the earth taken from below what is useful as soil, we cart into the road, or wherever it may be wanted, and return to the holes an equal quantity of those small stones which are usually considered a nuisance; with these we intermix any kind of compost, or rich soil from the road. I have always found advantage from intermixing with the earth, while setting, a bushel or more of rotten manure to each tree.
In digging up trees we are careful to rob them as little as possible of their roots; and aim to diminish the lateral branches by pruning as much as the roots have lost in taking up. We set the trees about as deep as they stood in the nursery; treading the ground as hard as we can around them, setting out, and keeping them erect; and let them stand without stakes; or being visited by any horned cattle.
It is surprising to see how rapidly these trees have grown. There are several now in a fair view, which were set out in April last, on which may be seen a full grown apple. The conclusion will undoubtedly be drawn that trees must have been thrifty, and of handsome size when removed. They were.
J Kenrick.
Newton, Oct. 8, 1838.

IMPORTANT OPERATION.

In the case of a person of this town, the femoral artery of the thigh was tied on the 30th ult. in presence of several surgeons, for the cure of an unusual large political aneurism, by Mr. Furber, surgeon, of this place. We believe it to be the first time the operation has been done in this quarter. It was attended with immediate relief to the patient, who is at present in the progress of recovery. Inverness Courier.

THE HARP OF JUDAH.
The harp of Judah once more
I shall hear thy heavenly notes,
For thy music I have listen'd in vain,
That around me so strangely floats
The harp and the prophets who struck the
 chords
Where, to where have they gone?
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I shall hear thy heavenly notes,
For thy music I have listen'd in vain,
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REPORT

of the Managers of the Female Orphan Society of Annapolis.
The Female Orphan Society of Annapolis, held a meeting on Monday the 13th instant, at which the following report was read:
The Managers of the Female Orphan Society of Annapolis, have adopted a constitution, and transacted business of the Society, since its formation, in compliance with the rule laid down in the said constitution, they have selected four of the most destitute orphans that have come under their care, and placed them under the tutelage of a matron qualified to give the necessary instruction. The constitution prescribes an annual appointment of twelve Managers; who are authorized to elect their officers from the members of the Society, and who to participate in the election of the Managers, it is deemed expedient by the Board that a new appointment should be placed by the Board at this time, and its future in the month of November, will be the period of the annual meeting of the Society. The state of funds, and the expenditures incurred, will be seen in the Statement of Treasurer, which, with the Secretary's Record, are open for investigation. The Managers earnestly entreat the ladies who have united with the society in the past year, to be personally active in its prosecution—they are anxious that every member of the Society should feel an individual interest in its prosperity; and should this be the case, we are fully persuaded the period may be far distant, when this institution will be enabled to extend its operations to its beneficial tendency be universally admitted.

- Mrs. Maynadier, 1st Director.
- Nicholson, 2d Director.
- Ridout, Treasurer.
- Miss Hodges, Secretary.

- Managers:
- Mrs. Blanchard,
 - Bowie,
 - Stackubb,
 - Miss Mills,
 - Chase,
 - Franklin,
 - M. Dene.

Little Editor of the Maryland Gazette.
I find from the returns of the elections in different states, that no doubt remain of the election of Andrew Jackson as President of the United States of America, and the re-election of John C. Calhoun as Vice President, by an overwhelming majority. This pleasing information, must be to us a great and signal triumph for the republicans, by all who are opposed to the odious system of Secret Succession. Truth is great, and will prevail. The voice of the people, uttered in a republican government, must not be disregarded, must not be stultified, must not be tampered with. Those who in congress voted against the will of their constituents, may read the commentary on their actions. It will not only make a lasting impression on those political renegades, but will have a salutary effect upon the moral aspirants.

While we offer our mutual congratulations upon this pleasing result, we hold forth the olive branch to all political aspirants.
The motto, Peace and good will, shall be our motto. Let us respect their feelings, sympathize with their sufferings, and unite in the support of the next administration, which being founded upon the principles of the country, and the happiness of the people.

A letter from Kingston, Jamaica, dated the 21st, states that on the day of the 3rd, at three o'clock A. M. a violent earthquake was felt in the island.