

**STEAM BOAT EXPLOSION.**  
We are indebted to an intelligent gentleman, a passenger on board the Helen M. Gregor, for the following interesting narrative.

*U. S. Telegraph.*  
On the morning of the 24th February, the Helen M. Gregor stopped at Memphis to deliver freight and land a number of passengers, who resided in that section of Tennessee. The steamer occupied in so doing could not have exceeded three quarters of an hour. When the boat landed, I went ashore to see a gentleman with whom I had some business. I found him on the beach; and after a short conversation, returned to the boat. I recollect looking at my watch as I passed the gangway. It was half past eight o'clock. A great number of persons were standing on what is called the boiler deck, being that part of the upper deck situated immediately over the boilers. It was crowded to excess, and presented one dense mass of human bodies. In a few minutes we set down to breakfast in the cabin. The table, although extending the whole length of the cabin, was completely filled, there being upwards of sixty cabin passengers, among whom were several ladies and children. The number of passengers on board, deck and cabin united, was between four and five hundred. I had almost finished my breakfast when the pilot rang his bell for the engineer to put the machinery in motion. The boat having just started off, I was in the act of raising my cap to my lip, the tingling of the pilot bell yet on my ear, when I heard an explosion, resembling the discharge of a small piece of artillery—the report was perhaps louder than usual in such cases—for an exclamation was half uttered by me to the effect that the gun was well loaded, when the rushing sound of steam and the rattling of glass in some of the cabin windows checked my speech, and told too well what had occurred. I almost involuntarily bent my head and body down to the floor—a vague idea seemed to shoot across my mind that more than one boiler might burst, and that by assuming this posture, the destroying matter would pass over without touching me. The general cry of "boiler has burst" resounded from one end of the table to the other and as if by a simultaneous movement, all started on their feet. Then commenced a general race to the ladies' cabin, which lay more towards the stern of the boat. All regard to order or deference to sex seemed to be lost in the struggle for which should be first and farthest from the dreaded boiler. The danger had already passed away. I remained standing by the chair on which I had been previously sitting. Only one person or two staid in the cabin with me. As yet not more than half a minute had elapsed since the explosion but in that brief space how had the scene changed! In that "wisp of time" what confusion, distress and dismay! An instant before, and all were in the quiet repose of security; and now they were all overwhelmed with alarm and consternation. It is but justice to say that in this scene of terror the ladies exhibited a degree of firmness worthy of all praise. No screaming, no fainting; their fears, when uttered, were for their husbands and children, not for themselves.

I advanced from my position to one of the cabin doors for purpose of inquiring who were injured, when, just as I reached it, a man entered at the opposite one, both his hands covering his face, and exclaiming: "Oh God! I am lost! I am ruined!" He immediately began to tear off his clothes. When stripped, he presented a most shocking and afflicting spectacle; his face was entirely black—his body without a particle of skin. He had been flying alive. He gave me his name, and place of abode—then sunk in a state of exhaustion and agony on the floor. I assisted in placing him on a mattress taken from one of the berths, and covered him with blankets. He complained of heat and cold as at once oppressing him. He bore his torments with a manly fortitude, yet a convulsive shiver would occasionally burst from him. His wife, his children, were his constant theme; it was hard to die without seeing them. "It was hard to go without bidding them one farewell!" Oil and cotton were applied to his wounds; but he soon became insensible to earthly misery. Before I had done attending to him, the whole floor of the cabin was covered with unfortunate sufferers. Some bore up under the horrors of their situation with a degree of resolution amounting to heroism. Others were wholly overcome by the sense of pain, the suddenness of the fatal disaster, and the near approach of death, which even to them was evident—whose pangs they already felt. Some implored us, as an act of humanity, to complete the work of destruction, and free them from present suffering. One entreated the presence of a clergyman to pray for him, declaring he was not fit to die. I inquired, none could be had. On every side were to be heard groans and mingled exclamations of grief and despair.

To add to the confusion, persons were every moment running about to learn the fate of their friends and relatives; fathers, sons, brothers; for, in this scene of unmitigated calamity, it was impossible to say who were saved, or who had perished. The countenances of many were so much disfigured, as to be past recognition. My attention, after some time, was particularly drawn towards a poor fellow who lay unnoticed on the floor, without uttering a single word of complaint. He was at a little distance removed from the rest. He was not much scalded, but one of his thighs was broken, and a principal artery had been severed, from which the blood was gushing rapidly. He betrayed no displeasure at the apparent neglect with which he was treated—he was perfectly calm. I spoke to him; he said he was very weak; he felt himself going, it would soon be over. A gentleman ran for one of the physicians; he came, and declared that, if expedition were used, he might be preserved by amputating the limb; but that, to effect this, it would be necessary to remove him from the boat. Unfortunately the boat was not sufficiently near to run a plank across. We were obliged to wait until it could

**From the Journal of Health.**  
**LABOUR WITHOUT LIQUOR.**

The evidence furnished in the above extract, is but a small portion of what might be readily collected, to show that the laboring classes, of whatever color, and in whatever climate living, never stand in need of the unnatural excitement produced by ardent spirits. Whether on sea or shore, such persons will best preserve their health by entire abstinence from these drinks. The true preventatives of diseases for them, will be found in temperance, warm and dry sleeping quarters, with comfortable clothing & regular hours. I would be the last man to abridge the comforts of this unfortunate class of men, but I am entirely satisfied that the greatest kindness which can be rendered them, is to place the liquor on all occasions, wet and dry, beyond their reach. As an article of materia medica, I would not absolutely prescribe it. That, however, should be the only exception.

On three contiguous estates, of more than four hundred slaves, has been made with fine success, the experiment of a strict exclusion of ardent spirits, at all seasons of the year. Not only drunkenness, but drinking is punished, however moderate. A sorer method is practised for detecting the drinker, however sober he may be. It is impossible to disguise his breath. Various expedients were at first used, such as infusion of strong scented herbs in his pocket. But the unerring nose of the administrator or mayor, always detected the offender, and inevitable correction followed. All the offence is almost unknown on the estates.

It was a deep conviction, on the part of the proprietor, that the bad health and early death of many of his slaves, and the irregular conduct in their families, and consequent suspicions and jealousies, and bloody revenges, in some cases amounting to murder of child and parent, were chiefly imputable, directly or indirectly, to ardent spirits, which brought him to the resolution of banishing it entirely from his estates. The success has very far exceeded his most sanguine hopes. Peace, and quietness, and contentment, reign among the negroes; a better state of health is evident; crochets are reared in much greater numbers than formerly; the estates are in the neatest and highest state of cultivation, and order and discipline are maintained with very little correction, and the mildest means. The writings of enlightened physicians of the present day, accord with the theory of this humane planter. They utterly deny the necessity of spirit to the laborer in heat and cold, in seasons wet and dry. Substitutes more salutary may, in case of exposure to drenching rains, be adopted. Molasses, hot water, and ginger, are the best correctives of the chill, followed by a warm line and garment. What is the effect of the sudden flash of liquid fire, compared with the genial warmth obtained by these milder means?

A serious evil on the other hand arises from the custom of giving a glass of spirit to a wet negro, or to a wet gang. They will love to get wet and cold, that they may be warmed by their favourite beverage.

But cut off all hope of indulgence, and cases of fever and death will be diminished. As a means then, of order, and peace; and contentment on a plantation—a means of keeping the hospital empty, and the bohea full of vigorous labourers, and the plantations populous and cheerful with crochets, let ardent spirit be banished from the plantation.

Nine-tenths of all the crimes, and poverty, and calamity of the United States, spring from ardent spirit, and the abuse of liberty in the use of that dangerous poison. Can a humane planter, whose word is law in his regard, confer a greater favour on his slaves than to provide that they live in happy ignorance of the moral and physical evils which oppress so many of the free?

*The Rev. Dr. Alcott's Letters from Cuba.*

INTERTEMPERANCE—INSANITY.  
The bloated face, and trembling hand—indigestion and drops—diseased liver and kidneys—are common and acknowledged effects of intemperance. By this word intemperance, we do not mean merely drunkenness, but the practice of daily stimulating beyond their healthy and regular beats, the heart and blood vessels, by potations of vinous, malt, or distilled liquors. It is not, perhaps, so generally known that the man of intemperate habits is prone to madness, and of course liable to become the inmate of a hospital, or lunatic asylum. The instances of temporary madness in drunkards are very common. After some days they may recover by suitable medical treatment, but if they return to their evil habits, they are exposed to fresh attacks, which finally prove fatal. A wound or a fractured limb which, in common healthy constitutions, would soon heal, will often excite to frenzy the habitual drunkard, and be the immediate cause of his death. The chances of recovery from any disease whatever, are infinitely less for the drunkard than the sober man. When the small-pox prevailed so extensively in this city, in 1823-4, we never knew of a drunkard who recovered from an attack of the natural disease; that is, where neither vaccination nor inoculation had been practised. He for the most part died delirious.

But, independent of these instances of temporary and accidental madness, there is a formidable list of the permanent and incurable kind, caused by drunkenness. In a table of 1370 lunatics admitted into the asylum at Cork, Dr. Halloran says that 160, nearly an eighth of the whole number, were insane from this unhappy indulgence. Though the French are comparatively a sober people, it appears that out of 2507 lunatics admitted into their hospitals, 183 were insane from the same cause. Men are often driven to self destruction by a habit of drunkenness. Out of 218 cases of suicide, published by Professor Casper of Berlin, (in a list of 500) the causes of which were known, 54 were the effects of drunkenness and dissipation.

*Cabin Passenger on board the Helen M. Gregor.*  
Washington City, 22nd March, 1830.

It has been stated, by a foreign writer, that the world is indebted to Ireland for the first examples of the formal abolition of the slave trade, by a country and a sect. The Synod, at Armagh, in 1170, decreed the liberation of all slaves, in that country, and the resolution passed at the General meeting of the Quakers in Dublin, in 1787, was the first step taken by this sect, to effect the emancipation of slaves.

**EXTRACT.**  
It seems to me that not only Ministers of the Gospel, but all pious Christians should turn away from spirituous liquors with instinctive horror.

They should regard them, not only as the common foe of all, as the prolific parent of vice, and immorality and crime, and disease, and poverty, and wretchedness, but as being in a particular degree hostile to the Redeemer's kingdom. They shut up the avenues of the soul, and oppose a strong barrier to the entrance of grace into the heart; they retard its growth; and cause the declension of multitudes of professing Christians. Of all the means that have been employed by the great tempter to ensnare the followers of Christ, to seduce them from the path of holiness, and involve them again in open sin and rebellion, none has been so successful as this. No doubt can be entertained that this is the most common cause of declensions. "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall."

**THE FEMALE HEART.**  
"There is nothing under heaven so delicious as the possession of pure, fresh, immutable affections. The most felicitous moment of man's life, the most ecstatic of all his emotions and sympathies, is that in which he receives an avowal of affection from the idol of his heart. The springs of feeling, when in their youthful purity, are fountains of unalloyed and gushing tenderness: the spell that once draws them forth, is the mystic light of future years and undying memory. Nothing in life is so pure and devoted as woman's love.—It matters not whether it be for a husband, or child or sister, or brother, it is the same pure unquenchable flame—the same constant and immaculate glow of feeling, whose undeniable touchstone is trial. Do but give her one token of love, one kind word, one gentle look, even if it be amid desolation and death—the feelings of that faithful heart will gush forth as a torrent, and in despite of earthly bond or mercenary tie. More priceless than the gems of Golconda is the female heart; more devoted than the idolatry of Mecca, is woman's love.—There is no sordid view, or gratifying self interest in the feeling.—It is a principle and a characteristic of her nature, a faculty and an intuition which absorbs and concentrates all the fervour of her soul, and all the depths of her bosom. I would rather be the idol of one unsullied and unpractised heart, than the monarch of empires. I would rather possess the immaculate and impassioned devotion of one high-souled and enthusiastic female, than the scepter-fawnings of millions."

*N. Y. American.*

**SEA SERPENT IN GEORGIA.**  
Capt. Delano, of the schooner Eagle, arrived at Charleston from Turtle River, has furnished the editors of the Courier with the following particulars, to the truth of which he declares himself willing, with his whole crew, to make affidavit.

On Monday, 23rd inst. at 10 o'clock A. M. when about one mile inside St. Simon's Bar, endeavouring to beat out, observed at the distance of 500 yards, a large object resembling an Alligator, occasionally moving along in the same course with the vessel, and at times lying nearly motionless upon the surface. Capt. D. finding himself likely to approach very near this strange visiter, charged a musket with ball, and tacked so as to run within 20 or 25 yards of him, at a moment when he was lying perfectly still and apparently unconcerned. Capt. D. took deliberate aim at the back of his head, the only part then exposed, and fired—the ball evidently taking effect. Instantly, to the no small astonishment and apprehension of the crew, the monster aroused himself and made directly for the vessel, contracting his body, and giving two or three tremendous sweeps with his tail as he passed, the first striking the stem, and producing a shock which was very sensibly felt by all on board. On seeing his approach the Captain jumped upon his deck load of cotton, and the whole crew, including the man at the helm, were not less prompt in consulting their safety. They had all a fair opportunity to observe their enemy both before and after the shot, and concur in describing him as upwards of 70 feet in length; his body as large, or larger, than a 60 gallon cask of a grey color, shaped like an eel—without any visible fins, and apparently covered with scales—the back being full of "joints" or "bunches." The head and mouth resembled those of an Alligator, the former about 10 feet long, and as large as a hoghead! A smaller one of like appearance was observed at a greater distance, which vanished on the firing of the shot, but both were afterwards seen together, passing the North breaker, where they finally disappeared. Capt. D. says he saw a similar creature off Doboy, about 4 years since, at which he fired three shots, but without obtaining quite so familiar an interview as in the present instance. He believes that this formidable nondescript had sufficient strength to injure seriously, if not totally destroy, a vessel of the Eagle's size, by a single blow fairly given, and deems himself very fortunate in that result of the encounter. He reloading his musket before his enemy disappeared, but it was only in self defence, as he felt no disposition to renew the contest with so potent an adversary.

Capt. D. states, that he could not have been deceived in the general appearance of this marine prodigy, and that it differed altogether from any species of whale, or other inhabitant of the deep, which he had ever before seen, with the exception mentioned above.

A physician, travelling in Italy, writes, that in Genoa, 2000 persons have recently fallen victims to the small pox, but not one that had been previously vaccinated is among the number.

Soft soap and strong lime made into a plaster of equal portions, is said to be a cure for scabs on the fingers.

**HYMENEAL.**

Married, on Tuesday evening last, by the Rev. T. B. Dorsey, Mr. LEVI COLE, to Miss ELIZABETH SIMMONS.

An election took place in this city on Monday last, for the Common Council, which resulted in the election of the following gentlemen.

James Hunter, Washington G. Tuck, Jeremiah L. Boyd, Brice B. Brewer, Henry Hobbes, George Schwarz, Philip Clayton.

Speculation has been very busy since Monday last, in relation to an extraordinary report or explosion which was heard in the air on the morning of that day. It occurred between 7 and 8 o'clock, and was heard in every direction from us from which we have since derived intelligence, to the extent of many miles. Some of our accounts represent the wate as that of the rushing of many mighty waters, preceded by a sharp whizzing and followed by a deep rumbling that seemed to die away far in the South—others represent it as like that of the distant discharge of cannon at short intervals, for two or three minutes; closing with a volley of musketry—others again, as that of the falling of some heavy body in the upper parts of their houses—whilst some compare it to continual peals of distant thunder. And those who were out at the time and had an opportunity of observing horses, cattle, &c. concur in stating that they manifested more than usual alarm. The Heavens were at the time, calm and clear, with the exception of a few small disconnected clouds in the south east.

*Hagerstown, (Md.) Torch Light.*

[The explosion mentioned in the above paragraph, was distinctly heard in this city.

*Id. Gaz.*]

The persons arrested at Harper's Ferry for being concerned with Cox in the murder of Col. Donn, have been dismissed, the attorney for the commonwealth expressing himself as satisfied that Cox had added perjury to murder.

A fine bridge of sixteen hundred feet in length, known as the Back Cove Bridge, was entirely swept away by the late storm and high tide at Portland.

**DESTRUCTION OF THE CECIL MILLS.**  
We learn from passengers who arrived yesterday evening in the steambot Governor Wolcott, from Port Deposit, that the Cecil Flour Mills, near that place, belonging to James Bosley, Esq. of this city, were destroyed by fire on Friday night last, together with all the Machinery. Only one arkl-load of wheat was consumed—the stock of flour, about 500 barrels, having been shipped the morning previous. The property, we learn, insured, but we do not know whether the policy will cover the entire amount of loss sustained.

*Dalt. Amer.*

The New York Gazette says in reference to the anonymous remittance of \$2000, made to the Secretary of the Treasury.

We are informed it is the amount of old duties on a quantity of smuggled goods. The importer has come to a determination to continue his operations, and to remit the duties agreeably to the old tariff. In doing this, he conceives that he does ample justice to the Government.

The New York Evening Post expresses a belief that the committee of ways and means will make a report favourable to the constitutionality and expediency of the Bank of the U. S.

The Doylestown Advertiser, in noticing the profusion of wild pigeons in that neighbourhood, mentions that one wagon contained 400 dozen, intended for the Philadelphia market.

**NAVY PENSIONS.**  
We have received from Washington the annual report of the Commissioners of the Navy Pension Fund, which makes a pamphlet of 63 pages. The list of Pensioners for 1829 comprises 383 names and the list of persons killed, drowned, &c. to whose widows and orphan children pensions have accrued, 116. Total 594. To the former list 20 have been added during the past year, and to the latter, 2. One of these is the widow of the lamented Lieut. Breckenridge, who was mortally wounded by the explosion of the steam frigate Falton, at the Navy Yard in Brooklyn. The Commissioners remark that many of the "widow and orphan pensioners" have not been paid their pensions for several years past. The inference is, that of the first, many have either intermarried or are not living; and of the orphan children, most are believed to have attained the age of 16 years, after which the law has been interpreted to exclude them from any further participation in the benefits of the Fund.

*N. Y. Jour. Com.*

**STEAMBOAT PROPERTY IN THE WEST.**  
A writer in the New Orleans Argus of the 13th ult. states that there is now employed about three millions of dollars, of capital, in steam boat property, on the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi.

The school master in a foreign—the select men of Wiscasset, Maine, have issued an order empowering the Police to seize all boys loitering in the streets, and compel them to go to

**Maryland Gazette.**  
ANNAPOLIS  
Thursday, April 8, 1830.

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