

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."

H. B. MASSER, PUBLISHERS AND JOSEPH EISELY, PROPRIETORS.

H. B. MASSER, Editor.

Office in Centre Alley, in the rear of H. B. Masser's Store.

THE "AMERICAN" is published every Saturday at TWO DOLLARS per annum to be paid half yearly in advance.

No subscriptions received for a less period than six months. All communications or letters on business relating to the office, to insure attention, must be POST PAID.

SUNBURY AMERICAN.

ND SHAMOKIN JOURNAL.

Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.—JENNISON.

By Masser & Eiseley.

Sunbury, Northumberland Co. Pa. Saturday, August 3, 1844.

Vol. 4--No. 45--Whole No. 201.

PRICES OF ADVERTISING.

1 square 1 insertion, \$0 60
1 do 2 do, 0 75
1 do 3 do, 1 00
Every subsequent insertion, 0 25
Yearly Advertisements: one column, \$25; half column, \$18; three squares, \$12; two squares, \$9; one square, \$6.

Advertisements left without directions as to the length of time they are to be published, will be continued until ordered out, and charged accordingly.

Sixteen lines make a square.



From the Morning Post.

THE COON HUNT.

'Twas on a clear and cloudless night, When moon and stars were shining bright, That, on a limb, 'the same old coon,' Was humming to himself this tune:

Get out the way, you're all unlucky, Clear the track for old Kentucky, Get out the way you're all unlucky, Clear the track for old Kentucky.

Scarcely had he closed his churlish song, When, wandering through the woods along, A hunter came from Tennessee.

And POLKED the coon down from the tree. Go home, said he, to old Kentucky, And clear the track for one more lucky;

Go home, go home, to old Kentucky, And clear the track for one more lucky.

That same old coon was loth to go, And in his eyes stood tears of woe; But then it clearly was no joke

The words of that young hunter, POLK, Go home, go home, to old Kentucky, And clear the track for one more lucky;

Go home, go home, to old Kentucky, And clear the track for one more lucky.

The coon he growled and shook his tail, And started like a sulky snail, But Hickory POLKED the beast along,

And cheered him up with this same song: Get out the way, you're all unlucky, Clear the track for old Kentucky,

Get out the way you're all unlucky, Clear the track for old Kentucky.

PETER'S RIDE TO THE WEDDING. Peter would go to the wedding, he would, So he saddled his ass—and his wife,

She was to ride behind, if she could, For says Peter, says he, "the woman she should Follow, not lead, through life.

"He's mighty convenient, the ass my dear, And gentle and safe, and now You stick by the tail, while I stick by the ear,

And we'll go to the wedding in time, never fear, If the wind and the weather allow."

The wind and the weather were not to be blamed, But the ass, he had let in a whim, That two at a time was a load never framed

For the back of one ass, as he seemed quite ashamed That two should be stuck upon him.

"Come, Dobbin," says Peter, "I'm thinking we'll trot."

"I'm thinking we won't," says the ass, (In the language of conduct,) and stuck to the spot,

As though he had said he had sooner be shot, Than lift up a toe from the grass.

Says Peter, says he, "I'll whip him a little!" "Try it, my dear," says she:

But he might just as well have whipped a brass kettle, The ass he was made of such obstinate mettle

That never a step moved he. "I'll prick him, my dear, with a needle—the steel May possibly alter his mind!"

The ass felt the needle, and up went his heel, "I'm thinking," says Peter, "he's seeming to feel

Some notion of moving behind." "Now give me the needle, I'll tickle his ear,

And set 't other end, too, a going!" The ass felt the needle, and upwards he reared,

But kicking and rearing were all, it appeared, He had any intention of doing.

Says Peter, says he, "We are getting on slow, While one end is up, 't other sticks to the ground,

But I'm thinking a method to match him I know, We'll let, for an instant, both tail and ear go,

And spur him at once all round." So said so done—all hands were a spurring,

And the ass he did alter his mind— For off went he, like a partridge whirring,

And got to the wedding while all were a stirring, But—left the load behind.

AGRICULTURE—Scene, a cornfield; men with hoes; time, eleven o'clock, A. M.

Enter Squire, the owner of the field. One of the men speaks: Squire, it's eleven o'clock you know, and we are all thirsty!

And the Scripture says: "It any thirst, let him come and drink." Squire: Ay, but the Scripture also says: "Hoe, everyone that thirsteth!"

CAPTAIN KIDD AND HIS TREASURES.

The history and adventures of this daring free-booter of by-gone days have brought into notice once more, by attempts which are making to ascertain the contents of a hulk which has been discovered, deeply sunk in the mud, at the mouth of what is called the Race, in Hudson River, at the foot of Dunderbergh Mountain, near Caldwell's Landing.

From a statement just published by some of the parties interested, we derive the annexed extracts showing the progress already made in the work of exploration, and some of the reasons which induce the belief that the hulk in question is the remains of the veritable ship of Capt. William Kidd. It appears from portions of the statement which we have not copied, that among the inhabitants residing in the vicinity of the wreck, there are traditions that have been handed down from generation to generation, that Kidd's ship being pursued by British cruisers to the point above indicated, was there set on fire and sunk by Kidd himself, about one hundred and forty-five years since; and that Kidd with a few of his followers, then made their way across the country to Boston, where he was soon after captured and sent to England.

These traditions are corroborated by similar traditions among the descendants of persons formerly residing in the vicinity of Dunderbergh Mountain, but who are now scattered in distant parts of the country. It is not for us to decide how much weight these traditions are entitled to. So far as we are aware, there is no authentic record of Kidd's ship having been driven up the Hudson, and there burnt; but it is also to be noted that the whole history of his movements is to a great extent involved in mystery, inasmuch that some have maintained (certainly without reason) that Capt. Kidd was a mere creature of fancy, and that such a man never in fact existed. One thing is certain, viz.: that the remains of a large ship have been found at the point indicated by the above mentioned traditions; and from the appearance of the shavings brought up by cased augurs, it is evident that she had been partially burnt.

Furthermore, a howitzer, of very ancient construction, has been recovered from the wreck, which shows that the vessel there burnt and sunk, was an armed vessel. This howitzer we have seen, and any body may see it who is disposed to go into Jones' Court, Wall st. As its peculiarities are described in the annexed extract, we need not particularize them here.

Kidd's money has been dug for everywhere, and a vast deal of superstition and nonsense has been displayed in regard to it. The present may turn out to be an equally fruitless search, as far as treasure is concerned; and it may even prove that Kidd had no more to do with the ship in question, than the man in the moon; yet even so, a few thousand dollars expended in solving the mystery of this armed hulk, concerning which history is nearly if not altogether silent, will be money well laid out. We are glad to learn that there is a determination on the part of the individuals concerned, to pursue their researches, until the problem is definitely solved. We now proceed to the extracts:

Capt. Kidd was commander in the English navy, and received a commission to cruise against the pirates, and afterwards a commission of reprisals against the French. He is said to have been captivated with the treasure of the daughter of the Great Mogul, which was given her as a marriage portion, and she put in charge of Kidd to convey to her husband, when he turned pirate, murdered her, and stole her treasure; that afterwards he captured a number of Moorish vessels, French ships, and Spanish galleons, besides other vessels with valuable cargoes, and at length was driven up the Hudson river by the English men-of-war which were sent out for his capture and not seeing any way of escape, sunk his vessel with her cargo of treasure, went across the country, then almost a wilderness, and was taken prisoner at Boston, with a few of his men who went with him, and sent to England, tried and executed, being hung in chains at "Execution Dock," on the 12th day of May, 1701.

We shall not enter into any proof of the main fact in the above statement, to wit—that Kidd was commissioned an officer in the English navy, turned pirate, was taken prisoner in this country, sent to England, tried and executed—but would refer those, if any who have any doubt on those points, to British State Trials, Smith's History, Thompson's History of Long Island Sound, and his capture, which will be mentioned herein. Without going into statements which any one can hear by going to the lower end of Long Island, of the escape of two or three of Kidd's men who settled there having brought booty with them, and where the name of the family and the property purchased will be pointed out, by which, for obvious reasons, we forbear to particularize, as well as the general traditions in almost every harbor on both sides of L. Island Sound of his having been seen there, we will state more definitely about his visit to Gardner's Island.

On one occasion Kidd came ashore and wanted Mrs. Gardner to roast him a pig. She was afraid to do otherwise and did it for him. He then made her a present of a cradle blanket, and at the same time told her it was a part of the furniture of the daughter of the Great Mogul. This blanket was part gold and part silk, the gold being a wire. It has been kept by the descendants of the family until the present time, and although it was cut for the purpose of a division among the daughters, the pieces are in a perfect state of preservation. We are also informed, that the story has always been in the family, that previous to Kidd's last starting from Gardner's Island, he informed Mr. Gardner that he had buried some treasure, principally jewelry, in a lot called the "cherry-tree orchard," and at the same time told him if he returned and did not find it, he would murder him and the whole family. Mr. Gardner kept the secret until he was waited upon by some gentlemen appointed commissioners by the governor of the province, who had either got some trace of the burial of this treasure, or knowing that Kidd had been accustomed to visit this island, supposed it probable that there he had concealed something valuable, and demanded to be informed of the place of concealment. He was afraid and declined to point it out, until he was assured that Kidd was taken prisoner and was to be taken to England for trial, and that they acted under a commission from Richard, Earl of Bellmont, Governor, &c., and he then went into the lot and found the buried treasure. He afterwards accompanied the commissioners to Boston, and delivered the treasure, and the following is a copy of the receipt given for the same, said original receipt still being in the Gardner family.

"Received the 17th instant, of Mr. Gardner, viz: Ounces. No. 1. One bag of dust gold, 63 1/2

2. One bag of coined gold, 11 And one in silver, 121

3. One bag dust gold, 24 1/2

4. One bag of silver rings and sundry precious stones, 4 1/2

5. One bag of unpolished stones, 12 1/2

6. One piece of crystal, corneian, rings 2 agates, 2 amethysts,

7. One bag silver buttons,

8. One bag broken silver, 173 1/2

9. One bag of gold bars, 354 1/2

10. One do, 288 1/2

11. One bag dust gold, 59 1/2

12. One bag of silver bars, 309

SAMUEL SEWALL, NATHANIEL BYFIELD, JEREMIAH DRUMMER, ANDREW BELIER, Commissioners.

Before leaving, Mrs. Gardner in a playful way said, she wanted to have it said she held so much treasure, and the jewelry was poured into her lap. After they had left for Boston, a bright stone was found on the floor and picked up by her. When her husband returned he found it to be a diamond, and was afraid he would be charged with stealing it, for it was by many supposed that some high in authority in the English Government were interested with Kidd in his depredations, and that he would furnish them with an inventory of what had been concealed on this island. He said he would go immediately on to Boston and take the diamond, but his wife said he should not go—that she would tell all that happened, and she would risk the consequences. It was consequently kept, and has remained in the family ever since, in the possession of Mrs. Jerush Gardner, of Stonington, Connecticut. These Commissioners obtained large quantity of goods found in New York, and other places for sale, mostly India goods, but not much if any treasure besides that from Gardner's Island. There are well authenticated accounts of persons on Long Island, who were poor, becoming suddenly in good circumstances, and it was attributed to having found some of Kidd's money, but whether so or not, is with us a matter of doubt. It is not improbable, however, that among so many men as he had, some of them, sick of such a bloody and atrocious life, should, as opportunity afforded, conceal what they could steal away from the vessel, with the hope of escape and going for it at some future day to save it for themselves. That he captured a number of French ships and Spanish galleons, and other vessels of most valuable cargoes, containing gold and silver with much jewelry, no one will doubt who will look into the accounts of his piracies, before the English Government could take efficient measures for his capture. Some idea of the value of his treasure can be had from the old Kidd ballad, in which, after reciting his large amount of gold and silver, and stating the other vessels he had taken, says:

"I spied three ships from Spain As I sailed, as I sailed, And I took them on the Main As I sailed, as I sailed."

And when it is taken into consideration that those Spanish galleons, according to an estimate for one hundred years, taken from the Record

of Coinage at Mexico, carried on an average, two millions, five hundred thousand dollars gold etc., the immense amount of his booty is hardly conceivable. So enormous had been his piracies, that when it became necessary for the English Government to send out a squadron for the extirpation of the pirates, and which was done under the command of Captain Thomas Warner, a proclamation was made by the King, to give notice of the "intention to extend the royal mercy to such as should surrender themselves," bearing date at Kensington the 8th day of December, 1698, and after reciting in the proclamation to whom the surrender must be done, Kidd was excepted from the same, and the proclamation closed in these words, "excepting Henry Avery, alias Bridgeman, and William Kidd.

Influenced by traditions, from different sources and other reasons pointing to this place as the location of that vessel, a person of great sagacity, intelligence and wealth, and whose name has become almost proverbial for good fortune, in connection with another gentleman, took measures about fifteen years since, to secure the land at the location of this sunken vessel, and also a water grant from the State of New York for 250 feet from high water mark, that distance extending beyond the vessel. They purchased a large tract of land, about 100 acres, thus certain it extended beyond, on both sides, the precise spots where they believed the vessel was located. A series of experiments was then commenced by them, to ascertain whether a vessel was sunk in the River at that place, for there was nothing of one to be seen. These experiments have been continued from time to time, having been interrupted by the death of one of the parties interested. They have, however, been pursued of late more thoroughly, since the property has come into the hands of one person, by the settlement of the estate of the other party, who was interested in the purchase. The results of these experiments are entirely corroboratory of the traditions.

The river is not clear enough to see, but a very little depth below the surface of the water. From the long time which the vessel had been sunk, being now about 145 years, it could not but be expected that she would be covered with mud. Experiments were therefore commenced with pricking with long poles, with iron points. Timber was soon found a little below the mud. The mud being soft, the poles went down with little effort, until they were stopped by striking, what any one from the sound and sensation of the hand, could have no doubt was wood. By jamming the pole hard it would stick fast, so much so it could with difficulty be pulled out, and on sticking down a pole with a barbed point, fastened to the pole by the pole being driven in a socket and a rivet put through the pole and iron, to make the iron fast to the pole, so much power was applied to the pole that it tore from the iron, before the iron would let go of the timber, and it was left fast sticking into the wood.

This is the part of the vessel nearest the shore, and from which a small part of the deck is supposed to be blown off, and, no doubt, from the firmness with which the iron drove in, it must have gone endways into the wood. An attempt was therefore made, to find by pricking other timbers at the distance a keel of a vessel would ordinarily be placed, and the attempt was successful, and after setting up poles, and making them plumb at these various points, they made the curve of a part of the side of a large vessel. An experiment was afterwards tried, by boring with long augurs, with tin cases round them to save the chips. On going further into the river, in 20 or 25 feet water, and boring, the result was a little mud of one or two feet in depth, then through a plank of soaked wood, very spongy, and which a shipwright of great skill and experience, who was employed, as well as others, do not hesitate to say is pine. The augurs would then drop a number of feet, and then bring up, and on boring, the timber was found to be English oak, and in a perfect state of preservation. Some of the chips were charred, thus confirming the traditions that she was partly burnt; specimens of these chips we now have. This experiment was many times repeated. In some cases timber was bored, which it took nearly an hour to bore through; and, in other cases, the augurs would be brought up on something solid, whether on an iron box, a cask or barrel of specie, or on iron bars, it was impossible to tell, only that it could not be bored.

During the present season experiments have been prosecuted by sending a diver in an ingenious dress for submarine operations, of new invention, by Mr. Sargent, (under whose directions future operations will be carried on) which have resulted as follows: It being early in the season, the water was unusually muddy, and the divers were consequently unable to see much of anything. They, however, soon found the end of a timber just above the mud. In another case, and at nearly the greatest dis-

tance from the shore, in which from our calculations we suppose the vessel extends, we found a piece of metal like the breach of a piece of ordnance, as near as could be determined by feeling with the hand. On this a piece of twilled cotton cloth was rubbed by a diver, which was so much stained it did not rub out by hard rubbing, boiling and dipping in strong fresh lime of wood ashes. The stain was pronounced by those who washed the piece of cloth, to be like the stain from a rusty brass kettle. A piece of the cloth was also torn off, before washing, and subjected to a chemical test, being dipped in sulphuric acid, and it immediately turned a greenish blue. From the description of the diver, the washing and chemical test, we have no doubt it was a brass cannon. Our object when we went, being only a survey, we had not apparatus to raise large weights, neither for removing mud. If she was the vessel we believed she was, we supposed she would be mounted on her upper deck with old howitzer. The diver therefore worked in the mud as near as we can calculate in the position of one side of the deck of the vessel, near the bow, about where she begins to curve, and came to a piece of metal, which he said he thought was a gun. He said he could make fast to the object, and although, as we before stated, we were not prepared for raising large weights, we determined to satisfy ourselves of the correctness of his opinion, if possible, before leaving. We accordingly took one of our anchor chains and the diver made fast the object, and we succeeded in raising it. It is an old fashioned howitzer. It has a handle like a jug handle on the breach, a sight at the muzzle, and the breach is square and appears to be screwed in. We dare say there is not a more ancient looking piece of armament in the country.

By picking, we found the timber extended so far, that the vessel was of large dimensions, and as we struck metal in various places, and as nothing else but a vessel could account for the result of the experiments with the augurs as the chips were English oak, and charred—and as the gun corresponded with what we expected her armament should be—taking into consideration the various accounts and traditions of the disposal of, and location of Kidd's vessel and her cargo, who were prosecuting the survey, could come to no other conclusion, than that is the vessel with the immense treasure obtained by the renowned freebooter of former days, who carried on his depredations and atrocities to such an alarming and successful degree. We therefore stopped our survey, and under the direction of persons of great skill and experience in submarine operations, we are now having built, and nearly completed, apparatus and machinery for working under water, removing mud and raising large weights, such as has never been surpassed, and with the recent improvements in such kind of apparatus, perhaps never equalled. Our apparatus already consists of a number of diving dresses and helmets, which we have proved to work most admirably, with over four hundred feet of tubing of the best description. Our pumps are of excellent workmanship and of great power—we have also a diving bell of great size and strength with most approved and powerful means of raising and lowering the same, also other apparatus necessary to the prosecution of the object, which we cannot mention in detail. We are now adding to our present apparatus, and shall continue to do any thing that will aid in the enterprise. If we think it expedient, we shall sink shafts or build a coffer dam. We would, however, remark, that although we expect much labor, skill and expense will necessarily have to be devoted to the object, nothing of difficulty, under proper management, need be anticipated in the operation. The water at the greatest depth is not more than thirty feet at high water, and no very great degree of mud. The stern of the vessel is also near the shore with good bank, where works can be directed—every facility employed for removing mud, either by working with the use of the bell, dresses, digging, dragging on shore, the use of mud machines, or by submarine explosions, if it should be judged best to restore to them. The location of the vessel is at the mouth of the "Race" at the foot of Dunderbergh mountain, and but a short distance above the hotel at Caldwell's Landing, well known on the Hudson river as kept by "Uncle Sam." We are informed the place has been, formerly, sometimes called "G. Beraltar Point." It is also a few miles above Ver Planck's Point, about which according to tradition, the English men-of-war in pursuit were passing, when the vessel was set on fire, not being able to get up through the "Race," which cannot be done with unfavorable winds. The force of these traditions is very much increased by a view of the location.

In a notice of this gun, which has appeared in one of the papers, since it was got up in which some historical account of Kidd was also given, it was stated, that on being interrogated as to what had become of the remainder of his treasures, besides that recovered on Gardner's

Island, "in reply Kidd, it is said, observed that whatever else there was, went down in his vessel. We understand that the authority for the statement is found in an old number of the Gentleman's Magazine, but have not ourselves seen it.

We shall make our utmost endeavors in the attempt, and have ourselves the most confident belief that we shall be successful in making a complete exposure of this interesting relic of a former age, and we can but also hope the same will be satisfactory to ourselves and those who, through their confidence in our skill and exertions, have become interested with us. We would only further remark, that we ourselves regard it as due to the age in which we live, so much interest is manifested in antiquities, that the contents of this vessel, found after so long a period, should be disclosed, even without regard to their probable value.

New York, June 20th, 1844.

HABITS OF A MAN OF BUSINESS.—A sacred regard to the principles of justice form the basis of every action, and regulates the conduct of the upright man of business. He is strict in keeping his engagements—does nothing carelessly or in a hurry—employs nobody to do what he can easily do himself—keeps every thing in its proper place—leaves nothing undone that ought to be done, and which circumstances permit him to do; keeps his design and business from the view of others; is prompt and decisive with his customers—and does not overtrade for his capital; prefers short credits to long ones—and cash to credit at all times, either in buying or selling—and small profits, in credit cases, with little risk, to the chance of better gains with more hazard. He is clear and explicit in all his bargains; leaves nothing of consequence to memory, which he can and ought to commit to writing; keeps copies of all his important letters which he sends away, and has every letter, invoice, &c., belonging to his business, titled, classed, and put away; never suffers his desk to be confused by many papers lying upon it. Is always at the head of his business, well knowing that if he leave it, it will leave him; holds it as a maxim, that he whose credit is suspected is not safe to be trusted; is constantly examining his books, and sees through all his affairs; as far as attention and care enable him; balances regularly, at stated times, and then makes out and transmits all his accounts current to his customers, both at home and abroad; avoids, as much as possible, all sorts of accommodation in money matters, and lawsuits, where there is least hazard. He is economical in his expenditures, always living within his income; keeps a memorandum book in his pocket, in which he notes every particular relative to appointments, addresses, and petty cash matters; is cautious how he becomes security for any person; and is generous only when urged by motives of humanity. Let a man act strictly to these habits, which, once begun, will be easy to continue in, ever remembering that "he hath no profit by his pains whom Providence doth not prosper," and success will attend his efforts.

EARLY TUITION.—It is astonishing how much the nature and disposition of a child may be altered by early tuition. Let a child be always with its nurses, even under the guidance of a mother, regularly brought up as children usually are, it will continue to be a child, and even after childhood is gone. But the same child, put it by degrees in situations of peril, requiring thought and observation beyond its years, accustom it to nightly vigils and to watching and to hold its tongue, and it is astonishing how the mind of that child, however much its body may suffer, will develop itself so as to meet the demand upon it.

"I've always remarked," says the profound observer, Mr. "Charles Yellowplush," that when you see a wife-a-takin' on airs unto herself, a-seolding, and eternally a-takin' about her dignity, and 'her branch,' that the husband is invariably a spoon." A friend of ours says that he was reminded of this sage remark the other night, in coming down the Hudson. A large, fat, pompous woman, who was ever and anon overlooking her husband, (a thin, lank personage, with a baby in his arms, who exhibited every mark of prolonged annoyance,) in reply to a meek complaint on his part of fatigue, and the expression of a wish that the nurse might get over her sea-sickness, said—"I never saw a man conduct so before—never on the face of the globe airt. If I'd ha' known that you was goin' to act in this way, I would n't ha' fetched you!" The gentleman straightway sang the "Lay of the Henpecked" to the crying baby, and was thenceforth as mum as an eyster.

A minister out west advertises, in the hope of making young people come forward, that, during the warm weather, he will marry them for "a glass of whiskey, a dozen of eggs, the first kiss of the bride, and a quarter of a pig.