

The Democratic Watchman.

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The Democratic Watchman.
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JOHN T. HOOVER.

TERMS—\$1.00 in advance, or if paid within six months, \$2.00 will be charged on all subscriptions running to the end of the year. Single copies 5 cents. Business notices inserted at stage usual rates, and every description of **JOB PRINTING**, executed to the nearest manner, at the lowest prices, and with the utmost despatch. Having purchased a large collection of type, we are prepared to satisfy the orders of our friends.

DEMOCRATIC CREEKS.
No. 1. Equal and exact justice to all men of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political.
No. 2. Peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations; entangling alliances with none.
No. 3. The right of States and Territories to administer their own domestic affairs.
No. 4. Freedom and equality, the sovereignty of the people, and the rights of the majority to rule, which shall be constitutionally secured.
No. 5. Economy in the public expenditures, and a sacred protection of the public credit.
No. 6. Freedom of religion, freedom of the press and general diffusion of information.
No. 7. Opposition to all secret political organizations, and to all political intrigues.
No. 8. A sacred preservation of the Federal Constitution, and no religious test for office.
No. 9. No military or naval armaments, or distribution of birth among American states.
No. 10. Respect and protection for the rights of all.
No. 11. The preservation of the national integrity, and the rights of all to the public domain and the protection of the American possessions.
No. 12. Opposition to all treaties, compacts or alliances with foreign nations.
No. 13. Common brotherhood and goodwill to all—especially to those of the household of faith.

DR. KANE
From the information we have received by telegraph, we fear this distinguished young voyager is no more. Our readers are doubtless aware, but a short time ago the Dr. sailed from England, for Havana, to re-entertain his family. We deeply sympathize with his afflicted family, and hope for the best.—His death will be a nation's loss.

Dr. Kane was born in Philadelphia in the year 1822, and had accordingly just entered upon his thirty-fifth year. He received his academic education at the University of Virginia, and graduated as Doctor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1845. Soon after that date he entered the United States Navy as assistant surgeon, and accompanied the first American embassy to China. With his native thirst for observing the manners and customs of strange countries, he visited different parts of China, the Philippines, Ceylon, and the interior of Africa. He was the first person who descended into the crater of the Tail of Luzon, accomplishing the enterprise at the hazard of his life. He was suspended by a bamboo rope from the top of a projecting crag, more than two hundred feet above the remains of volcanic action. With the assistance of the Chinese and other specimens from the mouth of the crater, he was dragged up, and escaped through the scoria. Upon this expedition, he was attacked by the Ladrones and the savages of the Negro race, and exposed to other hardships which proved fatal to his traveling companion, Barton Lee, of this city. After the termination of his expedition to India, visited Ceylon, ascended the Nile to the confines of Nubia, and passed a season in Egypt. He travelled through three deserts on foot, and returned in 1846 to the United States. He was immediately ordered to the Coast of Africa, and sailing to the Gulf of Benue, he landed in the bay of Bonny, and obtained free access to the barons of the interior. Returning home in a precarious state of health, he recovered sufficiently, to visit Mexico during the war as a volunteer. He succeeded in delivering dispatches from the President to the General in Chief, escorted by the notorious spy company of the brigand Dominguez, and after getting the better of a detachment of Mexican soldiers whom they encountered at Tepic, he was forced to combat his companions single handed in order to save the lives of his messengers. He was then appointed General (General) and was ordered to the Coast Survey under Prof. Baché, and was thus employed in the Gulf of Mexico, when he volunteered his services to the first Grinnell Expedition in 1849. He was accepted as senior surgeon, and in the month of August, he embarked upon his expedition with an enthusiasm, capacity, and power of endurance which admirably prepared him for the most arduous responsibilities of the second Expedition; the results of which are before the world.

In his personal character, Dr. Kane displayed a singularly lofty and attractive union of qualities in striking contrast with the boldness and resolution which impelled him on his career of adventure. The narrative of his expeditions presents a delightful illustration of his personal traits. In the respect that presents the charm of his conspicuous autobiography. His modest simplicity, his refined tastes, his tenderness of feeling, and his almost feminine sympathies are perpetually revealed in connection with as dauntless courage and constancy as ever marked heroic life to lofty prowess. Hence the magnetic power which he exerted over the companions of his enterprise, winning their romantic attachment, and making him a centre of light and encouragement amid the darkest moments of the stormy hours in the Arctic seas. Whatever the notable results of his perilous voyages, they are of still higher significance in the example they have presented of noble, persistent, disinterested and undiminished manhood.

THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION.—The Will of the late Hon. J. M. Clayton, of Delaware, has been published. The first clause of it is as follows:—
"First—I leave to my friends and relatives, as well as to all others who may think my opinion of any value, this testimonial, that the religion taught in the New Testament is the best that has been offered for our adoption, both for this world and for that which is to come, and that Jesus Christ was the true Messiah, and will remain forever the Redeemer and Saviour of all men. Let my humble testimony stand in favor of the Christian religion—I am deeply, thoroughly convinced of its truth."

The late Hon. Asa Bacon, of New Haven, has bequeathed to Yale College the sum of \$10,000.

WOMAN.
There is a but to life's dark wilderness,
Whom, however, when the darkness comes,
I seek.
There is a beam in life's clouded sky,
That glides the starting tear, and dries;
That dower, that lonely beam, on Eden's ground
Shed the full sweets and heavenly light of love.
Alas! that night so fair could lead astray—
Man's wavering foot from duty's thornless way!
Yet, lovely woman! yet thy winning smile
That o'er our care, can every care beguile;
And thy soft hand amid the maze of ill
Can rear one blissful hour of Eden still.
To his low intent thy words are all unknown,
Who deems thee pleasure's transient toy alone;
But oh! how lost, deceived, whose creed hath
Given.

Thine earthly claims a rival band in heaven!
Yet thou hast claims that time may not dispel,
Whose deathless bloom shall glow when angels
Dwell;
Thy playing near in joy shall melt away,
Like most's bright dew beneath the solar ray;
Thy warm and generous faith, thy patient meek,
That paints a smile where pain despoils the cheek,
Thy calm that virtue's mirror here below
To mitigate thy step of earthly woe—
These shall remain, when sorrow's self is dead,
When sex decays and passion's strain is fled.

COME TO ME IN DREAMS.
ST. GEORGE'S PASSION.
Come in beautiful dreams, love,
Oh! come to me in dreams,
When the light wing of sleep
On my bosom lies soft;
Oh! come when the sun
In the moon's gentle light,
Beats on the ear
Like the pulse of the night—
When the sky and the wave
Wear their loveliest hues,
When the dew's on the flowers,
And the stars on the dew.
Come in beautiful dreams, love,
Oh! come and we'll stray,
Where the whole year is crowned
With the blossoms of May—
Where each sound is as sweet
As the song of a dove,
And the glances are such
As the breathings of love;
Where the breeze like the wave,
And the waves like the breeze,
And our warm lips are smooched
The sweet kisses they seek.
Come in beautiful dreams, love,
Oh! come and we'll fly
Like two winged spirits
Of love through the sky;
With hand clasped in love,
On our dream-wing will fly
Where the star-light and moon-light
Are blending their glow;
And on bright clouds we'll lounge
Of purple and gold,
Till, love, angels envy
The bliss they behold.

A SNAKE STORY.
Here is a snake tale of extraordinary fascinating, thrilling, enthralling, absorbing, crushing, almost devouring interest. Those who like such things—and almost every body does—will be hugely entertained with the noble and agreeable animal, and with the novel and original incidents in serpent hunting which this tale unfolds. It is told by that indomitable sportsman of the jungles, Capt. Mayne Reid. "Groot Willem," or "Big William," is a Dutch Boer of Southern Africa, and is one of a party of six whose hunting expedition into the interior is related in a most veritable and graphic manner by the Captain. This adventure besides deeply interesting to the reader, and diverting his attention from the discomfords of the season by fixing it on the Boer and the hot plains of Africa, enables us to fill up a space which, in the absence of all news, we find it hard to fill in any other way.

GROOT WILLEM AND THE PYTHON.
Groot Willem awoke from his nap (in camp) before the others. It still wanted nearly two hours of sunset, and the hunter observing a reddish object at a distance, that looked like some animal, shouldered his rifle (a long Dutch gun), and proceeded to follow it. He took with him one of the buck dogs, a well trained and favorite hound, that fully accompanied him—even on a stalking expedition.

The red object which he had seen was near the edge of the valley, and at the bottom of a rocky precipice that bounded it on that side. There were some trees grown along the foot of the cliff, and the hunter calculated on being able to get a shot at the animal, whatever it was, from behind the cover of these trees. He continued on up the valley, and at length got near enough to tell what he was stalking at.

It was a small antelope, with little erect horns four inches in length. The upper parts of its body were a deep red, and under white, while its snout and face were black. The little creature was higher at the crown than at the withers, and entirely without a tail, or with a tail only one inch long that wore the appearance of a stump. Groot Willem was intent on stalking it, and having its ribs for a rosette at supper. He was able to approach it without any difficulty, as it was close to the bushes, and appeared not to be very shy.

There was but the creature itself—a little buck; and rarely is more than one, or at most two of these antelopes seen together. Groot Willem was at length within range and was about to level his rifle in the game, when the movements of the little animal caused him to hold his hand. Its actions were very odd indeed. It was not broussing—it was not standing still—it was not running away from the ground—and yet it was in constant motion.

As already stated, it was close in to the edge of the timber, where a number of small thin trees stood thinly over the ground. In

front of these the little buck was dancing about in a very original manner. Now it ran to the right—now the left—now zig-zag—now it started suddenly backwards—then ran forwards again—all the while its eyes turning in a particular direction and shining brilliantly, as if the animal itself was in a state of unusual excitement.

Groot Willem looked to discover the cause of this odd maneuvering on the part of the antelope; something among the clean trees seemed to attract the notice of the animal. On this something the eyes of the hunter rested on with wonderment; and for some moments he was unable to make out what it was. He could perceive a large glittering mass near the bottom of one of the trees, but this mass at first sight appeared without any particular form, and lay perfectly motionless.

As Groot Willem continued to gaze upon it, however, it gradually assumed a form, or rather his eyes gradually traced one, for the mass had not yet moved.

A hideous form it was—though smooth and of regular proportions—it was the form of a reptile—a serpent!

A serpent of enormous size; for the mass of its body, gathered up in a sort of irregular coil, covered the ground for the space of several square feet, while the body itself seemed thicker than the thighs of a full grown man! The head of the reptile rested on the top of the coiled body; and on running his eyes along the mottled and glistening outlines, Groot Willem perceived that its tail was doubled around the stem of the clean wood, and held it with a firm grasp; for the serpent belonged to a family whose tails are furnished with horny claws like hooks, giving them a power of prehension in this member equal to that of a hand. This is the family of the Boas, or "boas," to which the one in question was generally related. It was a python—the Python Natalensis.

Groot Willem only knew it as "a rock snake," and that is its ordinary designation, given it on account of its being a dweller among rocks and stony places. It might very properly be called "rock-boss," which would distinguish it from its cousins of America, the Anacondas, or "water-boss," and the true boss, which is a denizen of the forest, and which would therefore merit the title of "tree-boss."

Notwithstanding the difference of the dwelling place of the boss and the pythons, their habits are very similar. They lie in wait for their prey, capture it with their strong retroflexed teeth, and, crushing it to death by constriction, swallow it whole, though often the animal swallowed is much larger than the diameter of their own bodies. Their elastic muscles, however, enable them to effect their purpose, aided by the slippery saliva which is copiously supplied from their glands.

When Groot Willem first saw this great python, its head was lying over the coils of its body; and motionless. Presently the head was raised up with the neck, and several feet of the body; and the parts thus erected waved gently from side to side, with a sort of vibratory motion. The jaws were greatly extended, so that the sharp retractile teeth were plainly visible, and the forked tongue at intervals shot forward and gleamed in the sun. The eyes of the reptile sparkled like fire.

It was a fearful object to look upon! And yet the antelope did not appear to dread it. On the contrary, it kept drawing nearer and nearer, excited either by curiosity or fascination.

There are those who ridicule the idea of fascination on the part of serpents. But whether we are to believe in such power or not, we cannot deny the fact. Certain it is, that whether it be curiosity, fear, or fascination, both birds and animals are moved to approach not only serpents, but crocodiles, until within reach of the jaws that are open to devour them.—Certain it is, and touched for by the testimony of many a correct observer.

Groot Willem witnessed the strange phenomenon. When the buck got within some six or eight feet of the python, the head of the latter suddenly shot out, and before the antelope, which now appeared making an effort to escape, could spring out of the way, it was seized by the teeth of the reptile, and dragged towards the tree.

A number of quick contortions followed, and when Groot Willem looked again, the red body of the little antelope was almost hidden under the thick folds of the spotted python, that writhing around it was crushing it to death.

Now it chanced that the sight of the great serpent was very gratifying to the eyes of Groot Willem—far more so than any antelope. The rock snake was that a friend of his, a young doctor, who was fond of the study of herpetology, had requested him to bring home the skins of such rare snakes as he might fall in with—but especially that of the great "rock snake." Here was a chance for the skin, which Groot Willem had before searched for in vain.

He had another reason for being gratified; and that was the splendid trophy it would provide, should he succeed in obtaining it.—To kill a snake twenty feet long, and half as thick as a man—for the python appeared to be both—would be no small triumph! The antelope was forgotten, and the snake became the object of the hunter's skill.

Groot Willem had no skill about him.—He knew no mode of attracting this new sort of enemy, except dealing with it as he would with a quadruped—thus, sending a bullet into it—and this he did the moment

after. His rifle was levelled, and glancing through his ivory sights, he saw the large ball through the chamber of the rifle into the body of the python.

The latter felt the shock, and suddenly unfolding itself, dropped its victim—now nothing more than a mangled carcase, with scarce a bone in it. The rapidly with which the snake glided off showed that the wound had done it but little harm.

The hunter thought of re-loading again, when he perceived the serpent fast making to the rocks that in large masses lay piled up near the bottom of the cliff. Among these was his retreat; and if it once reached them, Groot Willem saw that he could pierce its eyes on it again. Without trying to re-load his gun again, he ran in among the trees, and followed the direction taken by the serpent.

Although the snakes glide along with considerable rapidity, they can by no means go so fast as a man; and in less than a dozen seconds Groot Willem had overtaken the python, and for that matter might have trodden upon its tail.

There he was, close beside the fearful looking monster, but without the knowledge how to attack it.

He began by striking at its body with the butt of his gun; but although his blows were delivered fairly enough, the mottled head of his rifle only glanced from the slippery skin of the snake without harming it in the least, or even retarding its progress towards the cliff. It made no attempt to retaliate, but only seemed bent on escaping to its lair.

It was almost successful; for altho' Groot Willem pounded away with all his might, it reached the rocks in spite of him, and had doubled half of its long body within a crevice (no doubt the entrance of its den) before the hunter thought of changing his tactics.

It was now a critical moment with Groot Willem. Another instant, and the remaining half of the snake would slip out of sight, and then good bye to it. A new determination to succeed came over the hunter. The snake was not a poisonous one, and therefore the encounter could not be very dangerous; it might bite him, but he had battled with many a biting creature before, and conquered them too. He would try his strength upon the snake. Casting his rifle aside, he stooped and caught the python by the tail, and commenced hauling upon it.

At the first pluck he drew the reptile several feet outward, but to his surprise, it then held fast, and notwithstanding his great strength, Groot Willem was unable to draw it any farther. The creature had, no doubt, got the fore part of his body around an angle in the rocks, and aided by its scaly skin, was enabled to hold fast.

Groot Willem pulled with all his might. A sailor in a storm could not have hauled harder upon the main brace; but all to no purpose; another foot of that part of the python that was still visible, could be lengthened. About the half of it was still outside; but the other two feet were buried within the dark recesses of the rocks.

For several minutes Groot Willem continued to exert his strength, dragging the long cylinder until he could hear its vertebrae crack, but without gaining an inch! In the contrary, he had already lost several inches. Every time that he relaxed his hold, the python was enabled to move forward a little, and this ground it never gave up again.

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THADDEUS KOSCIUSKO.
During the American struggle for independence, Washington was greatly embarrassed by the arrival of foreign officers who expected nothing less than one of the highest posts in the army, and frequently when accepted, proved unworthy of the stations assigned to them. Experience of the kind led Washington to be exceedingly cautious in receiving foreign officers into the service. At this period Kosciusko presented himself to Washington, fortified by a letter from Franklin. The first interview between the gallant and generous Pole and the noble generous Washington, is thus described in the third volume of Washington Irving's Washington, just issued from the press.

"What do you wish her?" inquired the commander-in-chief.
"To fight for American independence."
"What can you do?"
"Try me."

Washington was pleased with the cate yet comprehensive reply, and with his chivalrous air and spirit, and at once received him into his family, as an aid-de-camp. His subsequent noble and gallant career as an officer in the American service is well known and has inseparably joined his name with that noble struggle to which we owe our present exalted rank as a nation.

For eighteen years a suit has been in progress in the courts of the District of Columbia, prosecuted by his collateral heirs, to recover the property left by him at his decease in this country, which now amounts to \$50,000. We believe that a final decision has been rendered, establishing the relationship of the claimants and the validity of their claim.—N. Y. Sun.

WOMAN.—Women of great moral and personal beauty are sometimes deceived in their first choice, and then, sored by disappointment, they get disgusted again and again till, at last, when they meet one whom they really love, they are no longer deserving of his affection.

Women is a mysterious poem which must be read many times to be understood; he who has never loved, but once, knows the sex better than he who made a new conquest every day for twenty years.

The heart of a young girl is like a nest where the little swallows chirp, shows its head, tries its wings, and watches the favorable moment to fly.

The heart of a young girl in love is often a sanctuary of gold with an idol of clay.

OUR FARMER'S BOYS.
Out in every region,
Out in every field,
Battling the weather,
Wind and storm and hail,
In the meadow mowing,
In the shady wood,
Sitting in the sunlight,
Where the tall oak stand,
Every fitting moment,
Each a useful hand employ—
Bliss me! where there ever
Things like farmers' boys?

Though the palm be callous,
Holding fast the plow,
The round cheeks be ruddy,
And the open brow
Has no frown and furrow,
Wrought by evil hours,
For that honest sleep wholesome,
Trained in nature's shower,
Healthy, hearty pastime,
The spirit never yields,
Hearken boys the manly
Honest farmer's boys!

At the merry larking,
As the apple-blossom,
How their hearts are on fire,
With golden harrows gleam
How the country made us
Blush with rosy cheeks,
At the lone wood whispered,
With a parting kiss,
Then the slender evening,
With their sweet joy,
Bliss me! they are pleases,
Spend with farmers' boys.

AGRICULTURE IN CALIFORNIA.—The remarkable fertility of the soil of California, its genial climate and adaptability to furnish both temperate and tropical fruits, together with the great advancement of the agricultural interests during the past few years, have attracted to that country a large share of attention. Owing to these facts a single year has suffered to work complete revolutions in her internal economy. One season looking to the Atlantic States for food, the next she assumes the position of a producer, and sends to New York the products of her hills and valleys. So suddenly and so easily was the change wrought, that one, speaking of the facility with which crops were raised, remarked, "You have but to tickle the earth with a hoe, and it laughs with a harvest."

We gather the following items relating to the agricultural portion of the State Fair, held at San Jose, from the California Farmer for October 24th and 31st.

The first matter which attracted the attention of the editor thereof on entering was "a pumpkin of enormous size, weighing 100 pounds, and measuring seven feet eight inches in circumference. Further on were some enormous cabbages, weighing 340, 100 and 74 pounds respectively. They were of fine flavor, and show that we can make as good cheese here as can be made in the East. Still further along we noticed some enormous sugar-beets, that cannot be easily fed; one of them weighing 103 pounds, and measured 11 inches in diameter, and all were very much admired, and were sorely prized as the Irishman when sent to court the pig; counted all but one, a little speckled pig, that kept frisking about so that he could not count him. So with this; so many home ches appeared that we could make no beginning to measure. Another best lighted feet four inches long, two feet two inches in circumference at the top, and twenty inches in circumference, two feet and a half from the top; weight not known. These grew in the Fountain Garden at San Jose. They were many small beets, that any where else would have attracted unusual attention, but beside these monstrous roots that were bet pigmies. Some of the largest Lima beans we have ever seen, were from the same garden. By their side were two bunches of very large parsnips. The name of the garden from which they were taken we could not learn, nor of the enormous cabbages, could we learn the owner's name. There were several of these cabbage that were very large—one weighing fifty pounds, measuring four feet in circumference, and two others a little smaller. The prominent sample of oats averaged 134 bushels to the acre. Six samples of silk on exhibition: No. 1. Sample of spun silk from native cocoon. No. 2. Florette silk from native cocoon. No. 3. Native cocoon. No. 4. Two native wild cocoons. No. 5. Cocoon raised in the house. No. 6. Cocoon raised on a rose bush. This will ultimately become one of the best silk-growing countries in the world.—Rural New Yorker.

TO FARMER FOWLS.—Fowls may be fattened in four or five days by the following process: "Set some rice over the fire with skimmed milk, as much only as will serve one day. Let it boil till the rice is swelled out; add a teaspoonful of sugar. Feed the fowls four or five times a day in p.m., and give them as much each time as will fill them. Great care must be taken that they have nothing else given them, as that prevents their fattening. Give them also water or milk from rice to drink. By this method the flesh will have a clean whiteness."

PANDORA CATTLE.—Cattle standing in muddy yards, exposed to the weather, consume about twice as much food as when they are kept clean and healthy, and free from the accumulations of filth.

A SILENT COUPLE.—In a town in Orange county, N. Y., there are now living a man and his wife who have not spoken for eight years. They often go to work together, sleep in one bed, take their meals at the same table, and show not the slightest anger towards each other. The only reason to be assigned for their obstinate and protracted silence is, that each is too proud to speak first.

A MILL IS BEFORE THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE, allowing the head of each family to take a three dollar newspaper at the expense of the State.

POPULAR MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. It is said, have been spent in the search for the unfortunate navigator, Sir John Franklin.

MISS CATHARINE HAYES had subscribed \$10 toward a fund for a statue of the late Father Mathew.