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LETTER FROM JERUSALEM.

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in the village of Middlebury, Vermont, from the Rev. Levi Parsons, missionary at Jerusalem, dated at Sea, near Patmos, D. C. 18, 1820.

Very Dear Sir—Your truly acceptable letter of May 9th, was received Nov. 21st, for which favor please to accept my sincere thanks. I had then just returned from a short tour in Asia Minor, and in consequence of leaving Smyrna rather unexpectedly for Syria, I have been obliged to delay an answer till this late period. "By the Sally Ann," which left Smyrna the 1st of October for Boston, I forwarded a letter in reply to yours of November, 1819, together with a small box of minerals collected from the Island of Scio. I regret that it has not been in my power to obtain more valuable specimens. No attention is given to this science in Asia Minor, as far as I have obtained information. I made your request for exchange of boxes of minerals, known to Professor Bambas, to which he replied, "unfortunately we have not a collection of minerals in our seminary." During our tour in Asia Minor, I collected a few specimens from Pergamos, Thiatira, Sardis and Philadelphia, which are valuable only on account of the places they may keep in remembrance. These will be forwarded by the first convenient opportunity, and directed as before to the care of S. T. Armstrong, of Boston.

With regard to the science, there are some embarrassments peculiar to this country. The Turks watch with a suspicious eye, every motion of foreigners which has the appearance of searching for treasures. A circumstance occurred on board the vessel last week, which may illustrate this remark. On the account of contrary winds, we were obliged to remain three or four days in harbor. My interpreter found it necessary to bring from the shore a large flat stone for the purpose of securing the fire in the cabin. The Turks, (there are three with us in the ship,) observed it, and turning to the Greeks, said, "There, see those Franks, they have brought a large stone in the cabin. We advise you to go and examine it, and then go and get one exactly like it. You may be sure that it is valuable." At another time they observed me looking through a spy glass, towards some village, and they instantly inquired, with the greatest interest, "does he intend to write a history of these places?"

This trait of character in the Turks is frequently mentioned by travellers, and I believe that it is against the laws of the empire, for foreigners to dig in the earth. And perhaps in no part of the world will there be need of more caution than in Syria.—But if any specimens can be obtained without exciting suspicion, it will give me much pleasure to forward them for your collection.

This day has been peculiarly interesting. The sky is serene and the wind favorable. We passed in the morning near to the shores of the ancient Miletus, where St. Paul preached his farewell sermon to the elders of the church of Ephesus, and where they fell upon his neck, "Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more." At four o'clock in the afternoon we passed the Isle of Patmos,

where the beloved disciple, John, was in banishment for the testimony of Jesus. We saw distinctly the church erected upon the very spot where, it is said were written the Epistles to the seven churches. I read to the pilgrims the 20th chapter of Acts, and the account of St. Paul's last visit to Miletus. The history of St. Paul's conversion was also read as recorded in Acts, 9th chapter. I observed one aged man weeping while he listened to the affecting story.

From the Baltimore American.

Gentlemen—In looking over your paper of the 5th inst. I discovered a piece headed *Battle of New Orleans*; and having participated in that battle, curiosity led me to peruse it. As it appeared to be from the pen of a British officer, I was somewhat astonished to find him silent on the battles of the 23d and 28th Dec. 1814, and 1st. Jan. 1815, and speak only of the battle of the 8th of January; but it is probable as the three former ones are not so generally known as the latter, and the British having been defeated in every engagement, this writer thought it best to say nothing about them. But taking it altogether, it is probably as correct a narrative as we might expect from such an author. Yet there are several errors or misrepresentations, two only of which with your indulgence I shall notice—the first as it respects the storming of the three gun battery (as he calls it) on the right of our line. He says, "On the left, a detachment of the 95th, 21st and 4th stormed a three gun battery and took it. Here they remained for some time in the expectation of support—none arriving, and a strong column of the enemy forming for its recovery, they determined to anticipate the attack, and pushed on. The battery which they had taken was in advance of the body of works, being cut off from it by a ditch, across which only a single plank was thrown. Along this plank did these brave men attempt to pass—but being opposed by overpowering numbers they were repulsed—and the Americans, in turn forcing their way into the battery, at length succeeded in recapturing it with immense slaughter."

The most of the above statement is incorrect. The three gun battery that he speaks of was a small unfinished bastion, erected on the right of the line, near the water's edge having in it two small field pieces, for the express purpose of raking the ditch, should the enemy attack us in line. This bastion was attacked just about day light, by four or five hundred men, and having but one company of the 7th infantry in it, there was but little difficulty in getting possession of it, in consequence of its unfinished state, and the policy adopted by the enemy in not firing a single gun as they advanced, but pushing on rapidly to the charge. Being overpowered the company was compelled to retreat across the breast work, but not until they had extinguished the last match, and but one of the enemy attempted to cross the breast work, instead of many brave men, viz. Col. Rance; and while in the act of raising it and calling to the Yankees to surrender, he was shot through the head by a private belonging to the 7th infantry. Neither was there as stated by the writer, a strong column forming to retake it, but it was taken by the same company that had left it, who charged upon them as soon as their commanding officer could rally them, under cover of a company of volunteer riflemen, stationed on the extreme right of our line. In this affair the enemy had thirty-one killed, (I counted them myself, having been detailed by the adjutant general for that duty,) and about as many more wounded.—On our side we had 2 killed and one wounded. Among the killed of the British were two officers of distinction, besides Col Rance, whom we buried ourselves.

The second error I shall notice is his representation of the engagement on the left of our line, and near the edge of the swamp: in speaking of it he says, "on the right again, (meaning their right, but our left) the 21st and 4th being almost cut to pieces, and thrown into some confusion by the enemy's fire—the 93d pushed on and took the lead—hastening forward our troops soon reached the ditch, but to scale the parapet without ladders was impossible; some few indeed by mounting upon one another's succeeded in entering the works, but they

were instantly overpowered, most of them killed, and the rest taken, while as many as stood without were exposed to a sweeping fire which cut them down by whole companies. It was vain that the most obstinate courage was displayed—they fell by the hands of men whom they absolutely did not see, for the Americans, without so much as lifting their faces above the ramparts, swung their firelocks by one arm over the wall and discharged them directly upon our heads."

The most of this statement is also incorrect, but as it respects the cutting them down by whole companies it is true—the enemy advanced in solid column at the dawn of day after firing the signal rocket and from the manner of their advancing we had no doubt, but it was their intention to storm the breastwork. General Carroll of Tennessee commanded that part of the line where the enemy made the attack, and ordered his men to reserve their fire until they had advanced to within a certain distance, when they opened upon them such a destructive fire of grape and cannister from a 32 and 18 pounder, as well as from the musketry, that their column was literally cut to pieces. Seventeen were killed in the ditch (those I also counted) and not a single man crossed the breast work and was afterwards killed. It is a fact that the ditch in front of that part of the line where the attack was made was the shallowest of any, and there was nothing to prevent them from walking down one side of the ditch and ascending the other without the aid of fascines and scaling ladders, but the well directed fire of our infantry and artillery—instead of mounting upon one another's shoulders as the writer states, to cross the battery, several not hurt and near the breast work laid down among the wounded in order to screen themselves, and were afterwards taken in with them, and so far from our men hiding their faces behind the ramparts it is notorious, that every five out of eight of the enemy that were killed by a musket or rifle ball was shot about the head.

If they fell by the hands of men they did not see, it must have been because their agitation was so great as to render them incapable of seeing; for our men were exposed from the lower part of the breast up. Three times did they endeavor to storm, and three times were they repulsed with great loss—and it also a fact, that this obstinate courage, spoken of by the British writer, was a courage excited by a strong dose of gunpowder and rum, acknowledged by some of the men to have been taken by them, and also found in the canteens of some that were killed. Even their officers must have thought a little of the same kind of stimulus necessary, as there were one or two found to be intoxicated when taken prisoners. Much more might be said on the subject, but as I have already trespassed upon your patience I must conclude.

AN AMERICAN OFFICER.

A SUSPICIOUS CASE.

Baltimore June 29.

On the 19th inst. we published an account of the sloop Norfolk, capt. Robinson, from Philadelphia for New Orleans, having put into Norfolk in distress, having been set on fire at sea by boxes and kegs of oil of vitriol being on board, the captain not knowing their contents. A letter from Norfolk, received by the steam boat this morning dated yesterday, states, that on arriving at the wharf, the captain overhauled the cargo to satisfy himself about the origin of the fire, and to see if it was entirely put out. On removing some kegs which were represented to contain \$20,000 in specie, to the Bank, the Cashier before giving a receipt for the amount thought proper to open them, when lo! nothing but hay and pig iron was to be found in them! On this and the cargo an insurance of \$35,000 had been effected in Philadelphia. We give the facts as received, and presume it is but a fair inference to suppose that a fraud on the underwriters was intended by the shippers, even at the expense of the lives of all on board.

NEFARIOUS TRANSACTION.

Extract of a private letter from Norfolk, dated June 28.

"A house in Philadelphia shipped on board a sloop for New Orleans, 60 packages dry goods and 4 kegs of dollars, containing 20,000 dollars, on which they effected insurance in Phil-

adelphia to the amount of 55,000.— had been discharged a few seconds too One package they were particular in marking GLASS which the mate as we are certain that no person can thought prudent to put on the top of the more truly regret the sad occurrence the cargo, although it was one of the than the worthy commander of the Po- first sent down; when they got out of tomac, and at the same time as a warn- the capes of Delaware, it happened in- vely that this glass package took fire and ing artillery on board packets or steam boats.

Washington (Pa.) June 18.

On Thursday last, fifty-eight free negroes passed through this place from Virginia, under the care of a Mr Crew, on their way to join a settlement of the same description of persons, formed some time since in Brown county, Ohio. They formerly belonged to the estate of Mr. Samuel Gist, who, at his decease, (several years ago, in England,) manumitted his slaves, in number about nine hundred, leaving them by will property to an immense amount. They had with them three waggons to carry their baggage, &c. While here their behaviour was quite orderly, and they seemed to appreciate fully in the philanthropic views of their late master in setting them free.

Wheeling June 16.

A Pirate taken.—A man calling himself Johnson, but whose true name is said to be Stevenson, who had been some time in this vicinity, and acquired the name of *Devil Johnson*, was imprisoned here a few weeks ago on personal violence offered to his wife. On a subsequent examination of a wife in the county court, touching treatment she had experienced from him, some disclosures were made which rise to the suspicion, that man was one of the band of pirates who in the year 1819 changed their name and fled from our seaboard to escape the punishment that there awaited them. An inquiry was immediately set on foot, which has resulted in the confirmation of these suspicions. It appears that he changed his name and fled from Baltimore some time in 1819. On Saturday last he made an attempt to hang himself, but was discovered before the spark of life was extinct, and resuscitated by medical assistance. He has since been delivered into the custody of two United States deputy marshals, who have started with him for Baltimore, where he will have his trial.

FRUIT BASKET.

A gentleman but a few months married, as he was bearing home a cradle one day, was met by a friend who exclaimed with a smile.—"Ah these are the fruits of matrimony."

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

On the departure of the Macedonian from Valparaiso, a letter highly complimentary to the public spirit, and uniform, correct and friendly conduct of capt. Downes, was presented to him by the American citizens residing at that place. It was signed by the principal American inhabitants resident at that place. They estimate that the amount of American property saved by his exertions from absolute loss, at a much greater sum than that of the expense incurred in maintaining her on the station; besides the countenance and protection which the presence of a ship of war affords to the general commerce of the nation to which she belongs.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.

Alexandria (Vir.) June 29.

It is with no ordinary feelings of regret we record the sudden death of PETER DUNBAR, Esq. of the firm of Dunbar & Townsend of this place.— The circumstances which caused this lamented occurrence, add to the poignancy of feeling so general with our fellow citizens. The steam boat Potomac, captain Middleton, was returning on Wednesday evening from an excursion of pleasure down the river, and as was customary, discharged a swivel abreast of central wharf, the wad of which struck Mr. D. on the left breast, and, although the best medical assistance was given, caused his death in a few hours, leaving an interesting young wife and two infant daughters to deplore his untimely fate. Few men have lived more universally respected or died more sincerely regretted. It would seem that on the arrival of the Potomac, it has been the custom to discharge the swivel abreast of King street, when no ill effects could be produced from the wadding; but in this lamented instance from the confusion created by so many passengers, it

had been discharged a few seconds too One package they were particular in marking GLASS which the mate as we are certain that no person can thought prudent to put on the top of the more truly regret the sad occurrence the cargo, although it was one of the than the worthy commander of the Po- first sent down; when they got out of tomac, and at the same time as a warn- the capes of Delaware, it happened in- vely that this glass package took fire and ing artillery on board packets or steam boats.

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A gentleman but a few months married, as he was bearing home a cradle one day, was met by a friend who exclaimed with a smile.—"Ah these are the fruits of matrimony."
"No," returned the other, "this is only the FRUIT BASKET"

ANCESTRY.

Those who value themselves merely on their ancestry, may be compared to *Potatoes*, all that is good of them is under ground.

CURIOUS INSCRIPTIONS.

On the banks of a rivulet in the north of Ireland is a stone with the following inscription, which was no doubt intended for the information of strangers travelling that road—
"Take notice, that when this stone is out of sight, it is not safe to ford the river"

The above inscription is something similar to the famous fine post, which was erected by order of the surveyor of roads, some years ago, in Rent (England) "This is the bridge path to Feversham; if you can't read this, you had better keep the main road.

Villainy that is vigilant will be overmatch for *virtue*, if she slumber on her post; and hence it is that a bad cause has so often triumphed over a good one; for the partizans of the former, knowing their cause will do nothing for them have done every thing for their cause; whereas, the friends of the latter are too apt to expect every thing from their cause, and do nothing for themselves.

Cruelty of State Laws.—A New York paper, states that a Mr. Matthew M'Kinney, aged between sixty and seventy years, died lately in the Orange county jail, where he had been confined thirty years for a single debt. Six months imprisonment for petty larceny, three years for horse stealing, seven years for manslaughter, and thirty for the crime of being in debt.