

Miscellaneous Selections.

THE OLDEN TIME.

Mrs. WRIGHT.—FRANKLIN'S HEAD.

I came suddenly in contact with the execrable Mrs. Wright, on my arrival at Pau's from Nantes. Giving orders from haloed of the night. They closed the bundle without further examination, believing, as they afterwards assured me, that she was an escaped slave, who had committed suicide, and was about concealing the head of her master.

They were determined to give her to the police station, when she made them comprehend her entreaty to be taken to the Hotel d'York, I was in my room, and hearing in the passage a great uproar, and Mr. W.'s voice pitched upon a higher key than usual, I rushed out, and found her in a terrible rage, her fine eyes flashing. I thrust myself between her and the officers, exclaiming, "What! *Dieu grant qu'il y ait!*" An explanation ensued. All except Mrs. W. were highly amazed at the singularity and absurdity of the affair.

The heat and coldness I transmitted to Nantes. They were the instruments of many foibles, not inappropriate to my youth, but which it is hardly safe to advert to them in my age. A few I will venture to relate. On my arrival at Nantes, I caused the head to be properly adjusted to the dress, which was arranged in a natural shape, and eloquent. Then the figure passed in the corner of a large room, near a closet, and behind a bureau. In this position Dr. F. P. Newland recommended Dr. Mattheson's *Catharticon*. After half an hour I found very little relief.

Mrs. W. was a native of Jersey, and by profession, a moulder of wax figures. This wild flight of her powerful mind stamped originally on all her acts and language. She was a tall and athletic figure; walked with a firm, bold step, and erect as an Indian. Her complexion was somewhat sallow; her cheeks high, her face furrowed, and her olive eyes keen, piercing, and expressive. Her sharp glance was appealing; it had almost the vivacity of a hawk's eye.

The vigor and originality of her conversation corresponded with her manners and appearance. She would often language, in her incessant volubility, as if unconscious of whom directed, that would put her hearers to the blush. She apparently possessed the utmost simplicity of heart and character.

With the head of wax upon her lap, she would mould the most accurate likenesses, by the mere force of a retentive recollection of the traits and lines of the countenance; she would form her likenesses by the manipulation of the wax with her thumb and finger. While thus engrossed, her strong mind poured forth an uninterrupted torrent of wild, bold, and anecdotic, and reminiscences, of men and events. She went to London about the year 1767, near the period of Franklin's appearance there as the agent of Pennsylvania. The popularity of her character, and the excellence of her wax figures, made her rooms in Pall Mall a fashionable lounging-place for the nobility and distinguished men of England. Here her deep penetration and elegance, cloaked by her apparent simplicity of purpose, enabled her to gather many facts and secrets important to her native America; her uniform expression in referring to her native land, which she dearly loved.

She was a genuine Republican and ardent Whig. The King and Queen often visited her rooms; they would induce her to work upon her heads, regardless of their presence. She would often, as if forgetting herself, address them as George and Charlotte. This fact she often mentioned to the house.

While in England, she communicated much important information to Franklin, and remained in London until 1775 or 1776, when engaged in that kind of intercourse with him and the American Government, by which she was placed in a position of extreme hazard.

I saw her frequently in Paris, in 1781, and various parts of England from 1782 to 1784. Her letters followed me in my travels through Europe. I had assisted her at Paris, had endeavored to see her son at Nantes, and given her a free passage in one of our ships to America. Her gratitude was unbounded. This son was a painter and artist of some eminence, and in 1784 took a model of Washington himself, an amusing anecdote connected with this bust.

In January, 1785, I enjoyed the interesting privilege of a visit under his roof, in the absence of all visitors. Among the many interesting subjects which engaged our conversation in a long winter evening, (the most valuable of my life,) in which his dignified lady, and Miss Custis united, he amused us by relating the incident of the taking of this model. "We're going to meet Vernon," said he, "and we'll have a regular re-union." "I must go to Paris to take a short holiday, she is master of Paris, to visit you—Zounds with some importance. He called my features over, and placing his flat upon my back upon a sofa, used to rub my face with the plaster. While in this intervals attitude, Mrs. Washington entered the room, and seeing my face thus overspread with the plaster involuntarily uttered and exclamation. Her joy excited me in a disposition to smile, which gave my mouth a slight twist or compression of the lips, that is now observable in the busts. Wright afterwards made these are nearly the words of Washington.

Some time after my acquaintance with Mrs. Wright commenced, she informed me that an eminent French chemist of Paris, had written her a note that she would make her a visit at twelve o'clock the next day, and announced, also, that she could not speak English. Mrs. Wright desired me to act as interpreter. At the appointed hour, the thundering of a carriage in the court-yard announced the arrival of the French lady. She entered with much grace, in which Mrs. W. was no match for her. She was old, with broad patches of vermillion spread over the deep furrows of her cheeks. I was placed in a chair between the two originals. Their tongues flew with velocity—the one in English, and the other in French—and neither understanding a word the other uttered. I saw no possibility of interpreting two such volleys of words, and at length abruptly commanded, "Silence for a moment!"

"I asked each, 'Do you understand?'—'Not a word,' said Mrs. Wright, 'from your post!' replied the chemist, bounding from her chair in the midst of the floor, and dropping a low courtesy, was off. 'What an old painted fool!' said Mrs. W., in anger. It was evident that this visit was not intended for an interchange of sentiment, but a mere act of civility—a call."

I employed Mrs. W. to make the head of Franklin, which was often the source of much amusement to me. After it was completed, I conveied her to Passe my carriage, so as to bring the head upon her lap. No sound were we in the presence of the doctor that she placed one head by the side of the other. There, she exclaimed, "are twin brothers!" The likeness was truly admirable; and, at the suggestion of Mrs. Wright, to give it more effect, Franklin sent me a suit of silk clothes he wore in 1776. Many years afterward the head was broken in Albany, and the clothes I presented to the Historical Society of Massachusetts."

An adventure occurred to Mrs. Wright, in connection with this head, ludicrous in the highest degree, and, although almost incredulous, is literally true. After the head had been modeled, she walked out to Passe, carrying it in a napkin, in order to compare it with the original. In returning in the evening, she was stopped at the barrier, in course to be searched for contraband goods; but, as her mind was as true as her native American, she knew no restraint, nor the reason why she was detained. She resisted the attempt to examine her bundle, and broke out in a rage of fury. The officers was annoyed, as no explanation, in the absence of an interpreter, could take place. She was compelled, however, to yield to power. The bundle was opened, and, to the astonishment

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PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, Jackson, Susquehanna County, Pa.; Resided at the Post Office.

Hall & Lamb.

CABINET MAKERS, have recently opened a ware-room in New Milford, Pa., and will keep constantly on hand all kinds of Cabinet-work, also Ready-made Coffins. Funerals attended with or without a horse. Ware-room nearly opposite J. Pickering's Store.

New Milford, Mar. 15, 1855.

A. E. Baldwin,

MANUFACTURERS OF SADDLES; HARNESS; TRUNKS, WAGONS, &c., in the Basement of Sealby's Hotel, Monroe, Pa.

G. M. Simmons,

BOD OF ANGLO-MAKER. Shop first door eas

of Old Fellow's Hall, Tunkhannock, Pa., Montrose.

W. Singleton.

CAN now be found at this stand on Oregon street west of Scott's Hotel, where he repeatedly repeats with dispatch, Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Cards, and every description of Machinery, Wheel-rolling; Gun and Watch materials supplied to the trade.

Dr. H. Smith,

ENTROPIC DENTIST, Montrose, Pa.; at Sealby's Hotel, Monday and Tuesdays of each week.

Henry K. Knapp,

CONTROSE, PA., with Ross, Woodruff & Co., Dr. Woodruff and Commissary Merchants, 100 Washington street, between Court and Dry Streets, New York.

Caleb Weeks.

CARLIE BARNES, TRUNK MAKER and Carpet Thrower. Shop at his dwelling-house, opposite Heavy Binders, Montrose, Pa.

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DEALER IN STORES, Tin, Copper, and Sheet Zinc, Water, L. & J. Smith, New Great Head Depot, December 4.

L. F. French,

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW, A. L. and Charles, 14 Clarke Street, Clarendon, Boston, Mass.

John Gratz,

UNIVERSAL TAILOR, Shop under Sealby's Hotel, Main street, Monroe, Pa.

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W. H. Jackson,

ATTORNEY AT LAW AND COMMISSIONER OF RECORDS, 100 Washington Street, New York, Office in the rear of Sealby's Hotel, Monroe, Pa.

Albert Gammie,

ATTORNEY AT LAW and Justice of the Peace, 21 over 1, L. & J. Smith, Monroe, Pa.

R. E. Hartshorn & Co., Proprietors, Central Hotel, Main street, Monroe, Pa.

S. S. Ingalls,

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE subscriber would like to thank the public for their continued patronage bestowed upon him during the year, and the same during the present year, for the many articles he has just received a new class of Goods, making his assortment very complete in all its variety, as well as in quality, so far as can be easily obtained. He is anxious to furnish his customers with the best articles, and the number of whom have uniformly given him the highest marks of commendation, as regards his services.

Patentees comprising much useful information respecting the various systems of the above described, and the best modes of applying them, the effects produced by their application, the results obtained by their use, and the manner in which they are to be applied.

John C. Gratz, Attorney and Lawyer, 14 Clarke Street, Clarendon, Boston, Mass.

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