

The Montrose Democrat.

Devoted to Politics, News, Literature, Agriculture, Science, and Morality.

S. B. & E. B. CHASE, PROPRIETORS

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Porter's Corner.

FOR THE DEMOCRAT.
Lines for an Album.

A wish for thee! but not that life
May never bring thee care or pain,
For in a world with evil life,
I know that such a wish were vain.
As joy's delight, so sorrow's chill,
Full things and strong alike must bear,
No refuge canst thou find from ill—
Earth has no home unknown to care.

But mayst thou ever keep as now,
The freshness of thy love and truth,
Then while age rests upon thy brow,
Thy heart will still rejoice in youth.
Mayst thou possess that joy which earth
Can never give nor take away—
The star-light of those happy birth
Was in a hand of blossoms day.

The Song Within.
There is music in the heart,
A lonely, deep refrain,
That of our memory's end will start
Like Memnon's melting strain.

The non-day card of the heart,
The smile we cannot win,
A tear by morning's dewy strand,
My touch the heart within.

At times the heart appears all blight,
The future grows serene;
Within the soul gay thoughts unite
To charm the present scene.

Then then that care forgets to fly,
Where we in pleasure stray;
Then some angel from the sky,
Would point to us the way.

The light would wane its secret spell,
If we no shade could find;
Nor should we love the spring so well,
If winter's face were kind.

So if the soul has never known
What care and grief import,
It cannot tell her future's tone
Stains o'er the longing heart.

Who sent them?
Old mother Bender was pious but poor—
In the midst of her extreme want her trust
and confidence was in God.

It was one chilly night in the autumn
of the year when a certain wild young man
was passing her cottage on his way home.
One of them had under his arm some leaves
of bread which he had procured at the village
store. A faint light glimmered from mother
Bender's casement. Said the one who had
the leaves to his companion, "Let us have
some with the old woman."

"Agreed," said the other, "they approached
the house and peeped into the window, saw
the old woman upon her knees, by the hearth,
and a few beams were emulating in the
ashes. She was engaged in prayer. They
listened and heard her offering an earnest
prayer for bread. She was utterly destitute
of food."

In furtherance of their fun, one of them
with the leaves climbed softly up the roof
of the cottage, and dropped one leaf after
the other down the chimney. As they rolled
out on the hearth, they caught the old lady's eye,
and in the fullness of her heart, she exclaimed—

"Thank the Lord, bless the Lord for his
bounty."
"But the Lord didn't send them," shouted
a voice from the chimney.

"Yes he did," cried she undauntedly; "the
Lord sent them, but the devil brought them."

Circumstantial Evidence.
We often hear that circumstantial evidence
is not reliable. Whence came this opinion, it
is, perhaps, not hard to divine. *Faded* cir-
cumstances, of course, inconclusive, but when
the chain of these circumstances is perfect—
when no link is wanting—then, as in the case
of the Parkman murder by Prof. Webster, it
becomes the strongest of all possible testimo-
ny for reliability. Direct evidence may be
either signedly false, or mistakenly so; but
circumstances are less open to these objec-
tions.

We noticed the other day, in the case of a
murder of a woman, at New Haven, Connec-
ticut, the crime was perpetrated by cutting and
stabbing. A young Irish lad was arrested on
suspicion. His pocket contained a common
pocket knife, with the point of one blade bro-
ken off. This was a hint; and an examining
magistrate, who was in the breast of the de-
ceased, disclosed the presence of the point of
some knife blade, sticking in the breast bone
of the broken blade of the knife! Now, as there
was never a knife broken, before, since knives
were first made, was this fragment worth
fitting the blade, it follows that the knife
had of some one, killed that woman. Whose
hand wielded it is the next thing; but his pos-
session, by this man, fixes it upon him unless
he can show otherwise. Such a circumstance
is not of proof can possibly set aside, so far
as to clear that knife—and yet people often
thoughtlessly deny the validity of circumstan-
tial evidence.

ASSASSIN.—The Ohio Organ has the fol-
lowing account of the origin of the name "Ann
Arbor," in a letter from the flourishing Michi-
gan city:

Thirty years ago, two travellers, with
their wives and children, stopped on the
spot where Ann Arbor now stands, and en-
deavored to remain for the night. The weather
was hot and sultry; angry clouds swept along
the sky, and threatened rain, sudden, severe—
Not a house was visible, and in this emergen-
cy, the two men went to the woods, and, being
unable to protect their families from the
fury of the pitiless storm. Accordingly they
erected a frail structure with the limbs of trees,
over the top of which they spread a few pieces
of the oak canvass, thus making a handsome
little arbor; and as their good wives were
both called Ann, their husbands appropriately
called their little retreat Ann Arbor. Thirty
years have since rolled by, and the city of Ann
Arbor now marks the spot, where the wretched
travellers sought safety and repose.

"I wish you didn't you oblong your stay
at my place?"
"How so, I'll show, day charge too much?"
"Why, de lawd, charged his colored indi-
vidual wid stealing the spoons."

One like articles are in great demand.

Col. Benton's History.

[Extract from Col. Benton's "Thirty Years
in the United States Senate," in course of pub-
lication.]

DUEL BETWEEN MR. CLAY AND MR. RANDOLPH
IN 1826.

It was Saturday, the first day of April, to-
wards noon, from the Senate building, that day in
session, that Mr. Randolph came to my room
at Brown's Hotel and (without explaining the
reason of the question) asked me if I was the
blood relation of Mrs. Clay? I answered that
I was, and he immediately replied that would
put an end to a request that he had wished to
make of me, and then went on to tell me that
he had just received a challenge from Mr.
Clay, and would apply to Col. Tattall to be his
second. Before leaving he told me he would
make my bosom the depository of a secret
which he should commit to no other person;
and that he did not intend to fire at Mr.
Clay, but that he would fire at the man who
was the witness of his indignation, and did not
tell it to his second, or anybody else, and en-
joined inviolable secrecy until the next morn-
ing. This was the first notice I had of the
affair.

The meeting was absolute; and according
to the agreement of the principals, the meet-
ing itself was to be immediately after the
second from the most laudible feelings, de-
layed it with the hope to prevent it, and did
keep it off a week, admitting me to a partici-
pation in the good work, as being already priv-
ate to the affair and friendly to both parties.
The challenge stated no specific ground of of-
fence, specified no occasion, but was a simple
and peremptory and general, for a "supposed
attack on his (Mr. Clay's) character," and it
dispensed with explanations by alleging
that the notoriety and indisputable existence
of the injury superseded the necessity for
them. Of course the demand was bottomed
on a report of the words spoken—verbal re-
ports, which are the staple of the debates
having not to be taken—and was of a charac-
ter greatly to exasperate Mr. Clay. I stated
that in the course of the debate Mr. Randolph
said:

"That a letter from Gen. Salaz, the Mexi-
can Minister at Washington submitted by the
Senate, bore the name of Mr. Randolph, and
having been manufactured or forged by the
Secretary of State and denounced the Admin-
istration as a corrupt coalition between the
parliament and black leg; and added at the
same time, that he (Mr. Randolph) held himself
personally responsible for all that he had said."
This was the report of Mr. Clay, and upon
this he gave the absolute challenge, which re-
ceived the absolute acceptance, which shut
out all inquiry between the principals into
the cause of the quarrel. The seconds deter-
mined to open it, and to attempt an accommo-
dation, or a peaceable termination of the difficulty.

Altho' of accommodation having vanished,
the friends of the two parties, who were pre-
siding at the time, the 8th of April, were
fixed upon for the time; the fight took
place at the Little Falls Bridge, where the
pistols, the weapons, distance ten paces; each
party to be attended by two seconds, and a
referee, and myself as liberty to retire, and
leave the field, without returning fire, and
without the use of pistols, and there was none;
and the words, "one," "two," "three," "stop,"
were, by agreement, between the seconds,
and for the humane purpose of
reducing the result as near as possible to
chance, to be given out in quick succession.
The Virginia side returned to the field
at the instance of Mr. Randolph. He went
out as a Virginia Senator refusing to com-
promise that character, and, if he fell in defence
of his rights, Virginia soil was to him the
chosen ground to receive his blood. There was
a statute of the State against duelling within
her limits; but as he merely went out to re-
ceive a fire without returning it, he deemed
that no fighting and consequently no breach
of her statute. This reason for choosing Vir-
ginia soil only was explained to me, as I
alone was the depository of his secret. The
week's delay which the seconds had contrived
was about expiring. It was Friday evening
rather than night, when Mr. Clay, for the last
time before the duel, there had been some
alteration between us since the time of the
Presidential election in the House of Repre-
sentatives, and I wished to give evidence that
there was nothing personal in it. The family
were in the parlor—company present—and
some of it stayed late. The youngest child,
a little girl, was sitting on the sofa, and
circumstance which availed me for my purpose
the next day. Mrs. Clay was, as always, since
the death of her daughters, the picture of de-
solation, but calm, conversible, and without
the slightest apparent consciousness of the im-
pending event. When all were gone and she
also had left the parlor, I did what I have
said to Mr. Clay, that notwithstanding our
political differences, my personal feelings
towards him were the same as formerly, and
that in whatever concerned his life or honor
my best wishes were with him. He expressed
his gratification at the visit and the declara-
tion, and said it was what he would have
expected of me, and that at midnight on
Saturday, the 6th of April—the day for the
duel came, and almost the hour. It was noon
and the meeting was to take place at 12 o'clock.
I had gone to see Mr. Randolph before
the hour and for a purpose (and besides,
it was so far on the way, as he lived half way
to Georgetown, and we had to pass through
that place to cross the Potomac, and Virginia
at the Little Falls Bridge. I had heard nothing
from him on the point of not returning the
fire the first communication of that effect
eight days before. I had no reason to
doubt the steadiness of his determination, but
felt a desire to have a fresh assurance of it af-
ter so many days' delay, and so on near ap-
proach of the trying moment, I knew it would
do to go to him the question—my question
that would imply a doubt of his word. His
sensitive feelings would be hurt and annoyed
at it. So I fell upon a scheme to get at the
inquiry without seeming to make it. I told
him of my visit to Mr. Clay the night before
of the late sitting—the child asked—the un-
known of the trying moment, I knew it would
do to go to him the question—my question
I could not help reflecting how difficult
that might be the next night. He understood
me perfectly, and immediately said, with a
quietude of look and expression which seemed
to rebuke an unworthy doubt. "I shall do
nothing to disturb the sleep of the child or
the repose of the mother," and went on with
his employment, the seconds being engaged
in their preparations, and at a quarter of
one, which was making, and I will not
in the way of remembrance to friends, the
bequests slight in value, but invaluable in

derness of feeling and beauty of expression,
and always appropriate to the subject. To
Mr. Macbeth gave some English shillings to
keep the name when he placed with his
namesake John Randolph Bryan, then at school
in Baltimore and since married to his niece,
was sent for to see him, but sent off before
the hour of going out, to save the boy from a
possible shock at seeing him brought back.
He delivered to me a sealed paper which I
was to open if he was killed, and give back to
him if he was not; also an open slip which I
was to read before I got to the ground. It
was a request to feel in his left breeches pocket,
if he was killed, and find some pieces of
gold—I believe nine—take three for myself
and give the same number to Tattall and Han-
dillon each, to make seals in remembrance of
him. We were all three at Mr. Randolph's
lodging then and soon set out. Mr. Randolph
and his seconds in a carriage I followed him on
horse-back.

The place was a thick forest, and the im-
mediate spot a little depression or basin, in the
middle of the forest. The parties stood on each
other courteously as they took their stand.
Col. Tattall had won the choice of positions,
which gave to Gen. Jessup the delivery of the
word. They stood on the east and west
of a small stump just behind Mr. Clay, a low
gravelly bank rose just behind Mr. Randolph.
The latter asked Gen. Jessup to repeat the
word as he would give it. When the word
of doing so, and Mr. Randolph adjusting the
butt of his pistol to his hand, the muzzle
pointing downwards, it fired. Instantly Mr.
Randolph turned to Col. Tattall and said, "I
protested against the hair trigger." Col. Tat-
tall took himself to himself for having sprung
the hair. Mr. Clay had not a word to say
for Mr. Johnson, one of his seconds, was ap-
proaching to him, and still several steps from
him. This untimely fire, though clearly an accident,
necessarily gave rise to some remarks, and
a species of inquiry, which was conducted with
the utmost delicacy, but which in itself was
of a nature to be extremely painful to a gen-
tleman's feelings. Mr. Clay stood with his
generous remark that the fire was clearly
an accident, and it was so unanimously de-
clared. Another pistol was immediately furn-
ished; an exchange of shots immediately took
place, and happily without effect upon the per-
sons. Mr. Randolph's bullet struck the stump
behind Mr. Clay, and Mr. Clay's struck the
earth and gravel behind Mr. Randolph and
in a line, with the level of his hips, but bul-
lets having gone so true and close that it was
a marvel how they missed. The moment had
come for me to interfere. I went in among
the parties and offered my mediation, but no-
thing could be done. I was from the window
of the band with which he was accus-
tomed to put away a trifle. "This is child's
play," and demanded another fire. The sec-
onds were directed to reload. While this was
being done I prevailed on Mr. Randolph to walk
a few feet away from his post, and renewed
to him, more precisely, the words of the
minutes for an accommodation. But I found
him, more determined than I had ever seen
him, and for the first time impatient and seem-
ingly annoyed and dissatisfied at what I was
doing. He was indeed annoyed and dissatis-
fied. The accidental fire of his pistol proved
upon his feelings. He desired to know
it, both as a circumstance susceptible in it-
self of an unfair interpretation, and as having
been the immediate and controlling cause of
his firing at Mr. Clay. He regretted this fire
the instant it was over. He felt that it had
subjected him to imputations, from which he
sought to free himself by the law of his be-
loved State; and a contempt for the law of his
beloved State; and the annoyance he felt at
these vexatious circumstances revived his origi-
nal determination, and decided him irrevoca-
bly to carry it out.

It was in this interval that he told me what
he had heard since we parted, and to which he
alluded when he spoke to me from the window
of the carriage. It was to this effect: That
he had been informed by Col. Tattall that it
was proposed to give out the words with more
deliberateness, so as to prolong the time for
taking aim. This information, gratified hardly
upon his feelings. It unsettled his purpose,
and brought his mind to the inquiry (he never
told me, and as I found it expressed in the
note which he had immediately written in pen-
cil to apprise me of his possible change, who
under those circumstances he might not
"disable" his adversary? This note is so
characteristic, and such an essential part
of this affair that I here give its very words,
so far as relates to this point. It is to this
effect: "Information received from Col. Tattall
since I got into the carriage may induce me
to change my mind of not returning Mr. Clay's
fire. I seek not his death. I would not have
his blood upon my hands—it will not be upon
my soul if I fired in self-defence—for the
world. He has determined, by the law of
the State, to take my life, and I will not
allow it. May I not disable him? Yes, if
I please."

It has been seen by the statement of Gen.
Jessup already given that this information was
a misapprehension; that Mr. Clay had not ap-
plied for a prolongation of time for the
purpose of getting under aim, but to enable
his second-hand, long unfamiliar with the pis-
tol, to fire within the limited time; that there
was no prolongation in fact either granted or
insisted upon; but he was in doubt, and Gen.
Jessup having won the word, he was having
him repeat it in the way he was to give it out
when his finger touched the hair trigger. How
unfortunate that I did not know of this in time
to speak to Gen. Jessup, when one word from
him would have set all right, and saved the
imminent risk incurred! This inquiry, "May
I not disable him?" was still on Mr. Randolph's
mind, and depending for its solution on the
firing incident of the moment, when the acciden-
tal fire of his pistol gave the turn to his feel-
ings which solved the doubt. But he declared
to me that he had not aimed at the life of Mr.
Clay; that he did not, as high as his
knees—not higher than the knee band; for it
was no mercy to shoot a man in the knee;
that his only object was to disable him and
spoil his aim. And then added, with a beauty
of expression and a depth of feeling that no
stuffed oratory can ever attain; and which I
shall never forget, these impressive words:
"I would not have seen him fall mortally, or
even doubtfully wounded, for all the land that
is watered by the King of Floods and all his
tributary streams." He left me to resume his
post, utterly refusing to explain out of the
Senate anything that he had said in it, and
with the positive declaration that he would not
return the next day into the woods, and kept
my eyes fixed upon Mr. Randolph, who I then
knew to be the only one in danger; I saw him
receive a blow of Mr. Clay; saw the gravel
knocked up in the same place; saw Mr. Ran-
dolph raise his pistol—discharge it in the air,

heard him say, "I do not fire at you Mr. C!"
and immediately advanced and offered his
hand: "He was not to blame spirit. They
met half way, took hands, Mr. Randolph say-
ing, 'You are a new era Mr. Clay,' and Mr.
Clay saying, 'The bullet had passed through the
skirt of the coat of arms, and I was glad
the debt is no greater.' I had come up and
was prompt to proclaim what I had been ob-
liged to keep secret for eight days. The joy
of all were extreme at this happy termination
of a most critical affair, and we immediately
left, with lights behind us, to which Mr. Clay
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