Pittsburgh Gazette.

D. F. WILLIAMS ... D. L. MAYO ... S. RIDDLE ... RUSSELL FRAZEY

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EDITORS and PROPRIETORS.

PITTSBURGH:

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 11, 1858.

A Peep at the Olden Time.

We have had occasion heretofore to refer to an old work, now in our possession, entitled, "Sketches of a Tour to the Western Country, through Ohio and Kentucky,—a voyage down the Ohio and Mississippi river," &c., &c., which was published in this city at as early a period as the year 1810. Time has the same effect on some books that it has on certain liquors—it improves them. The book under consideration seems to have increased in value as it has grown in years, and a perusal of it at this late day cannot fail to afford amusement and at the same time prove instructive to the reader. The past, in its old fashioned, time-colored pages, is presented with fascinating vividness, whilst the manners of our stern old fathers are sketched in a style, the simplicity of which is only exceeded by its truthfulness. It seems from the well recited narrative of this tourist, that politics, besides money-making, was, as it is now, the chief pursuit of our people—in many respects their "besetting sin." Indeed, in the early portion of the century, politics was the cause of more social annoyances and family divisions, than it is at the present time. Our author, after he reached Pittsburgh, and had comfortably quartered himself as "a weekly boarder and lodger at McCullough's,"—a "quiet and regular inn," —directed his attention to the observance of the manners and customs of the people of the then small but smoky city. He thus speaks of the state of political parties, which it will be observed he ventures to designate as "deplorable":—

"But though difference of religious opinion does not cause any animosity here, politics have reduced society to a most deplorable state.—There are two parties, which style themselves Federal republicans, and Democratic republicans, but who speaking of each other, leave out the word *republican*, and call each other Federalists and Democrats. I have already described their opinions, which are argued with more warmth, and are productive of more rancour and violence in Pittsburgh than perhaps in any other part of America. There are very few neutrals, as it requires a bold independence of sentiment, to prevent a person from attaching himself to one or other party, and besides, to a man who has not resources for the employment of time within himself, the alternative of not being of one or other party is insupportable, as he is shunned equally by both, and in this populous town lives with respect to society, as though he were in a desert. This may be one cause that Pittsburgh is not celebrated for its hospitality, another, (which is equally applicable to most new settled towns,) is that it is inhabited by people who have fixed there for the express purpose of making money. This employs the whole of their time and attention, when they are not occupied by politics, and leaves them no leisure to devote to the duties of hospitality."

Politics, all-absorbing as it was, did not deprive the early Pittsburghers of many social amusements, prominent among which was the encouragement of instrumental and vocal music. The tourist was confined within doors, whilst enjoying the hospitalities of the McCullough house, by illness, contracted during his journey to this city, and he was thus prevented, for several days, from strolling through the town, which he frequently designates as "unprepossessing," "dirty," &c. At that time "none of the streets were paved except Market, and they were so extremely miry that it was impossible to walk them without wading over the ankle, except during frosty weather, which rarely continued many days successively, from its lying so low and being so well sheltered by the surrounding hills." In a foot note it is stated "since the above was written the greater part of Wood street has been paved, Front and Third streets from Market to Wood, Diamond alley graveled, and Chancery Lane paved from the river to Second street, and this season (1810) preparations are making to pave others." Confinement, even in a well regulated inn, with a kind host and an amiable hostess, was irksome to our traveler, who found himself in a strange place, without a single acquaintance. The monotony of his inn-life was agreeably disturbed in this manner:

"A few neighboring gentlemen hearing that a stranger was at McCullough's confined by indisposition, did me the favor of calling on me, and the attention of Dr. Andrew Richardson, Mr. James Mountain, a learned practioner at the bar, and Messrs. Anthony Beelen and Nicholas Cunningham respectable merchants, prevented my being able to charge Pittsburgh with an *absolute* want of hospitality. The two former offered me the use of their judiciously selected libraries, when I should become sufficiently convalescent to go out, and the perusal of any of their books in the interim, and the first supplied me with the Philadelphia and Baltimore newspapers as they arrived by post, twice weekly.

"A few evenings after my arrival, the daughters of my host had a numerous party of young people of both sexes to spend the evening and practice vocal music under the directions of a Mr. Tyler who had taught them. They displayed taste and harmony enough to do honor to their venerable teacher, and I was tempted to join the sounds of my flute to the sweet treble of some of the young ladies. This led to a degree of confidence to me from Mr. Tyler, who on retiring to bed in the same room, imparted to me his little history, which though not replete with incidents, was singular and affecting, exhibiting generous benevolent simplicity, a victim of vice and ingratitude. He was an Englishman, and had been one of the choristers of a cathedral in England from whence he had emigrated when a young man."

Of his impressions of the Bar and the Pulpit of primitive Pittsburgh we have the following from the author:

"Some of these gentlemen of the bar resident here, are very respectable in the profession of the law. Mr. Ross, formerly a Senator, and set up in unsuccessful opposition to Mr. M'Kean, for governor of the State, is an orator of the first abilities—his oratory being clear, intelligible and impressive. Mr. Mountain, to deep learning, adds careful investigation of the cause of his client, and is apt and happy in his quotations. Mr. W. Wilkins is by nature an orator. His person, action and gesture are favorable to his—his words flow at will in a style of manly and bold oratory which commands attention. He has no occasion to study his periods, they form themselves—he enters in earnest into the cause of his client, and rarely fails to give it its full weight—but perhaps he sometimes works himself up into too great warmth of language, which may be occasioned by the glowing impulse of youth operating on a fertile fancy—he apparently not exceeding twenty-five years of age. Mr. Addison, Mr. Semple, Mr. Woods, Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Collins are spoken of as very able practioners, but as I had not the pleasure of witnessing their exertions at the bar, I cannot take it upon me to describe their talents, even was I adequate to it.

"There are five societies of Christians, which have each an established minister. Mr. Steele, the pastor of one of the Presbyterian societies, possesses all that liberality of sentiment and Christian charity inculcated by the divine founder of his religion, and dignifies the pulpit by his clear and pleasing exposition of the scriptures. Mr. Taylor, the Episcopal minister, is an able mathematician, a liberal philosopher, and a man of unaffected simplicity of manners. His discourses from the pulpit are good moral lectures, well adapted to the understanding of his hearers. He is an assistant teacher in the academy. Of Mr. Boggs, the minister of the other Presbyterian society, or of Mr. Black, the minister of a large society of a sect of Presbyterians called covenanters, I am not adequate to speak, not having yet heard either officiate.—Mr. Sheva, pastor of a congregation of German Lutherans, is a man of liberal morality, and a lively social companion."

To an old citizen of Pittsburgh, who probably remembers many of the incidents detailed in this quaint book, its perusal must afford, if we may be allowed to use the expression, a melancholy pleasure. The changes that have taken place since 1810—a period of less than half a century—seem too mighty for even the mind to conceive. The pioneer inhabitants of that age, with here and there a solitary exception, have passed from the busy scenes of life, as the mist rises from their native valleys before the rays of the morning sun. The "unprepossessing" village has grown into a great city, whose stony streets resound with the noise of the wheels of commerce, and whose pavements are trodden by a busy and thriving population. Stately edifices, and sumptuous mansions now present their proud fronts where once stood in modest simplicity the rude log cabin. Store houses, filled with the wealth of a nation in 1858 supplant the primitive trading posts of 1810. Huge factories now belch forth dark clouds from their tall chimneys, obscuring the blue sky and the bright sun, where half a century ago the sparks of a smithy fire flashed on the surrounding darkness. More than seventy "Temples to the Living God" ornament and grace the city of to-day, where a few humble meeting houses sufficed for the godly men of the whilom frontier village, who, with a portion of the spirit of the old Covenanters, from whom many of them could trace their descent, were content to sit under the droppings of the sanctuary on rude benches, instead of cushioned pews. Palatial steamboats float majestically on the rivers, in place of the small flat-bottom boats, which at one period the common carriers of the continent, and were the passenger boats of the early settlers of all the old Western States. Yet there are still in existence enduring and indelible land marks—land marks that no lapse of time nor effort of man can eradicate or destroy, which seem so many links connecting the Past with the Present. The face of Nature is unchanged—it is still the same. The hills—the eternal hills—which surround the city like mighty ramparts, are the same hills that greeted the vision of our wondering ancestors, and with their green crests gladdened eyes that have long since grown dim in the deep sleep of death.—The rivers—"two hastening to be one"—are the same rivers that flowed in their channels when even the soil upon which our city stands was nothing more than a "howling wilderness"—the home of savage beasts and still more savage men. Is it not one of the great mysteries, that while man, the noblest creation of the Almighty, perishes in his brief "three score and ten," the inanimate objects of nature, thus survive the shock of ages, and defy the ravages of ten thousand years, as though they were so many moments, and still remain the same, unchanged and unchangeable?

We have a fancy for old books. For us they possess a double attraction. They are valuable for the information they impart, and for the reflections which they suggest. We always rise from their perusal with a feeling that we have been benefitted by the recreation. We must now close with our Author for the present, regretting that our space compels us to part company in a manner so abrupt.

ENGLAND,—The true grit of Englishmen was never more truly displayed than in the late division in Parliament on the "Conspiracy-to-Murder Bill." The facts are simply these:

On the 14th of January, an attempt to assassinate the Emperor and Empress by the explosion of an infernal machine, was made in a street of Paris. It is believed that Pierri and Orsini, two Italian Carbonari, who have been arrested as leaders in the conspiracy, made this machine or caused it to be made in Birmingham, England. Therefore, the Emperor of France asks that the British Ministry shall introduce and the British Parliament pass a measure authorizing such potentates in Europe as may have, or may think they have reason to *suspect* foreigners who have asylum in Great Britain, to seize and carry away for trial such *suspected* persons. Lord Palmerston, without opening a correspondence with the French Government on the matter, and without inquiry into the facts connected with the charge that the conspiracy was hatched or aided in England, brought in a bill embodying the desires of "His Majesty" in the matter. It being thus made a government measure, all the influence that Lord Palmerston could bring to bear in favor of the bill was used. Permission to bring in the bill was granted by a majority of 200. After a most exciting debate in which Lord P. descended even to personalities, the bill itself was defeated by NINETEEN majority in a nearly full House.

This was a noble stand. The English *people* were always friends of freedom. In the Revolutionary war which resulted in the Independence of America, the hearts of the British *people* were with us. More than one hundred years before that they,—the Commons of England, most righteously brought a traitor's head to the block Charles I was just such a canting, whining tyrant as Pierce who attended church with devout look and then went forth to plunder a whole people of their liberties. No greater service was ever done to the cause of liberty in the world's history, than that was done by the yeoman of England when they solemnly tried Charles Stuart, King of England, and finding him guilty of high crimes, of treason and perjury, struck off his head. Again in 1688, when a bloody-minded Papist, James II, sought to defile the sanctuaries of that proud-spirited people, to put their own Bishops under the yoke of Rome and to trample upon the liberties of Englishmen, he was driven forth an exile and a wanderer, only too happy in having saved his head. In 1803, when Napoleon sought to coerce the British Courts and silence the British press, he met with a rebuff similar to that which the proud Commons of Great Britain have just administered to his successor.

What particularly attracts our observation in this matter is the contrast between true English back-bone as exhibited in this recent case, and the subservience and servility, the base truckling and contemptible cringing of the administration party in our own Congress, to the vile behests of a "King James" whose disposition to tyranny is not a whit less eager than that of the other James before mentioned. Show that mass of dough-faces of the North now in Congress where

"Their may follow fawning,"

and thither they hasten. Show them a constitution dripping with perjury, bristling with lies, stained with blood, borne in the very embrace of fraud, backed with threats and sustained by bribes, and at the frown of power or the hope of plunder they proclaim it by their votes the immaculate charter of a people's rights. Compare this with the contempt and hissing of the British House of Commons upon the attempt of an usurper in France to dictate to them what laws they shall make.

—Since writing the above article the arrival of a steamer brings us the news that the Palmerston Administration has resigned on account of their defeat on the above measure, and a new one been formed, the names of the members of which may be found in our telegraphic news.

THE Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia *North American* writes that arrangements have been perfected for holding a great anti-Lecompton meeting at Chicago within a month, at which all the North-Western States are to be represented. From the cast of the demonstration, it will probably exceed in numbers any assemblage since 1840, when acres of men, and women too, used to turn out, demanding a change in the Administration.

Special Correspondence to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURG, March 9.

Editors Gazette:—Neither yesterday nor to-day has there been any important general business transacted in either house. Since the democratic convention adjourned, there have been no important movements in political circles. The only subject of discussion now, is the position of Wm. A. Porter upon the Lecompton Constitution. The democratic convention did what no other State convention of any party did within my recollection. It adjourned without appointing any committee to inform the candidates of their respective nominations. Was this done designedly or not? Was it done to prevent the candidates from being placed in the position of avowing publicly their adhesion to or dissent from the platform adopted by the convention? If this be the purpose, it will not avail them. Mr. Porter will be compelled to avow himself for or against the Calhoun swindle. You will have observed that the Philadelphia *Press* of this date avows openly that it knows he is opposed to it. In confirmation of that declaration is the unswerving avowal of all the anti-Lecompton democrats of both houses *that they know* he is opposed to it. In support of this is the statement he has made to Mr. Francis, the Senator from the Mercer, Lawrence and Venango district. Mr. Francis, a man of undoubted veracity, and an old school-mate of Mr. Porter, states that Mr. Porter announced to him his *unflinching* opposition to it.

Upon the other hand Judge Gillis of Elk, the present Lecompton member of Congress from the "Wild Cat" District, informs me that he has seen a letter, and read it, in which Mr. Porter avows that "he (the gentleman to whom he was writing) knew and President Buchanan knew that he was in favor of the President's Kansas policy." To confirm this statement is the fact within my own knowledge that a letter written by his son to his father, the ex-governor, was shown by the latter to Hendrick B. Wright, A. B. Dunning, etc., delegates from Luzerne to the Democratic Convention, and who came hither determined to vote for Sharswood of Philadelphia for Judge. This letter contained an explicit avowal of his opinions in favor of Lecompton—an avowal so explicit that even the intensely pro-slavery Hendrick B. Wright expressed himself satisfied and exhibited that satisfaction by voting for him.

These facts upon both sides show that Mr. Porter with that facility of changing front which distinguished his father in politics is attempting an equation with two unknown quantities, viz Porter—Lecompton. Porter—Anti-Lecompton. What therefore is the absolute value of Porter evolved from nomination? what is the probable value of Porter for an election? This will be a most interesting problem for the people to solve, and they will solve it by showing that it is equal to a cipher.

Mr. Calhoun, Chairman of the Special Committee of the House, will report as soon as the restriction of time imposed upon it by that body expires. There will, I suppose, be two reports —one of a majority composed of two Anti-Lecompton Democrats and two Republicans, and one by the minority of the three Lecompton Democrats.

The efforts of the minority to stave off the consideration of the subject any longer will be vain.

P. S. The Governor has signed the bill to authorize the Canal Commissioners to examine the claim of Isaac Kelly, of Mercer Co., for damages, and one to give John W. Smith, of Mercer, a new trial. These were not telegraphed R.

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It is also without doubt one of the best articles for keeping the hair in good condition, making it soft and glossy, and for a shampoo, and has proved itself the greatest enemy to all the ills that hair is heir to.

It is the duty of every one to improve their personal appearance though some may differ in regard to the way of doing it, but every one will admit that a beautiful head of hair, either in man or woman, is an object much to be desired, and there are no means that should be left untried to obtain such a consideration.—*Women's Advocate, Philadelphia.*

CONNECTON, Ohio, Nov. 17, 1856.

O. J. WOOD & Co.—Gents: As I have been engaged in selling your Hair Restorative the last season for one of your local agents (R. M. Hackinson,) and having experienced the beneficial effects of it myself, I would like to obtain an agency for the State of Ohio or some State in the West, should you wish to make such an arrangement, as I am *convinced there is nothing equal to it in the United States for restoring the hair.* I have been engaged in the Drug business for several years, and have sold various preparations for the hair, but have found nothing that reaches the secretive organs or invigorates the scalp as well as yours. Believing fully convinced that your restorative is what you represent it to be, I would like to engage in the sale of it, for I am satisfied it must sell.

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IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS of Allegheny County. In the matter of the application for a Charter of Incorporation for the Allegheny City College. No. — of — Term, 1858.

And now to wit, March 4th, 1858, the petition and consent of the applicants presented in open Court, and having been presented by the Court, it is ordered that the same be filed in the office of the Prothonotary of Court, and that notice of said application be published in the Pittsburgh Gazette for three consecutive weeks, that unless sufficient cause to the contrary be shown the prayer of the petitioners will be granted at the next term of this Court. mr11-3wtd JOHN BIRMINGHAM, Pro'th'y

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