

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

"I have sworn upon the Altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of Tyranny over the Mind of Man."—Thomas Jefferson.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

THE MOON.

In the last number of the Monthly Chronicle, we find some statements drawn from astronomical observations, which must be quite new to those who have hitherto supposed this planet to be inhabited by animal beings. The most powerful telescopes ever yet constructed do not enable us to see distinctly an object whose visual magnitude is so small as one second corresponding to a mile on the surface of the moon. It therefore follows that an object, say a town, on the moon measuring a mile across in each direction, would be small to be discerned by any aid which telescopes have yet supplied. "If the moon be examined," says the writer, "for any length of time with the aid of the most ordinary telescopes, the observer cannot fail to be struck with the unalterable character of the outlines of shade upon her surface. These are so distinct and well defined, that they may be delineated with great exactness; and a map exhibiting their appearance at any one time, will continue at all times to exhibit that appearance with the same fidelity and precision."

The first inference which he draws from this circumstance is, that the same side of the moon is always turned towards us, and as she turns round her axis, in about twenty-seven days and eight hours, the Selenites or inhabitants of the moon so denominated from the Greek word 'moon,' must have 328 hours' day light, followed by 328 hours' night. The next is that there is no clouds suspended around her, and a third inference, drawn from other data, is, that there are no indications whatever of seas and water in the moon; and if there is any atmosphere at all, it must be a thousand times less dense than that of the earth. It would require a perfect air pump to produce such a degree of rarification under a receiver, and such an atmosphere would, as far as regards all the phenomena of animal and vegetable life, be a vacuum. The following description gives a faithful picture of the "silvery orb of night."

"The character of the entire surface of the moon, so far as telescopic power has made it known to us, is just what might have been expected in a world deprived of air and water, and of the tribe of beings to whose life these are necessary. This most inhospitable planet exhibits a wide waste of the surface diversified by nothing but its lofty mountains and cavernous valleys. Chains of mountains and insulated hills are spread over every part of its surface, and their imposing and precipitous sides frequently to the height of five perpendicular miles. In many places huge masses of earth spring directly from the plain and carry their peaked summits to the altitude of twenty thousand feet. Nor is the extent of the bases of stupendous eminences less astounding than their heights. The diameters of the bases of several detached hills of this kind, which measure five miles in height, vary from 24 to 46 miles.

"But the circumstance which deprives the moon's surface of every trace of analogy with that of the earth, is the enormous circular cavities which are found in almost every part of it. Some of these caverns are four miles in depth, and forty miles in di-

ameter. Their edge is generally defended by a high natural wall. Frequently a conical mountain rises to a considerable height from the bottom of this dark circular hole. The top of this dome is rendered visible, when the rays of the sun fall directly into the cavern. This internal conical mountain has sometimes a circular cavity in its apex, like the crater of a volcano.

"The provision which give to the several planets the greatful returns of the seasons, is denied to the moon; and accordingly, not a trace can be discovered on her surface of the slightest variation which can be ascribed to change of season.

"If, then, the moon be the habitation of living things, they must be constituted with functions very different from all those which characterise the animal and vegetable kingdoms of the earth. In the absence of an atmosphere, the Selenites cannot, of course, be respiratory animals. Sound, which depends on air for its production and conveyance, there can be none. Speech and hearing would therefore, be useless faculties.

"No azure firmament offers its mild tint to the eye of the Selenite. The blue of our sky is the proper color of our atmosphere, in the absence of an eternal and unvaried black, through which the glowing orb of the sun holds its solitary way, vainly endeavoring to diffuse brightness beyond the edge of its own disc. On the arid and ungrateful waste beneath, his genial rays fall in vain,—no atmosphere is present to collect, restrain and diffuse their warmth, and if they fail to sustain animal and vegetable life on the summits of our Alps and Andes, merely because of the rarified state of the atmosphere at those heights how much more ineffectual must they be in the absence of any atmosphere whatever?

"Seeing, then, that while we find on all the planets the same provisions to fit them for the dwelling places of creatures like ourselves, and these provisions supplied in the same manner, and to the same extent; and on the contrary, finding all of these arrangements, without one exception, denied to the moon—we must, in the absence of any direct evidence on this question, come to the conclusion, that our satellite is barren, uninhabited waste, playing, doubtless, some necessary part in the creation, but not the higher one assigned to the earth and planets; that it is, in fine, a desert rock, rearing its naked head in the wide ocean of space, unappropriated to and unfitted for the resting place of any living thing."—London paper.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL.

"How they used to Govern."

A circumstance occurred the very first day which drove every thing like mischief in consternation from every scholar's heart. Abijah Wilkins had for many years been called the worst boy in school. Masters could do nothing with him. He was surly, saucy, profane and truthless. Mr. Patch took him from an almshouse when he was eight years old, which was eight years from the point of time now in view. In his family were mended neither his disposition, his manners, nor even his clothes. He looked like a morose, unpolished pauper still. He had shaken his knurly and filthy fist in the face and eyes of the last winter's teacher. Mr. Johnson was told of this son of perdition before he began, and he was prepared to take some efficient step at his first offence.

Well the afternoon of the first day, Abijah thrust a pin into the boy beside him, which made him cry out with the sharp pain. Abijah was accused and found guilty. The master requested James Clark to go to his room and bring a rattan that he would find there, as if the formidable female was unequal to the present exigency. James came with a rattan very strong and very elastic, as if it had been selected from a thousand, not to walk with, but to whip.—Then he ordered all the blinds next the road to be closed. He then said, Abijah come this way. He came. The school may shut their books and suspend their studies a few minutes. Abijah take off your frock,

fold it up, and lay it on the seat behind you. Abijah obeyed those commands with sullen indifference. Here, a boy up towards the back seat burst out with a sort of shuddering laugh produced by a nervous excitement he could not control. "Silence!" said the master with a thunder, and a stamp on the floor, that made the house quake. All was as still as midnight. Not a foot moved, not a seat creaked, not a book rustled.—The school seemed to be appalled. The expression of every countenance was changed. Some were unnaturally pale, some were flushed, and eighty distended and moistening eyes were fastened on the scene.—The awful expectation was too much for one poor girl. "May I go home?" she whined with an imploring and terrified look. A single cast from the countenance of authority crushed the trembler down into her seat again. A tremendous sigh escaped from one of the larger girls—then all was breathlessly still again. "Take off your jacket also, Abijah. Fold it and lay it on your frock." Mr. Johnson then took his chair and set it away at the farthest distance the floor would permit, as if all the space that could be had would be necessary for the operations about to take place.—He then took the rattan and seemed to examine it closely, he drew it through his hand, bent it almost double, laid it down again. He then took off his own coat, and laid it on the desk. Abijah's breast then heaved like a bellows; his limbs began to tremble, and his face was like a sheet. The master then took the rattan in his hand, and the criminal by the collar with his left hand, his large knuckles pressing hard against the shoulder of the boy. He raised the stick high over the back of the shrinking boy.—"Then O, what a screech! Had the rod fallen? No, it still remained suspended above him in the air. O—I won't do so again—I'll never do so again; O—don't—I will be good—sartinly will. The threatening instrument of pain was gently taken from its elevation. The master spoke, "You promise, do you?"—"Yis sir—O yis sir." The tight grasp was withdrawn from the collar. "Put on your frock and jacket and go to your seat. The rest of you may open your books again. The school breathed again. Paper rustled, feet were carefully moved, the seats slightly creaked, and all things went stilly on as before. Abijah kept his promise. He became an altered boy; obedient, peaceful, studious. This long and slow process of preparing for the punishment, was artfully designed by the master, gradually to work up the boy's terrors—agonizing expectations to the highest pitch, until he should yield like a babe to the intensity of his emotions. His stubborn nature which had been like an oak on the hills which no storm could prostrate, was whittled away and demolished as it were, silver by silver.—District School as it was.

From the Poughkeepsie Telegraph

Man, to be happy, must be intelligent.—The ignorant and unthinking cannot enjoy the pleasures which arise from cultivated mind or participated in those high wrought sensibilities of soul, those feelings of ecstasy and delight, which afford much satisfaction to the learned and enlightened. Not any thing of magnitude has been achieved, when ignorance was the characteristic of the actors. No good, certainly has the world ever derived from the dark ages, when ignorance and superstition overspread the eastern hemisphere as with the pall of oblivion. No virtuous actions, no deeds of greatness, were then achieved which have ever resulted in any good to mankind.—The arts and sciences were lost and forgotten, or lay mouldering in the domes of the ancients, and one eternal night of the mind seemed like an incubus to rest upon the whole human family.

The mind however, when improved, is illimitable. It is as comprehensive as the universe of which it forms a part. Space, matter, and Heaven, are subjects not too vast for its contemplation; nor is eternity with all its gorgeous and bewildering ima-

ges, too dazzling for its ken. It has fixed its eagle gaze on the world which twinkle in the firmament, and measured their distances with its calculating powers. It has wandered back among the ruins of empires, long since passed away, and learned wisdom from the ruin and desolation. It has searched for instruction in languages which are dead, and obtained it. It has made even the winds and waves subservient to its purposes.—And who can tell the extent which it may proceed by industry and perseverance?

But the ignorant man cannot discharge the duties which he owes to the social compact; nor does he fulfil the purposes of his Creator so long as he neglects the cultivation of his intellect. The intelligent mind can revel in the imagery and grandeur of its conceptions, while the uninformed can raise his thoughts no higher than the brutes. But could he have the greatness and elevation of soul like Newton, or Byron, or Scott, or Milton—could feel the wonderful and inexpressible delight which Byron and Milton must have experienced while peopleing their imaginary worlds with bright & glorious shapes, or wander in imagination like Newton among the stars, and prescribe laws for the comets and the meteors—or could he dive into the nature of the understanding, unravel its mysteries, explain its agency, the power of the passions, and the dreams of thought—could he do this and feel this but for one short hour, how dreary would he be after returning to his own desolate tabernacle, with nothing save the low and groveling desires of an animal to satisfy the soul of a God! It is in comparisons like this that we discover the immeasurable disparity between wisdom and ignorance; and if the fame of a Newton or a Milton is not sufficient to inspire a man to become like unto them, all other instances must be equally powerless.

EDUCATION.

Great judgment and caution are necessary in conducting the education of youth. The great points for teachers are, to learn the art of governing a school and the best mode of instructing—and the great object of parents and of the public is to teach children what they want to use in procuring subsistence; what they want for regulating their social actions, and to make them good citizens; and what is necessary to secure their future happiness. The plan of introducing into all our common schools a great variety of subjects which have no direct bearing on these points, and of teaching a little of every thing, and perfection in nothing, is not an uncommon mistake, in these times of general excitement. Physiologists inform us that the human brain is not completely formed, till a child is about seven years of age. Before and for some time after this period, the brain should not be severely exercised or pressed to exertion. The intellectual powers should not be heavily taxed with many studies at once, nor with such as require intense application. An eminent physician once remarked to the writer, that he had known many females to lose their health, or fall victims to intense application to the sciences. What aggravates the misfortune is, that for the most part, such sciences are not of the least use to females. They make them neither better wives, better mothers, better christians, nor more intelligent companions. The cultivation of the mind should follow the order of nature in the growth of animal and vegetable bodies, which increases slowly, and gain strength as they gain size.—*Ch. Obs.*

The Cincinnati Republican says that it is estimated by those engaged in the produce business, that there is in store in the several warehouses of that city, 30,000 bbls. of flour, and from ten to twelve thousand barrels of whiskey.

Five Reasons.—"Mistress Grimes, lend me your tub?" "Can't do it—all the hoops are off—it's full of suds—besides I never had one—because I washes in a barrel."

The strongest kind of a team—Alligators in harness—Zip my long tails!

They may talk of taming 'un-tameable hyenas, bringing ferocious tigers under subjection and making them as gentle as lambs, and all that sort of thing; but when it comes to breaking alligators so that they will work in harness, we knock under. The invention of steam was a mere circumstance in comparison; electro magnetism, even if it is ever brought to such perfection as to assist in turning a windmill in a gale, would be a minor consideration—but to the story.

The captain of a steamboat engaged in the Red River trade informed us, although we are inclined to think he was joking, that a wealthy individual up that way had tamed and trained a couple of alligators so that they will swim in harness, and haw and gee about as regular oxen. So well indeed have they been broken that the owner tackles them up, hitches to a dug-out and cruises about the bayou and ponds, when the waters are too high to admit of his going on horseback.

On a late occasion, while sailing quietly under the banks of the bayou with his 'critters' harnessed in abreast, he was seen by a hunter who sung out:

"I say, there hellow! drop your dug-out astern and give me a chance to plug one of them varmin's."

"Don't shoot this way—take care don't you see I'm after them!" said the owner, as the backwoodsman leveled his rifle.

"I see you are after 'em and you'll see a ball follerin' in the same trail in less than two minutes. Look out for yourself, stranger; here goes for a crack at the varmin's this way."

"Stop—hold up your rifle. That's my team you are aiming at. Look at the harness, there, just on the top of the water. They are hitched to the canoe, and I'm on a little jaunt out back to look at and enter some lands."

"Well, I declare!" said the old hunter, "if that don't beat all the doings I've heard on way in the thick settlements I reckon you understand animal magnetism, as they call it, a few."

"I understand training alligators."

"Well you pass—hope you'll have a pleasant excursion."

The man now stirred up his team, and was soon under way at a rate which would leave a common high pressure steamboat out of sight in no time.

Red River Gazette.

The clergy of Ireland have authority conferred by law, to refuse to marry a woman unless she can read and write. The power is given upon the sound principle that a woman must first be qualified to instruct her offspring before she can be permitted to have them.

"Stand and Deliver," were the words addressed to a tailor travelling on foot, by a highwayman, whose brace of pistols looked rather dangerous than otherwise.

"I'll do that with pleasure," was the reply, at the same time handing over to the outstretched hands of the robber a purse apparently well stocked, "but," continued he, "suppose you do me a favor in return, My friends would laugh at me were I to go home and tell them I was rebbed with as much patience as a lamb: a'pose you fire your two bull dogs right through the crown of my hat; it will look something like a show of resistance."

His request was acceded to; but hardly had the smoke from the discharge of the weapons passed away, the tailor pulled out a rusty old horse pistol, and in his turn politely requested the thunderstruck highwayman to shell out every thing of value, his pistols not omitted, about him.

Said a preacher to a horse dealer, "is that animal sure footed?" "Perfectly," said the jockey, "when he puts his foot down, you'd think he never was going to take it up."

Every person should mind his own business.