

Columbia Democrat.

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

H. WEBB, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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TERMS:

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MISCELLANEOUS.

A REMINISCENCE OF THE REVOLUTION.

The following facts and incidents respecting a noted Tory of the Revolution, whose name is yet mentioned in many a legend of adventure of that memorable struggle, are for the first time, we believe, collected and presented to the public. They are interesting in themselves, and valuable as they present a picture of the state of things that existed in portions of the country, when to the dread of the British Arms, and the alarms of the Indian outrage, were combined the stealthy, midnight attacks of Tory marauders, producing feelings of constant apprehension and alarm among the inhabitants.

Claudius Smith, though a native of Brookhaven, L. I. resided with his family at a place called Smith's place, in Orange county, and was known as the avowed advocate of immortality and crime; a course of life which led to the most disastrous consequences, as will be related.

At the opening of the revolution, Claudius, with a party of associates, men of daring and desperate character, espoused the cause of the enemy, and by their frequent depredations upon the inhabitants of Orange county, filled that region with dread and apprehension. They had frequent intercourse with the British at N. Y. and often after a night attack upon a defenceless neighborhood, pillaging the houses of the farmers, they would repair to the city with their booty, and spend a season in merriment and debauchery.

Claudius Smith was leader of the gang, a man of large stature and powerful nerves; of keen penetration; a man upon whom nature had bestowed abilities worthy to be exerted in a better cause. He conducted his expeditions with such caution, as scarcely ever to be suspected until in the very execution of them; and if a sudden descent was made upon them, by some bold stroke or wily manoeuvre, he would successfully evade his pursuers and make his escape. The aged people of Orange county tell many a surprising tale of this noted man some of which are doubtless true.

At length, in the execution of their nefarious plans of plunder and blood, Claudius, with four of his party, some of whom were his sons, on the 5th or 6th of October 1778, approached, at about 11 o'clock at night, the house of Capt. Woodhull, at Oxford; (who was then absent on duty, and whom it seems by their own declarations they intended to murder) when they robbed the house of a variety of valuables.

Then locking Mrs. Woodhull, with her children and negroes, in an upper room, they left, and proceeded at about 12 o'clock to the house of Nathaniel Strong, who being in bed, they broke and entered the outer door, broke a panel out of the door of the inner room, where Major Strong lodged, being alarmed, entered the room armed with a pair of pistols and a gun. As soon as he entered the room, he was fired through the window, but escaped unhurt. The assassins then called to him to deliver up his arms, and he should have quitted, on which, setting down his gun against the wall, he approached the door to open it, but as he advanced, they through the broken panel shot him with two balls, and he expired without speaking a word. Taking

bridles and a saddle they immediately left, county then resident in Orange used to retire to their old haunts.

This new outrage filled the inhabitants with resentment, and reached the ears of the executive Gov. Clinton, on the 31st of October, who pursuant to a motion of the Assembly, issued a proclamation offering a reward of \$1200 for the apprehension of Claudius, and \$600 for his sons Richard and James Smith. This had the effect desired. A number of persons banded together, headed by one Titus, a powerful man of much daring, and set out for the place of Smith's rendezvous; but the latter had gone to N. Y. and Titus and his party followed. They learned that Smith was at a certain place on Long Island and repairing thither in the evening found Smith at a Tory dance Smith being apprised of their approach, escaped before the house could be surrounded. He fled to another place on the Island and Titus and his associates, nothing daunted, again sought him out. They cautiously surrounded the house, and Titus with others repaired instantly, but silently, to the chamber where Claudius was sleeping with a brace of pistols by his side. Titus grasped him, and with one effort jerked him from the bed before he could seize his arms. He was immediately overpowered, firmly bound, & conveyed to a boat, from whence he was conducted to Poughkeepsie, and lodged in the jail at that place on Thursday November 19th. He had his trial before the Supreme Court, sitting at Goshen, Orange county, on three indictments—one of which was the murder of Major Strong, and on all he was found guilty. He conducted himself with firmness during the trial, and when asked if he had any thing to say in his defence, he replied, "No; if God Almighty can't change your hearts I cannot."

He was confined in the Goshen jail, manacled and chained to a ring in the floor, while the jail was closely guarded by parties of the inhabitants—for they were apprehensive that an attempt would be made to rescue him. The order was given to shoot Smith if an attack upon the prison was likely to succeed in his liberation. At length the day appointed for his execution January 22, 1779, arrived, and crowded to see the exit of a man whose name had long spread terror throughout the country. Smith with two other criminals—Gordon, convicted of horse stealing, and De La Mar, of burglary—were led forth to the gallows.

Claudius was dressed in a suit of broad cloth, with silver buttons, with his large form and manly air presented a noble appearance. While walking to the place of execution, he was observed to gaze intently towards the hills, east of the town, to see (as was thought) if his comrades were coming to his rescue, for he had harbored throughout, the idea that he should be preserved by some such interposition. None appeared, however, and he ascended the gallows with a firm step—Casting his eyes about, he bowed to several whom he knew in the crowd. At this moment a man approached Claudius, and desired him to tell him where he should find certain valuable papers which he had abstracted from his house upon a certain occasion. Claudius replied that that was no place to talk of such things, and gave him no satisfaction. To show how perfectly hardened this wretched man was, it is authentically stated that on the gallows he kicked off his shoes, with the observation that his mother had often told him that he would die like a cooper's horse, with his shoes on, but that he would make her a liar. When the cart was drawn from under, he swung to and fro perfectly straight, determined as was supposed to evince no feeling; when he twitched a little, and exhibited signs of life after he had hung a long time.

Thus died a man whose abilities if rightly directed, would have raised him to eminence and greatness. Notwithstanding his life of infamy Claudius had some generous qualities and it is said that the poor man found him a friend ready to share both his meal and his purse, and it is believed that much of what he abstracted from the wealthy he bestowed upon the indigent. The late worthy Judge B., of Thompson's

county then resident in Orange used to relate a circumstance that occurred with him, upon the morning following the investment and capture of Fort Montgomery by the British, pursuing his way homeward from the neighborhood of the disaster, when he suddenly met Claudius Smith in the road. They knew each other. Judge B. was perplexed; to escape was impossible, and putting on a bold front he approached Claudius, who addressed him with a friendly good morning, calling Judge B. by name and extending his hand. After inquiring the news from the river, Smith continued, "Mr. B.—you are weary with walking, go to my dwelling, yonder, (directing to a place off the road) and ask my wife to give you a breakfast, and tell her I sent you." Judge B. thanked him, seeming to accept his offer, and bade him good morning, but when he was out of sight, he changed his course towards home, nor felt himself safe until he was a fair way on his journey. A. B. C.

properly so, far who should be military heroes if not those who worship the Lords of Hosts!

The Jews.—Rev. H. A. GRAVES, one of the Editors of the *Christain* (Boston) *Reflector*, who is now on a visit to St. Thomas, in the West Indies, furnishes the readers of that paper weekly letters of the most thrilling interest, from the last number of which we extract the following important notice of the Jews and their customs. The article will be alike interesting to Jew and Gentile. Mr. Graves says—
In this paper, I beg leave to state, farther a few facts, showing the surprising elevation of character, the astonishing personal and political influence, and the high attainments in music and literature, which the Jews have acquired within the last century, and now possess in the civilized world. The improvement of the Jews in mind and morals is perceptible in all European countries; and commensurate with this is the change which has taken place in the public sentiment of different nations concerning them. In many kingdoms the civil disabilities, and in which they have for ages been oppressed, have been recently removed; they are treated with courtesy, are favored with the highest literary and social advantages, and elevated to offices of trust and honor. Both the policy of nations and the sentiments & conduct of Christian churches towards them, have undergone, and are now undergoing a decided and important change. The Jews are no longer to be regarded merely as ignoble pedlars or over-reaching money-jobbers; they are among them those who occupy professorships in the first universities of Europe; who are members of national senates, leaders of armies, and ministers of State. D'Iscraeli, of the British Parliament, a man of extensive learning and commanding influence, is a Jew. And with reference to the part now taken by Jews in the intellectual and political movements of the world, this eminent statesman has given us some important testimony, and such as we may, with little if any abatement, rely upon as true. He tells us that mysterious Russian diplomacy, which alarms Western Europe is organized and principally carried on by Jews. That mighty revolution, which is at this moment preparing in Germany, and which will be, in fact, a second and greater Reformation, and of which so little is yet known in England, is entirely developing under the auspices of Jews, who almost monopolize the professional chairs of Germany. Neander, the founder of Spiritual Christianity, is a Jew. Benary, equally famous in the same university, is a Jew. "A few years back," says D'Iscraeli, "we were applied to, by Russia. I resolved to go myself to St. Petersburg.—I had, on my arrival, an interview with the Russian minister of finance, Count Cancrin; I beheld the son of a Lutheran Jew. The loan was connected with the affairs of Spain. I resolved on repairing to Spain from Russia. I travelled without intermission. I had an audience immediately on my arrival with the Spanish minister, Senor Mendizabala. I beheld one like myself the son of a Novvo Christiana Jew of Arragon. In consequence of what transpired at Madrid I went straight to Paris to consult the French council; I beheld the son of a French Jew, a hero, an imperial marshal, and very

As to a severe and continuous drought, my own experience points to that of 1838. That season, I had a five acre patch in with potatoes, which did not pay the trouble of taking them out of the ground. They were small, ill shaped, had tasted poisonous, spotted and black hearted, and rotted in the cellar. Potatoes that seasons old as high as \$1.25 to \$1.50 per barrel—not a bushel—not a bushel of good potatoes at market, except those imported. Then as to dry hot weather, succeeded by wet, close, over spring like temperature, the season of 1843 in point. I took more than common pains that year to produce a surpassing yield, equal, at least, to my famous crop of the preceding year, which was over 440 bushels to the acre—field culture. My seed was in part from some very fine potatoes, and in part from some very large, sound potatoes imported from the State of Mexico. On taking out the crop in October, the whole was found to be very badly diseased. The weather, from the latter part of June till the beginning of September, was mainly hot, occasionally very wet and dry. September set in with warm rain, thunder storms and gales; the moisture and closeness unprecedented; (fruit trees blossomed, so that we were having flowering trees and shrubs. I recollect making a large collection of flowers from the magnolias, some of which I sent to the editor of the *Pennsylvania Inquirer*. My potato vines looked healthy, when all of a sudden they changed color, drooped and died. I think if I had taken out the potatoes at the juncture they would have proved comparatively good; but they were permitted to remain quite a month after, when they were found badly rotted, tainted, and almost worthless.

Now then, as to the epidemic, in 1844, I planted some four or five acres of potatoes, the seed of which was principally culled from the diseased crop of 1843. I planted, also, at the same time in the same field, either seed of very sound potatoes brought from Maine; they all did equally well, I could discover no difference; the crop was a very fair one, and the quality unexceptionable in every respect. I do not mean by this to encourage the planting of diseased or doubtful potatoes. It is safer to plant sound and perfect ones; but I am strong in the opinion that there is no danger of a diseased or tainted potato producing a diseased or tainted potato. It may, from its want of vitality, be very unproductive, makes feeble shoots, the same as decayed potatoes from on ship board after a long voyage, the heat and moisture of the vessel's hold having sent out enormous shoots, impairing their vigor and producing rot. Such potatoes, when planted, never produce well as to size and quantity; but I have yet to learn that they ever produced a diseased potato.

Much has been said of potatoes becoming feeble and sickly from long and constant plantings, there may be something in this, time will not permit me to examine it now. I have however, numerous sorts of seedlings produced from the apples of my very fine crop of 1843. I shall take occasion to present you with a few to send to some of your friends abroad.

By this you will see that I can offer no remedy or preventive for the rot. He that tempests the wind to the storm cannot only control it. Should it again visit us, we can only exercise our best judgment by taking out the potatoes early—as soon as they exhibit signs of decay—laying them in thin layers in dry, cool situations, or otherwise, as circumstances may justify. Let the farmers go on and plant in confidence, as the best experience may teach, trusting for an abundant yield to that Providence who sendeth the early and the latter rain.

Very respectfully yours, &c.
JAMES GOWEN.
William Peter, Esq.
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Philadelphia.

And is Soul a Hebrew?

Yes; and several of the French marshals and the most famous—Massena, for example, his real name was Manasseh.—The consequence of our consultation was that some Northern power should be applied to in a friendly and meditative capacity. We fixed on Prussia, and the President of the council made an application to the Prussian minister, who attended a few days after our conference. Count Armin entered the cabinet, and I beheld a Prussian Jew!

Of the high attainments of the Jew in musical science, D'Iscraeli speaks as follows,

"I speak not of the past, though were I to enter into the history of the lords of melody, would find it in the annals of Hebrew genius. But at this moment even musical Europe is ours. There is not a company of singers, not an orchestra in a single capital, that are not crowded with our children under the feigned names which they adopt to conciliate the dark aversion which your country will some day disclaim with shame and disgust.—Almost every great composer, skilled musician—almost every voice that ravishes you with its transporting strains, spring from our tribes. The catalogue is too vast to enumerate—too illustrious to dwell for a moment on secondary names, however eminent. Enough for us that the great creative minds to whose exquisite inventions all minds at this moment yield—Rusini, Meyerbeer, Mendelssohn—are of Hebrew race; and little do your men of fashion—your 'muscadins' of Paris, and your dandies of London—as thrill into raptures at the notes of a Pasta or a Grisi, little do they suspect that they are offering their homage to the sweet singers of Israel!"

H. A. G.

AGRICULTURAL.

From the Farmers Library.
POTATOE ROT—JAMES GOWEN'S LETTER.
Mount Airy, Dec. 29, 1845.

My Dear Sir,—Your note on the subject of "The Potatoe Rot," dated Saturday, did not reach Mount Airy—Sunday intervening—till this morning, Monday. It would give me pleasure to oblige you fully in this matter, did time permit to go more into detail, but the brief space allotted for reply, will compel me to be as concise as possible.

I hold that a miasmatic influence is the sole cause of the late prevailing rot in the potatoes; that neither manure nor condition of soils could have produced the calamity, that animalculum and fungi are as remote from it—the latter may in a partial manner injure a potatoe plant, as they would, under peculiar circumstances, be like to injure other plants, that the rot is not epidemic; and I have reason to believe that sound or partially sound potatoes, taken from diseased crop or heap, will if planted, produce healthy, sound potatoes, in the absence of the cause which injured them the previous season.

I would therefore encourage the farmers to cultivate their potatoes as formerly, choosing the soils and applying the manures which hitherto were found best adapted to their culture, forgetting or overlooking the rot altogether and disregarding the nostrums recommended for its prevention; the potatoe would bear doctoring.

The weather which produces rot is either a severe, continuous draught of some weeks' standing, thereby preventing the natural growth and maturity of the potatoe, for the want of moisture, or very hot weather, bringing the potatoe to a premature ripeness, succeeded by wet, sultry weather, unnaturally spring like, which provokes the tubercular performance of the functions of seed, thereby dissolving the connection between them and their vines, the vines die, the root undergo an incipient fermentation preparatory to decomposition; the operation of budding or growing is checked by the natural temperature that at length prevails which arrest the potatoe in its work of producing, and hence its deterioration. The latter condition of the weather is the prevailing cause of the rot.

satisfaction to know when they may retire to rest at night, that they have omitted nothing which they should have attended to, and that their business is not behind hand. With this brief introduction, we shall proceed to sketch an outline of some of the things which should be attended to.—*American Farmer.*

Fences.—If you have not already availed yourself of our last month's admonition, delay no longer, but go forth at once and examine every panel of fence, gates and promptly have every necessary repair made, as it is useless to put in crops unless you previously secure them against the predation of mischievous animals.

Preparation of Ground and the Sowing of Oats.—It is an admitted fact that the earlier oats are got into the ground, the better chance there is of their filling and yielding well. While it is difficult to fix a day in a country like ours on which to sow them, it is perfectly safe to say, that the ground should be plowed for the reception of the seed as soon as the frost is out of it and sufficiently relieved of moisture to admit of being well plowed. It is not necessary that one should wait until the ground is so hard that the plow will not cut, it is far better, that the ground should be plowed long enough to settle, down and become compact before the seed be committed to it.

Hauling out your manure.—If you have still to perform this duty, lose no time in going about it, and do not quit until your work is done, it is always best to be ahead of your work, and especially such heavy jobs as this. Should you not be prepared to spread and plow it in as hauled out, cover each pile with earth, and if you desire that your manure shall do you the greatest amount of service, before you remove it to the field, incorporate a bushel of plaster with every 20 loads of it—this will prevent the escape of the enriching gases on which the corn plants so delight to feed, and which gives an impetus to their first coming up.

Corn and Corn Ground.—As the time has arrived in many parts of our country for corn planting, and in a few weeks more it will be time in all, we beg to call the attention of our readers to this important part of their duties. We take it for granted that all who may have clay lands which they intended to put in corn this spring, were provident enough to plow them last winter, as nothing is more conducive to success in such soils with the corn crop, than the advantage to be derived from their exposure to the influence of the alternation of freezing and thawing and early spring. While it disintegrates the more adhesive parts, it mellows the soil, lessens the toil of working, and destroys the embryo cut worms. But it is but fair to remark, that this benefit to the texture of the soil, can only be calculated upon where the precaution was taken to plow only when the land was in proper condition; for if it may have been turned when wet, the probability is, that it will remain in clots during the entire season, thus adding greatly to the toils and expense of cultivation, as well as lessening the products of the crop.

If any should have such grounds, intended for corn, which is still to be plowed, we would admonish them not to plow it when it may be either too wet or too dry, but to choose that golden state of "betweenness," when it may be easily reduced to a state of pulverism by means of the roller and harrow, both of which should be freely used until the desired end is attained.

Milk cows—and Cows in Calf.—Let these receive daily allowances of nutritious slops in addition to their food.

Working Horses—Mules and Oxen.—As the time has come when you will be calling upon those generous, patient animals, to strain their every muscle for your advantage, let us urge it upon you as an act of justice as well as for interest, to have them liberally supplied with food, well cleaned and properly lodged. By such increased attention you will increase their physical ability to perform their daily toils. Nay, that is not all—you will find your reward in the pleasurable feelings which the consciousness of having been kind to them will impart.

Outhouses of all kinds should be well cleaned and whitewashed.

Chickens.—Our experience teaches us

HINTS FOR APRIL.
There is, perhaps, no month in the year which should be more deeply interesting to the American husbandman, and thus believing, we will proceed to call the attention of our brethren to go to work to in right good earnest, so that they may always command their own time, and have the pleasing