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Awful Inundation!!

"What is the foundation of our hopes?"

It is with pain we sit down to detail the events of last Saturday. This town has been visited with an awful calamity; not equalled perhaps by any similar event on record. As minute a detail as can be given from memory, follows:—

About 10 o'clock on Friday evening the atmosphere it was remarked, appeared uncommonly heavy: and it suddenly became unusually dark and began to rain moderately. About 12 o'clock, the rain had increased very considerably; about 1 became violent. It continued to pour down till about 1 o'clock on Saturday afternoon; when the sun again shone forth in all its glory. The gloom and heaviness of mind felt by many in consequence of the unusual and incessant storm which indeed had excited some melancholy forebodings, seemed to be dissipated by the returning brightness of the sun; health, cheerfulness and safety seemed to reign once more. But the Codorus had swollen beyond its banks, and the attention of the inhabitants was drawn to the north side of the town, by the destruction of the large wooden bridge, connecting George street with the York Haven turnpike road. This was looked upon with indifference. It was a novelty to see a whole bridge move off majestically upon the bosom of the flood. No alarm was felt. The water in the mean time was rising so as to cover High street from beyond Water street to Newbury street.—The people removed from their lower stories but felt very little or no alarm.—News at length came that the dams of the mills and Spring Forge above had been broken away. This was communicated to the people on the West side of the stone bridge, with a request to save themselves by going to a place of safety, while the water was so that they could yet wade it. But danger was not apprehended by them. Their houses would save them many supposed, and therefore remained. At length the water from the broken dams in the country above came tumbling down, in tremendous torrents. At this time many people were taken away from their houses by Col. M. H. Spangler, first with a horse and afterwards with a boat, to which at one time persons had got hold, so that it was almost impossible for him to get along with the boat. A few minutes more and it would have been too late. The creek had now risen so much that all communication was cut off between the people in their houses and the shores. The danger of removal was greater than that of remaining. They had no choice but to stay. Each one seemed to be nailed to the spot he was on, awaiting the moment of being precipitated into the flood. The torrents tumbled across the streets like water falling from a precipice. At this moment you could contemplate the Codorus swollen into a mighty river from a quarter to half a mile wide, and deep, enough for a seventy four A stream that has its source in our own county, and known to us as a pleasant little water to amuse us in fishing, and which affords a scanty supply of water for mills and machinery, was in the space of two or three hours lost we know not where, and a mighty River in its stead came rushing through our houses, and bearing upon its bosom the wrecks of the bordering country. An ocean seems to have been created and precipitated upon us in a moment. At this stage of the flood, bridges, barns, stables, dams hay-stacks, houses and broken mills came one after the other in succession tumbling from the country above us; house after house rose in our streets upon the water and was hurled into the bosom of the deep. We saw our helpless fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, children and relations of every degree; and our friends and neighbors stretching forth their arms from roofs and windows for help; expecting the house that sustained them—would instantly tumble from under them or float down the torrent with them. You could hear the cries of the dying and the living all around you. All stood fixed in breathless agony, taking a last look at some dear object of affection. Every face was the image of misery and despair. Human help was vain; it all rested in the hands of Almighty God. All realized during the awful space of nearly two hours that "He can create

and he can destroy," and that it was to Him alone we must look for safety. The expanse of several miles of water below the town, was covered with undistinguishable ruins—Roofs floating down with people on them, reaching and crying for assistance; stables with dogs, fowls & other domestic animals; wrecks covered with tables, beds, beansteads, chairs, desks, bureaus, clock and clockcases, trunks, cradles, side-boards, and many other articles of furniture and cloathing, dry goods and groceries; barrels, hog-sheads, timber and mill wheels, trees, wheat and rye sheaves, corn, oats, fences, &c. all tumbling with lifeless bodies down the stream in torrents! The small and weak houses one after the other disappeared. The people left gathered mostly in and upon the strongest houses by leaping from roof to roof and by beating holes from one garret to another. In some instances the house they jumped from was swept from under their feet, just saving themselves by a single second. It would be endless to detail all the hair-breadth escapes, and to enumerate the activity and exposure of individuals, for the purpose of aiding each other, and saving themselves. all was done that human power could effect. Mr. Penrose Robenson and Mr. John Wolf, saved two coloured people, who were floating down on a roof at the risk of their own lives—Mr. Seachrist Mr. Eichelberger, Mr. Leitner, Mr. Cooke, Mr. Heart Mr. Doughan, Mr. Detterman, and Mr. John Miller exerted themselves with boats.

It now remains to detail the loss of human lives. It is believed ten persons were lost to wit: four coloured people, names, not recollected. Mr. Hugh Cunningham and lady, Mr. Daniel Updegraff, late editor of the 'Expositor,' Samuel Eichelberger, son of Mr. Martin Eichelberger, aged about 15, a Miss Calvin of York county, and a child of Mr. John F. Williams, of about two years old. Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham and Samuel Eichelberger, were all found in one room dead—side by side, in a part of Mrs. McClelland's house (out of which she herself had only been taken a few moments before it was carried away) which lodged a few perches from the channel against a tree. Joseph Wren an old soldier, was found alive in the garret of the same house. Mrs. Williams's child was thrown from its cradle in sight of its mother, who was herself with difficulty saved. The houses in which the people most collected for safety, were Mr. Jesse Spangler's Mrs. Margaret Doudle's, and Mr. John Love's. There were six saved in Mr. Spangler's; eight in Mr. Doudle's, and twenty five in Mr. Love's. Here they remained nearly four hours in almost momentary expectation of instant death. Their houses were watched from the shore with breathless anxiety; for that dreadful space of time were expected every minute to tumble into the flood. But blessed be God they were spared in part; one corner after another had given way yet enough remained for the people to cling to for safety. Nearly fifty families are almost ruined.

A list of the buildings which were ruined and carried off by the flood between Water and Newbury-streets are as near as could be ascertained.

Mr. Michael Doudle's large new brick carrier shop, tan house, &c. and his stock of hides and leather—all swept away.

Mr. John Barnitz's stone brewery—destroyed.

Mr. Samuel Welch's brick brewery, with all its contents, nail factory, and out houses carried off, and the brick dwelling house, much injured.

Mr. Jesse Spangler's hatter shop, stable, and out houses destroyed, and his dwelling house (occupied by him as a tavern) ruined.

Mr. Schlosser's brick dwelling stable, and out houses destroyed.

Joseph Morris Esq's. brick kitchen, stable, & out houses destroyed—his dwelling house injured greatly.

Mrs. Morris's stable and out houses destroyed—dwelling houses injured.

Mr. A Hantz's tavern (occupied by Mr. Thomas Smith) stable sheds, and out houses carried off—the tavern and back buildings, all of brick—nearly ruined. Peter Reel's dwelling house, kitchen and stable carried off.

John F. Williams brick grocery store brick kitchen, stable and out houses destroyed—dwelling house ruined.

Alexander Underwood's kitchen, stable and out houses destroyed—dwelling house very much injured.

Messrs. Jessup and Davis's Jeweller shop carried off.

Jonathan Jessop's cotton warehouse with a large quantity of cotten, his stables and out houses all carried off.

John Elgar's nail factory, stable and out houses destroyed—dwelling house greatly injured.

George Rothrock's stable and out houses destroyed.

Mrs. Lanus's do. do. do.

Martin Spangler's tan house, two other houses and stable destroyed—dwelling house injured.

Jacob Snyder's tan house &c. destroyed.

Ilgenfritz's stable carried off.

Jacob Gardner's tan house, bark house, barn, &c. carried off—dwelling house injured.

Israel Gardner's new two story brick house (occupied by George Lauman) with all its contents carried off—back buildings injured.

Thomas Owing's back buildings and stable carried off—dwelling house ruined.

John Love's tan house, bark house and stable carried off.

Rev. Michael Dunn's stable & out houses carried off—dwelling house injured.

Weirich Bentz's two dwelling houses, stables and out houses carried off.

Mrs. Margaret Doudle's tan house and out houses carried off her large and strong two story brick dwelling house very much injured by the falling in of the whole of the west gabel end.

Mrs. Rummel's stable and Mr. Carnes stable carried off.

Behler's log house and still house in Water street carried off.

Mr. Seagist's shed full of bricks carried off.

The whole of the curtain and wing walls of the stone bridge broken down.

In most of these cases the buildings and improvements were either entirely carried off or so much injured as to be incapable of repair.

Seven tan yards, two taverns, three stores, two breweries, one candle and soap factory, one whip factory, two nail factories one Jeweller shop and one coppersmith shop and several other shops besides other buildings, in all 54 Buildings were destroyed.

The renters who suffered and who have mostly lost their all, are Martin Eichelberger, Mrs. McClellan, G. K. Kane, Samuel Hartman, George Lauman, Abner Thomas, and several poor people not recollected.

It is estimated that two hundred thousand dollars would not restore the people of York and its immediate vicinity to their own again. Forty-five or fifty families lost their fortune and clothing, and in a word many people worth from one to seven thousand dollars on Saturday morning are now reduced to poverty.

At a meeting of the Corporation of the borough of York, specially convened for the purpose of adopting measures to afford relief to those of the inhabitants, who have suffered in the late inundation—the following resolutions were offered and adopted:

Resolved, That under the afflicting dispensation which has visited our place, it is the duty of every citizen with a liberal hand to extend relief to the sufferers; many of whom have been reduced from comfortable circumstances to a state of want & dependence, & that their situation, not only requires pecuniary assistance; but demands the benevolent attention and good offices of their fellow citizens.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed for the purpose of soliciting & receiving subscriptions, and to make such application thereof as they may deem most conducive to the comfort and advantage of the sufferers.

Resolved, That the following named persons be appointed a Committee for the purposes expressed in the foregoing Resolution, namely:—John Lay, Philip Kutz, Jacob Hay, William Ness, Philip Smyser, George Spangler, sen John Hay, John Weyer, John Kauffelt, George Small, Andrew Cremer, and Daniel Weaver.

C. A. BARNITY,
Chief Burges,
Attest—M. HAY, Town Clerk.

GENERAL JACKSON.

The life of this distinguished officer is published. We have not yet seen the work;—but a Virginia paper noticing it says—"There is one circumstance mentioned of which we do not recollect previously to have seen any notice, on the propriety of which the reader will make his own comments.—Jackson had heard that the legislature of Louisiana then in session at New-Orleans meditated the offer of a capitulation with the British. He ordered Governor Claiborne, should such a determination be manifested immediately to arrest the members and hold them subject to his further orders; and the governor, in consequence placed an armed force at the door of the capital, and prevented the members from meeting."

Balt. Reg.

CROGHANVILLE.

In the last number of our paper we stated, that the lots in the town of Croghanville were all sold with the exception of eight or ten. We now have it in our power to state, that these eight or ten, and several out-lots and tracts, are all likewise sold, leaving unsold, in the whole reserve of two miles square, only nine in-lots, and two out-lots, which were reserved by the United States for the support of schools. The out lots sold from seven to two hundred & seventy two dollars per acre; & the tracts from eight dollars & 26 cents to one hundred and fifty-one dollars per acre. The whole amount of the purchase money, of the two miles square, agreeably to the calculation which we have made, is one hundred and twenty one thousand dollars; making an average of forty six dollars and fifty cents per acre, for every acre contained therein.—But had the nine in-lots, and the two out lots, which were reserved, been sold, the average price per acre, would not have been under fifty dollars; a price which, for a tract of land in the woods of that extent, we will venture to assert, has never been equalled. But notwithstanding this apparently high price, we are inclined to believe that, the purchases will do well.—The situation is important; it will possess in an eminent degree the advantages of agriculture, commerce, and public roads; and these advantages have not failed to attract the attention of gentlemen of wealth from various parts of the United States, who have made respectable purchases but have not monopolised; & some of them we understand, intend to make improvements immediately. Thus we see the prosperity of the western country increasing in a ratio, that never perhaps, has been witnessed in any other part of the world; and we may fairly indulge ourselves in the pleasing reflection, that the state of Ohio is one of the most important sections of it and will, ere long be ranked as such. [Ohio Spectator.

HONOR AMONG THIEVES.

Carun Khan, the late Emperor of Persia, who died 1779, was raised to the Persian throne from a mean family, and from the rank of a common soldier. Though illiterate, he was famous for the justice and practical good sense of his administration. It is related in Macolm's history of Persia, that his majesty used to rehearse to his company the following curious piece of self-biography—"When I was a poor soldier," he often said, "in Nadir Shah's camp my necessity led me to steal, from a saddler, a gold embossed saddle, which had been sent by an Asghan Chief, to be repaired. I soon afterwards learnt the man, from whom it was taken, was in prison, and sentenced to be hung. My conscience smote me, and I replaced the saddle exactly on the place from which I took it. I waited till it was discovered to the saddler's wife, who, on seeing it, gave a scream of joy, fell down upon her knees and prayed aloud, that the person who brought it back might live to have an hundred gold embossed saddles. I am quite certain, he added, smiling, that the honest prayer of the old woman has aided my fortune in the attainment of that splendor which she desired I should enjoy."