Raftman's Journal.

BY S. B. ROW. CLEARFIELD, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1856. VOL. 2.--NO. 24.

THE BLIND BOY'S LOVE.

There is something mournfully beautiful and touching in the following lines, by John H. New, which we copy from the "Knickerbocker" for Dec.

Listen! oh list!—she is drawing near;
For her tiny step and brief
Falls softly on my strained ear,
As the rain on verdant leaf!

Why beats my heart so wildly now,
And starts my blood in fiercer flight,
And crimson necks and cheek and brow,
As skies, they say, when wings the night?

Why, e'en my tongue forgets its art,
And crouchet down, oppressed with fear,
As lilacs when the north winds part,
Or beasts when master cometh near.

Ah me! she has passed me like the breeze
With odors on the autumn plain,
Or like a skiff on southern seas,
When scarce a ripplet scars the main.

But, as a wreked one on the shore,
When Night has set her sentries pale,
Whose lowowed ear for evermore
Is filled with rustlings of a sail,

I stand abreathless, hearing yet
The murmuring of her fading flight,
While every sound is sweetly set
To the music of her foot-fall light.

But thou my Lucy! shalt never know
The all that, like the restless sea,
To thee shall ever ebb and flow,
Unending as eternity:

For how am I to dream of love—
Love, a twin to Beauty born,
When every songster of the grove,
Greets with his carol, as if the Morn?

Nay, no those lake-like eyes of thine
Should mirror back a face more fair
Than this poor, dark one, sad, of mine,
Where moody sits each full-browed Care.

Ar yet, my God! if for an hour
Thou'dst grant me in her eyes to gaze,
How cheerful would I yield the power
Of life itself through countless days!

A SKETCH OF THE PAST

We like to treasure up all the historical legends of our Revolutionary struggle. They are sketches of the past which grow more valuable as year after year passes by, and the incidents gather to become more and more [illegible] in the haze and mystery of [illegible]. The one which follows is full of interest and furnishes an instance of courage, [illegible] as any connected with the part taken by South Carolina in the events of those [illegible] times.

The patriotic enthusiasm which prevailed among the people during the siege of Augusta and Ninety-Six, prompted to numerous acts of [illegible] risk and sacrifice. This spirit, encouraged by the successes of Sumpter and others over the British arms, was earnestly fostered by General Green, whose direction marked at least the outline of every undertaking, and the efforts made to strike a blow at the invader's power, the sons of the Martin family were among the most distinguished for active service rendered, and for injuries sustained at the enemy's hands. The wives of the two eldest, during their absence, remained at home with their mother-in-law. One evening intelligence came to them that a company of the enemy, carrying important dispatches to one of the posts, excited stations, was to pass that night at a point on the road which they knew must pass. It was already late, and anxiously insulting [illegible] not waited long before the tramp of a body of men was heard in the distance. It may be [illegible] with what anxious expectation the approach of the enemy on which so much depended. The deepest solitude around them, the silence of the night, and the darkness, must have added to the terrors conjured up by busy fancy. Presently the courier appeared, with his attendant guards. As they came close to the spot the disguised women leaped from their covert in the bushes, presented their pistols at the riders, and demanded the instant surrender of the party and their despatches. The act was completely taken by surprise, and their prisoner attributed to the Earl of [illegible] one of the Paris [illegible] congress attributed [illegible] American [illegible] expedition [illegible] taken prisoner by a [illegible] was lost [illegible] by a [illegible]

The mother of this patriotic family was a native of Caroline county, Virginia. Her name was Elizabeth Marshall, and she was probably of the same family with Chief Justice Marshall, as she belonged to the same neighborhood. After her marriage to Abram Martin, she removed to the settlement, bordering on the Indian nation, in Ninety-Six, now Edgefield District, South Carolina. The country at that time was sparsely settled, most of its inhabitants being the officers from other States, chiefly from Virginia, and their neighborhood to the Indians had caused the adoption of some of their savage habits. The name of Edgefield is said to have been given, because it was at that period the edge or boundary of the respectable settlers and their cultivated fields. Civilization, however, increased with the population, and in the time of the Revolution, Ninety-Six was among the foremost in sending into the field its quota of hardy and enterprising troops to oppose the British and their savage allies.

At the commencement of the contest, Mrs. Marshall had nine children, seven of whom were sons old enough to bear arms. These brave young men, under the tuition and example of their parents, had grown up in attachment to their country, and ardently devoted to its service, were ready on every occasion to encounter the dangers of border warfare.—When the first call for volunteers sounded through the land, the mother encouraged their patriotic zeal.

"Go, boys," said she, "fight for your country!—fight till death, if you must, but never let your country be dishonored. Were I a man I would go with you."

At another time, when Col. Cruger commanded the British at Cambridge, and Colonel Brown at Augusta, several British officers stopped at her house for refreshment, and one of them asked how many sons she had. She answered—eight; and to the question where they all were, replied promptly:

"Seven of them are engaged in the service of their country."

"Really, madame," observed the officer, sneeringly, "you have enough of them."

"No, sir," said the matron, proudly, "I wish I had a score."

Her house in the absence of her sons was frequently exposed to the depredations of the Tories. On one occasion they cut open her feather beds, and scattered the contents.—When the young men returned shortly afterwards, their mother bade them pursue the marauders. One of the continental soldiers having been left at the house badly wounded, Mrs. Martin kindly attended and nursed him till his recovery. A party of the loyalists who heard of his being there, came with the intention of taking his life, but she found means to hide him from their search.

The only daughter of Mrs. Martin, Letitia, married Capt. Edward Wade, of Virginia, who fell with his commander, Gen. Montgomery, at the siege of Quebec. At the time of the siege of Charleston by Sir Henry Clinton, the widow was residing with her mother at Ninety-Six. Her son Washington Wade was then five years old, and remembered many occurrences connected with the war. The house was about 100 miles in a direct line west of Charleston. He recollects walking in the piazza on a calm evening with his grandmother. A light breeze blew from the east, and the sound of heavy cannon was distinctly heard in that direction. The sound of cannon heard at that time, and in that part of the State, they knew must come from the besieged city. As report after report reached their ears, the agitation of Mrs. Martin increased. She knew not what evils might be announced; she knew not but the sound might be the knell of her sons, three of whom were then in Charleston. Their wives were with her, and partook of the same heart chilling fears. They stood still for a few minutes, each wrapped in her own painful and silent reflections, till the mother at length, lifting her hands and eyes toward heaven, exclaimed fervently:—"thank God, they are the children of the Republic."

Of the seven patriotic brothers, six were spared through all the dangers of the partisan warfare in the region of the "dark and bloody ground." The eldest, Wm. M. Martin, was a captain of artillery; and after having served with distinction in the siege of Savannah and Charleston, was killed at the siege of Augusta, just after he had obtained a favorable position for his cannon, by elevating it on one of the towers constructed by Gen. Pickens. It is related that not long after his death, a British officer passing to Fort Ninety-Six, then in possession of the English, rode out of his way to gratify his hatred to the Whigs by carrying the fatal news to the mother of this gallant young man. He called at the house and asked Mrs. Martin if she had not a son in the army at Augusta. She replied in the affirmative. "Then I saw his brains blown out on the public battle," said the monster, who anticipated a triumph in the sighs of a parent's hearing. But the effect of the startling announcement was other than he expected. Terrible as the shock, and aggravated by the manner in which he said it, the fortitude with which her bereavement was borne was better [illegible] weakness was [illegible]

[illegible] the officer as he turned and rode away, is still remembered in the family tradition.

The eldest son married Grace Waring, of Dorchester, when she was but fourteen years of age. She was the daughter of Benjamin Waring, who afterwards became one of the earliest settlers of Columbia when established as the seat of government of the State. The principles of the Revolution had been taught her from childhood, and her efforts to promote its advancement were joined by those of her husband's family. She was one of the two who risked their lives to seize upon the dispatches as above stated. Her husband's untimely death left her with three young children—two sons and a daughter; but she never married again.

HISTORY OF EXCESSIVE WINTERS.

From Graham's Magazine, Jan. 1853.

In A. D. 401, the Black Sea was entirely frozen over.

In 462, the Danube was frozen, so that Theodomer marched over the ice to avenge his brother's death in Suabia.

In 545, the cold was so intense in winter that the birds allowed themselves to be caught by the hand.

In 763, not only the Black Sea, but the Strait of the Dardanelles was frozen over. The snow in some places rose fifty feet high, and the ice was so heaped in the cities as to push down the walls.

In 800 the winter was intensely cold.

In 822, the great rivers of Europe, such as the Danube, the Elbe, and the Seine, were so hard frozen as to bear heavy wagons for a month. In 860, the Adriatic was frozen.

In 874, the winter was very long and severe. The snow continued to fall from the beginning of November to the end of March, and encumbered the ground so much that the forests were inaccessible for the supply of fuel.

In 891, and again in 893, the vines were killed by the frost, and the cattle perished in their stalls.

In 991, the winter lasted very long with extreme severity. Everything was frozen; the crops totally failed; and famine and pestilence closed the year.

In 1044, great quantities of snow lay upon the ground. The vines and fruit-trees were destroyed, and famine ensued.

In 1067, the cold was so intense, that most of the travelers in Germany were frozen to death on the roads.

In 1121, the winter was uncommonly severe and the snow lay very long.

In 1133, it was extremely cold in Italy. The Po was frozen from Cremona to the sea; the heaps of snow rendered the roads impassable; the [illegible] were burst, and even trees split by the frost, with immense noise. In [illegible] snow was eight feet deep in Austria, and lay till Easter. The crops and vintage failed; and a great murrain consumed the cattle.

The winters of 1209 and 1210, were both of them very severe, insomuch that the cattle died for want of fodder.

In 1216, the Po froze fifteen ells deep, and wine burst the casks.

In 1234, the Po was again frozen; and loaded wagons crossed the Adriatic to Venice. A fine forest was killed by the frost at Ravenna.

In 1236, the Danube was frozen to the bottom, and remained for a considerable length of time in that state.

In 1269, the frost was most intense in Scotland, and the ground bound up. The Categat was frozen between Norway and Jutland.

In 1281, such quantities of snow fell in Austria as to bury the very houses.

In 1292, the Rhine was frozen over at Breysach, and bore loaded wagons. One sheet of ice extended between Norway and Jutland, so that travelers passed with ease; and in Germany 600 peasants were employed to clear away the snow for the advance of the Austrian army.

In 1305, the rivers in Germany were frozen; and much distress was occasioned by the scarcity of provisions and forage.

In 1316, the crops wholly failed in Germany. Wheat, which some years before sold in England at 2s. a quarter, now rose to £2.

In 1323, the winter was so severe, that both horse and foot passengers traveled over the ice from Denmark to Lubec and Dantzic.

In 1339, the crops failed in Scotland; and such a famine ensued that the poorer sort of people were reduced to feed on grass, and many of them perished miserably in the fields.—Yet in England, wheat was at this time sold so low as three shillings and fourpence a quarter.

In 1344, it was clear frost from November to March, and all the rivers in Italy were frozen over.

In 1392, the vineyards and orchards were destroyed by the frost, and the trees torn to pieces.

The year 1408 was one of the coldest winters ever remembered. Not only the Danube was frozen over, but the sea between Norway and Denmark; so that wolves, driven from their forests, came over the ice into Jutland. In France, the vineyards and orchards were destroyed.

In 1423, both the Nor[illegible] were frozen. Travelers [illegible] Lubec to Dantzic. In Fra[illegible] [illegible]ated into the cellars. Cor[illegible] [illegible]attle perished for [illegible] stabling, [illegible] at which he will [illegible]

[illegible] forty days without interruption. All the rivers in Germany were frozen; and the very birds took shelter in the towns. The price of wheat rose, in England, to twenty-seven shillings a quarter, but was reduced to five-shillings in the following year.

In 1460, the Baltic was frozen, and both foot and horse passengers crossed over the ice from Denmark and Sweden. The Danube, likewise, continued frozen two months; and the vineyards in Germany were destroyed.

In 1468, the winter was so severe in Flanders, that the wine distributed to the soldiers was cut in pieces with hatchets.

In 1544, the same thing happened again, the wine being frozen into solid lumps.

In 1548, the winter was very cold and protracted. Between Denmark and Rostock, sledges drawn by horses or oxen travelled over the ice.

In 1564, and again in 1565, the winter was extremely severe all over Europe. The Scheldt froze so hard as to support loaded wagons for three months.

In 1571, the winter was severe and protracted. All the rivers in France were covered with hard and solid ice; the fruit trees even in Languedoc were killed by the frost.

In 1594, the weather was so severe, that the Rhine and the Scheldt were frozen, and even the sea at Venice.

The year 1608 was uncommonly cold, and snow lay of immense depth even at Padua.—Wheat rose in the Windsor market from 36 to 56 shillings a quarter.

In 1621 and 1622, all the rivers of Europe were frozen, and even the Zuider Zee. A sheet of ice covered the Hellespont; and the Venetian fleet was choked up in the lagoons of the Adriatic.

In 1655, the winter was very severe, especially in Sweden. The excessive quantities of snow and rain which fell did great injury in Scotland.

The winters of 1658, 1659 and 1660 were intensely cold. The rivers in Italy bore heavy carriages; and so much snow had not fallen at Rome for several centuries. It was in 1658, that Charles X. of Sweden crossed the Little Belt over the ice from Holstein to Denmark, with his whole army, foot and horse, followed by the train of baggage and artillery. During these years the price of grain was nearly doubled in England; a circumstance which contributed, among other causes, to the Restoration.

In 1670, the frost was most intense in England and Denmark, both the Little and the Great Belt being frozen.

In 1684, the winter was excessively cold.—Forest trees, and even the oaks in England, were split by the frost. Most of the hollies were killed. Coaches drove along the Thames, which was covered with ice eleven inches thick. Almost all the birds perished.

In 1691, the cold was so excessive that the famished wolves entered Vienna, and attacked the cattle, and even men.

The winter of 1695 was extremely severe and protracted. The frost in Germany began in October, and continued till April; and many people were frozen to death.

The years 1697 and 1699 were nearly as bad. In England the price of wheat, which in preceding years had seldom reached to 30 shillings a quarter, now mounted to 73.

In 1709 occurred that famous winter, called by distinction the *cold winter*. All the rivers and lakes were frozen, and even the seas, to the distance of several miles from the shore. The frost is said to have penetrated three yards into the ground. Birds and wild beasts were strewed dead in the fields, and men perished by thousands in their houses. The more tender shrubs and vegetables in England were killed; and wheat rose in its price from two to four pounds a quarter. In the south of France, the olive plantations were almost entirely destroyed; nor have they yet recovered from that fatal disaster. The Adriatic Sea was quite frozen over, and even the coast of the Mediterranean about Genoa, and the citron and orange groves suffered extremely in the finest parts of Italy.

In 1716, the winter was very cold. On the Thames booths were erected, and fairs held. The printers and booksellers pursued their professions upon its surface.

1726, the winter was so intense that people traveled in sledges across the strait from Copenhagan to the province of Scania in Sweden.

In 1729, much injury was done by the frost, which lasted from October till May. In Scotland, multitudes of cattle and sheep were buried in the snow; and many of the forest trees in other parts of Europe were killed.

The successive winters of 1731 and 1732 were likewise extremely cold.

The cold of 1740 was scarcely inferior to that of 1709. The snow lay eight and ten feet deep in Spain and Portugal. The Zuider Zee was frozen over, and many thousand persons walked or skated on it. At Leyden, the thermometer fell 10 deg. below zero of Fahrenheit's scale. All the lakes in England froze; and a whole ox was roasted on the Thames. Many trees were killed by the frost; [illegible] were benumbed on their sad[illegible] [illegible] the years, 1709 and 1740, the [illegible] of the Church of S[illegible] [illegible] held on account [illegible] prevailed. [illegible] weeks with ice [illegible]

and at Erora, in Portugal, people could hardly creep out of their houses for heaps of snow.

The winters during the five successive years, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1748, and 1749, were all of them very cold.

In 1754 and 1755, the winter was particularly cold. At Paris, Fahrenhert's thermometer sank to the beginning of the scale; and in England, the strongest ale, exposed to the air in a glass, was covered, in less than a quarter of an hour, with ice an eighth of an inch thick.

The winters of 1766, 1767 and 1768, were very cold all over Europe. In France, the thermometer fell 6 deg. below the zero of Fahrenheit's scale. The large rivers and the most copious springs in many parts were frozen. The thermometer, laid on the surface of the snow at Glasgow, fell two degrees below zero.

In 1771 the snow lay very deep, and the Elbe was frozen to the bottom.

In 1776 much snow fell, and the cold was intense. The Danube bore ice five feet thick below Vienna. Wine froze in the cellars both in France and Holland. Many people were frost-bitten; and vast multitudes both of the feathered and of the finny tribes perished.—Yet the quantity of snow that lay upon the ground had checked the penetration of the frost. Van Swinden found, in Holland, that the earth was congealed to the depth of twenty-one inches, on a spot of a garden, which had been kept cleared, but only nine inches at another place near it, which was covered with four inches of snow.

The successive winters of 1784 and 1785 were uncommonly severe, insomuch that the Little Belt was frozen over.

In 1789 the cold was excessive; and again in 1795, when the republican armies of France overran Holland.

The successive winters of 1799 and 1800 were both very cold.

In 1809 the winter was remarkably severe.

In 1810 quicksilver was frozen hard at Moscow. But the winter of 1812 was beyond all question, the most severe of the present century; and was rendered memorable to all time by the sufferings of the French army during its retreat from Russia. Several winters, since that period, of more or less severity, have been mentioned in various cotemporaries. But the last winter, in the intense and prolonged severity of cold, exceeded any ever experienced in this country.

ABSTRACTS OF ANNUAL REPORTS.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.—The Report of the Post Master General shows a net increase of 862 post offices during the year ending 30th June, 1855—the whole number of offices at that date being 24,410, and on the 30th November, 24,770. On the 30th of June last there were 7,933 mail routes, at an estimated length of 277,908 miles. The total annual transportation of mails was 67,491,166 miles, costing $5,345,238. Compared with the service of the year previous, there is an increase of 3,397,025 miles of transportation, or of about 5½ per cent, and of $675,221 cost, or about 14 4-100 per cent. The increase by railroad service is 3,489,132 miles; by modes not specified, 3,575,177 miles—while the transportation by coaches is less by 2,325,628 miles, and by steamboat 1,335,656. This change results mainly from the reletting of contracts in many of the Southern and Western States and Territories. On the 30th of June last there were in service 319 route agents at a compensation of $235,170 65-100; 29 local agents at $19,328; and 981 mail messengers at $100,471 65, making a total of $354,970 90 to be added to the cost of transportation. This makes the total amount for the current year $5,824,980 20, which will probably be increased to $6,000,000 by new service and routes. The cost of foreign mail service, not included here, amounts to $611,467. The Postmaster states that on 3d April last, he concluded a contract with Mr. James F. Joy, to convey the mails from Cairo to New Orleans and back, daily, he having full powers to negotiate such contract on behalf of the Illinois Central Railroad, but though the latter used every exertion to comply with their engagement, they failed to do so from the high price demanded of them by the owners of the boats on the line, and the route was accordingly advertised for reletting.

The new distribution schemes have been completed, and each distributing office has now alphabetical lists of all the counties in all the States, except California. In [illegible] with the late act of Congress, suitable measures have been adopted to put in operation the new system of registering valuable letters, but it has not been sufficiently long in operation to be able to form a just estimate of the success of the plan. The Postmaster has, however, found abundant proofs of its usefulness, and of the necessity of bringing it to perfection.

The expenditures of the Department for the last fiscal year amount to $9,968,342, and the gross revenues derived from postages, (inland and foreign,) are $6,642,136 13, which, adding the annual appropriations made in compensation of mail service to the government, by the acts of 3d March, 1849, and 3d March, 1851, amount to $7,342,136 13. Deducting the balance against the United States due to Foreign Powers, for postal accounts, from the above, deducting foreign balances, amounted to $6,816,651 81, making a difference in favor of 1855 of $518,519 10. The excess of expenditure for 1855 over that of 1854, is $2,626,206 16. This excess is attributed partly to the increase in compensation to Postmasters and clerks of office, and partly to the increase of expenditures for transportation owing to the great extension of the railroad service. The condition of the Department goes to show that the rates fixed by the act of 3d March, 1851, will not enable the Department to support itself by its own resources.

Another cause of this excess [illegible] is attributed to the letters and do[illegible] ried free of charge for members of [illegible] and others, and to the immense [illegible] printed matter conveyed at [illegible] Postmaster General thinks that [illegible] of fifty per cent. for advance payment [illegible] papers, is wholly without justification. [illegible] so recommends that pre-payment by stamps be made compulsory on all kinds of matter. The expenditure of the Department for 1856, is estimated at $10,199,024, and the means available for the same year, $9,010,874, leaving a deficiency of $1,188,151, to be provided for.

Reference is again made to the fact that the Collins line of steamers receives from the Government $858,000 for twenty-six trips, while the British Government paid the Cunard line $866,700 for fifty-two trips, which, in the opinion of the Postmaster-General, is amply sufficient. Measures have been recently laid before the Mexican Government [illegible] on the subject of a postal convention. Report alludes at some length to the last Report of the Postmaster General of Great Britain, and concludes by deprecating the denunciation of the Department for mistakes, carelessness, or neglect, instead of advising it of the wrong committed, and leaving it to apply the remedy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—Mr. McClelland devotes a large space of his report to a consideration of the Indian question. His views are clearly expressed, and a number of recommendations are submitted.

The Indian chiefs and warriors, addicted to drinking and gambling, are made the dupes of evil-disposed persons. The system of granting licenses to traders [illegible] of all the evils of which complaint is made. It is necessary to abolish the cash system of payments, and enable the Indian to obtain all he requires at cost price, if we mean to remedy the trouble, or to civilize and enlighten the savage. A study of the history of the Indians, in connection with the conduct of the whites towards them, reveals the fact that Indian disturbances are often traceable to the indiscretions and aggressions of the white men. Upon this point the report enlarges. Never before has the Indian been subjected to such severe trials and hardships; the offences of which he is guilty are too often palliated by extreme want. All this impresses the necessity of kindness and forbearance; and accordingly the Secretary suggests the propriety of attempting to civilize and christianize the Red Men. He alludes to the amount of good that has been effected by missionary enterprise, and discovers in the Indian a susceptibility of improvement and civilization, which renders it a duty to persevere in all humane efforts to preserve the race from extinction. In this particular, Mr. McClelland and Col. Davis are of two minds. The statistics of this report cover much space. The principal figures are:

Acres of land sold last fiscal year,	8,720,474
Amount received therefor,	$2,358,918
Lands surveyed in 1855, acres,	15,315,283
Lands sold,	6,264,163
Land warrants issued,	37,958,412
Virginia military land warrants,	1,460,000
Pensioners,	14,48[illegible]
Pensions paid,	$1,505,112
Patents issued since Jan. 1, 1855,	1,80[illegible]
Patent Office Building,	$1,600,00[illegible]
Expend. National Insane Hospital,	171,3[illegible]
Indian stock, now held,	2,03[illegible]
Surplus fund of the Department,	[illegible]

The business of the General Land Office [illegible] greatly increased. The surveys have been vigorously prosecuted, and a large quantity of land is ready to be brought into market the coming year.

[illegible]ATION OF CHINA.—Boring, the [illegible] Envoy to China, has made a report [illegible] tal statistics of China, giving that [illegible] population of 400,000,000. Kiang-[illegible] gest of the eighteen provinces, has [illegible] tion of over 37,000,000.

A constable pursued a thief, who [illegible] fuge on a stump in a swamp, and [illegible] rail after him on which he went [illegible] constable made the following retu[illegible] table—conversible—non est con[illegible] swamp um—up stumpum—ratio[illegible]

THE COLORED POPULATION OF [illegible] At a recent convention of [illegible] at Sacramento, the total colo[illegible] California was estimated [illegible] gregate in [illegible]

A back color advertised [illegible] one [illegible]

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