

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."

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AND SHAMOKIN JOURNAL.

Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.—JEFFERSON.

By Masser & Eisely.

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STANZAS.

To the billow-borne pilgrim, Alone on the seas, How sweet comes the perfume Of land with the breeze!

New Lullabies for Old Nurses.

Hey! diddle, diddle! The Bank and Biddle! Nothing's left in the dish but the spoon!

Extracts of Readings.

In Turkey, the law, which condemns the murderer to death, permits at the same time the nearest relations of the murdered, (one of whom is, on these occasions, the executioner) to grant him a pardon.

A Turk, in haste to inherit, had murdered his father, and was condemned, on the strongest proofs, to lose his head. One of his friends, the companion of his debaucheries, hastened to him to judge with a large sum of money; where he learned that the sentence had been already pronounced.

A curious anecdote is told respecting the late inhabitant of Chonocou, belonging to the family of Villeneuve; which, if any thing can justify suicide, certainly does. Monsieur de V\*\*\* was cast into prison during the revolution, in common with most of the other respectable people of France, at a moment when every person who had the misfortune to be a nobleman was, if apprehended, led to the guillotine.

he only shortened the period of his existence by a few hours. These considerations were so powerful in his mind, that he effected his destruction with a razor, and thus secured his property to his children.—[Williams' Travels thro' France.

VIVACITY seems to be the common property of every Frenchman, and never did it appear more striking than in the following circumstance: Upon an English surgeon's some years since visiting an hospital at Paris, he saw in one of the wards three Frenchmen who had received some very severe contusions by the fall of a scaffold a few days before, lying in bed; upon approaching them he found one dead, another dying, and the one in the middle sitting upright in the bed, fiddling to several invalids, who were dancing at the foot of it as well as they were able.—Carr's Travels through Holland, &c.

M. Boudou—This eminent surgeon was one day sent for by the Cardinal du Bois, prime minister to France, to perform a very serious operation upon him. The cardinal, on seeing him enter the room, said to him, 'you must not expect sir, to treat me in the same rough manner as you treat your poor miserable wretches at your hospital of the Hotel Dieu.' 'My, lord,' replied M. Boudou with great dignity, 'every one of those miserable wretches, as your eminence is pleased to call them, is a prime minister in my eyes.'—[Supplement to Anecdotes of distinguished Persons.

Vegetable Diet.

There cannot be a doubt that the diet of the Irish is highly favorable to vivacity and talent. It is stated in the Code of Health, that "vegetable food has a happy influence on the mind, and tends to preserve delicacy, a liveliness of imagination, and an acuteness of judgment, seldom enjoyed by those who live principally upon animal food. The latter is better calculated for those who labor with the body; but the celebrated Franklin ascertained that a vegetable diet promoted clearness of ideas and quickness of thought, and that a transition from vegetable to animal food produces injurious effects. A friend states that he has more than once selected from his tenants' children a boy remarkable for that smartness of intelligence so common in the Irish youth, while in the capacity of errand boys on the farm, or helpers in the stables, and before they became pampered with better food than their parents' cabin afforded. The lads were at first lively and intelligent, and displayed a degree of shrewdness exceeding what is generally met with from youths of a more exalted walk of life in England. But he invariably found that in proportion as these boys were better fed, they relaxed in activity, became dull and stupid; and he is confident the change in disposition sprung from the effect of change in diet, and was not owing to corruption of mind from their intercourse with other servants. In fact, they lose all that vivacity of manner so inherent in the Irish boys, whether born in the vast bog of Allan, or in the dry and rocky countries of Mayo and Galway. He is therefore inclined to think that the character of the people does not depend so much upon climate or soil, as upon food, for no part of the globe can differ more than these parts of that kingdom. A potatoe diet is found greatly to improve the quality of the blood. Hence roasted potatoes have been successfully employed as a specific against the sea scurvy, when other remedies have failed.—Sir John Sinclair.

Preservation of Bacon.

Messrs. Editors.—As the season is rapidly approaching when all good house-wives feel a natural solicitude for the preservation of their bacon, permit me to inform such of your readers as may not be apprised of the fact, that by white-washing their bacon, they can preserve it, perhaps, more economically and effectually, than by adopting any of the various modes which have been recommended for this purpose. A respectable neighbor of mine has saved his bacon in this way for the last twenty years, without the loss of a single piece. Early in the spring, after his meat is well cured, he gives his bacon a good coat of white-wash, with the common brush, on the fleshy side and on the ends of the hocks, sprinkling a small quantity of fine ashes on the moist whitewash, and hangs it up again in his smokehouse, where it is permitted

to remain until it is taken down for use. The process does not injure the meat in the slightest degree. It owes its efficacy, obviously, to the fact that the hard crust it forms over the bacon, prevents the fly from depositing its eggs in it. Any other means, which would exclude the fly from all access to the meat, such as burying it in salt, oats, &c., would, of course be equally effectual.

Never wound your meat until you use it, for the fly will be sure to deposit its eggs in the wound. A friend of mine lost a number of hams last summer, in consequence of his wife's thrusting a knife into them to ascertain their quality.

To preserve meat well, a smoke-house should be roomy, dry, cool, and dark, and yet sufficiently open to permit a free circulation of air, otherwise your bacon will be soft, damp, and rancid. On this account, wooden smoke-houses are greatly preferable to those constructed of brick and stone.

It is a great, yet very prevalent error, to smoke bacon in wet damp weather; for by smoking it at such seasons, the "sweat" which then collects upon this meat, and which has a peculiarly disgusting taste, is driven into it and dried upon it, and impairs its flavor. Smoke only in dry weather. If your meat is well cured, the only use of smoking in summer time, is to expel the fly from the house.

If any of your readers smack their lips as heartily as I do over a good old Virginia ham, that fairly melts in your mouth, they will not fail to observe these plain directions for the preservation of their bacon.—Cultivator.

Useful Receipts.

FOR KEEPING APPLES THROUGH THE WINTER.—Gather them without bruising, and after they have laid a few days to sweat, barrel them, putting a little dry straw at the top and bottom and around the edges in the barrel; let the barrels lay in a dry place in the air, till if unpacked they would freeze, (whether they freeze in the barrel or not I do not know) then put the barrels in a dark cellar to use when you shall think desirable. I have kept apples in this way till in August, and on one occasion till I gathered winter apples the next year.

TO KILL LICE ON CATTLE.—Feed them a quantity of sulphur, a small dose at a time, mixed with cut roots or other feed. It will affect the blood and kill lice.

TO CURE THE BOTS IN HORSES.—Pour down the horse a quarter of a pound of alum dissolved in a pint of water, (milk warm) in five or ten minutes after pour down him a pint of Linseed oil or other mild active purgative; in ten minutes the horse will rise and eat.

CURE FOR CORNS.—A subscriber to your valuable paper told me a few days since how he had cured several corns, which had compelled him to wear mo-casins. He paired them off with a sharp knife, bathed them freely with Spts. Turpentine, and laid upon them a linen cloth which he frequently wet with turpentine. In a few days the corns came out root and branch, to the great relief of the sufferer. The remedy is simple, attainable by all, and from its effectual cure in the case cited, is worthy of a trial by such as are suffering from these painful visitants. J. R. S.

TO RELIEVE BLOATED CATTLE WITHOUT FAIL.—Take about a wine glass full of powder, mix it with cold hog's lard, make it into balls and put it down the creature, and commence driving it about, and it will very soon relieve the patient. I have seen the above remedy applied frequently, and have never known it to fail.—Cultivator.

TO RELIEVE CHOKED CATTLE AND HORSES.—Raise the fore feet to relax the muscles of the leg; then tie a bit of whip chord, drum line or other strong string round the arm just above the knee; let go the foot, and if the horse or cow does not put it to the ground, a quick stroke with the whip will make it do so, and the operation is performed, and the animal relieved. But how? He will be relieved, I tell you, and that is sufficient. My crude notion is, the pressure of the hard chord on the nerves in the arm, create the same sickening sensation in the animal that a stroke on the elbow causes in the man, the nausea relaxes the muscles of the throat, and the exertion of the animal caused by the pain acting at the same time, causes it to throw off the substance with which it is choked.—Nashville Agriculturist.

Corn.—Some of the largest crops of corn of which we have any account, were raised on green sword, and the seed was planted in drills. It is some more work to cultivate corn in drills than in hills, but the crop will be larger, and this is an important advantage, where land is dear.

If the rows of corn roll from north to south, the land will be more exposed to the sun after the plants are high; this will of course be beneficial to a crop that requires much heat, as is the case with corn.

In ploughing, it is necessary that the sod be turned completely over, and shut in close, that the gases produced by fermentation of the vegetable matter may not escape, but pervade the whole mass of active soil, and enrich it.

If a part of the manure be coarse and the other fine, the coarse should be spread on before ploughing, and turned under, and the fine put on top, and thoroughly mixed with the soil by harrowing. Numerous experiments show that the crop of corn will generally be better if the manure be spread, than if it be put in the hill. It is less labor to spread it, and better for the soil, as it will be more evenly distributed.—Yankee Farmer.

DISCOVERY OF THE EFFECT OF PLASTER ON LAND.—Professor Leibeg, of Giessen, has discovered that snow and rain water always contains ammonia; hence its presence in the atmosphere. Plaster, (sulphate of lime,) forms this ammonia in the soil, and keeps it there to stimulate and feed vegetation, in the same manner as lime prevents the escape of other fertilizing gasses, from animal and vegetable manure.—Seneca.

The Rev. J. Piermont gives the following description of the horrid tyranny of the British Government.—

The sanguinary war by which Great Britain has subjugated the hundred millions of India, and stern despotism with which she rules and starves them, that her merchant princes may roll in splendor and lap themselves in voluptuousness, have a voice which the whole thickness of the globe cannot keep out of our ears. "A more beautiful country," says a brother clergyman recently of this city "than that from Cuddalore to Tanjore (in Madras) cannot possibly be imagined. The dense population and rich soil give their energies to each other, and produce a scene of surpassing loveliness. But the taxes and other causes keep down the laborers to a state below our Southern slaves." "Turn your eyes backward," says a speaker of their own, no longer ago than last September, "turn your eyes backward upon the scenes of last year. Go with me into the northwest provinces of the Bengal Presidency, and I will show you the bleaching skeletons of five hundred thousand human beings, who perished for hunger in the space of a few short months. Yes; died for hunger in what has been justly called the granary of the world. The air for miles was poisoned with the effluvia emitted from the putrifying bodies of the dead. The rivers were choked with the corpses thrown into their channels. Mothers cast their little ones beneath the rolling waves, because they would not see them draw their last gasp, and feel them stiffen in their arms. Jackals and vultures approached and fattened upon the bodies of men, women, and children before life was extinct. Madness, disease, and despair stalked abroad, no human power present to arrest their progress. And this occurred in British India, in the reign of Victoria the First. Nor was the event extraordinary unforeseen. Far from it. 1835 witnessed a famine in the northern province. 1833 beheld one in the eastern. 1822 saw one in the Deccan. They have continued to increase in frequency and extent under our sway, for more than half a century." Under the Administration of Lord Clive, a famine in the Bengal provinces swept off three millions; and at that time the British speculators in India had their granaries filled to repletion with corn. Horrid monopoly of the necessities of life! Three millions died, while there was food enough, and to spare, locked up in the store-house together. To add to the horror with which he had been called upon to regard the last dreadful famine, (that of the last year,) we are made acquainted by the returns of the custom-house, with the fact that as much grain was exported from the lower parts of Bengal, as would have fed the half million who perished, for a whole year. Yet this awful oppression and these desolating famines must go on, that England may extort a hundred millions of dollars every year, from her hundred millions of Hindoos; and popples must grow instead of wheat, that at her cannon's mouth, she may force her opium upon the three hundred millions of the Chinese, while some one solitary Marshman, perhaps, is translating the Bible of the Christians, to bring these countless millions to accept the religion of a nation that stands ready at this moment to destroy one half of them by war, that it may destroy the other half by poison."

With such rapidity and to such a degree was the water heated that the following day (June 5th,) the fish floated when dead, as far as Keaua, fifteen miles distant, where the water was hot to the touch.

Doctor Green's Cure for Drunkenness. "Whenever you feel an inclination to drink spiritous liquor, (grog,) drink cool fresh water. This is an effectual cure; and in a very short time you will make a sober man out of the greatest drunkard. Drunkenness (says the Doctor) is a disease of the stomach, and cool water is the remedy; for the goodness of Providence has placed by the side of every disease its appropriate remedy; and by the side of every evil its appropriate goods. Let us be thankful.—Exchange Paper.

The above is very good and we have no doubt that it will prove effectual, but it does not seem to be as easy put in practice as a remedy which we once heard an old Quaker recommend to a man who was sorely afflicted with intemperance. He had been exhorting the taper to leave off the pernicious habit and was asked by him how he could govern himself. It is just as easy, replied the Quaker, as to open thy hand. Agreed then, said the other—now for your prescription. Well, said the Quaker, when thou findest a glass, or any other intoxicating liquor in thy hand, open the hand thou hast it in before it reaches thy mouth, and thou wilt never again be intoxicated. The prescription was so simple and so obviously feasible, that the taper was a teetotal no more.—Baltimore Republican.

CORROSIVE STRENGTH OF VARIOUS METALS. Bar Iron one inch square will sustain 76,400 lbs. Cast Iron, 18,656 " Brass, 35,600 " Ash or Elm, 6,000 " Rope one inch in diameter, 3,150 "

Splendid Eruption of a Volcano.

We are indebted, says the Newark Daily Advertiser, to an officer of the Exploring Expeditions for files of the Polyesian, a useful little paper published at the Sandwich Islands; and transfer the following extract from a full account of the late remarkable volcano eruption, which was briefly referred to by our correspondent in a late letter, as having been witnessed by the officers of the squadron:

Several days before the eruption, smoke was seen by the natives rising from the direction where the lava afterwards burst out, but it was attributed to brush on fire, at two o'clock on Sunday, the last day of May, a bright light was seen from Hillo toward the South, which spread with great rapidity, and increased to such an intensity that it was immediately attributed to a volcano eruption. This the reports of the natives soon confirmed. It was judged to be thirty miles distant, and at night such the brilliancy of the light, that the finest print could be easily read at that distance. This moon-tide brightness converting night into day, continued for two weeks, and is represented by eye witnesses to have been a spectacle of unsurpassed sublimity. It was like the glare of a firmament on fire, and was seen for upwards of a hundred miles at sea. It also rose and spread itself above the lofty mountain peaks, so as to be distinctly visible on the leeward side of the island, where the wind drove the smoke in dense massy clouds.

The lava continued flowing towards the sea which it reached on Thursday, four days from its first egress. At times it would rush forward with a velocity of four or five miles per hour, but for a short distance only, then become very sluggish, and move heavily and slowly on. Its general movement was in immense semi-circular masses, owing to its great consistency. These would roll on, gradually accumulating, until the mass had become too heavy to hold itself together, while the exterior was partially cooled and solidified; then bursting, the liquid interior flowing out would join a new stream, and thus aid in forming another. By these accelerated progressive movements, the wave-like ridges were formed, which are every where observable on the older currents. At times, it forced its way under the circumjacent soil, presenting the singular appearance of earth, rocks and trees in motion like the swell of the ocean. Mr. C. was standing near the stream and watching its progress, when the land beneath him began to rise, and in a few minutes he was ten feet above his companions, who were but a short distance from him.—He had barely time to leave the dangerous situation when the earth opened, and lava gushed out. The color of the whole stream was of the deepest crimson. On the windward side its heat was not so powerful, but that persons could approach and plunge sticks into the fiery mass and draw forth specimens. So great was its viscosity, that large rocks were seen floating down the current, like cork upon water. In one night the stream spread from a few rods to half a mile in width.

The spectacle when this burning mass reached the sea, must have been awful and sublime in the highest degree. The conflict between the two antagonist powers, fire and water, was on a scale which the eye of man seldom witnesses. The heavens were lit up in one intense blaze, while streams of fire like lightning glanced about in every direction. Ashes and sand were thrown to a great height into the air, and descended for miles distant in showers of fire spray. Volumes of smoke and steam rolled heavily up, rendering the lurid glare still more powerful while the heavy detonations and loud reports of exploding gases, and the roar of the conflicting elements were distinctly heard twenty-five miles off, like discharges of artillery.

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Can she spin?

This question was asked by King James 1st when a young girl was presented to him, and the person who introduced her, boasted of her proficiency in the ancient languages. "I can insure your Majesty," said he, "that she can both speak and write Latin, Greek and Hebrew." "These are rare attainments for a damsel," said James, "but pray, tell me, can she spin?"

Many of the young ladies of the present day can boast of their skill in the fine arts and polite accomplishments, in music, painting, dancing, but can they spin? or what is perhaps more appropriate to the times and the modern improvements in labor-saving machinery, it may be asked, can they perform the domestic duties of a wife? Do they understand the management of household affairs? Are they capable of superintending, in a judicious, prudent and economical manner, the concerns of a family?

A young lady may be learned in the ancient and modern languages, may have made extraordinary proficiency in every branch of literature; this is all very well, and very creditable, and, to a certain class of the community, who are not obliged, as was St. Paul, "to labor with their own hands," is all that is absolutely requisite, but to a much larger portion of the community, it is of far greater consequence to know whether they can spin?

It is of more importance to a young mechanic, or merchant, or one of any other class of people who depend upon their own industry and exertions, if he marries a wife, to have one who knows how to spin or to perform other domestic duties, than one whose knowledge does not extend beyond a great proficiency in literature and fine arts.

It has often been said that the times are strangely altered; and certain it is that the people are. It was once thought honorable to be constantly employed in some useful avocation; but now-days it is thought more honorable to be idle. People complain of high prices of all the necessaries of life, and with much truth. But if the amount of idleness could be calculated accurately throughout the community, allowing the drones half price for the services which they might perform, and which others are paid for, might be a safe calculation to estimate it equal to all that is expended for provisions and marketing in the United States. So it is not a little inconsistent to hear parents complain about the price of provisions, while they bring up their daughters to walk the streets and expend money!

Let the fair daughters of our country imitate the industrious of the past. The companions of those who fought in the Revolution were inured to hardships, and accustomed to necessary toil, and thus did they educate their daughters. Health, contentment, and plenty smiled around the family altar. The damsel who understood most thoroughly and economically the management of domestic affairs, and was not afraid to put her hands into the wash-tub, or to "lay hold of the distaff," for fear of destroying their elasticity, and dimming their snowy whiteness, was sought by the young men of the day as a fit companion for life, but in modern times to learn the mysteries of the household was to make our fair ones faint away; and to labor contented into the code of modern gentility.

Industry and frugality will lead to cheerfulness and contentment, and a contented wife tends greatly to soften the asperities and smooth the rough path in man's journey through life. It has been truly said, a pleasant cheerful wife is a rainbow in a blue sky, when the husband's mind is tossed with storm and tempest; but a dissatisfied and fretful wife in the hour of trouble, is like a thunder-cloud charged with electric fluid.

A melancholy instance of the uncertainty of this accumulative evidence occurred at Gibraltar last February. A wealthy English merchant of that place named James Boxwell, was convicted upon the kind of testimony, of the murder of his own daughter. On proceeding to the place of execution, he recognized an Englishman named John Keats, who had been active in procuring his conviction, where he forgave for his hostility, as he desired to die in peace with all the world. Keats seemed much affected by this, and just as the sentence of the law was about to be executed, cried out, "It is I! I am guilty, and not the convict." A great sensation was produced by this exclamation, when Keats came forward and fully confessed his guilt. The rope was immediately taken from the neck of his victim, and the esp from his face, but it was all too late. The wretched father was a corpse—having died of grief and terror! Keats was taken to jail amid the execration of the multitude, who were with difficulty restrained from tearing him to pieces.

CONSISTENCY.—Some person advertised lately in the Sun, for a person of good moral character as a partner in the business of making rum, brandy and gin out of common whiskey, without distilling.

TRAVELLING GRATIS.—A fellow without money having a considerable distance to travel, fastened a chain and padlock to his legs, and lay down in a field. He was apprehended on suspicion of being a convict, and conveyed gratis to a jail in the town whither he desired to go.

JIM CROW'S LAST.—One of Jim Crow Rice new verses, on the contemplated expedition from England, to rescue McLeod. He says— "Dey talk of sending ten line of battle ships, Which I rather 'spect they'll do, But dey better send ten more of em, To fetch dem cullins too."