

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."

HENRY B. MASSER, PUBLISHERS AND JOSEPH EISELY, PROPRIETORS.

H. B. MASSER, Editor.

[OFFICE IN MARKET STREET, NEAR DEER.]

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From the New York American.

King Alfred and the Pilgrim.

Beneath a humble forest shed
The monarch sat with grief oppressed;
Scarce could the holy page he read
Give comfort to his troubled breast.

For from his brow the ruthless Dane,
His old ancestral crown had torn,
His realm laid waste, his people slain,
He roved a wanderer forlorn.

He raised his eyes—before him stood
A pilgrim clad in sober grey,
His face half hidden by his hood,
As if he shunned the light of day.

For ams he begged, nor begged in vain,
Though scant, in sooth, was Alfred's fare,
A loaf and tank. Without disdain,
Of each he gave an equal share.

"Happy the man," exclaimed the chief,
"How'er by want or care oppressed,
Whom God permits to give relief
To some still poorer, care worn breast."

While thus he spoke the Pilgrim's form
Gleamed all at once divinely bright,
Till like a mist before the storm,
It vanished softly from his sight.

Again that night, as, all alone,
In dreams the exiled monarch lay,
The pilgrim's form before him shone,
Not now disguised in vestment grey.

By the bedside he took his stand,
His eyes with heavenly lustre glowing,
A bishop's crozier in his hand,
His saintly robe around him flowing.

"I am St. Cuthbert's holy shade,
To whom thou gavest both bread and wine;
Though all thy hives seem now to fade,
The saints still watch o'er thee and thine."

"Know that the Lord I serve hath said
"To-morrow's sun shall end thy woes,
"To-morrow, rising from this bed,
"Thou shalt go forth to slay thy foes."

The vision fled, at dawn of day;
Through heavenly aid now bolder grown—
A few short months had rolled away,
When Alfred sat upon his throne. C. E. A.

From the Farmer's Cabinet.

Quince Trees.

The time for planting trees being near, I take the liberty of recommending to farmers, to cultivate the quince trees more extensively than they have hitherto done, both for pleasure and profit. Quinces in the Philadelphia market sell for from two to six dollars per bushel, according to the quality. I have never known them to sell for less than twenty-five cents the bushel, and fine ones have often sold three times that price. The great demand for them is for preserving, for which purpose every house-keeper values their value. But for drying to eat with dried apples or peaches, they possess a value unrivalled by any other fruit; the superior flavor communicated by them to pies, can only be appreciated by those who have tasted of their excellence when used in that way. The quince is more easily cultivated than most other fruit trees; they grow in the slip, if the soil is moist; may be propagated from suckers, or by cutting, or any of the usual methods propagating fruit trees. They are hardy, do not shade the ground much, are not as liable to injury from the ice as many other trees; and to own all, the fruit, either green or red, always sells readily for a high price. Now, what should prevent a farmer from having twenty, fifty or a hundred of these valuable trees set out on his fences, where they would not only be a handsome annual revenue, to increase his library, or help to procure outfit for a son or daughter, when they are about to quit the paternal manor, for a settlement in life on their own account.

I would particularly recommend the extensive cultivation of the quince to the Ohio and Western Pennsylvania farmers. If they are brought to the Philadelphia market in a dried state, they will bring five times as much as dried apples, and the carriage would be the same; they would sell at once, and lay on hand for a long time, as the dried apples often have done, and then been sold for a trifle, hardly sufficient to pay transportation, storage and commissions. Think of it, and act promptly; there is no mistake about it. Feb. 27, 1838. MARIA.

The consumption of gas in London is now reckoned at nearly 9,000,000 of cubic feet in every 24 hours, giving at an equal to four hundred thousand pounds weight of tallow candles.

SUNBURY AMERICAN.

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 & Elsely.

Sunbury, Northumberland Co. Pa. Saturday, June 19, 1841.

Vol. I—No. XXXIX.

From the Baltimore Ocean.

An Extract from my Journal, No. 3.

"Who would not brave the battle fire—the wreck
To move the monarch of her people's deck."

THE BRITISH QUEEN—A SCENE ON BOARD.

It was in the month of November, 1840. The British Queen, one of the largest and strongest steam ships, had been laboring for some days against storms and heavy seas. The waves had been rolling mountains high; the cross seas were breaking on her bows, and the high wind was dead ahead, and every minute the vessel "shipped a sea," pouring tons of water even to the quarter deck. All that skill and activity could effect upon the part of our generous commander,* joined to the tremendous power of our mighty steam engines, could scarcely succeed in preserving our course. The torrents of rain that were thrown down from the lowering sky upon our decks, added to the melancholy gloom of our prospects.

Flushed with the hope of a short passage, we had left the English shores a few days before, amid shouts of joy and with confident anticipations; how changed the scene which a succession of storms, head winds, and high seas had brought with them. The anxious looks of the passengers, as the noble vessel rode upon the mountain waves and pitched forward, with a tremendous jar, as if for the last time; or as the foaming water broke upon her prow, threatening to tear asunder every timber in the ship, were living evidences that it was a trying time with all who had trusted themselves on the "great deep." Our commander had been pacing with hurried steps the poop deck for three days successively, (interrupted only by the occasional hour's sleep which nature required,) applying ever and anon the glass to his watchful eye, and looking from time to time at the still cloudy horizon. It was about noon of the fourth day of storm and head winds, that one of the more seaworthy passengers thought he deserved at a distance a vessel under "bare poles." The captain's glass added to the information that she had a portion of a sail tied to the sail as a "signal of distress." This news spread among the passengers, and the tidings that a wreck was to be seen at some miles to the windward, were speedily conveyed to the state rooms. In a few minutes all who could summon up strength sufficient were on the upper deck, straining their vision to make out the character of the vessel, and to determine whether any living being was on board the unfortunate wreck. Few remained below—the intense interest excited on board drove away sea sickness, and engrossed every other feeling; the upper deck was crowded. As we moved on, the commander thought he perceived somebody on board waving, and judging from the appearance of the head dress, through his telescope, he concluded that this being was a female, and the only living creature on board. For a moment he deliberated with himself whether it would be prudent—indeed, whether it would be safe, with the sea running at that time and a strong wind blowing from the quarter in which the wreck lay, to risk the lives of half a dozen of the best sailors, and some of the ship's officers in so dangerous an enterprise, as the doubtful experiment of rescuing a single individual. He who has never been at sea, can have but little conception of the feelings elicited by the appearance of a sail in sight, after some days absence from land, with nothing but the sky and endless ocean to look upon. A deep sense of the mutual and imminent danger to which they are both exposed at every moment, binds them together in sympathy, and they feel as if some safety were derived from their momentary proximity; with longing eyes each passenger follows the bark as she separates from his vessel, and is lost in the distance, and a cast of melancholy shades his brow, as he turns his back upon the last glimpse of her shadow. How much slighter must be the impression he can fancy to himself of the intense anxiety, the deep and oppressive interest which every man on board must feel, when the sail in sight is the sad remnant of a wreck, dashed about at the mercy of wind and wave, with every sea breaking over the lofty bulwarks, and washing from the decks every thing valuable to the safety of the unfortunate individuals who may yet be struggling for life. He sees the poor

shipwrecked mariner, by the last exertion of his remaining strength, still hoping, make an effort to wave his signal of distress, and prudence, nay humanity, forces him to hesitate whether he ought to risk so fearfully the valuable lives of seven men for the doubtful preservation of one person. His duty almost forbids it!

The hesitation was but momentary: the rising of the steamer on the top of the next wave, satisfied the captain that there was another human being yet alive on board the wreck, and he ordered the gangway to be cleared, and the life boat lowered. With what noble rivalry did the sailors press towards the weather side of the ship in their desire to be selected to man the Life Boat. The boat was manned; the second officer of the ship jumped on board, and with practiced skill she was lowered into the water and cleared in safety. We were about two miles distant from the wreck. The wind was still blowing, the sea raging, and the storm but slightly abated. Not a yard of canvass was to be seen, except one double reefed topsail, required to steady the enormous steamer. The steam itself was suffered to escape, from time to time, as we moved round the wrecked vessel, keeping at about the same distance. As the small boat gradually moved onward toward the destined object, by the powerful exertions of the sinewy sailors, plying with might and main at their oars, it was lost ever and anon from the sight of the solicitous passengers, as the waves rose and fell. It was painful to behold the anxiety with which those on board watched the Life Boat struggling on. The whole soul of each individual seemed to be wrapt up in the safety of the risked crew, as he leant over the side of the ship and followed with strained eye, their movements. Intensity of pent-up feeling was marked on the countenance of all: a dead silence prevailed, and there was not one amongst that assemblage of passengers, whose feelings were not pure and holy, during the dreadful time of uncertainty from the lowering of the Life Boat to its safe arrival within reach of the wreck, and whose prayers were not silently offered up for the safe and successful return of our bold mariners. By dint of exertion the wreck is made, and then came, as was afterwards learned, the most difficult part of the duty. The poor, unfortunate wretches on the wreck, excited into exertion by the returning hope of safety, passed towards the side in which the Life Boat was coming, and prepared by one desperate and last effort of remaining strength, to jump, in a body, on board. To avoid this, which would have inevitably capsize the Life Boat, the ship's officer was obliged to pass under the lee-bow and forbid them through his trumpet, from attempting any such rash movement, under pain of being left to their fate. One by one they were received on the boat; to us, on the steamer, it was the work of an instant, and we saw her leaving the wreck behind, nearing the steamer. She approached, and we began to distinguish the men on board. Five minutes more, and the stifled feelings of an hour's most intense anxiety, burst forth in one loud and universal shout of joy, as five thin, emaciated and strengthless men were safely placed on the ship's deck. One of them younger than the rest, the only one whose strength was not completely exhausted, unwilling to wait for the lowering of the steps, and too impatient of once more gaining comparative safety, climbed up the side of the ship. He too was the first to jump on board the Life Boat, and the first who left the steamer at New York. They were carried on the backs of some of our sailors into the forward cabin, and consigned to the care of the ship's doctor. We once more took our course, and steered for the shores of America.

When the men had sufficiently recovered to be able to converse, they reported themselves to be the captain and four of the crew of the brig Margaret, of Leith, bound from New Brunswick to Scotland, and laden with lumber. They had been lashed to the rigging for fifty-two hours, without food without raiment, and almost without hope—exposed to every wave that broke over the lost bulwarks, and raging from the unquenched thirst that parched their deeply furrowed tongues. Four of the crew had been drowned when the brig was thrown on her beam ends, by the wave that caused her wrecking. These unfortunate men added, that two vessels had passed very near to them on the day previous, during the height of the storm—that they had in vain made their signals of distress, which had been unheeded either from incapacity or an unwillingness to risk any thing for their assistance. The captain (poor fellow!) told us that they had in consequence given up all hope, until they saw, at a great distance, the enormous bulk of a large steamer bearing towards them—then a ray of hope burst upon him, and he said to his almost lifeless crew, "My boys, there is a LIFE BOAT for you."

The most curious epistolary specimen, that we have seen for some time, is the following, which we copy from the Little Rock (Ark.) Times, of the 24th ult. The writer, Abner D. Hogan, was a United States soldier, who was convicted of murder at the last term of the United States District Court, and recommended to the mercy of the President. It seems, however, that he decided on trusting to a pair of heels rather than to Executive clemency: To the Gentlemen of Little Rock, Arkansas: STATE PRISON, April 21, 1841.

GENTLEMEN AND FELLOW-CITIZENS OF ARKANSAS: I will give you all to understand that I have made my election, and give you my reasons for so doing; and I hope you won't blame me. The President is dead, and there is a poor prospect of my being pardoned by the Vice President, seeing he is not a military man; and I don't think I deserve to die for this act of indiscretion. If I had done this for malice or animosity, I would not have said one word against the verdict; and you cannot blame me. I intend never to show my face to a white man again as long as I live. If I get clear, I will go amongst my red brethren in the prairies; the Cumanches, Pawnees, Kiowas, and To-waskees, for I can speak their languages very well, and if I can get to them before I am taken, I may be of some service to the United States, for I will keep them from committing depredations on the frontiers and traders, and try to make them work for their living and be honest.

I am very well equipped for this expedition; I have a rifle, a brace of pistols, a Bowie knife, and plenty of ammunition; a first rate horse, saddle, and bridle, and some money to take me through the Choctaw nation; and if I get through I am safe, for I am not afraid of the Indians. If I can get to old Tabbaguna, the Cumanche war chief, I am at home, for he wanted me to go with him the last time I saw him, and said he would give me his daughter, and now is my time. I shall be at a loss for nothing but tobacco. Oh, if I had some seed I would be fixed.—You may think it strange that I should flee to them for protection, but, to tell the truth, they are the most friendly human beings on earth, when they take a notion to any person, and they would lose their lives for you. For the Lord's sake don't advise me, on account of my mother, and let me go in peace, and I will not bother any of you any more. I warn all men from using malt liquor, for you see what it has brought me to; on account of that I have to flee to savages for protection.

Gentlemen, I have one friend in Arkansas, unknown to any person here; "a friend in need is a friend indeed." If I am pardoned, it is so much better, and I may sometime hear of it; and if so, I can come back, and if not, I won't. It will be no satisfaction to see me hanged like a dog. Nothing more, then I am your friend until death.

ABNER D. HOGAN.

N. B. I know it is against the laws of my country to break out of prison, but I cannot help it now, for I am in a close place, and life is sweet; is it not? I do not want to die like a felon. It would be a disgrace to my native State, Gentlemen, I am a Kentuckian by birth.

A. D. H.

CATTLE.—The best cattle (says Walker) have the face rather short; the muzzle small; the horns fine; the neck light, particularly where it joins the head; the chest wide, deep and capacious; the tail broad and fat towards the top, but thin towards the lower part, which it will always be, when the animal is small boned, the lower part of the thigh small; the legs short, straight, clean, and fine boned, though not as fine as to indicate delicacy of constitution; the flesh, rich and mellow to the feel; the skin of a rich and silky appearance; the countenance calm and placid, denoting the evenness of temper essential to quick feeding and a disposition to get fat.

A SPEEDY CURE FOR BURNS.—Some of our friends assure us that for the cure of burns and scalds nothing is equal to the leaves of the plant called "Aaron's Rod." They are first bruised up with the stem and then applied directly to the wound. A neighbor recently had his face much scalded with steam, and on applying this remedy he drew out the fire without pain and without leaving a scar.

This plant is a curious plant and it has the power of subsisting on air alone, or on something which it imbibes from the air. It will grow while hanging up in the parlor; but it grows better in a good soil. A root of it should grow in every garden.

Boston Cult.

GOOD MEDICINE FOR HOGS.—When your hogs get sick, you know not of what, give them ears of corn, first dipped in tar, and then rolled in sulphur. This ten to one but it cures the disease, and this we gathered in the course of the same familiar fire-side chat, from the gentleman who gave the prescription for the choice in hogs.

The worst people (says Swift) are the most injured by slander; as we usually find that it is the best fruit which the birds have been picking at.

Colonel Worth is about to take command of the army in Florida.

DEARER WHITEWASH.—To make whitewash durable and prevent it from cracking, the water in which the lime is mixed should be well saturated with salt before the lime is put into it.

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PRICES OF ADVERTISING.

1 square 1 insertion, - - - \$0 50
1 do 2 do - - - - - 0 75
1 do 3 do - - - - - 1 00
Every subsequent insertion, - - - 0 25
Yearly Advertisements, (with the privilege of alteration) one column \$25; half column, \$18, three squares, \$12; two squares, \$9; one square, \$6. Without the privilege of alteration a liberal discount will be made.

Advertisements left without directions as to the length of time they are to be published, will be continued until ordered out, and charged accordingly. Sixteen lines make a square.

Shopping Ladies.

A SCENE—Enter Ladies.
Lady. I wish to see some of your most fashionable finger rings!

(The Jeweller shows a number.)
L. Are these the latest style? What is the price of this? (selecting one from the variety shown her.)

Jeweller. Three dollars and a half.
L. Three dollars and a half what a price, I know I can buy them at other stores for two dollars. What do you ask for this plain gold one?

J. I have always sold gold rings of that kind for one dollar and a quarter, but you may have it for fifty cents.

L. Fifty cents for this plain gold ring? why it is a monstrous price! I never heard of such a thing.

J. I wish I could trade with you Ma'am, you shall have it for thirty seven and a half.

L. No sir, I cannot think of it—I want to buy a ring, but cannot afford to pay such an exorbitant price.

J. Say no more Ma'am, you shall have it for twenty five.

L. O, that's altogether too much—I know I can buy them cheaper elsewhere.

J. I am desirous of securing your custom, Ma'am, and I will sell it for twelve and a half cents.

L. Ah, you are getting a little more reasonable, but twelve and a half is too high.

J. I am resolved to please you Ma'am, and my lowest price is six and a quarter cents.

L. (After examining it very closely.) Will you warrant it to be pure gold?

J. Gold of an extra fineness. It suits your finger exactly and you shall have that little box in the bargain.

L. (Aside to her sister.) O! I almost wish we had brought some money with us. (Aloud.) Is that your lowest price sir?

J. That Ma'am is my lowest price.

L. If that's the case, I am afraid we shall not be able to trade—I know I can buy them for three cents at the other shops. Good morning sir. (Exit Ladies.)

J. Good morning ladies. Well, that beats all. Three cents for a gold ring that cost me one dollar by the dozen! And this is what is called shopping. It is shopping with a vengeance.