

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."

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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 & Eisely.

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The following beautiful hymn was written for a picnic party of Sunday School children a few days ago.—Phil Amer.

The Child's Angel.—MAT. 18. 10.

There's an angel bright, on resting wing, Hovering far up in the air, Waiting to hear his little child sing, Or breathe his humble pray'r.

Fifty times a Day I Swear.

Fifty times a day I swear, How truly I do hate her, An' rack my brain to see how low In wickedness I'll rate her;

Artificial Ice.

The "Glaciarium or Frozen Lake," now opened to the public at the Baker street Bazaar, Portman square, is one of the curiosities of the age.

In appearance the artificial ice closely resembles the natural; it is a semi-transparent body of crystal, composed of chemical salts, which, when in a liquid state, is flooded on a prepared level floor, and immediately crystallizes into a beautiful sheet of ice.

The lovers of skating must have had the artificial ice as a great treat indeed, for by this ingenious invention, whether it be in a warm or cold climate, windy or calm, rain or sunshine, day or night, all the pleasures of the icy sheet are secured, and it is not improbable that a "frozen lake" will become as general to the mansions of the affluent, as an orchard or a fishpond.

STRAWBERRIES.—Many cultivators suffer their beds to run wild, and still obtain tolerable crops; but a still better way is to plant them in hills or drills and keep them so.

CREAM.—As soon as it is collected it should be placed in a stone crock, which should be either hung into a well, or set up to drain in the spring within the milk-house.

MRS. GEORGE WASHINGTON.

BY MRS. SIGOURNEY.

The state of society in Virginia, a century since, was quiet and imposing. The 'Ancient Dominion' retained stronger features of resemblance to the father-land than any of its sisters.

One of the most immediate changes arising from the servance of the mother country, was the breaking down of that courtly and almost solemn etiquette which marked the intercourse of the higher classes.

It was early in the winter of 1748, that the levees of Governor Coche opened with unwonted splendor at Williamsburg. Many of the members of Assembly took thither with them a part of their families, and the season was graced by the presence of several high-born maidens, who had never before been presented at court.

Though she had scarcely numbered twice eight summers, there was about her a womanly dignity which chastened admiration into respect.

Among those who had paid their devoirs to this lovely young creature, was Colonel Custis, one of the most accomplished gentlemen of his time.

'I have for some time wished to see you on an interesting subject. Though still young, I consider you have arrived to years of discretion.'

'The Colonel bowed. 'I trust I have always shown that regard for your welfare which is due from an affectionate father to an only son. I am about to give you another proof in it. In short, I wish your attention to a suitable marriage.'

'You know Colonel Byrd, of Westover, to be my very particular friend. His daughter is one of the most beautiful and accomplished ladies in Virginia. It is my desire that you form with her a matrimonial alliance.'

'My dear sir, I have not the vanity of supposing that I could render myself acceptable to Miss Byrd.'

'No objection on that head. Her father and myself have settled it. Indeed, I may as well tell you that we have had numberless conversations on this business, and that you have been as betrothed from the cradle. Think, my son, of the advantage of such a condition, the continuity of wealth and power that shall ultimately pass into your hands.'

'Affection, sir, seems to me, to be the only bond that can hallow such a union. Not even my reverence for the bust of fathers could in-

duce me to enter into it from mercenary motives.'

'Mercenary, sir, mercenary! Whoever before dared to couple that word with my name!' exclaimed the counsellor, raising himself to his full height, and fixing a kindling eye upon his son.

'Then pacing the apartments a few turns he stopped opposite to him, and added,

'You speak of the affection that should precede marriage. Have the goodness to understand that the misplacing of yours may materially affect your patrimonial inheritance.'

'May I be favored with a knowledge of her name?'

'Miss Martha Danbridge.' The high-spirited gentlemen parted in mutual resentment; but the reflections of a night restored them to better feelings.

Their residence was a retired and romantic mansion on the banks of the Pamunkey. It reared its white walls amid a profusion of vines and flowering trees. Broad plantations, and the wealth of Virginia forests variegated the grounds.

Her excellence in the responsible sphere to which she was introduced won his regard; and with the ingenuousness of an honorable mind when convinced of an error, he sought every opportunity of distinguishing her merit, which he had once been reluctant to admit.

But the scene of exquisite felicity was not long to last. The death of her two oldest children prepared her for a deep loss in her beloved and estimable husband.

It was in the spring of 1759 that two gentlemen attended by a servant, were seen riding through the luxuriant scenery with which the county of New Kent, in Virginia, abounds.

'Nay, Colonel Washington, let it never be said that you passed the house of your father's friend without dismounting. I must insist on the honor of delaying you as my guest.'

'Thanks to you, my dear sir, but I ride in haste, the bearer of despatches to our Governor in Williamsburg, which may not brook delay.'

'Is this the noble steed which was given to you by the dying Braddock on the field of Monongahela? and this the same servant he bequeathed you at the same time?'

Washington answered in the affirmative.

'Then, my dear Colonel, thus mounted, and attended, you may well dine with me, and by borrowing some of this fine moonlight, reach Williamsburg ere his Excellency shall have shaken off his morning slumbers.'

'Do I understand that I may be excused immediately after dinner?'

'Certainly.'

'Then, sir, I accept your hospitality.' And gracefully throwing himself from his charger, he resigned the rein to his English servant, giving at the same time strict orders as to the time when he must be ready to pursue their journey.

'I am rejoiced, Colonel Washington,' said the hospitable old gentleman, 'fortunately to have met you on my morning ride; and the more so, as I have some guests who may make the repast pass pleasantly, and will not fail to appreciate our young and valiant soldier.'

Washington bowed his thanks, and was introduced to the company. Virginia's far-famed hospitality was well set forth in that spacious baronial hall. Precise in his household regulations, the social feast was closed at the time the host predicted. The servant was also punctual—he knew the habits of his master.

Henceforth the life of the lady of Mount Vernon is a part of the history of her country. In that hallowed retreat she was found entering into the plans of Washington, sharing his confidence, and making his household happy.

When Washington took leave of Lafayette, his parting words were—'You have served an apprenticeship to liberty in America, now go to France and set up for yourself.'

'MORE TRUTH THAN POETRY.—An old picture represents a king sitting in state, with a label, 'I govern all'; a bishop with a legend, 'I pray for all'; a soldier with a motto, 'I fight for all'; a farmer drawing forth a purse, with the subscription, 'I pay for all.'

'TRUE.—We hear men often enough speak of seeing God in the stars and the flowers—but they will never be truly religious, till they learn to behold him in each other also, where he is most easily yet most rarely discovered.'

'ECONOMY.—Furnish your horses with green spectacles, and give them shavings to eat, cut up fine—they will think it grass.—Cincinnati Sun.

'AFFLICTIONS sent by providence melt the constancy of the noble-minded, but confirm the obduracy of the vile. The same furnace that hardens clay, liquifies gold; and in the strong manifestations of divine power, Pharaoh found his punishment, but David his pardon.'

'CHARITY.—Believe not each accusing tongue, As most weak persons do; But still believe that story wrong, Which ought not to be true.'

exhibited that perfect etiquette which marks the intercourse of the dignified and high-bred. Commencing at seven and closing at ten, they lent no more sanction to late hours than levity. The first lady of the nation preserved the habits of early life. Indulging in no indolence, she left her pillow at dawn and after breakfast retired to her chamber for an hour, for the study of the scriptures and devotion.

The spring of 1767 opened for them with the most pleasing anticipations. The cares of high office were resigned, and they were about to retire, for the remainder of their days to the spring-shades of Mount Vernon. The new turf springing into fresh greenness wherever they trod, the vernal blossoms opened to receive them, the warbled welcome of the birds were never more dear, as wearied with the toils of public life, and satiated with its honors, they returned to their rural retreat, hallowed by the recollections of earlier years and by the consciousness of virtue.

But in two years Washington was no more. The shock of his death, after an illness of only twenty-four hours, fell like a thunderbolt upon the bereaved widow. The piety which had long been her strength continued its support, but her heart drooping; and though her cheerfulness did not utterly forsake her, she discharged her habitual round of duties, as one who felt that glory had departed.

How beautiful and characteristic was her reply to the solicitations of the highest authority of the nation, that the remains of her illustrious husband might be removed to the seat of government, and a marble monument erected to mark the spot of their repose.

'Taught by the great example which I have had not long before, never to oppose my private wishes to the will of my country, I consent to the request made by Congress; and in doing this I need not, I cannot, say what a sacrifice of individual feeling I make to a sense of public duty.'

The intention of the Congress of 1797 has never been executed, nor the proposed monument erected. The enthusiasm of the time passed away, and the many conflicting cares of a great nation turned its thought from thus perpetuating his memory, whose image, it trusted, would be ever enshrined in the hearts of a great people.

Scarcely two years of her lovely widowhood were accomplished, ere the lady of Mount Vernon found death approaching. Gathering her family around her, she impressed on them the value of religion which she had tested from her youth onward to hoary hairs.

In this outline of the lineaments of Martha Washington, we perceive that it was neither the beauty with which she was endowed, nor the high station which she had attained, that gave enduring lustre to her character, but her Christian fidelity in these duties which devolve upon her sex. This fitted her to irradiate the home, to lighten the cares, to cheer the anxieties, to sublimate the enjoyments of his wife, in the expressive language of the Chief Justice Marshall, was 'so favored of Heaven as to depart without exhibiting the weaknesses of humanity.'

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SEAR'S 'Family Magazine' for June has just been published. It contains a great amount of valuable information on a variety of subjects, and must be a welcome periodical in every family. We copy the following, which shows that not all the wealth and luxury, any more than all the greatness and virtue, of the world were reserved for the nineteenth century:

THE WEALTH OF ANTIQUITY.—We find in antiquity some instances of splendid wealth. While writing magnificent treatises upon contentment for riches, Seneca had contrived to accumulate a little fortune of \$5,000,000 francs. An astrologer, named Lertulus, was content with 50,000,000 francs. When Tiberius died, 612,000,000 francs were found in his coffers, not a franc less. In less than a year good Caligula spent the whole of it; there remained not an as, not a quadrans. The debts of Milo amounted to 120,000,000 francs. Cesar had not 49,000,000 francs, but 49,000,000 creditors before he obtained a public office; the poor fellow was soon enabled to present Curio with 12,000,000 francs, and Lucius Paulus with 7,500,000 francs in order to detach them from the party opposed to him; he one day begged Servilia, the mother of Brutus, to accept a trifle in the shape of a pearl worth 550,000,000 francs. Mark Antony's house was sold to Messala for the sum of 10,000,000. A fire destroyed Scanturus's villa; the loss was reckoned at 22,000,000 francs. When Crassus stippled with Lucullus, the cost of a sans cerevante meal amounted to about 100,000 francs! and after the death of that refined Consul, the fishes that swam in the pond of his country-house were sold for the trifle of 700,000 francs. Otho spent 26,000,000 on the finishing of a wing of a palace commenced by Nero. One of Caligula's dinners cost 1,500,000 francs. Helioabalus was more parsimonious; one of his breakfasts only required 500,000 francs. Asophus we advert to, (his son by-the-by, melted precious stones to drink at his entertainments!) was not, as you may well suppose, the jolly fabulist and Greek lurchback whom every body is acquainted with; but Claudius Asopos, an actor on the Roman stage, very intimate with Cicero; this opulent historian earned in one day more than eight hundred Stoic, Pythagoric, or Peripatetic philosophers could pocket in a year. Aspicus, the most celebrated gourmet of the 'eternal city,' devoured (we use the proper word) 14,000,000 francs; he then exclaimed his financial situation, when the poor creature found that all that remained was 1,500,000 francs; foreseeing that he must die of hunger, he committed suicide. Crassus when he went to fight the Parthians, and be killed by them, was the possessor of landed estates worth 40,000,000 francs; his slaves, furniture, and trinkets, were, fortunately, of a little more value.'

TELLING A LIE TO OBLIGE A LADY.—Under this caption, a New York paper gives an account of a transaction, in which a gallant Hibernian got himself into trouble for merely trying to get a lady out by stretching the truth. A letter carrier delivered a letter to the wife of Mr. Murray, of that city. The letter was of course sealed, but the curiosity of the lady; for which her sex is to blame, according to the received notion, more than the lady herself, induced her to read its contents. It being a business letter alone, she was anxious to have it delivered to her husband. But as it happened that just at that time there existed between herself and her husband one of those little interludes of love, commonly called a coolness, which now and then takes place 'in the best of families,' the lady was unwilling to let her husband know that she opened the letter, and requested a Mr. Hugh Quinn to say that he did it; and Mr. Quinn, thinking himself bound, in common politeness, to tell a lie for the lady, and little dreaming of the trouble it was to cost him, at once complied with her request, and shortly after found himself a prisoner in the United States Court, undergoing an examination for a high crime and misdemeanor. The committing of an offence, such as he was charged with, is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$300. As he had involved himself in truth on her account, she as generously came to his assistance, confessed that Quinn was not guilty, and he was accordingly discharged; and when leaving the Court, fervently vowed that he would never again tell a lie for a lady, as long as he lived. Phila. Ledger.

QUEER.—A western paper, mentioning the death of an elderly woman, says, she was the mother of 101 grand-children.

FILIAL AFFECTION.—Jim, how's your ma? 'She's fat and strong; how's yours? 'Feeble enough. I've got so I can lick her now, and have every thing my own way. You don't see my goin' errands and doin' chores about home, as you used to.'

PERT.—A widow said one day to her daughter—'When you are of my age, you will be dreaming of a husband.' 'Yes, mamma,' replied the thoughtless little hussy, 'for the second time.'