TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN." H. B. MASSER. PROPRIETORS. JOSEPH EISELY.

H. B. MASSER, Editor. Office in Centre Alley, in the rear of H. B. Mas-ser's Store.]

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SHORT PATENT SERMON. BY DOW, JR.

Text: "Fret not thy gizzard."

My hearers-furtifude, patience, and perseverance are the only team horses capable of dragging the lumbering car of man's hopes through the marsh of misfortune. Fretting, flinching, cursing, or swearing can no more extricate one from deficulty than a silly shad can release itself from the fisherman's net by idle flapping and floundering. When a man finds himself in the midst of thorns and briars of trouble, the only way for him is to step cautiously and feel his road thro' them with the utmost care; but if he fret, fluster and bluster, he is sure to effect nothing more than becrate his bosom and tear his trousers. When he perceives that his feelings are beginning to ferment, through irritation, he ought to keep a small air hole open to his heart, not only to admit the pure oxygin of reason, but also to allow the gas of excitement to escape by degrees-else be might burst, his barrel of forbearance, and lose in a moment some of the sweetest and best of

My friends - when your cobweb fabrics of an-

ticipation are swept away by the storms of ill fortune, there is no more use in fretting your gizzards about it than there is in a young female victim of seduction trying to stick the fragments of virtue together with tears of re- first of Velasco and Nacogdoches were taken volunteered to accompany us, we set out for the pentance. To fret and chafe about trifles, like by the former, and their garrisons and a couple mission. a tender school boy when first initiated into the or field officers made prisoners; soon after misteries of a flamuel shirt, is as nonsensical as which, however, the quarrel was made up by outposts of the Catholic church, and are found tempt to cross the Salado. The bollow way on it is useless. Maintain your ground manfully the intervention of Colonel Austin on the part in great numbers in all the frontier provinces of the other side of the river, leading to the fore, time you will not heed them half as much as the Mexican authorities, such a thing as rubbing a pimple till you pro- prisonment of Stephen F. Austin, the Texian maranders, and are occupied by priests. duce an elect. In the hour of adversity, for representative in the Mexican Congress, by assistance call upon Fortitude-that bold nymph | the vice-president, Gomez Farias. | This was of the rock, whose dauntles spirit bears the followed by Texas adopting the constitution of seating storm, and bitter winds that howl as 1824, and declaring itselfan independent state toward the river. Wharton inclined to the fors with the reflection that the Mexicans would be cound her-whose breast braves the bursting of the Mexican Republic. Finally, towards mer plan, and it was certainly the most prudent, much more likely to attribute our negligence vaves, and who bears the dread thunder with a the close of 1835. Texas threw off the Mexican for the mission was a strong building, surround- to an excess of confidence in our resources. ards when a boding cloud skirts the horizon of its newly asserted liberty. Your hopes, you ought to have philosophy about The first step to be taken was, to secure our you sufficient to know that, although the coming communications with the United States by get- We left our horses and mustangs in the charge When the whole of the dragoons had crossed shower may wet your jackets, it renders the ting possession of the sea-ports. General Cos earth fruitful, and bountifully contributes to had occupied Galveston harbor, and built and in the direction of the Salado, which flows from tance in an easterly direction; then, wheeling your wants and necessities. Satan himself, garrisoned a block fort, nominally for the pur-north to south, a third of a mile to the west- to the right, proceeded southward, until withwhen he was kicked out of heaven into the re-pose of enforcing the custom laws, but in reali-ward of the mission. About half-way between in some five hundred paces of us, where they gions of durkness and woe, was too much of a ty with a view to cut off our communications like a hero, and consoled himself with the re- it was necessary to get possession of, and my broke the uniformity of the prairie. The bank and occupied by us. flection, that it were "better to reign in hell friend Farming and myself were appointed to of the river on our side was tolerably steep, a- As coon as they halted, they opened their favored us with a general, innoxious discharge than to serve in beaven." Exercise patience, that duty by the Alcalde, who had taken a pro- bout eight or ten feet high, hellowed out here fire, although they could not see one of us, for and the thick mists of misfortune that beding minent part in all that had occurred. your future prospects will disperse the scener: | Our whole force and equipment wherewith push ahead with perseverance, unmindful of to accomplish this enterprise, consisted in a trilling annoyances, and every built in your bo- sealed despatch, to be opened at the town of some that threatens to disclose a thistic, will Columbia, and a balf-breed, named Agostine, for although not very broad, it is rapid and gave us a rattling voiley at a distance which no bloom a reser; but this worrying and fretting who acted as our guide. On reaching Colums deep. We resolved to take up a position withs carbine would carry. This done, others galwhen circumstances clash with one's fond de- bin, we called together the principal inhabi-

lieve that some people, instead of being sup, and we were on our way taward Galveston, plied with hearts, have nothing but gizzards. The next day the fert was taken, and the garrifilled with grit and gravel. They appear to son made prisoners, without our losing a single have just dired upon publics and iron filings, man, and always laboring under the influence of in- We sent off our guide to the government at digestion. Nothing goes right with them- San Pelipe with news of our success. In nine everything is wrong. The milk of mercy sours days he returned, bringing as the thanks of upon their stomachs-they turn up their noces congress, and fresh orders. We were to leave at the sweets of salvation-they spit in the a garrison in the fort, and then ascend Trimty hand of charity-spura friendly solicitude-and river, and march towards San Antonio De Bexcare no more for soft scap or sympathy than a ar. This route was all the more agreeable to dog does for a dollar. All they wish is to be Fanning and myself, as it would bring us into allowed the privilege of feetting andisturbed by the immediate visinity of the haciculas, or esfriend or for-unchecked by fear, and unsway- tates, of which we had semetime previously ed by favor. They fret for fear the morrow obtained a grant from the Texan government; may not be brighter than golden to-day; they and we did not doubt that we were indebted secause they can find nothing of importance to our public duty, fret about. Let them go on fretting till they As we marched along we found the whole have arrived at the end of life's journey, and I country in commention, the settlers all arming, general. Finding our stock of provisions to be but nevertheless, after a moment's hesitation, if stopified by our murderous fire, and uncers lection of having seen him before, but where am inclined to think they will eventually find and hastening to the distant place of rendezthat they have fretted to no purpose. There cans. We arrived at Trinity river one afterthe same happy disposition.

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, Feb. 24, 1844.

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with it irritating solicitude and anxiety, and over; and in due time, and without any incident the upper ford came in with news that a strong took their places, but the dragoous had almost time tumbles a cart load of cares at your door, worthy of note, reached the appointed place of body of cavalry was approaching the river, and "fret not thy gizzard :" for all your grumbling rendezvous, which was on the river Salado, a- that their vanguard was already in the holwill have no more effect than potitioning Con- bout fifteen miles from San Antonio, the prin- low way leading to the ford. We had scarcegress to have eternity widened. Look, my cipal city of the province. This latter place it by received this intelligence when we heard friends, upon the bright side of everything, and was intended to attack-an enterprise of some the blare of the trumpets, and the next mofancy that you are happy, whether you are re- boldness and risk, considering that the town ment we saw the officers push their horses up ally so or not. When the hatchel teeth of was protected by a strong fort, smply provided the declivitous bank, closely followed by their trouble encompass the heart, keep as quiet as with heavy artillery, and a garrison of nearly circumstances will permit; for, the more you three thousand men, commanded by officers. We counted six small squadrons, about three writh and twist, the more sharply you are prick. Who had, for the most part, distinguished them- hundred men in all. They were the Durango ed. Always try to keep the lamp of hope selves in the revolutionary wars against the dragoons-smart troops enough to all appearburning in the dark dungeons of your bosoms. Spaniards. Our whole army which we found ances, capitally mounted and equipped, and and the demons of doubt will never haunt them, encamped on the Salado, under the command armed with carbines and sabres. Face every ill with the boldness of a hon-- of General Austin did not exceed eight hunbear up with obristian fortitude beneath the dred men, heavy burden of affliction-be merciful, kind and benevolent to your fellow creatures,-and myselt, with our four-and-thirty recruits, reachangels of light and levliness will volunteer to act as your pioneers through the untracked and and it was resolved to advance as far as the unbounded wilderness of the future. So mote mission of Santa Espada. The advanced guard

ADVENTURES IN TEXAS.

ONE OF TANNING'S BATTLES,

when, in consequence of the oppressive con- ty of volunteers with him, and whose mature duct of the Mexican military authorities sympage and cool judgment, it was thought, would toms of discontent showed themselves, and counterbalance any excess of youthful heat several skirmishes occurred between the Ame- and impetuosity on our part. Selecting ninety rican settlers and the soldiery. The two small two men of the eight hundred, who, to a man, against the assaults of petty ills, and in due of Texas, and Col. Mejia on the part of the Spanish America, especially in Texas, Santa

oul as unshaken as a carpet in a lawyer's office. yoke altogether, voted itself a free and sovered by a high wall, and might have been held at than to the inexperience of military matters, es, my friends, instead of fretting your giz- eign republic, and prepared to defend by arms against very superior numbers. Fanaing and I, which was its real cause. We resolved to do

and fret at his fate. He bore it with New Orleans and the States. This fort island, of muskeet trees, the only object that od the chord of the arc described by the river,

sires, is like brushing a beaver against the nap tants of the place, and of the neighboring to defend the two fords, which were not a above gain, leaded, fired another volley, and then - the more you attempt to smooth it the rough- towns of Bolivar and Marion, unscaled the letter in their presence, and six hours afterwards My dear friends-I am almost induced to be- the forces therein specified were assembled,

bet because others are cheerful and contented to our friend the Alcalde for the orders which with their lots; and they oftentimes fret merely thus conciliated our private convenience with

is no doubt but they would find fault with the moon, and immediately sent messengers for arrangements of heaven, were they allowed to forty miles in all directions to summon the inenter,-and thus go on fretting from everlasting habitants. At the period in question, the planto everlasting. As for me, I put up with the tations in that part of the country were very beatings and tumblings of this mortal existence few and far between, but nevertheless by the as quietly as a feather bed; and I trust that afternoon of the next day we had got together most of you, my worthy hearers, are blest with four-and-thirty men, mounted on mustangs, each equipped with rifle and bowie-knife, pow-Young man !-- if you find an occasional der horn and bullet bag, and furnished with bramble of disappointment in the blossom-fring- provisions for several days. With these we the misconduct of the heretics.

The day after that on which Fanning and ed head-quarters, a council of war was held, was to push forward immediately; the main body would tollow the next day. Fanning and myself were appointed to the command of the but, on the other hand, we had committed a vanguard, in conjunction with Mr. Wharton, a I had been but three or four months in Texas wealthy planter, who had brought a strong par-

These missions are a sort of picket houses or Fe, and Colabulia. They are usually of suffibuzz of an October musquito; otherwise you But in the year '33 occurred Santa Anna's event strength to afford their inmates security thing would have been easier than to have stawill probably learn by experience that there is defection from the liberal party, and the im- against any predatory party of Indians or other tioned a party so as to pick off the cavalry as

> On reaching Sau Espada we held a discussion as to the propriety of remaining there un- however, did not strike us till it was too late to til the general came up, or advancing at once repair it; so we were fain to console ourselves however, did not like the idea of being cooped our best to merit the good opinion which we up in a house, and at last Wharton yielded. thus supposed them to entertain of us. of eight men, and with the remainder set out the water, they marched on for a short disthe latter and the river, was a small group, or halted. In this position, the line cavalry form a quarter of a mile woart.

dangers of such a position, and of the almost themselves within two hundred and fifty paces certainty that if the enemy managed to cross of us, and then appeared inclined to take a the river, we should be surrounded and cut off. bitle time for reflection. picket of twelve men at each ford, and an equal we had waited for. No sooner had the dragoons correlves on the bank. "Slow and sure -- mark | I had raised my own rifle to my shoulder; established ourselves with the remainder as received orders to that effect sprang up the the right and I on the left. The command was apparition that presented itself to my view. mong the vines and in the hollows on the river bank, took steady aim at the officers, fired, and obeyed; rifle after rifle cracked off, always ai- This was a tall, lean, wild figure, with a face

paid little attention to his denunciations, and, the dragoons. throwing down three dollars, walked off with the sheep. The priest became furious, got

men, whom they formed up in the prairie,

Although the enemy had doubtless reconnoitered from the opposite shore, and ascertained our position, he could not form any accurate idea of our numbers, for with a view to deceive him, we kept the men in constant motion, sometimes showing a part of them on the prairie, then causing them to disappear again behind the vines and bushes. This was all very knowing for young soldiers such as we were; grievous error and sinned against all established military rules, by not placing a picket on the further side of the river, to warn us of the approach of the enemy, and the direction in which he was coming. There can be little doubt that if we had had earlier notice of their approach, thirty or forty good marksmen-and all our people were that-might not only have delayed the advance of the Mexicans, but perhaps even totally a spasted them of their atwas narrow and telerably steep, and the back at least six times as high as on our side. Nothey wound through this sort of pass, and emerged two by two upon the shore. Our error

and there, and covered with a thick network of we were completely sheltered by the bank, wild vines. The Salado at this spot describes. Our Mexican heroes, however, apparently did a sort of how shaped curve, with a ford at either not think it necessary to be within sight or in this bow, calculating that we might manage loped on for about a hundred yards, halted agiving another gallop, fired again. They con-At the same time we did not lose sight of the tinued this sort of makinge till they found

then jumped down again.

It requires some nerve and courage for men upon his mule, and trotted away in the direction of the earth; and for a few seconds they tion of the city to complain to General Cos of unprotected, within fifty yards of an advancing dred yards will, and firing volleys at us, which forget to fire, and stood gazing at the stranger. ed path of youth, "fret not thy gizzard"-for, started for San Antonio de Bexar, a march of After this we made no doubt that we should and fired, not all at once, or in a hurry; but at that distance we did not think preper to rewhatever is, is undoubtedly for the best. If two hundred and fifty miles, through trackless soon have a visit from the worthy Dons. Nes slowly ned deliberately; a running fire, every turn a shot. your parents endeavor to restrain you from prairies intersected with rivers, and streams, vertheless the evening and the night passed as shot of which told. Saddle after saddle was The skirmish had lasted nearly three quar-rough hourse voice, "don't ye them artiflerypaddling in the putrid pools of iniquity, or for- which, sithough not quite so big as the Missis- way without incident. Day broke-still no emptied; the men, as they had been ordered, ters of an hour. Strange to say, we had not a men! Why don't ye knock 'em on the head!" sparking cup : if the season of manhood brings Those we could not wade through we swam they had hardly fire shed when the picket from myself, with the reserve of six and thirty more, the skin was the worst consequence that had as the men serving the gun were slewing it

had enough already, and we had scarcely fired ten shots when they executed a right-about turn, with an uniformity and rapidity which did infinite credit to their drill, and went off at a pace that soon carried them out of reach of our bullets. They had probably not expected so warm a reception. We saw their officers doing everything they could to check their flight, imploring, threatening, even cutting at them

Our object in ordering the men to fire slowy, was, always to have thirty or forty rifles sed to seventy-two men and three officers; for loaded, wherewith to receive the enemy should it must be remembered that we had left twenhe attempt a charge en masse. But our first ty of our people at the mission, and in the island greeting had been a sickener, and it appeared of trees. Two battallions of infantry, and six attack us again although the officers did every- disheartened and diminished by the loss of some thing in their power to induce their men to fifty men, but nevertheless, formidable oppoadvance. For a long time, neither threats, en- nents, now they were supported by the foot soltreaties, nor reproaches produced any effect, diers. About twenty Mexicans to each of ug. We saw the officers gesticulating furiously, It was getting past a joke. We were all capipointing to us with their sabres, and impatien- tal shots, and most of us besides our rifles had tly spurring their horses, till the fiery animals | a brace of pistols; but what were seventy five plunged and reared, and sprang with all four rifles, and five or six score of pistols against a for I from the ground. It is only just to say, thousand muskets and bayonets, two hundred that the officers exhibited a degree of courage and fifty dragoons, and a field piece loaded with far beyond anything we had expected from canister! If the Mexicans had a spark of couthem. Of the two squadons that charged us, rage or soldiership about them, our fate was seatwo-thirds of the officers had fallen; but those led. But it was exactly this courage and who remained instead of appearing intimidated | soldiership which we made sure would be wanby their comrudes' fate, redoubled their efforts ting. to bring their men forward.

At last there appeared some probability of accomplishing this, after a most curious and truly Mexican fashion. Posting themselves in front of their squadrons, they rode on alone for a hundred yards or so, halted, looked round, as much as to say-"You see there is no danger as far as this," and the gallopping back, led their men on. Each time that they executed this manusuvre, the dragoons would advance slowly some thirty or forty paces, and then halt as simultaneonsly as if the word of command had been given. Off went the officers again, some distance to the front, and then back again to their men, and got them on a little further. In this manner these heroes were inveigled once more | ton were to make head against the infantry and to within a hundred and fifty yards of our posi- cavalry. I was to capture the field piece-

Of course, at each of the numerous halts of their carbines; and at last, gaining confidence I suppose, from our passiveness, and from making, three squadrons which had not yet

Their orders were to fire slowly, and not throw We reconnoitered the ground, stationed a short distance in rear. This was the moment | Wharton and myself, with the reserve showed, all to aim at the artillerymen. number in the island of muskeet trees; and got into a canter, than six of our men who had your men !" shouted we both. Wharton on when I let it fall again in astonishment at an med at the foremost of the dragoons, and at every overgrown by a long beard that hung down up-The commissariat department of the Texan As we had expected, the small numbers that report a saddle was emptied. Before we had on his breast, and dressed in a leather cap, jackarmy, was, as may be supposed, not yet placed had shown themselves, encouraged the Mexical fired, Fanning and a dozen of his sharpest et; and moccasins. Where this man had sprung upon any very regular footing. In fact, every caus to alleance. They seemed at first taken men had again loaded, and were by our side. from was a perfect riddle. He was unknown man, was, for the present, his own commissary rather aback by the fall of four of their officers. For nearly a minute the Mexicans remained as to any of us, although I had some vague receive very small, we sent out a party of foregers they came thundering along at full speed. They have whether to advance or retire; but as those or when, I could not call to mind. He had a who soon returned with three sheep, which were within sixty or seventy yards of us, when who attempted the formost were invariably shot long rifle in his hands, which he must have fixed they had taken from a reache, within a mile Panning and therey of our reflemen ascented down, they at last began a retreat, which was once already, for one of the artiflerymen lay of San Autonia. An old priest, whom they the bank, and with a coolness and precision soon converted into a route. We gave them dead by the gun, At the moment I first caught found there, had threatened them with the an- that would have done credit to the most veteran a farewell volley, which eased a few more sight of him, he shot down another, and then ger of Heaven and of General Cos; but they troops, poured a steady fire into the ranks of horses of their riders, and then got under cover began reloading with a rapid dexterity, that again, to await what might next occur.

who have never gone through any regular ini- coming up to the scretch a third time. They strange apparition, which appeared to have starline of cavalry. Our fellows did it, however, they were able to do with perfect impunity, as The latter did not seem to approve of their in-

PRICES OF ADVERTISING.

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\$5; one square, \$3 50, Advertisements left without directions as to the length of time they are to be published, will be continued until ordered out, and charged accord-

Cy Sixteen lines make a square.

ensued. We were in a fair way to deem ourselves iuvulnerable.

We were beginning to think that the fight was over for the day, when our videtts at the lower ford brught us the somewhat unpleasant intelligence that large masses of infantry were approaching the river, and would soon be in sight. The words were hardly uttered when the roll of the drums and shrill squeeks of the fifes became audible, and in a few minutes the with their sabres, but it was of no use, if they head of the column of infantry, having crossed were to be killed, it must be in their own way. the ford, ascended the sloping banks and defiand they preferred being cut down by their led in the prairie opposite the island of muskert efficers to encountering the deadly precision of trees. As company after company appearer. rifles, in the hands of men who, being sure of we were able to form a pretty correct estimate hitting a squirrel at a hundred yards, were not of their numbers. There were two battalions. likely to miss a Durango dragoon at any point together about a thousand men; and they brought a field piece with them.

These were certainly rather odd to be appomost doubtful whether he would venture to squadrons of dragoons—the latter, to be sure.

Nevertheless we, the officers, could not repress a feeling of anxiety and self reproach. when we reflected that we had brought our comrades into such a hazardous predicament. But on looking around us our apprehensions vanished. Nothing could exceed the perfect coolness and confidence with which the men were cleaning and preparing their rifles for the approaching conflict; no bravado-no boasting. talking, or laughing, but a calm decision of manner, which at once told us, that if it were possible to overcome such odds as were brought against us, those were the men to do it.

Our arrangement for the approaching struggle were soon completed. Fanning and Wharand eight pounder.

The gun was placed by the Mexicans upop, their extreme left, close to the river, the shore a of which it commanded for a considerable distance. The bank on which we were posted was, as before mentioned, indented by caves and the noise and smoke they themselves had been hollows, and covered with a thick tapestry of vines, and other plants, which was now very been under fire, formed open column, and ad- useful in concealing us from the artiflery men. vanced at a trot. Without giving them time The latter made a pretty good guess at our noto halt or reflect-"Forward! Charge!" shou- sition however, and at the first discharge, the ted the officers, urging their own horses to their canister, whizzed past us at a very short disutmost speed, and, following the impulse thus tance. There was not a moment to lose, for given the three squadrons came charging furi- one well directed shot might exterminate haif of us. Followed by a dozen men, I worked my Up sprang thirty of our men to receive them. way as well as I could through the labyrinth of vines and bushes, and was not more than fifty away a shot, but the gleaming sabres and ra. yards from the gun, when it was again fired. But our success on the few occasions on which We kept ourselves perfectly still. The dra- pid approach of the dagoons flurried some of No one was hurt, although the shot was eviwe had hitherto come to blows with the Mexi- goons evadently did not like the aspect of mat- them, and firing a hasty volley, they jumped dently intended for my party. The enemy cans, at Velasco, at Nacogoloches, and Gal- ters. Our remaining concealed, and not re- down the bank again. This precipitation had could not see us; but the motion of the vines, veston, had inspired us with so much confidence plying to their fire, seemed to bother them, nearly been fatal to us. Several of the dra- as we passed through them, had betrayed our we considered ourselves a match for thousands We saw the officers taking a deal of pains to gooms fell, and there were some confusion and whereabout; so perceiving that we were discoof such fees, and actually began to wish the en- encourage their men, and at last two squadrons a momentary faltering among the others; but | vered, I sprang up the bank into the prairie, felemy would attack us before our main body came advanced, the others following more slowly, a they still came on. At this critical moment, lowed by my men, to whom I should, above

proved him to be well used to the thing. My But the Mexican cabelleros had no notion of men were as much astonished as I was by this

"D- - yer eyes, ye starin" shonted be in a

bid you travelling the road that leads to rum sippi or Potomac, were yet deep and wide e- signs of the Mexicans. This treachorous sort always picking out the forement to remain the firement to remain the fi shops and ruin, "fret not thy gizzard." If nough to have offered serious impediment to of calm, we thought, might forbode a storm, as soon as they had fallen about us as thick as hail. We fired, but our astonishment had thrown you discover thorns amidst the roses of love- regular armies. But to Texan farmers and and we did not allow it to lull us into security- bank to reload. When the whole of the thirty could not account for this. Many of us had us off our banance, and we nextly all misses. a few latter dregs at the bottom of pleasure's backwoods men, they were trifling obstacles. We let the men get their rifles, Wharton and been hit by the balls, but a bruise or a grage of We sprang down the bank again to load, just