CAPTAIN HALL'S TRAVELS.

It seems, from the New York papers, that Captain Basil Hall avers, in his book of Travels that he came to the United States with the most favorable impressions, but that his opinions underwent a total change before he left this country. The same revolution took place with regard to the traveller himself, in the sentiments of every American who became acquainted with him in the course of his tour. All were kindly and respectfully prepossessed before his arrival—all were disgusted and alienated, at the period of his departure. A plan being laid to decry the institutions of a country, it would be an ingenious device to profess the most propitious dispositions at the outset, to be disappointed, alas! by the irresistible testimony of facts the alterative force of close and extensive observation. An original, honest, intelligent, liberal admirer converted by inspection & experience into something worse than a doubter; here is conclusive proof for the world, of the unworthiness, fallaciousness, precariousness of American republicanism! But the world cannot be so tricked; the contrivance is not new nor impenetrable. In whatever guise or disguise, a preresolved or predestined defamer may come among the American people—to whatever account he may endeavor to turn his pretended metamorphosis,—they will be able to detect and, perhaps, demonstrate the imposture; and, at all events, may smile at the ultimate certain impotency of such attempts.

Captain Hall's Travels will no doubt be extensively read in America, from the curiosity which has naturally arisen out of the notoriety of his enterprise, and the numbers from Quebec to the Baliz, to whom he was made known by special introduction or casual contact. Authentic anecdotes of the man tending to invalidate many of his statements, cannot fail to be produced; it will be ascertained from the general cast of his book, and personal evidence, what degree of reliance is due to his judgment and temper of mind. His drift will be readily perceived, and every American will be content that he has not Loo Choo'd the United States, instead of representing the republic as a gross, lawless, perishable Democracy.

[Philad. Nat. Gazette.

[From the N. Y. Commercial of Friday]

CAPTAIN HALL'S TRAVELS.—Messrs. Carey Lea & Carey will publish, to-morrow, or on Monday, the long expected Travels of Capt. Basil Hall, of the Royal Navy, through the United States, during the years 1827 and '28.—Through the politeness of Mr. C. we were last evening enabled to commence the perusal of the work in anticipation, and we succeeded in running over upwards of two hundred pages thereof. No promised book of travels, we venture to say has ever been so anxiously expected in the United States. The character of our country and its people, our civil and religious institutions, and the manners and customs of society, had been so long misrepresented and slandered by English travellers, anonymously or otherwise—often, too, by those upon whom our hospitalities had been lavished and who in return showed that they had been acting the part of spies and calumniators,—that it seemed quite desirable to have an avowed author & traveller come amongst us, possessing the qualifications to write a good book & the candor to write a fair one. Capt. Hall, it was hoped, would prove just the man. He had travelled and seen much of the world, and several agreeable volumes, preceding his arrival, had given him considerable reputation. In politics, moreover it was known that he was a whig; and the inference was natural, that cognato political principles would at least disarm him of the prejudice and hostility usual to his countrymen in regard to our form of government. Under these circumstances, it is not to be denied that our people generally were gratified with his visit; and throughout his whole tour, their doors were not only thrown widely and unreservedly open to him but every means was afforded him for obtaining correct and ample information. It remains therefore to be seen, what use he has made of these means and opportunities.

He does not disguise, in the outset, the disappointment with which his visit was in many respects attended. And that disappointment was to our disadvantage, although he says he came here without having read a single book of travels in the United States, and with a disposition to view us in the most favourable light. But according to his account, he was perpetually annoyed over our whole country, by efforts to extort his praise on all occasions, and in behalf of every thing. And although he was ever requested to express his opinions with frankness yet he always observed that when those opinions were not well seasoned with commendations, his auditors or entertainers were disappointed and dissatisfied. He took them at their word, however and exercised the privilege thus granted him in conversation; and in throwing the results of his observation into a book, has continued the same course of speaking his undisguised sentiments, without fear, favor or flattery—scrupulously omitting names and avoiding personalities.

Our object is not to usurp the province of the stately reviewer, and dissect the book secundum artem, after the manner of the genius irritubiie but merely to give such a running account of it as to whet the appetites of those who have the means to purchase, while some notion of its general character is imparted to those who cannot so readily possess it.

His impressions were favorable, on landing in New York, and his astonishment great at the enormous breakfast spread before him at his quarters; but he seems, by his own showing, to have done it ample justice. At dinner, our traveller and his lady preferred the ordinary to a private parlor, for the purpose of studying character. But, to their surprise the boarders were reserved and taciturn. Every effort to introduce conversation, was abortive—and the whole company, except themselves, finished their meal and departed, in about fifteen minutes.—Indeed the haste with which the Americans devoured their meals, was a general and almost universal annoyance to our traveller; and, to crown the misery of his dinatory operations, the luxury of three-pronged forks was denied him; while the Americans managed to convey their food to their mouths by the help of that vulgar instrument, the knife. His complaint on the score of quick dining, is well founded, so far as it regards the business-men of our country. It is too gererally true, as he says, that they set about taking their meals as they would about the transaction of any other business on hand. It is a job to be done, and the quicker the better. But Capt. Hall must have seen enough of our private society, to find that this practice prevails only at the public tables of commercial boarding houses: and as to the use of two-pronged forks, he could have found them only at country taverns, or in third and fourth rate houses in town.

At his first visit to this city, he seems not to have paid much attention to our public institutions. He visited the Navy Yard at Brooklyn, where he was politely received by the officers, and shown through the whole establishment without reserve. But although one would think that a Captain in the Royal Navy, who has circumnavigated the globe would have been "at home" among the stately frigates, and frowning seventy fours, yet he seems to have had no one kindling emotion and has not a word to say. Making an excursion into Jersey he visited the manufactories in Paterson, and the falls of the Passaic—and he thought it was somewhat creditable to the taste of the New York Cockneys, that these falls are frequently visited. But we have not a word of description. The House of Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents receives his unqualified praise. Not so the High School. In the male apartment, he thinks the deviation from the Edinburg plan by which two sets of Monitors are kept to relieve each other, no improvement. In the female high school, the gallant Captain must have shown a spice of captiousness which has been preserved in the book. He represents the Principal as having been desirous of showing off, and also been chagrined at the small quantum of praise he bestowed upon a reading class of young Misses. He heard them pronounce chivalry, shivalry, and the *o* in combat was not sounded like the *u*. A discussion arose upon the standard of pronunciation, in which he endeavours to fix inconsistency upon the preceptress, and makes her withal something of a tartar. Now we regret to say, that we have very good reason to believe the traveller has essentially misrepresented the incidents of the interview. The fact was that the lady got the advantage of the critic, and he was the party irritated. He afterwards visited our African free schools, and was much pleased, both with instructors and pupils.

The two subjects which most attracted his attention in New York were the frequency of our fires and the way in which they are managed by our firemen; and the novelty of removing a large double brick house. The process by which this last formidable operation is effected is particularly described. He went out to one large fire which occurred while he was here, and has given an animated description of it.—He suggested an improvement from an Edinburg invention, for throwing water more compactly and effectively upon any given point of a fire. By desire he afterwards procured the necessary drawings from Edinburg, and now requests our civil authorities, who have not availed themselves of the improvement, to impart a knowledge of the invention to other American cities.

Leaving New York, his first visit was to the new State Prison at Sing Sing. Of this institution, he has given a long, and highly interesting account. He considers the police of that establishment, as the perfection of prison discipline; and Capt. Lynds receives as he deserves, high praise. Of course he visited West Point—but his expectations were not realized. His praise is very faint, and he is sparing of it. The mathematics are only respectably taught, and the cadets do not throw their chest forward, and stand as erectly as they do in England.—This defect he imputes to the nation at large. But in regard to the cadets, he probably is not aware, that the army tailors do not stuff their clothes as they do in England. The scenery of the Hudson pleased him, and the highlands equalled the romantic regions of Scotland. The villages which adorn the banks of the river, and are sprinkled through the western country, should rather be called towns than the less imposing name.

In viewing the spacious and splendid mansions of the Livingstons, he mourns over the abolition of the law of primogeniture, by the operation of which these noble estates have already been divided and subdivided, and will soon be reduced to diminutive parcels of land. The abolition of this aristocratical law, he attributes to Mr. Jefferson, and the surge of democracy by which he was borne into power.—Here he shows his ignorance of the distinction between our federal legislature & state judiciaries. In this state the law of primogeniture was annulled by the Constitution of 1777.

Landing at Catskill, he visited the Mountains the Falls of the Rauterskill, and the Clove, and on the whole thought it was a very pretty place. But no enthusiasm appears to have been excited; and although he reads us a long lecture for talking much about the beauties and glories of natural scenery, to which, as he says, we pay no attention while travelling amongst it, yet his own feelings are perfectly dormant, until he arrives on the British side of the Niagara Falls.—Here he was overwhelmed with amazement, and confessess that his expectations were wonderously surpassed. It was "training day" at Catskill, he dined with the officers and soldiers of a uniformed company. But they paid more attention to the manual exercise of the table than to him: and he found the officers were not martinets in conversation. He speaks of Hudson as a beautiful place and very justly. From Albany he whipped across to Stock bridge, where he enjoyed an agreeable twilight among the elms and villas of that delightful town. As to our honest quiet friends the Shakers he has never seen any worshippers to equal them either in Asia, Africa, or any where else.

Retracing his steps to Albany about which he has all but nothing at all to say, he set off for Niagara—taking the route of the canal to Schenectady and Utica. The scenery of the charming valley of the Mohawk pleased him and well it might. He was delighted with Whitesborough, and thought well of Utica but did not believe Rome the city of the Seven Hills. At Syracuse and its vicinity, he was much annoyed by the scattered trunks of trees and the black stumps yet standing in the fields. He remarked particularly in regard to the village, the fact that the canal runs through the heart of it, and that it winds along carefully to suit the curvatures of the streets. He was not aware that the canal was built before the town and that the streets of the latter were cut to the pattern of the former.

Here our traveller digresses to speak of the names of Manlius Camillus, Scipio, Athens Auburn loveliest village of the plain," &c.—When he first heard these classic names, bestowed by the Surveyor General out of Lempriere, on so many of our inland townships and villages he was pleased as he thought it calculated to enlighten the people and suggest good associations; but he insinuates that they knew little about the heroes and ancient cities after which their places had been named.—And since his return it has afflicted him; because he cannot think of Athens, Syracuse, &c. without being reminded of swamps, bad roads black stumps and girdled trees.

Pursuing his journey westward admired the Cayuga Bridge the longest he had ever seen, over a lake of which he had never heard; stopped at Auburn, Geneva, Canandaigua, and proceeded the next to Rochester. At Cannadaigua he fell in with a rich and hospitable Scotch gentleman, who, he was pleased to find had not lost sight of the comforts and refinements of his native land.

He met with a plentiful sprinkling of our colored population every where; but marvelled at the arbitrary distinction which exists between the blacks and whites. In speaknig of these distinctions, he apprehends that the distance between the blacks and whites might be gradually done away with were slavery abolished. He mentions as a great step in the march of improvement that by a late law of this State, such blacks as are freeholders to a certain amount have the right to vote. He was not informed that previous to the new constitution, the free blacks were on the same footing with the whites; and therefore that what he calls "a great step" in the progress of liberality towards these people was a retrogade one.

At Rochester, he does not conceal his undissembled astonishment at every thing he saw and heard. A city in a wilderness extending its bounds in all directions as if by magic. New streets were opening through the dense forests which bounded the city and whole blocks and rows of houses were rising as if by the wand of an enchanter. Several pages written with warmth and spirit are devoted to this enterprising town. The only drawback on his pleasure were, two pronged forks at the hotel, and the carelessness of the gentlemen in their attire. This again is a prevailing fault. The ladies he says, bring all their fashions from Paris. But the gentlemen have no fashions at all. Their clothes don't set well and their hats are seldom brushed. These things ought not so to be.

From Rochester to Niagara he meets with no incident to chronicle or no town of magnitude to describe. The Ridge Road affords him an opportunity for Geologizing; and as we have before said, he was transported with the Grand Cataract. He spent ten days in surveying and comtemplating this unequalled cascade from every point of view, and with increasing interest every day. Indeed his sublimest conceptions fell far short of the magnificent reality. But we must part with our traveller for today.

The following is from the Cheraw "*Southern Radical*," of the 29th ult.; hitherto a warm Jackson paper:—

"*Proscription in Alabama.*—The *vampyre* spirit of *reformation* is gradually extending itself towards the South.—Having glutted its cormorant appetite to satiety with the innocent as well as the guilty blood of the North, it has turned the full broad glare of its basilisk glance upon the genial valleys: the "*arva beata*" of the South. The fearlessly independent—the rigidly consistent; the wavering, apostatizing political weathercock, and the steady, undeviating adherent of *principle* no matter what may be the actuating motive, whether pure or impure, whether patriotic or selfish, so they were opposed to Gen. Jackson's election, all must expect to fall beneath the fell swoop of this *reforming monster*. Already has this *political Hercules* commenced his Peneusian labours in Alabama. Harry J. Thornton, Esq. of Huntsville, has been ejected from the office of District Attorney for North Alabama, and a Mr. Joseph Scott appointed in his place. Who Mr. Scott is we do not know, but we do know that Harry J. Thornton has won for himself a reputation as enviable as that of any young man in this or any other country. Now, why, we ask, was *he* turned out of office? Was it because he was incapable of discharging the duties of his station? Certainly not. Had he been guilty of criminal lashes, or will he be made out a public defaulter and thus placed by the side of the Fillebrowns the Watkinses and the Nourses? Can any of these charges be made and sustained? We should think not. What then is the true cause? We call upon the friends of the General to answer us, because we feel interested in knowing.—For if Gen. Jackson is to be licensed to run riot in his career of indiscriminate proscription, it is high time that the batteries of a free and independent press were let loose upon him. We advocated Gen. Jackson's election in the hope that with his success a better state of things might be induced. But we are sorry to say, that we have almost began to conclude, that we have "swapped *the devil for a witch*." Our faith was powerfully shaken when we read his "inaugural," and every act of his administration, save the appointment of Rives to the court of St. Cloud, has had a tendency to wax us fainter and fainter in the cause. There must be something weak or corrupt in that administration which makes Duff Green its organ, and there must be something "rotten in Denmark" where the venal treachery of such men as Amos Kendal, Isaac Hill and Mordecai Noah are rewarded with office."

Florida.—The Tallahassee Advocate of the 25th ult. gives the most cheering accounts of the crops in that State. "The Planters," it observes, "wear smiling faces, particularly those that are raising Sugar Cane; and it is a fact beyond dispute from experiments already made, that such gentlemen as have the means and will enter with spirit into raising Sugar cannot fail of making large fortunes—Perhaps there never was a time so propitious for the man of capital and enterprising planter to invest their means as in the lands of Florida and such as have an idea of emigrating here cannot do better than come forthwith."

It also states that one planter offers 10,000 bushels of his present crop of corn at 25 cents per bushel. Such prices however are not expected to continue long as the cultivation of corn beyond the immediate want of the article will of necessity yield before the superior profit of raising Sugar and Sea Island cotton.

The case of Dr. Watkins has at length been brought to a close in the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia. We learn from the National Intelligencer that on Friday the Court delivered its opinion on the motion of Watkins's Counsel, in arrest of Judgment, and for new trials. The objections to the indictments and the motion in arrest, were overruled by the Court, and the defendant was ordered to be brought in, to receive sentence. The Marshal accordingly proceeded to the jail, and soon after returned into Court with Dr. Watkins in custody, when the following sentence was pronounced by Judge Cranch:

In the indictment for 750 dollars: Fined $750 and be imprisoned for three calender months from this 14th day of August, 1829, Inclusive.

In the 300 dollar case: Fined $300 and be imprisoned for the three calender months next following the termination of his imprisonment under the sentence in the preceding case.

In the 2000 dollar case: Fined $2000 and to be imprisoned for three calender months next following the termination of his imprisonment under the sentence in the next preceding case for 300 dollars.

The sentence altogether, it will be perceived, is a fine of three thousand and fifty dollars, and nine months imprisonment from the 14th day of August.

From the correspondent of the U. S. Gaz.

"WASHINGTON, Aug. 14, 1829.

"*Dear Sir.*—Dr. Watkins was brought into Court to-day to receive sentence upon the three distinct offences of which he has been convicted viz: of obtaining the separate sums of 750 dollars of 300 dollars and of 2000 dollars, of the money of the U. States and applying the same to his own use and benefit. There was considerable discussion among the members of the bar as to the necessity which existed for bringing the prisoner into court, as the offence was only a misdemeanor; and the court had some doubts on the subject; but on reference to the authorities and practice, they found it was usual to have the prisoner in the court in every case where the court might exercise the right of inflicting corporal punishment. The counsel for the U. States as well as the counsel for the accused was consulted on the subject but Mr. Coxe declined taking any part in the business. It was then ordered that the Marshal should conduct the prisoner into court to receive his sentence. Many gentlemen left the court, rather than to witness the degradation of the prisoner and as the order to bring in the prisoner was unexpected, very few of those who are always ready to witness the most afflicting exhibitions of human degradation had the opportunity to indulge their curiosity. When he was brought into court, the prisoner was evidently under a severe infliction of mental agony, but he made a great effort to appear composed, and to sustain himself so far as to prevent his emotions from becoming too apparent to those around him. He took his seat with a countenance uncommonly pale and hung down his head hiding his eyes with his hand, unwilling perhaps they should rest on any individual with whom he had once been connected in social intercourse or who had been a participant of his hospitality and friendship, in his better days. It was a sight humiliating to our nature, full of deep and instructive warning; and there was scarcely a countenance present on which was not written sincere sympathy in the fate of one whose qualifications for distinction are so numerous and so conspicuous and who, by their misuse had at once plunged himself into distress and disgrace from which there is no probability of his extrication so as again to be put in possession of the esteem and confidence of his fellow men.

The sentence of the court was read to him without any delay or accompanying observations. There was no necessity or impressive comment to awaken remorse and agony for the evidences of their existence were to be found in their ravages upon his frame and his features."

CUMBERLAND, August 14.

Swearingen's Trial.—The Court, for the trial of *George Swearingen*, proceeded to impannel a Jury on Tuesday. Out of twenty-five Jurymen summoned, but three were sworn on Tuesday; they being first obliged to state on oath, whether they had expressed an opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the accused. On Wednesday, out of thirty-six talesmen, six Jurors were sworn, the others having been challenged; and yesterday out of thirty talesmen, three more Jurors were sworn, making up the requisite number. A pannel of Jurymen being now obtained, and the absent witness having yesterday appeared, it may be expected that the trial will now proceed without further delay. We purpose giving an abstract of the proceedings of the trial so soon as a verdict shall have been rendered by the Jury.

Civilian.

SPLENDID BARGE.

Boston August 8.—Mr. Joseph Francis, boat builder, Langdon Place, who is well known as the builder of several race boats which have excited the admiration of all who have seen them and witnessed their speed, has recently constructed a barge by direction of B. T. Pickman, Esq. of beautiful model and proportions, equally calculated for display, swiftness and comfort. It is intended for Don Pedro, Emperor of Brazil, and will cost about $1000. A correspondent of the Traveller, who has seen the barge at the rooms of Mr. Wm. Hancock, Cornhill, late Market-street, who is engaged upon the upholstery work, thus describes it:—It is 28 feet long, the frame is of oak and finished with mahogany; there will be two sets of cushions, one covered with the richest crimson damask, the other with moreen; an awning, lined with silk will be raised over the stern, having around silk curtains hung in festoons, and supported by brass pillars. The boat will be carpeted. The mouldings on the pannel work are to be gilt, and the Brazilian arms done in bronze and gold in the richest style, in the stern. The upper part of the boat will be covered with figures in bronze and gold. There is no paint upon her, except the ornamental painting, which is executed by Mr. Hubbard.

Magistrate's Blanks
FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE.

FOR THE EASTON GAZETTE.

A visit to the Catskill Mountain House.

There is, perhaps, as great variety of natural scenery between New York and Catskill as can be found elsewhere, in the Union, in the same extent of journey.—To those unaccustomed to a rough and hilly country the view as you ascend the river is truly beautiful. Here you are not only amused by Mountains peering above Mountains, and in the wild irregularity of nature piercing the clouds, which, anon, rested upon their bosom, but with beautiful fields and cottages "where the art of man essays to subdue the luxuries of nature."

The North River, at this season of the year is almost covered with vessels of various discriptions; and it is not unusual for two or three hundred to be counted during a passage to Albany. The Steam Boats in July and August are generally crowded with passengers, and in one instance as many as a thousand is said to have left this city on board the North America, one of our finest boats. Indeed, such is the competition now, and such are the number of boats employed that one can go to Albany from this City, at the moderate price of one dollar.

We arrived at Catskill in about eight hours after we left N. York, though the distance is upwards of one hundred and twenty miles, where there were Stages in waiting, and proceeded on our jaunt. From the Village to the mountain house, though only computed at thirteen miles, occupied us nearly four hours of severe toil for the horses.

The road, is said to be at this time much improved. The country from the landing place to the foot of the hill (ten miles,) presents but little to enliven attention, were it not for the hills before you, and the pleasures you anticipate after reaching the spot in contemplation. From the foot of the mountain until the top is obtained, a very picturesque, and delightful view presents itself on either side.—Sometimes we were on the brink of deep precipices, the water murmuring through the shrubbery far below; and at other times rocks frowning above inspiring an unwelcome degree of terror. Chesnut, Hemlock and Birch trees with flowers of a beautiful appearance were seen in profusion, while others were lying decayed on the ground nearly dissolved into dust, & covered over with green moss, "as if to serve for an illustration of the beautiful but melancholy metaphor in Scripture so expressive of the ultimate fate of man "as the tree falls so it must be."

About half way up the mountain is the celebrated hollow where Rip Van Winkle is said to have slept twenty years—the following passage from the inimitable author of the sketch book was forcibly brought to our memory!—"In the midst of Rip's bewilderment, the man in the cocked hat demanded who he was and what was his name? I don't know exclaimed Rip at his wit's end, I'm not myself—I'm somebody else; that's me yonder; no—that's somebody else got into my shoes—I was myself last night, but I fell asleep on the mountains, and they've changed my gun, and every thing's changed, and I can't tell what's my name, or who I am."

There is a small house of refreshment kept here in summer but deserted in winter, the proprietor, of which, appears better acquainted on the subject of charging than any thing else. Long before we had reached the top we had been surrounded by regions of clouds, and intruded into the domains of bears and wolves, with peak towering above peak in constant succession—after we had surmounted the last steep ascent, we arrived at the mountain house, the moment a dense cloud was passing below, and stepped from the stage into the piazza of the building, which stands on the brink of the mountain, near three thousand feet above the level of the Hudson. Here, as may easily be conceived, a prospect unrivalled in picturesque grandeur—the scene as unfolded presented a most sublime—most enchanting spectacle. The clouds which had been thick below and the sun shining on them representing mountains of snow; now passed by with the breeze, and in ten or fifteen minutes we had a view as far as the vision of the eye could extend embracing one hundred and fifty miles from north to south, and sixty from east to west. The green mountains in New Hampshire and Vermont are to be seen and a continuation through Massachusetts and Connecticut until they are lost to the sight in the highlands. Below are houses dwindled in appearance to mere specks—the large trees look like shrubbery around the cleared land; while the Hudson whose shores are sprinkled with Villages winding far below roll onward to the ocean.

But the most glorious scene of all is the instantaneous changes produced by masses of vapour sweeping rapidly by, or resting awhile on the mountains as if to renew their endless course with renovated speed "leaving you to contemplate with strange emotions of awe and admiration the wonderful and overpowering works of the great Creator of the universe." In a thunder storm the sight is said to be truly grand—the vivid lightning, and the echo of the thunder as it rolls along the hills presenting a novel and appalling appearance, while the sun shining brilliantly above, and the spectator gazing on the storm beneath feels himself secure on the mountain tops—with "health in the beeze and shelter in the storm."

After partaking of an excellent dinner, we repaired to the Kauterskill Falls which are highly romantic.

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