John Catrup

EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted, is the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown."
RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all.

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SUPERSTITIONS OF NEW ENGLAND.

BY JOSEPH CHANDLER.

In that almost insulated part of the State of Massachusetts, called *Old Colony or Plymouth County*, and particularly in a small village adjoining the shiretown there may be found the relics of many old customs and superstitions which would be amusing, at least to the antiquary. Among others of less serious cast, there was fifteen years ago, one which, on account of its peculiarity and its consequence I beg leave to mention.

It is well known to those who are acquainted with that section of our country, that nearly one half its inhabitants die of a consumption, occasioned by the chilly humidity of their atmosphere, and the long prevalence of easterly winds. The inhabitants of the village (or our town as it is there called) to which I allude, were peculiarly exposed to this scourge and I have seen at one time, one in every fifty of its inhabitants glided down to the grave, with all the certainty which charterizes this insidious foe of the human family.

There was, fifteen years ago, and is perhaps at this time, an opinion prevalent among the inhabitants of that town, that a body of a person who had died of a consumption, was, by some supernatural means, nourished in the grave from the body of some one living member of the family, and that during the life of this person the body retained in the grave all the fullness and freshness of life and vigor.

This belief was strengthened by the circumstances that whole families frequently fell a prey to this terrible disease. Of one large family in this town, consisting of fourteen children and their venerable parents, the mother and youngest son only remained; the rest within a year of each other had died of the consumption.

Within two months from the death of the thirteenth child—an amiable girl of about 16 years of age—the bloom of which characterized the whole of this family, was seen to fade from the cheek of the last support of the heart-smitten mother, and his broad flat chest was occasionally convulsed by that powerful deep-toned cough which attends the consumption in our Atlantic States.

At this time, as if to snatch one of this family from an early grave, it was resolved by a few of the inhabitants of the village to test the truth of this tradition which I have mentioned and which the circumstances of this afflicted family seemed to confirm, I should have added that it was believed that if the body, thus naturally nourished in the grave should be raised and turned over in the coffin, its depredation upon the survivor would necessarily cease. The consent of the mother being obtained it was agreed that four persons attended by the surviving and complaining brother should, at sunrise next day dig up the remains of the last buried sister. At the appointed hour they attended in the burying yard, and having with much exertion removed the earth, they raised the coffin and placed it upon the ground; then displacing the flat lid, they lifted the covering from her face, and discovered what they had indeed anticipated but dreaded to declare—yes, I saw the visage of one who had long been the tenant of a silent grave, lit up with the brilliancy of youthful health. The cheek was full to dimpling, and a rich profusion of hair shaded her cold forehead, while some of its richest curls floated upon their unconscious breast. The large blue eye had scarcely lost is brilliancy, and the living fullness of her lips seemed almost to say "loose me, and let me go."

In two weeks, the brother, shocked with the spectacle he had witnessed, sunk under his disease. The mother survived scarcely a year, and the long range of sixteen graves is pointed out to the stranger as an evidence of the truth of the belief of the inhabitants.

The following lines were written on a recollection of the above shocking scene:

I saw her, the grave sheet was round her,
  Months had passed since they laid her in clay:
Yet the damps of the tomb could not wound her,
  The worms had not seized on their prey.

Oh, fair was the cheek, as I knew it
  When the rose all its colours there brought
And that eye—did a tear then bedew it?
  It gleamed like the herald of thought.

She bloomed, though the shroud was around her;
  Her locks o'er her cold bosom waved,
As if the stern monarch had crowned her,
  The fair, speechless queen of the grave.

But what lends the grave such a lustre?
  O'er her cheek what such beauty had shed?
His life-blood, who knelt there, had nurst her,
  The living was food for the dead!

A belief in judical astrology has been more or less prevalent in every part of the civilized world; and though this belief may have been popular only in proportion to the ignorance of the mass of the people, yet it will be acknowledged by all who are acquainted with the events of the past century, that, though the ignorant may have been misled by the jargon of their superiors, yet the most learned, at times, were not only deceived by the imposing operations of the adepts, but were even dupes to their own imaginary acquirements.

In few places has this confidence been more general and implicit than in the old colony.—A very large proportion of the inhabitants of that section of our country are seamen—a class of people remarkably tenacious of early opinions and proverbially superstitious.

Whatever may be the nature of any popular belief, if there is not some special circumstance to give it authenticity, its influence is soon lost upon the minds of those who were most ready to receive it—it ceases to affect their actions, and is only brought to remembrance by some peculiar coincidence of circumstances. This may be the case at the present day with many of those superstitions which once agitated the minds, and influenced the action of the old colonists; but the belief in judicial astrology will never be entirely lost from among them, while there is one alive who witnessed the event which I am about to relate.

Late in the last century, the Rev. Doctor S——, the clergyman of one of the three towns that lie on Plymouth Bay, had acquired the awe of his parishioners by his deep skill in the occult sciences, not less than their love and esteem by the purity of his doctrine and the excellence of his examples. He had calculated the nativity of very many of his congregation, and as the men were mostly "those who go down into the sea in ships," he could not often fail when he predicted, with a solemnity which showed his own confidence in his art and demanded theirs, that they must ultimately find a watery grave.

Fully persuaded of his own powers, the reverend man was induced to calculate the extent of his own life. This was a matter of no small moment, and the good man was often seen at night by the neighboring fishermen ascending a hill in the neighborhood to "hold high converse with the stars." The result of his calculation was not long a secret, for tho' he had confidently entrusted the matter only to his two deacons, they had found means to divest themselves of the more weighty part of the secret, by hinting at a definite time beyond which they might not expect the profit of the good man's labours. It was of course soon noised through the town, that, on the morning of the 5th of July, 1795, he would, according to his own prediction, most assuredly be relieved from all the weight of earthly cares, and earthly sorrows. The whole of the week preceding the day he had marked as the termination of his earthly career, the pious man devoted to exhorting, directing and comforting, those who had long looked up to him as a temporal as well as a spriritual guide. Early on the morning of the fatal Sunday, apparently dreaded by all more than himself, the oldest and most respectable of his parishioners assembled to await the result of the awful prediction. Eight o'clock was the hour which the Doctor had marked as the last of his existence, and to convince them of his confidence in his own art, he assured them that he had prepared no sermon for the day, and that he had set his house in order, in full persuasion that "he must die, and not live."

He had finished a most pathetic prayer, when the hand of the clock indicated eight; the company stood in breathless anticipation—no change however took place—his pulse was regular, and no unusual sensation intimated even the distant approach of death: at length the Doctor observed, that although he had been extremely careful in his calculation, yet he believed that he might have made an error in regard to time, to detect which he proposed examining anew his books. He accordingly rose to take them from a high projecting shelf, when the stool on which he stood, turning suddenly forward, threw him backward upon his head—he broke his neck and expired immediately without uttering a single word.

Since that unhappy affair, judicial astrology, although held in the highest admiration and reverence by the inhabitants, has been so dreaded that it has fallen into total disuse. A large slate slab, erected at the head of his grave, bears the age and character of the worthy clergyman, and tells, in a few words, the wonderful circumstance attending his death.

From the New York Courier.

HENRY ECKFORD.—The generality of the public are, we believe, already aware, that our highly respected townsman, Mr. Eckford, effected a sale to the Porte, some time after his arrival at Constantinople, of the elegant corvette built ship; constructed by him and which conveyed him to Turkey. They are perhaps not equally well informed as to the position he now occupies in that Empire. He is, we learn by recent advices, placed by the sultan in an eminent and important situation. The equipment of the Turkish fleet, its increase, and in short the whole maritime resources of the Porte are entrusted to his skill and activity, and it is to these probably owing, that the navy of the Sultan, though almost totally destroyed at Navarino, has in so short a period, acquired sufficient strength in face of the Egyptain fleet to keep the sea, with the Pacha of that country has so long labored to render more powerful than that of his adversary, and to effect which he has called to his aid the assistance and service of both English and French engineers.—When we take the age of Mr. Eckford into consideration, and that his previous associations and pursuits had in no way prepared him for the extraordinary circumstances in which he is now placed, it is a strong proof of the possession of a powerful mind, that he should in so short a period, have adapted himself to the character of a people so perfectly dissimilar to those with whom he had before lived, and even have acquired their confidence in a great degree. Remarkable as he was in this community, for generosity and benevolence in the days of his prosperity—for calm, silent forbearance, under extreme suffering—the public will participate in the pleasure we feel, at the prospects now opening to him.

'Why, Billy Wyand ot,' (said the Governor of Ohio to an old Indian, strolling about the streets of Columbus, in very cold weather) 'are not your arms and legs very cold?" Ho, ho ho, Captain Governor, replied Billy; 'you face cold?' 'O, no, said his interrogator, my face by constant exposure, has become innured to severity of the weather.' Well captain, rejoined the hardy aborigine, Indian *all over face!*"

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

From the N. York Standard, Jan. 30.

Surrender of the Citadel of Antwerp to the French.

The ship Florida, Captain Griswold, arrived last night from London, having left the Downs on the 28th December. Capt. G. politely furnished us with London papers to the evening of the 27th, which contain the important intelligence of the surrender of the Citadel of Antwerp to the French on the 23d.

The ostensible object of the entrance of the French army into Belgium, having been thus attained, Marshal Gerard should, agreeably to the terms of the Convention between France and England, withdraw his army beyond the Belgian frontier. It is however the decided opinion expressed by both the English and French papers, that this will not be done, and that the difference between Holland and Belgium is not settled by the capture of Antwerp.

Our papers contain little of interest in addition to the above event, being principally occupied with details of the elections for Parliament.

In France all was quiet, and a correspondent of one of the London papers, mentions that the King and Queen of the French would proceed to Lille to meet the Dukes of Orleans and Nemours on their return from Antwerp, and that the young Dukes would be accompanied on their journey to Lille by the King and Queen of Belgium.

Accounts from Lisbon were to the 21st Dec. but nothing of interest is given.

The following extracts are from the London Albion of the 27th December.

NEWS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR UP TO TUESDAY NIGHT.

BERCHEM, Head Quarters of Marshall Gerard, Monday evening, 7 o'clock, Dec. 24.

I have very little to add to my letter of this morning. A Dutch Officer and Captain Passy, Aid-de-Camp to Marshal Gerard, are gone to the Hague with the terms of the capitulation. The Marshal demands that the King of Holland should consent to give up all the forts and dependencies of the citidel, in conformity to the treaty of the 15th November.

The act of capitulation consists of ten articles, and its purport is—

That the Citadel of Antwerp Tete de Flanders, Burght, D'Austrovil and Zurndrecht, should be immediately given up.

That the commander and his garrison should be considered as prisoners of war until the surrender of Forts Lillo and Liefkenshock.

That the garrison should leave the citadel with all the honors of war.

That the garrison should lay down its arms on the glaces of the citadel, on the side next esplanade.

That the garrison should only take away with it such articles as belong immediately to officers and privates.

That the material which defended the citadel should be considered as the property of the Belgian Government.

That an inventory should be taken of all the materiel, &c.

That two battalions of French infantry should take immediate possession of the posts of the half moon, the curtain towards the esplanade, and one of the gates of the citadel.

That should the King of Holland consent to the surrender of Forts Lillo and Liefkenshock, Gen. Chasse and the garrison should be escorted by the French to the frontiers of Holland, and there have their arms returned to them.

The 10th article makes mention that the gun-boats lying in the Scheldt, near the citadel and in the polders, should not be considered as included in the present treaty, Gen. Chasse having declared that they were under the command of Captain Koopman, and that he had no command whatever over them.

In conformity with these articles, the French took possession of the different posts mentioned and jointly with the Dutch, keep the guards of the citadel. Until the return of the messenger of the Hague nothing will be definitively settled, and a great deal will depend on the reply of the King of Holland as to his future intentions.

The city of Antwerp presents an aspect very different to what it did a few days since. The shops are open again, the gay merchandize is once more at the windows, and rolling into the town with its emigrant inhabitants

Marshal Gerard, the Dukes of Orleans and Nemours, accompanied by a brilliant staff, paid a visit this morning to the prisoner Chasse, in his hovel, in the vault of the Citadel. I think it would have beenbetter taste had Gerard visited his prisoner with less ostentation.

The French have now only a few sentinels in the trenches, who strictly prevent all military men from the inspecting the works.

It is said that Chasse and his garrison are to be confined at Menin and Ypres.

An inventory is now being taken of all the material in the citadel—under the direction of Generals Haxo and Neigre:

The following is from the Antwerp paper, the Journal du Commerce.—When news of the capitulation was known, general joy prevailed in Antwerp. People met and congratulated each other without distinction of rank or party. The Dutch saved nothing from the citadel or its neighborhood. Early in the evening the gunboat No. 8, which it is said has on board things of value, as well as important documents was obliged to surrender to the French garrison at Fort Phillippe.

Towards 9 o'clock the Dutch set fire to 6 other gun-boats moored under the citadel; they all became a prey to the flames; 5 others were also sunk by them. During the night, the Steamer Chasse was blown up.

The citadel offers a picture of extreme desolation—no building remains entire—all are totally destroyed or crippled by the projectiles of the besiegers—not a foot of ground but is ploughed up by the balls and shells. One important building was destroyed, with all its contents. It would appear that this loss determined the besieged to capitulate. It is clear that they held out to the last extremity.

Gen. Chasse and his garrison are still in the citadel, the approaches to which are forbidden to the curious by the French, who are in possession of the posts mentioned in the capitulation.

Marshal Gerard and the two Princes are in the town since the morning.

The inhabitants are returning in crowds.—On every side the water destined to arrest the flames in case of a bombardment, is thrown from the garret windows—the apertures to the cellars are being uncovered—in short, the town has acquired an activity to which it has lately been unaccustomed.

The Regency will meet this evening, to frame an address to the King, expressive of their wishes that the ramparts of the citadel on the side of the city may be demolished.

We are impatient to know the answer of William; for, in case of refusal, the result of the stipulations is that the garrison of the citadel shall be sent prisoners to France: on the contrary, if he accept, they will be conducted to the frontiers, with all the honors of war."

London, Dec. 27—Evening.—The accounts from Antwerp contain some highly interesting details of the terms of the capitulation, & of the occurrences which took place up to one o'clock, on Tuesday afternoon.

The garrison marched out to the quay of the Citadel on Monday afternoon, under the command of General Favange, (Chasse himself being unable to move from an attack of the rheumatism,) and laid down their arms according to the terms agreed on. They were escorted back to their quarters, where they will remain until the answer to the communication made to the Hague is received. If the King of Holland should refuse to surrender the other forts on the Scheldt, (of which the fullest expectation is entertained at Antwerp, these gallant men are to be subjected to the treatment of prisoners of war, and confined at Menin and Yipres.

But the conduct of the French and Belgians with regard to the gun boats stationed between the Citadel and the Tete de Flanders deserves to be designated as attrocious. The gun boats were in no degree dependent upon the Citadel nor were they under the orders of General Chasse; their Commander Capt. Koopman, acted under instructions direct from his sovereign. They were not, therefore, included in the capitulation of the Citadel, and actually kept from it. Nevertheless in defiance of this distinct understanding, in violation of Belgic neutrality, when Capt. Koopman on the cessation of hostilities, thought proper to drop down the river with his little fleet, the Belgians from some of the works on the bank with the assistance of French Artillerymen, opened a heavy fire upon the gun boats, and their gallant Commander finding that it was next to impossible to effect a passage by the opposing batteries blew up and sunk his vessels (with the exception of one which escaped,) rather than allow them to fall into the hands of either the French or Belgians, by whom they might have been subsequently used against Forts Lillo and Liefkenshock.

King Leopold, who arrived at Antwerp a short time after this disgraceful scene, was received with coolness by his ignoble people.

The French papers of Tuesday contain no articles of importance beyond those relating to the fall of the Citadel Antwerp.

The Funds did advance materially on Tuesday, notwithstanding the Antwerp news and the pacific character of the intelligence from Prussia, the effect which would have been produced being somewhat checked by the accounts from Vienna mentioning the intention of the Austrian Government to raise 35,000 men to complete the Hungarian regiments.

The letter of our Paris Correspondent possesses much matter of interest. His information seems to correspond with the opinion, we have expressed in another article, that the return of the French army will be postponed until the principal forts on the Scheldt are in their possesion, and that the King of Holland will not deliver them up until compelled to do so by force of arms.

In addition to the public advices from the Continent: which lead to the belief that a continental war is not far distant; we have received private information from Germany of a very important nature, which generally strengthens this opinion.—*Albion.*

PARIS, Dec. 25.—The capitulation of Gen. Chasse has excited much satisfaction here, it being felt on all sides that the losses of France were already sufficiently severe in an expedition as vain as it was groundless.

INTERESTING FROM CHARLESTON.

Meeting of the Nullifiers.

The Charleston papers contain a full account of the proceedings of a large meeting of the "State Rights and Free Trade" party, held at the Circus on the evening of Monday, the 21st ult. C. C. Pinckney, Lieutenant Governor of the State presided—and speeches were made by Judge Colcock, Col. Preston, and Ex-Governor Hamilton. The accounts vary as to the number present, which is put down at from 2000 to 3000. A strong preamble and twenty resolutions were adopted, without opposition, —in which the doctrines of the President's Proclamation as they represent them, are denounced in the most unyielding terms of hostility, as historically untrue, and leading inevitably to a consolidated government without limitation of powers. They affirm the right of secession, and pledge themselves to maintain it, if necessary, with their lives. They reject with anger, the imputations of the President against the leading Nullifiers as "vituperative" and "unjust." They approve of the measures of their State Legislature and Governor; they resolve that the whole State Rights and Free Trade party in Charleston will volunteer *en masse* to the Governor; and express great indignation at the concentration of the military and naval forces of the United States in their harbor and on the frontiers of their State, as uncalled for by any public exigency—and if intended to overawe public opinion, as "impotent and unwarrantable."

They declare the bill now before Congress, to be a gross and palpable violation of the Constitution of the United States, and as investing the President with "absolute control over the lives, liberties and property of the country."

The most important indication is, however, that part of the resolutions which expresses a lively satisfaction at the prospect of a modification of the Tariff, by Congress, in the bill now pending, and resolves, "*that those indications shall be met by corresponding dispositions on their part,*" and declares as the sense of the meeting that "*pending the process of the measure alluded to, all* occasion of collision between the Federal and State authorities should be sedulously avoided on both sides."

Nullification, therefore, is to be postponed until after the 4th March. They further passed resolutions, in the event of the failure of these expectations, to stand by the Ordinance and the State, and to organize a *Free Trade Importing Company*, for the purpose of supplying the consumption of the State, *duty free.*

The Southern Patriot mentions that, at the meeting in the Circus—

"General Hamilton stated that he had sent a part of his crop of Rice to Havana, and had ordered the returns in Sugar, in order to make the question after the 1st of February; but that he would not act in a private or public capacity, in relation to the matter, until it could be ascertained with certainty what will be the conduct of Congress. If, he added, that body should adjourn without adjusting the Tariff, or arm the President with the powers for which he asks in his late Message, he will instantly call the Convention together, and leave to that Assembly the determination of the course to be adopted."

A resolution was adopted, to organize the whole force of the Nullifiers in Charleston to aid the authorities "with all possible promptitude, energy and effect."—*Balt. Amer.*

EXHIBITION OF SHEEP.

Talbot County, (Md.) Dec. 26, 1832.

MR. SMITH:

During the past fall, we have been amused with the various performances of the high blooded steeds over the different courses, and lately have witnessed the highly interesting political contest between Jackson, Clay and Wirt. The ladies in various parts of the state have held their fairs, and I see more progressing in your respectable city for the promotion of charity. The trustees of the Agricultural Society of Maryland still hold their festive meeting monthly on the Eastern Shore. Notwithstanding all those *amusing, important, charitable,* and *agreeable* proceedings, I regret to see our cattle shows abandoned, which have done so much real good to the community. As this is the age of improvement and invention, I am about to propose a new exhibition, which perhaps, may renovate the dying embers of agriculture—and I know no gentleman to whom I can, with more propriety call to aid me in this new plan than one of your valuable correspondents from Virginia, though I have not the pleasure of personally knowing him, I admire his exertions to promote the improvement of land and stock; I allude to Mr. R. K. Meade; and hope he will at once see my motive is only to endeavor to raise an ambition for the benefit of society, and not to make money. It is only through the American Farmer that I have become acquainted with Mr. Meade, where I find he is a lover of fine sheep and other stock, and have reason to believe he has bestowed due attention on that animal, and perhaps has as fine sheep as any other gentleman in Virginia—What I propose is, that the gentlemen of the different states (who may feel disposed so to do) throw in a sweepstake of twenty dollars, and exhibit in the city of Baltimore, some time in November next, one ram—two ewes, and two wethers, from two to three years old the preceding spring. That there be three or more judges appointed, who shall take into consideration the size, beauty, form, and quality of wool (the wool to be estimated agreeably to the breed of sheep) and other good qualities, minutely observing all the good and bad points, belonging to each animal, and when all is summed up, to award to the gentleman possessing a majority of such sheep, having the greatest number of good points or qualifications, the sum of money which may be deposited, or if more agreeable to be divided between any two gentlemen having such sheep—as the exhibition is only intended to stimulate the farmer, and more may grow out of it—as great effects are sometimes produced from small causes. I have just thrown out those hints without my own signature at the spur of the moment, should Mr. Meade and any other gentleman think such an exhibition worthy of attention,—they can communicate through your paper—and my name can be made known.

AN EASTERN SHORE FARMER.

[We take the liberty of saying, for the information of those who may be disposed to take the plan into consideration, that the author is one of the most respectable gentlemen on the Eastern Shore of Md. In reply to the private note of our correspondent, we would observe that he cannot "trouble us too often," as he appears to suppose.—*Ed. Am. Farmer.*]

PUBLIC SALE

BY virtue of an order of the Orphans' court of Talbot county, I will sell at Public Sale on Wednesday the 13th of February if fair if not the next fair day, at the late residence of Rob't. Bartlett, dec'd. all the personal estate of the said dec'd consisting of

HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP & HOGS Household and Kitchen Furniture, about eighty barrels of corn, top-fodder, corn-caps, blades, &c. with sundry other articles too tedious to mention.

Terms of Sale—A credit of six months will be given, on all sums over five dollars, the purchaser or purchasers giving note with approved security, bearing interest from the day of Sale. On all sums under five dollars, the cash will be required, before the removal of the property—Sale to commence at 9 o'clock, A. M and attendance given by

Feb. 2. JOHN KEMP.

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