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.

VOL. XIX. EASTON, (MD.) SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 20, 1836. No. 8

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY
Saturday Morning
BY
Alexander Graham.

TERMS.

TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS
Per annum, payable half yearly in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding a square inserted three times for ONE DOLLAR; and TWENTY FIVE CENTS for every subsequent insertion.

From a late London Journal.

CONFESSION OF A QUACK DOCTOR

Nec prosunt domino, quæ prosunt omnibus, artes —OVID.

My days, my very hours are numbered; the cold hand of death presses heavily and painfully upon me; I feel that this bed will be the last, save an earthly one, on which the proprietor of the Balsam of Bethesda will ever lie. Long ere these words are in print, I shall be far beyond the reach of the indignation and censure of man; and it will ease my parting moments, and be a last atonement, if I lay before the public certain particulars wherein I have played a conspicuous, though a deceitful part. At the same time, I must beg the reader to have the candor to bear in mind this remark: that what I have done has been merely for the sake of gain, and not out of malice or ill-will to my fellow-creatures as a body, or to any individual in particular.

I shall commence with a short sketch of my early life. My father, Reuben Killman, was a brewer, in a small market town. He married, for his fourth wife, the daughter of the principal apothecary of the place. The issue of that marriage was the author of the present memoir. A short time before I was born, my poor mother had been reading the poems of the Poet Laureat, which made so great an impression on her, that she insisted on my being christened by the name of Thalaba.

That dear parent was so fondly attached to her only offspring, that during her life she never would allow my tender frame to be exposed to the cruelty of a birch-bearing brute, as she feelingly styled that awful monster, the schoolmaster. On the contrary, she determined to educate me herself, and, in order that she might direct my talents, of which she had the highest opinion, in the proper channel she seized the opportunity of taking me, at the age of eight years, to be examined by a celebrated phrenologist, who had announced that he should enlighten the town by a few lectures on his subtle science. I well remember the laying on of hands of that slender gentleman. After duly examining the outward signs of my inward powers, he informed my mother that my developments were so interesting and complicate, that he would take time for reflection, and send her a written opinion. The good lady, gratified by the pains and attention he was paying her favourite, slipped half a guinea into his learned palm, and went home to wait for the promised particulars.

The next day she received the following note:—

"Madam,—The real reason of my not announcing your son's organs yesterday was, that I was anxious not to expose him before other parties; but the sacred obligation of truth compels me to state, that I find the organs of *acquisitiveness* and *destructiveness* so strong, that I can have little doubt he will be led on from robbery to murder, and finally end his days at the gallows, *unless* you take great pains in cultivating his organs of *veneration &c* as explained in my little work, price 11s. 6d

"Your obedient servant,
"MANUEL PALMER."

My mother's rage at this epistle may be conceived. She instantly set off on a crusade against the phrenologist, and called on every neighbour and gossip in the place, denouncing the man's ignorance, and proving it by his letter, and the well known amiable qualities of her interesting child. I believe the lectures were, after all, as well attended as ever. My father was angry with my mother for exposing the faults of his child, and told her she ought to have hushed up the business. The poor lady retorted, and a quarrel ensued. It was, however, made up; and the reconciliation was evidently sincere on my father's part, as he advised my mother the following day to leave off brandy and water, which they always had been in the habit of drinking, as he thought *ale* would be better for her. Although she did as he recommended, my father lost his wife, and I, my kind parent in less than three months from that time.

I wished to put my mother's turtoise-shell cat into mourning on the occasion, and as she tore the clothes I made for her, I resolved to blacken those which nature had given her with ink. I had just begun the operation, and had placed the unfeeling animal headforemost down in a boot, with a quart ink bottle in my other hand, when my father appeared.—Seeing how I was occupied, he rushed towards me. The abruptness of his manner, (though I was doing no harm, but, on the contrary, a pious duty,) alarmed me. I fled: he pursued. He gained ground: I heard him puff close at my back. In my eagerness to escape, I attempted to jump over a cooler full of ale. I should easily have accomplished the leap, had it not happened that at that moment my father's hand arrested me by the trousers behind. He checked the impetus of my spring, and I fell, with the ink bottle, boot, and cat, into the middle of the steaming liquid.

I screamed, the cat mewed, my father swore. But the death of my mother, *I* suppose, had softened his heart; for, in a minute, he recovered his good humour, laughed at the cat and me, and said, "it did not matter, as the boot was the only thing that would be the worse for it."—However, he made up his mind to send me to school forthwith, "to improve my manners, and to have me out of harm's way."

To school I was sent, and there I remained till I was twelve years old, at which time my father sent for me home, put me into his counting house & taught me the art of book keeping and brewing. The latter *I* found was a far more intricate and mysterious process than the mere mixture of malt and hops.

Years went on: I grew up into a man, but as I advanced, the little town declined. It was not a place of much trade, and as the inhabitants died away, they were not rapidly succeeded by fresh settlers. The mortality of the place was certainly very great. The air was voted unhealthy, though formerly it had been considered the reverse. By some extraordinary fatality, my father's best customers were always the first to drop off. I felt for him, and myself, for I was now taken into partnership; and my mind sympathized with Moore's beautiful lines:—

"Oh! ever thus from childhood's hour
I've seen my fondest hopes decay;
I never nurst a tree or flower,
But 'twas the first to fade away.

"I never nurs'd a dear gazelle
To glad me with its bright black eye,
But when it came to know me well,
And love me, it was sure to die!"

But, after all, what are the gazelles to customers? and what is the sight of its eye to the sight of a bill for beer made out, ready for payment? Alas! these bills decreased as the town decayed, and ere long the Gazette presented the names of "R Killman & Son, Brewers." The shock upset my father; he never looked up afterwards, and the very day week after the above announcement, I saw his heels standing out of a large mesh tub.—He had chosen the fate of Clarence.

With a few pounds left to me I fled from the fatal neighbourhood to London. In that vast metropolis I had no chance of setting up in my trade again; there were too many in it already, with larger capitals, and equal skill in composition to myself. For some time I served in one of the principal breweries as a clerk,—but my salary was so small, that I could neither pay for wine nor brandy; malt liquor I could not drink—I was too much behind the scenes for that—and for water, which I estimated at a very different value from that put upon it by Pindar, I had a constitutional antipathy—I was a second Tantalus, dying of thirst amidst a profusion of beverage—I could bear it no longer—I left my situation.

I was walking, with little in my pockets except my hands, in a most melancholy mood, along Bloomsbury Square, when a man held out a paper to me. I took it, and found it to be the puff of a patent medicine. A new light broke in upon me; I cried out, "Eureka," and cut a caper in the air for joy.

My plans were quickly settled. I invested my remaining money in drugs, phials, and a chest, and set out on a tour to the country, resolved to commence, like an actor or counsellor, with provincial celebrity first. *It* was indifferent to me whither I directed my steps, and the accident of seeing a notice of reduced fares, led me to book my place for Birmingham.

As soon as I arrived at that populous town, I boldly engaged a handsome lodging, and put an advertisement into the paper, wherein, drawing upon the credit of my future fame, I announced that Doctor Thalaba Killman was to be consulted on every disease to which the human frame is liable, but he had more especially devoted his attention to nervous, cutaneous, chronic, epileptic, intestinal, and mental disorders. The doctor had studied the superior practice of the continent; he had been entrusted to draw the teeth of the Emperor of Russia, had operated on the King of Prussia for the stone, and cured the Queen of Sardinia of *dispepsia vulgaris*. From those distinguished individuals, and others no less celebrated, he had received the most satisfactory testimonials.

I spent the interval, till the appearance of my advertisement, in writing out autographs of those illustrious persons, and in mixing my newly invented BALSAM OF BETHESDA. This consisted of stimulating and narcotic drugs, most of which had formerly been used by my respected father, but in more diluted quantities.

The first patient that ever visited me was an elderly lady, who complained of lowness of spirits. She said she was always miserable except when in company. I did not wonder at this, when I heard her mode of life, which was to play at cards to a very late hour every night, and to lie in bed till an equally late one the next day. She said she wished for some medicine which would not interfere with her usual engagements. I gave her three of my guinea bottles of Balsam, and desired her to call again, when she had taken them. I saw her no more.

On referring to my Journal, (I had superscribed it my DIARY,) I find the next who came was of the same sex, but a very different age. Her complaint was love, and her lover had been fickle. I sold her two bottles of my Balsam. She called again in a week, said she had taken it all, had felt very sick and ill in body, but had quite got over her original complaint. I told her she had better have a couple of bottles by her, for future occasions, to which she agreed. I understood that shortly afterwards she had a large sum of money left her, that, by *a curious coincidence*, she again met her former lover, who made her an offer, and they were married immediately. She is alive and well, and keeps my two bottles by her, in case she should ever fall in love with any one else. Her marriage has quite saved her from all danger of falling in love again with the same party.

The third case at Birmingham—but I will not go into the particulars.

Suffice it to say, it ended in a coroner's inquest. A verdict of manslaughter was returned, and I was put into prison to await my trial. At the assizes an error in the indictment entitled me to an acquittal, and, being set at liberty, I returned to my lodgings, put a long letter into the paper, proving the skill with which I had acted, and that I had been made the victim of the envy and malice of certain resident practioners—and was as well attended as ever. Wonderful is the credulity of the public.

I tried my hand at several other towns; Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, all had the benefit of my presence. The same success attended me at each of them; that is to say, I enriched myself and benefitted my patients—by transplanting them to "another and a happier world."

Having accumulated a considerable sum of money, I resolved to discontinue my wandering life, and open my grand campaign in the metropolis. I therefore made arrangements for the sale of my Balsam with agents in the different places I had visited, and took a large house in Berners street.

The first thing I did, was to compose a number of new testimonials, & to dress a man up in a striking and appropriate costume, to dispense my announcement to the citizens. His dress was parti-coloured—half green, to represent the last stage of the cholera, and half spotted, to signify the plague and eruptive diseases. The following is a copy of my circulars.

"VIV. VALEQUE. Art thou afflicted, and wouldst thou be healed? Go to No. 400 Berners Street, & consult Dr Thalaba Killman. All diseases arise from one source, the radical mass & derangement of the system. To cure this, Dr. T K. after intense study and long practice, by a heaven sent thought discovered the wonderful miraculous and infallible BALSAM OF BETHESDA. Be timely wise. The poet has judiciously pointed out the great desiderata of life, & which has he placed *first*?

'HEALTH, peace and competence!'

In addition to testimonials from several crowned heads, Dr. T. K. has, amongst many others, received the following grateful acknowledgements from his own countrymen.

"Birmingham, Sept. 6.

"Sir,—I was born deaf, dumb & blind, and continued in that melancholy state of privation till about a fortnight ago. I have often seen my parents mingling their tears for hours together, and when I have asked them the reason, they have answered in voices choked with sobs—'We weep for thee!' Think sir, of their heart felt delight at my perfect recovery of every faculty. Three weeks ago, a friend recommended your balsam. Less out of hope, than from a sense of duty, which prompted them not to throw a chance away, they bought a bottle. Before I had finished it, I could hear certain inarticulate noises, and could stammer a few words, and there was a glimmering of light. By the end of the second bottle, I could hear my mother's tongue going from morn till night; I could get in a word or two, and I could distinguish that her dear nose was red.—The *third* bottle made a man of me. I could understand all that every body said in any language; I could see that my mother's nose was turned up, & I could discourse as fluently as Lord Brougham. These are your doings, and they are acknowledged with a grateful heart by

Your obedient servant,
"MATTHEW MOLE."

"To Dr. Thalaba Killman."

"Sympathy Cottage, Cole Hole Alley, Leeds.

"Miss Alicia Lætitia de Montmorency Sniggs presents her unfeigned acknowledgements to Dr. Killman, and begs to inform him that her little boy has been quite cured of a sore nose and the ringworm, by two bottles of the Balsam of Bethesda.

'To Dr. Thalaba Killman.'

"Manchester, Aug. 4th.

"Sir,—I beg to inform you that some years ago my right ear was most unwarrantably cut off by the sword of a yeomanry soldier. It remained in that state, and I was universally called the cropped donkey, till I was induced to try your esteemed Balsam, the effect of which has been such, that my ear has not only grown again, but is twice as large as the other.

"Your humble servant,
"BALAAM FREEMAN."

I felt I had as much right to issue these testimonials, as Don Matthias had to forge love letters to himself, and I am happy to say mine were more profitable than his. There were some other letters it is true, really and *bona fide* sent to me, which I did not publish, preferring those of my own invention.

The following I received from Nottingham:

"Sir,—For many years I have been enduring the worst pain that the human species, at least the male part of it, is liable to, I mean the tooth ache! Year after year I suffered the parting pang of extraction, till only one tooth remained in my head. It was then that I heard the fame of your invaluable Balsam. Hope catches at a reed; I sent for a bottle. In my eagerness for relief from the fit of pain I was then enduring, I put the neck of the bottle to my mouth without waiting for a cup. The consequence was, I thrust my last tooth out of its place and down my throat. I swallowed it with the Balsam, and from that day to this I have been free from the tooth ache.

"Yours faithfully,
"BENJAMIN GOM."

"To Dr. Killman.

"Sheffield, July 20th.

Sir,—You are a beast, and a scoundrel; a rogue, a cheat, a thief, a quack! an impostor! I bought two bottles of your stuff, to cure me of the stomach ache, & they have made me worse. If I die, I'll be d——d if I don't haunt you.

"ALEXANDER LARGE."

Notwithstanding Mr Large's threat, I have always been less afraid of the dead than of the living; and as it will appear, with reason. For, after having carried on a most thriving trade for years, and having amassed a very pretty fortune, my end has been hastened in the following manner.

I had been taking a walk one evening, and had just returned to my own door, when, as I raised my hand to the knocker, a person came quickly up to me, and inquired if my name was not Dr. Killman? On my replying in the affirmative, the wretch seized me with the grasp of Hercules, and holding with the tenacity of a vice, belaboured me with a bludgeon over the head and body, till I sunk to the earth exhausted. He then went away, exclaiming, 'Now if *I* have not done for you, try your own balsam.'

I was found by the police, and carried into the house. The blows on my head produced temporary derangement. A doctor was sent for, and he prescribed for me. But my housekeeper had too good an opinion of her master to let him take any thing recommended by a stranger. She emptied out the bottles as they were sent and filled them with BALSAM OF BETHESDA. Unconsciously I partook of my own invention, "*In Dominum perniciosa suum*." Like Perillus, I have been the author of what has caused my own death. My reason has returned, only to tell me I am dying. My housekeeper, as soon as she thought *I* could understand her, boasted of her artifice, and how she had been cheating the doctor.

THALABA KILLMAN.

IMPORTANT FROM EUROPE.

At a late hour we received our files of London and Liverpool papers brought by the ship England, Captain Waite, the former of the 31st of December and the latter of the 1st of January, the day on which Capt Waite sailed. We are also indebted to Mr Hudson, of the Reading Room, who was a passenger in the England for files of London and Liverpool papers and for a letter from his London correspondent.

FRANCE.

Paris advices are to the 29th December, inclusive—on which day the French Chambers convened. The opening speech of the King, will be found below. The English papers are indignant at that passage of the speech which evinces a determination to *retain* their recent conquest in Africa. *It* will be seen that the King announces his acceptance of the English mediation in the question with the United States, and thus we have the official information of the acceptance, by both governments, on the same day—a happy coincidence.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

Opening of the Session of the Chambers.
Chamber of Deputies—Royal Sittings.

At one o'clock the king left the Tuilleries, in his carriage, accompanied by their royal highnesses the duke de Nemours and prince de Joinville. *His* majesty's carriage was escorted by a detachment of the horse national guard.—The procession was headed by a squadron of the municipal guard, and followed by several squadrons of the Paris garrison. On his arrival at the chamber of deputies his majesty was received by a grand deputation of twenty members. The queen, accompanied by the princesses Adelaide, Mary, and Clementine were in the royal gallery. On his majesty's entering the hall loud cries, of '*Vive le Roi!*' were raised. The king after saluting the assembly, delivered the following speech.

"Gentlemen of the House of Peers and of the
House of Deputies:

'On beholding you again around me I am happy to have to congratulate myself and you upon the situation of our country. Its prosperity daily increases; its internal tranquility seems to be hence forward sheltered against an attack; and that tranquility ensures its power without.

"The measures which you adopted in the last session have attained the object which we proposed in concert; they have consolidated public order and our institutions. I have been deeply touched with the sentiments manifested by France towards my family, & myself when, at a moment of sorrowful recollection, *Providence* vouchsafed to preserve a life for ever devoted to the service of my country.

"An expedition undertaken for the security of our African possession, has been conducted and accomplished suitably to the honor of France. I have with emotion beheld the eldest of my race share in the fatigue and peril of our brave soldiers.

"I have reason to congratulate myself upon the state of our relations with the European powers. Our intimate union with Great Britain daily draws closer, and every thing gives me confidence that the peace which we enjoy will not be disturbed.

"My government has continued to adopt, on our Spanish frontier, the measures best calculated to accomplish faithfully the clauses of the treaty of the 28th of April, 1834. *I* most ardently wish for the internal pacification of the Peninsula, and the consolidation of the throne of Queen Isabella II.

"I regret that the treaty of the 4th of July, 1831, with the United States of America should not have yet been completely carried into execution. (*N'l pas encors pu recevoir se complete execution*) The King of Great Britain has offered both to me and the United States his amicable mediation. I have accepted it and you will share in my desire that this difference may terminate in a manner equally honorable to the two great nations.

"The State of the finances is satisfactory. The revenue increases by the sole effort of the general prosperity. The finance laws will be presented in a few days to the Chamber of Deputies.

"The laws which have been already presented or announced to you will also be submitted to your examination, as well as those which a recent Legislature has reserved for the deliberation of the present session.

"I hope, Gentlemen, that the moment is come when France is to gather the fruit of her prudence and her courage. Enlightened by the past, let us profit by an experience so dearly acquired; let us apply ourselves to calming minds, perfecting our laws, and protecting by judicious measures, all the interests of a nation, which, after so many storms, sets to the civilized world the wholesome example of a noble moderation—the only pledge of durable success. The care of its repose, liberty, and grandeur is my first duty; its happiness will be my sweetest reward.

On the King ceasing to speak, acclamations were renewed.

ENGLAND.

London, December 30th 1835.

The President's message arrived here this morning from Liverpool, by express. The vessel which brought it to England the Independence, Capt. Nye, left New York on the 9th December, and reached Liverpool yesterday at one o'clock.

Persons of all parties here, concur in praising the President's statement, relative to the misunderstanding between the United States and France. The determined, yet moderate tone which has been assumed in making the expose, has been most happily chosen, and the arguments are so well put, that the general opinion is that France has not been left a leg to stand on. Indeed she seems latterly to have been aware of the awkwardness of her position, and accordingly it was formally announced, since I wrote last, that an offer of mediation had been made by Lord Granville, on the 25th, on the part of England, and had been accepted on the 27th.

Every possible effort has been made by France, to obtain the message before the meeting of the Chambers. A powerful steamer has been dispatched to the mouth of the channel, to meet the Havre packet, though it was generally supposed that it would be first brought to this country, and then to France from London.

LEGISLATURE OF MARYLAND.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

TUESDAY, Feb 9. 1836.

The Clerk of the Senate returned the bill, entitled, an act to authorise the commissioners of the town of Cambridge, in Dorchester county, to remove certain obstructions from the mouth of Cambridge creek, endorsed, "will not pass;"

The bill reported by Mr. Burchenal, entitled an act to incorporate the Greensborough Manufacturing Company, was taken up for consideration.

On motion of Mr. Brookhart, said bill was amended, by striking out in the 11th section thereof, the word "double," and inserting in lieu thereof the words, "more than."

The said bill was then read the second time as amended, and passed.

The hour having arrived for taking up the orders of the day, the house proceeded to consider the first order of the day, being the bill reported by Mr. Burchenal, entitled, an act to extend real estate.

On motion of Mr. Burchenal, the house was called, and the doorkeeper sent for the absent members.

The doorkeer having returned, reported, that in obedience to order, he had notified the absent members that their attendance in the house was required.

The house then resumed the consideration of that order of the day;

Mr. Burchenal moved that the order of the day be postponed.

Resolved in the affirmative.

The clerk of the senate returned the bill, entitled, an act to authorise the commissioners of Washington county, and the moderator and commissioners of Hagerstown, in said county, to levy a sum of money for the purpose therein mentioned, endorsed "will pass,"

And, delivered a bill, originated in and passed by the senate, entitled, an act to divorce Ezekiel F. Chambers, from his wife Sarah G. Chambers,

Which was read and referred to the committee on divorces.

The House then resumed the consideration of the order of the day, being the bill reported by Mr Burchenal, entitled, an act to extend Real Estate.

On motion of Mr. Burchenal, said order of the day was postponed,

Mr. Carpenter, chairman of the committee on divorces, made a favorable report upon the bill from the senate, entitled, an act to divorce Ezekiel F. Chambers, from his wife Sarah G. Chambers,

Which was read.

The said bill was then read the second time by special order and passed.

On motion of Mr. Towsend,

The House adjourned until to-morrow morning ten o'clock.

Wednesday, Feb. 10.

The Clerk of the Senate delivered a bill, originated in and passed by the Senate, entitled, an act to regulate the rate of interest in this State,

Which was read and referred to the committee on grievances and courts of justice.

Thursday Feb. 11.

Mr. Palmer presented a petition of sundry citizens of Queen Ann's and Caroline Counties, praying a farther supplement to the law of 1789, chapter 15, for the opening and keeping in repair the long marsh d in said counties,

Which was read and referred to Messrs Palmer, Larrimore, Kirby, of Queen Ann's, Burchenal and Hardcastle.

Mr. Spence, from the committee on grievances and courts of justice, delivered the following report,

The committee on grievances and courts of justice, to whom was referred the memorial of sundry citizens of Kent county, praying the passage of a law extending the jurisdiction of Magistrates to small cases of assault and battery, have had the same under consideration and beg leave to report—that they consider the object of the memorialists fully provided for by the provisions of a bill, entitled an act to establish Magistrates Courts in the several counties in this State, and prescribe their jurisdiction already reported to this house. They therefore ask leave to be discharged from its farther consideration, and that the memorialists have leave to withdraw their memorial.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

T. A. SPENCE.

Which was read the first and second time by special order and concurred in.

The bill reported by Mr. Hearn, entitled, an act relating to constables fees, in Worcester county, and for other purposes, was taken up for consideration, read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

The hour having arrived for taking up the hour of order of the day, the house proceeded to consider the first order of the day, being the bill reported by Mr. Burchenal, entitled, an act to extend real estate;

On motion of Mr. Burchenal, said bill was amended, by inserting after the word "bidder," in the third section, eight line, the following;

Provided, always that it shall be and is hereby made, the privilege of the defendant, to instruct the said officer, first to offer either the goods and chattels or