John Colver, Jr.

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INDIAN WARS OF THE WEST,

Containing biographical sketches of those pioneers who headed the Western Settlers in repelling the attacks of the savages; together with a view of the character, manners, monuments and antiquities of the Western Indians. By Timothy Flint. 2 vols. 12m. pp. 240. Cincinnati: E. K. Flint, 1833.

The reverend author of this volume is a most useful man in his generation. He has devoted himself with great zeal and industry to the study of all that appertains to the magnificent Valley of the Mississippi, a country yet in its infancy,—dating from the period of its first settlement within the memory of many now alive,—but which has its history, legends and antiquities of deep interest and great moment, that are fast fading into oblivion. Since the great river which forms the centre of this valley was first discovered by the French Missionaries, Fathers Marquette and Joliette, despatched from Canada for the purpose, only about 165 years have elapsed. Kaskaskia and Cahokia, in Illinois, founded by La Salle, in 1683, were the first attempts at settlement in the valley. In his previous expedition, however, he had built a fort and spent the winter at Peoria Lake, but the villages we speak of were the first real settlements—exactly 150 years ago. The few adventurers who founded them were then the only white inhabitants in a territory containing millions of square miles of forest, inhabited by thousands of tribes of ferocious savages. For many years, these efforts were only followed up by rival foreign nations, the French, Spanish and English, with military views. Settlements were undertaken in Florida, and along the banks of the Gulf of Mexico, and the lower Mississippi, particularly by the French, who aimed at the design of enclosing the English Colonies on the Atlantic coast by a chain of military posts.—These were commenced at opposite points—at Kaskaskia, in what is now the State of Illinois; at Biloxi and Mobile, on the Gulf of Mexico, and at New Orleans. These small and insulated settlements, with their connecting facts of communication, formed for many years merely a circumvallation around the western forests, and effected but comparatively slow advances in the population of the country. It was not till the wars between the French and the English, some seventy years afterwards, in which the Indians were parties on both sides, that the fortune of battle brought the English colonists to be better acquainted with the vast and rich territory which lay beyond the Alleghany mountains. The capture of fort Du Quesne in 1785, and its occupation under the name of Pittsburgh by the English, was in fact the commencement of Anglo American settlements in the valley. From about that period may be dated the history of the Western Pioneers—a race of men who, for courage, enterprise, patience, sagacity, firmness in endurance, and unconquerable tenacity of purpose, are not to be surpassed by any examples in history, and whose labors have been followed by mighty consequences, such as never crowned the efforts of the most successful monarch, or mightiest conqueror the world has seen. They penetrated and laid open to human industry the richest portion of the globe—richest in all the means for sustaining an immense population, and building up mighty commonwealths of hardy and enlightened freemen. The progress of this population is without example in any other age or country. Many are alive who remember when all that country, except the few scattered French out posts, was an unpopulated wilderness. The following synoptical view is given by Mr. Flint of the advance of population within forty years.

In 1790 the population of this valley, exclusive of the country west of the Mississippi and of Florida, which were not then within our territorial limits, was estimated by enumeration, at little more than one hundred thousand. In 1800 it was something short of three hundred and eighty thousand. In 1810 it was short of one million. In 1820, including the population west of the Mississippi, rating the population of Florida at twenty thousand, and that of the parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania included in this Valley at three hundred thousand, and it will give the population of 1820 at two millions five hundred thousand.—The present population may be rated at four millions. It will be perceived, that this is an increase, in more than a duplicate ratio in ten years.

Some considerable allowance must be made of course for the emigration, which cannot reasonably be expected to set this way for the future, as strongly as it has for the past. Ohio, with the largest and most dense population of any of the western States, has nearly doubled her number of inhabitants, between the census of 1820 and 1830. During that interval her gain by immigration has hardly equalled her loss by emigration; and of course, is simply that of natural increase. The rapidity of this increase, we believe, this State not only exceeds any other in the west, but in the world. It is the good natured jest of all, who travel through the western States, that however productive in other harvests, they are still more so in an unequal crop of flaxen headed children, the nobler growth our realms supply! We have a million more inhabitants than the thirteen good old United States, when at the commencement of the revolutionary war, they threw down the gauntlet in the face of the parent country, then the most powerful empire on the globe.

The following is the summary with which Mr. Flint closes his preliminary view of some of the physical, moral and political features of the Western Valley:

It contains four-fifths of the area of the U. States. The Missouri exceeds three thousand miles in length. The Mississippi has a course of two thousand eight hundred; the Arkansas of two thousand five hundred; Red River of one thousand eight hundred; the Ohio of one thousand two hundred; White River of one thousand two hundred; and Tennessee of the same extent—some of the rivers of the Missouri, as the Platte and Yellow Stone, have courses of equal length.

Proceeding on a less ratio of increase, than that which has marked the progress of Western population from the commencement of its settlement, in the year 1850 this valley will contain ten millions of inhabitants, or more than half the population of the whole United States. Of course the balance of physical power will be west of the Alleghany mountains. Another interesting circumstance may be mentioned. So far as physical configuration and relative position may be supposed capable of influencing the physical and moral destinies of a country, there is no one of the same extent on the earth, every part of which is so intimately connected with every other party by physical relations and mutual necessities, as the eastern and western, the northern and southern divisons of this great valley. Of course, sectional feeling will be less likely to arise, as a cause of jealousy, severance and disunion between the several members of the western confederacy. Enlighted nationality is a great political advantage, which this region in the natural order of things, ought to possess in an uncommon degree. No country has the natural means of such easy and rapid interchange between its remotest extremities, and the inhabitants have every inducement to become a social people.

There were supposed to be in 1832 four thousand five hunded churches of the different denominations of Christians, thirty colleges and larger seminaries with a rapidly increasing number of primary and common schools. The militia in 1832 was about four hundred and thirty thousand.

When we take into view the extent of the valley, the uncounted millions of acres of fertile lands, yet to be redeemed from the wilderness, when we measure the probable increase by the astonishing actual ratio of the past, a measure of increase unparalleled in the annals of colonization, we cannot but contemplate this vast, fair, and fertile valley, in the centre of our great continent, with an elevated moral interest. While the broad and calculating reach of anticipation extends to the generations to come, and imagines what will be the influence of this new empire upon the history of the future, we should be lost to ourselves, and the common sentiments of human nature, if we did not turn with a keen and inquiring spirit to ask, who and what were the discoverers and pioneers of this country, who laid the foundation of its present improvements and future prospects.

In the days of ancient fable, discoverers were reputed after their death to be demi-gods.—Temples were reared to them; and their achievements were inscribed upon monumental marble and brass. More enlightened, not we would hope at the expense of grateful sensibility, we will place the great names of the founders of our empire before our children. We will cause their eyes to glisten by the recital of their deeds of daring, their spirit of self-sacrifice, their heroic conflicts, and their lonely toils. In contemplating the intrepidity, heroism, disinterestedness, and the capability of endurance of our forefathers, we present a new and more elevated standard of imitation to their posterity, born in times and under circumstanees tending to foster effeminacy and sellishness. It can never be useless to contemplate these images of stern self-control, of sublime vigor and perseverance. In seeing what men have been, and may be, we find the best incitements to arrest the downward tendency to indolence; self-indulgence, and pusillanimity. We shall attempt, with these intentions, to pass the chief of these mighty and master spirits in review in the following chapters.

With this view, Mr. Flint gives a rapid and condensed account of the various settlements upon the frontiers, by which the present Western States were founded. The military enterprise against the Indians, which were so frequent, hazardous, and various in their success, are described with much conciseness and spirit, and the whole is enlivened by anecdotes of adventure and feats of individual prowess and heroism, which make it more attractive than any work of fiction. Indeed, the fancy of writers of romance has rarely invented more stirring incidents of peril, enterprise and escape than are truly narrated of these Western Pioneers. Mr. Flint deserves well of his country for preserving such memorials of a past and passing generation—memorials of infinite value to history, and of great moral importance as among the best relics extant of the power of the human will, and the capacities of the human frame, exercised in a field of unlimited extent and freedom.

From the chapter on the "monumental remains of the past in the Mississippi Valley," we make the following extract Mr. Flint's style is in general rich and copious, sometimes redundant from its copiousness, and in the present volume occasionally inaccurate, probably from haste. An author so well known and justly admired, should be more careful in pruning his style of its superfluities, and reducing it if not to a more severe simplicity, at least to a greater exactness and precision.

"Alas! our fresh world, beneath its deep forests and flowering prairies, conceals the memorials of eras of the complete extirpation of successive races. The tide of life and empire rolled where the traveller, from the rising to the setting sun, sees neither man nor human habitation. The races are entombed beneath the ruins of a world, that is past. Every thing speaks of life and death in the new world, as in the old. Our virgin and vegetable soil, which the immigrant turns up with his share for the first time, may be the mouldering remains of a human body. The dew drops, which glitter on the flower cups of the wide ocean prairies, may once have been tear drops rolling down the cheek of youth and beauty.

The monuments of the primitive race, consist of regular stone walls, of wells stoned up, of medals, of copper and silver, of swords and other implements of iron, of the brick hearths found in digging the Louisville canal, with the coal of the last fires laying upon them; of characters found on the limestone bluffs which cannot but be deemed as either alphabetic or hieroglyphical, are discovered in too many places in the west, and under circumstances too various to be attributed to any other origin than a primitive race, whose whole history of civilization our brief limits will not allow us to give, only in the fact, that they knew the manufacture and the use of iron. But though this history may be brief, it comprises volumes in regard to their civilization, compared with any races between them and us. Among the same class of inexplicable antiquities, we place the groves of ancient live oaks set in regular park forms in Florida, together with remains of cities, fortifications, and dwellings near them. We have seen these strange and ancient swords. We have seen the iron shoe of some tiny animal of the horse class, encrusted with the rust of ages, and found far beneath the soil. Fragments of wood dug from beneath the peat beds, bear the evident marks of having been cut with an implement of iron, not unlike our axe. We recently saw a copper axe, which weighed, we should judge over two pounds. Its edge was singularly tempered and polished, and worked not unlike an edge of steel. Its place for the insertion of a handle, was made by the rolling over the two outer rims leaving place for a helve at the point of insertion of the width of a man's hand. These monuments, together with the western medals, we refer to a class anterior to the founders of the mounds and much farther advanced in civilization. To this era belong the remains of the ancient city, of towers and temples, recently discovered in the Herculaneum of the new world, in Peru.

The second era of American habitancy, is in the immense stone Teocalli of Mexico, and the earthen mounds discovered in every point of the valley, from Lake Erie and West Pennsylvania and Virginia, to the Savannas of Florida, and arising on the solitude of the western prairies quite to the Rockey mountains. Whether the mass of them was constructed for fortifications, observatories, temples, or tombs, is a matter of conjecture alone That some of them served the latter purpose, we have conclusive proof, in their abounding in skeletons and human bones. They show little art, though immense labor. Many of them are of regular mathematical figures, parallelograms, ellipsis, sections of circles, showing the remains of gateways and subterranean passages Some of them, after the lapse of ages, and with trees growing on them of a date of 500 years, are still 70 or 80 feet high. A circumstance the most inexplicable of all is, that these huge and rude erections are generally of a soil not furnished by the ground in the immediate vicinity, which at least is the general opinion, and such is their aspect to us. Some are found on hills, some on the fertile prairies; and they are generally most frequent on rich alluvial grounds, near portages, between long rivers, contiguous to fishing grounds and productive hunting regions. They are most abundant at points where it has been since most convenient to build the towns and form the settlements of civilized man. We have seen them rising in their striking loneliness amidst the mountains of western Virginia, along the shores of the beautiful Ohio, on the prairies of the Missouri, and on the lower courses of the Mississippi. Some are cone shaped. Some rectangles. One at Grave creek is between 70 and 80 feet in height.—One among the hundreds near Cahokia, in the prairie of the American bottom, was large enough to furnish a garden and a residence to some monks of La Trappe, under a vow of perpetual silence. Where could these dreamers have meditated more profoundly in their silence, than in these flowing prairies, amidst [illegible] the wide solitude, and above the bones of a world, whose inhabitants were all passed away!

There are very interesting mounds near St. Louis, and a little north of the town. Some of them have the appearance of enormous stacks. The mound, called the Falling Garden, is pointed out to strangers at St. Louis as a great curiosity. One of these mounds was levelled in the centre of Chilicothe. In digging it down, cart loads of human bones are said to have been removed. The town of Circleville is laid out between a couple of mounds, the one circular, the other square. Skeletons have been found in digging under one in Cincinnati. A thin circular piece of gold, alloyed with copper, was discovered in this mound last year.

In passing over our vast prairies, in viewing our noble and ancient forests, planted by nature, and nurtured only by ages, when we have seen the sun rising over a boundless plain, where the blue of the heavens in all directions touched and mingled with the verdure and the flowers; when our thoughts have traversed rivers of a thousand leagues in length; when we have seen the ascending steam boats breasting the surge, and gleaming through the verdure of the trees; when we have imagined the happy multitude that from these shores will contemplate the scenery in days to come, we have thought that our great country might at least compare with others in the beauty of its natural scenery. When on an uninhabited prairie, we have fallen at nightfall upon a group of these mounds and have thought of the masses of human bones that moulder beneath; when our heart and imagination evoked the busy multitudes that there 'strutted through life's poor play,' and asked the phantoms who and why they have left no memorials but these mounds, we have found ample scope for reflections and associations of the past with the future. We should not highly estimate the mind or the heart of the man who could behold these tombs of the desert prairies without deep thought.

Among the second class of Indian antiquities may be classed the idols, vases and culinary utensils, of which such numbers are found in the western country that they are no longer regarded as curiosities. The beautiful three headed idol, the most remarkable specimen of Indian pottery and moulding that has yet been found, was taken from a mound in Tennessee. It consists of three heads of proportions of considerable accuracy, representing countenances of different expressions and ages. The whole workmanship is surprising when viewed in reference to the common notion of Indian pottery in the shape of a drink gourd.—The aperture represented the mouth of a squaw which the thirsty drinker would naturally kiss with a degree of eager appetite In digging a ditch round a garden below St. Charles, in the forks between the Mississippi and Missouri, we came upon great quantities of fragments of this ware. Much of it in fine preservation has been dug from the chalk banks below the mouth of the Ohio. It is found in fact every where beneath Pittsburg, Lake Superior, and New Mexico. The material is clay, with a considerable intermixture of sand, sometimes flinty, sometimes calcereous, but generally of a snowy whiteness. They were all moulded by the hand, without any aid from the potter's wheel. The shapes of natural objects were happily imitated, and they were hardened by the sun. Sculptured and inscribed rocks are among the most common of Indian antiquities. On the side of a mountain in Tennessee, are the marks of the footsteps of men and horses in the limestone, in great numbers, and as though they were the tracks of an army. Some of the tracks show, as if the party had slipped in miry clay. All have the appearance of being an actual impress in soft clay, which afterwards hardened to stone, retaining a perfect impression.—Characters of great freshness of coloring, are marked upon many of the high bluffs, that impeded the western rivers Inscriptions of this sort are found in Missouri, on the Illinois, and in various other places. A remarkable track of human foot was found in a solid block of limestone on the bank of the Mississippi, at St. Louis. The most ancient traditions of the west do not touch the origin of these mounds or characters.

Human skeletons have been found in great preservation in nitre caves in Tennessee and Kentucky, some of them enveloped in robes made of cloth of nettles curiously overlaid with beautiful turkey feathers.—Every one has read of the cemetery of pigmy skeletons on the Maramec, not far from St. Louis. Similar ones are found in Tennessee, not far from Cumberland. Organic remains of various animals and among others the megalonyx and mastodon, and other huge and unknown animals, are found in various places, particularly at Big Bone Lick in Kentucky, whole skeletons have been completed from them in the museums of the curious. Indeed this country offers a far more curious field for the discovery and classification of organic remains, than any other known. The museums at Cincinnati and St. Louis abound in collections of western organic remains and Indian antiquities. We have found space only to admit a few of the most interesting. In journeying through dark forests or wide prairies we cannot but be aware, that extinguished races, with their monuments and arts, are beneath our feet.

The recent excavation of the Louisville and Portland Canal, afforded an impressive display of ancient remains in the alluvial stratum immediately above the compact bed of slate limestone, and from nineteen to upwards of twenty feet below the surface, brick hearths were brought to view, with the coals of the last social domestic fire still visible.—The bricks, as we have heard them described, were hard and regular, differing from those of present make, in being longer in proportion to their width and thickness. Along with organic remains of animals, similar to those found at Big Bone Lick, were skeletons of men in great numbers. Among others, was that of a man standing erect in the earth, one arm raised to an angle of forty-five degrees with the shoulder, and holding to the hand a semi globular, or rather ellipical stone, strated with gay colors beautifully polished, and of the size of half an orange. When those perforations and examinations into the interior strata of the soil, which every where take place, consequent upon habitancy and improvement, shall have been made, we doubt not that innumerable testimonials to the past habitancy of this country, like those recited above, will come to light. Such remains cannot fail to elicit profound reflection and solemn thought. But it is out of the question to think of deriving from them any queries or conclusions more specific than that the country was formerly inhabited by races of animals most of which are now extinct, and by races of men in form and structure like our-

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From the U. S. Gazette.

There is no accounting for taste, since it is scarcely worth while to institute an argument with those whose pursuits of business or pleasure differ from ours—but we may with all fairness, laugh at them; and with that view, we hereby authorise the good people of Philadelphia to laugh at her Royal Highness, the Princess Augusta, the Nobility and Gentry of England—and what is the cause—the following being a hand bill of the performances in London:—

Will Soon Close the Extraordinary Exhibition.

THE INDUSTRIOUS FLEAS,

Patronized by Her Royal Highness, the Princess Augusta; the Nobility, Gentry, &c. 238 Regent street, opposite Hanover street.

A Ball Room,

In which two Fleas dressed as Ladies; and two as Gentlemen dancing, as waltzes twelve fleas the orchestra playing on different instruments of proportionable size, the music is audible; and four fleas playing a game at Whist.

A Mail Coach

drawn by four Fleas, completely harnessed the Coachman and the Guard, (also Fleas) dressed in the Royal Livery, the former holding a whip belaboring his four Chesnuts! the latter blowing the Horn.

An Elephant and Castle!

A Gig with a Lady and Gentleman, each drawn by a single Flea.

The Three Heroes of Waterloo!

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON,
NAPOLEON BONAPARTE!
And Prince Blucher.

Riding on Fleas, with Gold Saddles, &c.

Two Fleas deciding an Affair of Honor, sword in hand, another Flea dressed with a blue petticoat, pulling up a Bucket from a Well, and several other objects, including Microscopes, Long Faces, Broad Grins, &c.

Open from 10 till 6. Admittance ONE SHILLING. Evening Parties attended with the Exhibition.

N. B.—L. B. has no connection whatever with a person who travels about the Country exhibiting a pretended Fac Similie of part of his late Exhibition.

A lady has sent to us a letter, received from an intelligent female friend in London, from which we make the following extract:—

The beauty of the minute workmanship of the ball room is quite as extraordinary as the *education* of the fleas—it is formed upon the top of a musical snuff box, round which is a railing of fine gold. The orchestra is also of gold, from the back of which extends to the centre of the box a gold rim, from which is suspended a chandelier with twelve candles the size of a fine needle, but the workmanship is so exquisitely accomplished, the circumference at the largest, is about the size of a two shilling piece. The mail coach too, not larger than your thimble, perfect in all its parts, and is drawn by the four unfortunate animals, with no little celerity—what an idea to have occurred to any body for the support of a family. It's quite a gentleman (in appearance) that exhibits this effort, and he very seriously tells the spectator, that as his fleas improve in their studies, he advances them in offices. He shews one that is merely in training, being the *infant* of three weeks old, it has a gold chain and merely hops. His oldest and most clever is twenty-two months, but as he says their period of living is about *two years*, he must soon have to mourn its exit from labor. I dare say the man will make his way to America. We might in sober sense ask what use is there in such an appropriation of time—but when we are told a family is respectably supported and educated by such means, cavil is silenced; for what a multitude in this great city. I suppose in every great city, are there wanting daily bread, and they know not when night comes on where they may lay their heads to sleep in comfort. Dear Sarah, how much have you and I to be grateful for, even of common mercies. I am sure I should be very much at a loss how to obtain my support had Providence thus exposed me; to a certainty, however I never should have thought of *training fleas.* It is said, you know, they are stronger for their size than man.

The arts flourish in this same London in a most delightful extent, the various halls of Sculpture, any one of which is a treat to go through, are beautiful. It was formerly said that the want of the eye rendered that art defective as affecting expression, this difficulty seems to have been completely obviated; the improvement is certainly greater in this department than in any other—it would however be difficult, where all is so excellent to assign the palm to any particular branch—and to improvements that bear upon domestic comfort and uses, there seems no end—in short without any of these auxiliaries to fancy, use or comfort, there is a witchery about London, its parkes and buildings, and gardens, impossible to give an idea of—many parts are indeed like fairy ground. Still dearest Sarah, my thoughts turn inward, and there upon the tablets of my heart is dear America, with its precious and ever enduring associations.

The last number of Silliman's Journal has an article on *Aerial navigation*, by H. Strait, which is introduced in the following manner. The writer, we are inclined to think, will have an able competitor to Mr. C. F. Durant, the æronant, whose attention has been turned to this subject for some time past, and whose unprecedented success in balloon ascensions proves his great practical knowledge of what are believed to be its leading principles.

"TO PROFESSOR SILLIMAN.

"Dear Sir—Having spent a considerable portion of my time, for two years and a half past, in studying and investigating the properties of the air, for the purpose of determining the practicability and utility of aerial navigation, I have so far succeeded in my inquiries as that I may be induced to forward you the result, wishing that you may lay it before the public in the next number of the American Journal of Science and Arts. The reasons why I wish to lay my researches thus prematurely before the public, are, that I have made experiments on my plan to a considerable extent, even enough to satisfy myself of its success; but that I am not now able, and, perhaps, shall not be, before next spring, for want of funds, to construct a machine of a sufficient size to determine its practical utility, which will probably cost from one hundred to a hundred and fifty dollars; and that I have written a number of letters, to different places, descriptive of my plan and its principles, some of which are unanswered, and have likewise made communications personally to individuals with whom I was very partially acquainted. I will now give a plain and concise description of my plan and its principles, hoping you will lay it before the public, and thus prevent any one from giving an unjust precedence or taking undue advantages of my present circumstances in the prosecution of this enterprise, with which I feel deeply interested In so doing you will confer a favor on me, and perhaps, in time, on the best interests of literature and science.

"I shall now proceed to develope the true principles of aerial navigation as founded in reason and the established laws of nature, and describe a plan which I discovered in the autumn of eighteen hundred and thirty, which seems every way applicable to the purpose.—Its resistance to progression will be very small, its principles are capable of being employed with equal facility on a small or large construction according to the weight required to be conveyed. It is calculated to have the combined assistance of inflammable or rarified air and the percussion of wings. The inflammable or rarified air is to supply the principal means of ascent or ascensive power, and this power to be governed and varied at pleasure by the percussion of wings. The wings are to be so constructed and hung as to be moved with the greatest facility, whatever be their size, shape and weight. The materials of which they are constructed, ought to be the lightest, strongest, and most durable that can be produced, the differents parts compactly joined, and susceptible of considerable elasticity. They can be even made, on the principle, so light as to be only a very little heavier, in proportion to their surface, than bird's wings, and equally creative. The wings are calculated to supercede the utility of the Parachute, to accelerate or retard ascent and descent at pleasure, to insure progression, and prevent fatal consequences from the rarefied or inflammable air envelopes' being burst or torn when elevated high above the earth."

SERVANTS.—From the time of father Abraham, and that is going back as far as the revised statutes will permit, servants, or as they were genteely called in the polite age of the Patriarchs, "*Handmaids,*" were a terrible nuisance. By the bye, according to Gravelius, a handmaid in those times answered to our chambermaids or the English "maid of all work," there were no hired cooks in those periods, for the good book informs that our mother Rebekah cooked the "*savoury meat*" herself, which, according to the French, is their *fricandeau*, and answers to our English *stew*—few housewives now a days understand preparing savoury meat. But let that pass—we were about to say that our servants, or "help," as they are singularly called, to denote their utter helplessness, are becoming daily more intolerable.—They are so saucy and independent, that we frequently expect them to say with Loony, in the play, 'I'll hire you for my master.' Few girls from the country emigrate to the city—they are afraid to trust themselves amongst us, and instead of bouncing, ruddy innocence from the interior of the state or from down East, we have shoals of innocents from foreign climes, who, without the least experience, are ever ready to undertake any duty, and who, on a pinch, would have no objection to hire themselves as "colored cooks" of capacity and good character, and the moment they are initiated in all the mysteries of the kitchen, they discharge their employers, and get another place, for the sake of novelty.—Then the blacks, or "ladies of color," they are the most intolerable in their claims and pretensions, and make us half wish for the zealous, attentive, and trusty slaves of the South, who are always willing and civil. A lady of color in these times has her milliners and perruquiers, and wear bishop sleeves broad as pulpit cushions, and have their wool dressed *a la greeque.* The utter impossibility of confining them to the *cuisine*, or compelling them to fulfil their contract and duty, is felt by every housewife.—When the colored gentry are dressed for a walk in Broadway, or an evening's *soiree* at a friend's—no treaty or negotiation, no remonstrance or claim can keep them at home, no matter how greatly their services are required. We have been thinking that a little law might be useful to this class of our fellow citizens—something in the nature of a contract between master and apprentice—something whereby indolence and impudence might be punished. We shall consult the Regency on the expediency of such a law; and though they make no money by it, yet they may, perchance, get a better dinner when their honors visit the city.—Mr. Paton, the worthy Secretary of the Society for encouraging Domestics, thinks the question is full of difficulties, which might, however, be overcome, if all masters and mistresses were equally good, as for example, a servant may live two years in one family, and cannot reside three months in another. Will some of our fair correspondents lend us a few ideas on the subject.—[N. Y Evening Star.

From the New York Daily Advertiser.

Extract of a letter dated, SMYRNA, July 31st, 1833.

Dear Sir: You will feel an interest in knowing that some of the Turks show a greater interest in knowledge than formerly, and that some of them have considerable acquaintance with certain scientific facts which they have derived from Europeans.

I had yesterday an occasion to pay a visit to Hodgi Kahn, the Governor of this city, when an atlas printed in Arabic, and some elementary works on astronomy, geography, &c from one of the English presses in Malta, furnished a theme for conversation during an hour. He being furnished with the general laws of the Solar System, as I was aware, I entered a little further into Astronomy, and conversed with him on *Ærolites*, or meteoric stones, which he listened to with interest. I gave him an account of one which fell in 1807, in the town of Weston, in Connecticut, of which I was an eye witness, and added such explanations and views as are received by the scientific generally.

I told him, for example, that the ærolites are supposed to be the terrestrial comets; and have been found, from the iron and other substances of which they are composed, to have a fraternal relation to the globe on which we dwelt. This as I added, seems to indicate among the starry host the existence of an universal brotherhood like that which we find among the different races of men by whom it is inhabited.

The Pacha alluded to a star discovered by the French about thirty five years ago, (one of the asteroids) which he said moved quietly, (that is more like a planet than a comet,) and had a silvery appearance, whence it might be presumed to be composed of silver, "that desirable metal"

You will be a little surprised, to hear that a Turkish Governor should have had any ideas at all on a science with which they have generally been so little acquainted; but what he said, little as it was, is enough to show that he [illegible] in the subject may perhaps hereafter make more progress in it.

Practical knowledge in a Legislator.—It cannot be expected that Legislators always have a *practical knowledge* of the subjects which come before them; but when this does happen, the country must derive benefit from the circumstance. Roger Sherman, when a member of Congress, detected some extensive frauds in the accounts of a shoemaker, who had taken an army contract. This grave legislator and incorruptible patriot, had in early life been a shoemaker himself, otherwise the fraud would not have been detected.

Some years ago a bill was brought into the British Parliament to tax shops. When a member had finished a long speech against the bill, Sir Gregory Turner arose and made his first speech, in which he elicited thunders of applause from the galleries for his deep knowledge in the luxuries of trade.

"What," says he, "not tax shops!!! I am amazed! They are able to pay any duty almost. I myself knew a little milliner in St. James' street, who from only selling ribbons, and wires, and gauzes, (was there not a little smuggled lace? entre nous) was able to marry a baronet. Nay, I knew it to be a fact, for I am that very baronet, and my wife is that very little milliner. I have looked into her books, and it is astonishing what profits are made even on the wire of a cap. Would you believe it, Sir, that lady Gregory Page Turner, when she kept a retail shop in St. James's street, could sell a cap for nine shillings, which did not stand her in above two and sixpence; and that she might have charged twelve guineas for a cloak the materials of which did not amount to more than four pounds; therefore, I say, the tax is a good one."—*Lowell Journal.*

Manual Labour School.—The Rhode Island Society for the encouragement of Domestic Industry, has established a Classical, Agricultural and Mechanical School, which is located on a lot of four acres. In the summer, those pupils who have a taste for agriculture, work three hours a day on the land, and those who prefer mechanical employments, as much time in a work-shop. In winter, all labour in the shop. Those students who pursue the classical with the English branches of Education, pay $7 50 a term—English scholars only $5 a term. The extent of a term is not mentioned. These sums have been found sufficient to pay the instructers—and the young gentlemen are to be allowed the profits of their labour. There are now 92 scholars, from different States. One exhibition has occurred, and premiums have been awarded to 13 students, for agricultural achievements, $57 75 were awarded for mechanical success. The crops in the four acres were valued at $120; but the school did not commence till the 25th of May. More land and more buildings are wanted.

A calculation has been made of the quantity of time actually consumed in the session of the late British Parliament, from which it is made to appear that the whole session occupied 142 days, and 1270 hours being an average of *nine* hours a day. It ought to be remembered, however, that this calculation does not necessarily show any very remarkable diligence on the part of the members at large. The speaker is, we suppose, best entitled to commendation, if his pay and emoluments be not taken as an offset—for he must be there the greater part of his time. But of the other members, nearly six hundred in number, there are few who are in the habit of attending regularly, and on many days there is a difficulty

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