John Catmp, Jr

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REMINISCENSES OF THE WEST.

From the Louisville Herald.

Mr. Tannehill.—I have been favoured with the enclosed number of reminiscenses respecting western affairs. If it will gratify your readers, I shall be happy to have been the means of furnishing it, and I fondly hope of inviting other contributions to the curiosity of the public from its venerable author.

Through the liberal courtesy of Governor Breathitt, and at his *special request*, examinations have been requested of the government of Virginia, into its own archives, in order to elucidate the perilous mission of major Rogers, detailed below; and to remove the obscurity which hangs over many other interesting passages of Kentucky history.

It is known from other testimony, as mentioned in the "Louisville Directory," that Cols. Gibson and Lynn returned from New Orleans in the spring of '77, with 156 kegs of gunpowder for the supply of our troops at Pittsburgh. The amunition they brought round the falls, and conveyed safely up the river. Col. John Campbell, mentioned below, is the same gentleman who owned the thousand acres adjoinig the lower part of this city, and indeed claimed the proceeds of the upper thousand, now embracing the site of the city, as the mortgage of Dr. Conolly.

Respectfully,

MANN BUTLER.

Expeditions of Major David Rogers, from Pittsburgh to New Orleans, in 1778.

When I commenced the numbers of Spectator, I had no intention of making mention of myself as connected with any particular or individual transaction. But as I have often times seen witnesses brought into a court of justice, whom it was impossible for the attorneys examining them, and even the admonitions and reproof of the judge to induce to relate facts within his knowledge, without dragging into his relation much irrelevant matter, and only relating to himself; so it appears to me, that in relating some scenes, I cannot avoid occasionally introducing myself. As I wish as much as possible to speak of matters not generally known, I shall now attempt to give some account of an expedition or voyage undertaken and performed by Capt. Wm. Lynn and others to New Orleans as early as the year of 1778. This Captain Lynn, with a select company of men, was despatched, as I have reason to believe, by the State of Virginia to New Orleans. For what particular purpose I did not then know, nor have I had full information since. I knew Captain Lynn and many of his men both before and after their return. When Lynn left Pittsburgh, there was not a white settlemont from that place to New Orleans, except a small station at Wheeling, and a few inhabitants at Natchez and its vicinity; but these latter were then in alliance with Great Britain, as part of the province of West Florida.

When Capt. Lynn arrived at New Orleans, having sailed a course of about two thousand miles, throûgh a wilderness and hostile country, lined on both banks of the river with numerous hosts of savages, he found some difficulty in effecting the purpose of his expedition, and to obviate which he determined to send to the State of Virginia to give information and obtain assistance or instruction, or both. For this purpose he selected two of his men, Thomas Wilson, (who has been already named in a former number,) and Ebenezer Corn.—These two men, to accomplish their journey, crossed the Mississippi to the western side, made their way through the Opelousas, Red River and Washita country, crossing in their course the whole of what composes the Territory of Arkansas and State of Missouri, and arrived at St. Louis or St. Genevieve, on the Upper Mississippi. They from that crossed the river into Illinois, and came on to Kentucky, where they for the first time saw an American citizen after they left their companions at New Orleans. Kentucky itself had but few inhabitants, and these residing at different stations, scattered from the Falls to Kentucky river.—From Kentucky they continued their course by land up the river to Pittsburgh. These men, although at first they were furnished with horses, (whether to ride or only to carry their baggage, I do not know,) were soon deprived of them, having been stolen by the Indians, and travelled this immense distance on land and on foot. Often in their course for miles, even days together, through cane brakes; and growing on the ground thicker and much taller and stronger than hemp in the fields—passing in their course through some twenty nations of Indians, many of them hostile. It is true that the settlements of hostile Indians were avoided, otherwise they could not have succeeded; yet from 6 to 700 miles of their route (from St. Genevieve on the Upper Mississippi to Pittsburgh,) they were momentarily exposed to meet with parties of these savage enemies; and although the Indians on the route from New Orleans to the Upper Mississippi were not open enemies, (having scarcely ever heard of such government as that of the United States), yet every one who is acquainted with the character of those sons of the forest, knows how precarious travelling among them must be, where the travellers have no sufficient force to protect themselves. In connexion with the existing relation of Captain Lynn, Major David Rogers, also, of the State of Virginia, was despatched with another, and somewhat larger company of men to New Orleans.

When Rogers arrived at the mouth of the Ozark, (now callled Arkansas) river, he sailed up that river some 12 or 18 leagues, to the head of the back water or overflown ground, and there he deposited his boats or a greater part of them and also stationed his men, excepting six or seven which he took with him and descended immediately to New Orleans. When he arrived at New Orleans he met a British sloop of war and her crew in that port,—the British and Spanish Governments being then on terms of perfect friendship. The commander of the ship of war having learned or suspected what the business of Capt. Rogers was, watched him very closely, and greatly interrupted his business—for although the Spanish authorities showed the greatest friendship to Captain Rogers, and appeared willing to forward the object of his mission, yet unwilling to violate their neutrality, being bound, as well by the law of nations, and fearing no doubt of having to answer for their conduct to their own government, made them extremely cautious on the occasion. The situation and standing of Major Rogers in this dilemma, was very critical—himself in a foreign city among strangers. The representative of a government not yet acknowledged by any other power; carefully watched by the crew of a ship of war belonging to an enemy. His men in a wilderness far from any civilized country—being a distance from the city by water, of more than five hundred miles—there surrounded by hosts of savages. In this predicament Major Rogers found himself under the necessity of sending despatches to this country.—For this service he selected Robert Benham, then an active young man, and one of the six he had taken with him to the city, when he deposited the rest of his men on the Arkansas. Mr. Benham became afterwards well known in the Indian wars in the western country, and was the father of Joseph S. Benham, Esq. now of Louisville. Of Captain Benham I will probably speak more fully hereafter. He is still well recollected by thousands in the states of Kentucky and Ohio.

Mr. Benham and companions took their route also on the western side of the Mississippi—traversed the same countries that Wilson and Corn had done the year before, and arrived at St. Genevieve on the Bank of the Upper Mississippi. But a great change had now taken place, and instead of having to travel six hundred miles further as his predecessors had done, had only four miles to Kaskaskias, where he found a company of American troops in possession of the garrison, town, and surrounding country, with Col. Geo. Regers Clark at the head of them. Captain Benham, therefore halted there for some time. Whether he heard of Col. Clark's success before his arrival at Genevieve, I cannot tell; but it is probable he had heard of it before he left the city; as the trade and intercourse down the river was even at that day brisk—for although a boat ascending from New Orleans to Illinois, then was on her voyage the space of three months, yet the down river voyage was performed frequently in the course of as many weeks. Col. Clark left the falls of Ohio on his way to Kaskaskias in the month of June, 1778. Rogers passed that place on his way to Orleans, in October following. Benham arrived at Kaskaskias in the spring of 1779, and when a suitable occasion presented, returned to the mouth of Ohio, and continued up that river to the falls, where by this time there was a considerable settlement. Whether Captain Lynn was in company with Major Rogers when he arrived at the falls I cannot say; it strikes me, however, that he had some time previously arrived, having got to the upper country by the same course that Major Rogers afterwards did. After a short delay at the falls, Major Rogers set out again for Pittsburg, with two large keel boats under his command, with about seventy men in company. Several of his company on this occasion had not been with him on the former part of his voyage. On passing up the river a little above where the city of Cincinnati now stands, Major Rogers and company discovered a number of Indians on rafts or canoes, and perhaps both, coming out of the mouth of the Little Miami river, which was then high from the rains that had recently fallen, and which shot its waters, and consequently the Indians on their rafts, nearly across the Ohio river. On seeing the Indians, Major Rogers ordered his men to land and arm themselves and to attack the Indians, thinking that he would be able to take them by surprise.

But in this he was greatly mistaken. For on landing at the lower end of the sand bar, (which is now visible in low water from the city,) and on marching up through the willows with which the bar was then covered, before they arrived at the place where they expected to meet the Indians, they found themselves surrounded by near five times their number of the enemy, who immediately despatched most of the boat's crew. The remainder endeavored to retreat to the boats; but the Indians pursued them, shooting, tomahawking, and stabbing them. One of the boats was under the immediate command of Major Rogers himself, the other was commanded by Capt. Benham, whom he had again taken on board at St. Genevieve. This latter boat Benham, when landing his men, had taken the precaution, notwithstanding the confusion that must necessarily have taken place on the occasion, to make the rowers slack their oars on their approaching the shore, to prevent her keel from diving into the mud and sand and every one knows that if such a measure is not attended to, the getting off a large boat often causes the loss of much time and trouble. Those who made for the boat that Capt. Benham had commanded got off with little trouble, and six or seven men got aboard of her, pushed out into the river, and arrived shortly after at the Falls of Ohio—while those who attempted to get into the other boat failed to accomplish their purpose. The boat with all its contents therefore fell into the hands of the enemy.—Major Rogers himself and nearly the whole of his men, amounting to about 70 were killed, six or seven made their escape in the boat as already stated; two or three were taken prisoners, who afterwards returned, two were wounded and left on the ground, being undiscovered by those eagle eyed savages. Among the prisoners who were taken was one John Campbell, (commonly called Big John Campbell,) of Fort Pitt, an Irishman by birth, a man of considerable genius and extensive information,—who had located himself at the last mentioned place as an Indian trader, some years before the commencement of the war. He was not connected with the expedition of Rogers or Lynn, but had been in Kentucky, where he finally settled, on a mercantile or land speculation or both, and had embraced the opportunity of Rogers' ascending the river, to return to his residence at Pittsburgh.—He was carried to Detroit and there closely confined, I think in irons, for a long time, but was afterwards released and returned home before the war was over. By being so closely confined and hardly treated, it is very probable that the British authorities at Detroit, to many of whom Col. Campbell was well known personally, had it in contemplation to try and punish him as a traitor to his late liege sovereign George the third. The writer hopes he may be indulged in calling the attention of the reader a few minutes longer to the story of Col. Campbell, a man who, by no means free from fault, was somewhat singular in his habits, yet at the same time possessed of many amiable qualities. And the writer having himself, at an early period of the revolutionary war, received a considerable favor from the hands of Col. Campbell, feels a pleasure in making his name known to posterity. He was one of the first legislators that ever took a seat in a legislative body, from the west of the Alleghanies, being elected to the Senate of Virginia, under her former republican constitution, as early as the year 1776; and what is somewhat remarkable his competitor for that office was the same David Rogers who commanded the expedition up the river in which the one was killed and the other with so much difficulty escaped with life. Colonel Campbell was, at the commencement of the war, by some, strongly suspected of being favorable to the British cause; but, in the opinion of the writer, without any probable ground. Indeed, the only cause for such suspicion was, that so many of his acquaintances and fellow traders had abandoned the American cause for the British standard: As the M'Rees, the Elliotts, Simson Girty, and Major John Conelly, a countryman of Campbell's. Colonel Campbell, after his return from captivity, was, I believe, without all suspicion of friendship to the enemy. He afterwards settled near Louisville; was a member of the Senate in the first legislature of Kentucky, after she became an independent Republic. He afterwards settled in the neighborhood of Lexington, where he resided until his death, which happened some fifteen years ago. He left a considerable fortune, which is possessed, as I understand, by his brother's and sisters' children, he having never married himself.

The boat that escaped returned to the Falls of Ohio; but the defeat and death of Major Rogers rendered abortive all the expense, the labor, and toil of himself and Capt. Lynn and their respective men. Indeed I doubt whether any man living knows fully the extent of the objects they have in view, or how far they had been accomplished. A principal reason that I have for supposing that these matters were never fully understood, is, that a few years after the conclusion of the war, I think in 1786, I was at the house of a Mr. Samuel Due, in Virginia, who was then a delegate in the Virginia Legislature, and shortly after a member of the convention of that state. Mr. Due, in a conversation with me, remarked that he had lately been on a visit to Patrick Henry, then Governor of that state. That Governor Henry had spoken freely of the embarrassed situation of the commonwealth, and the heavy taxes that the citizens had then to pay in consequence of the expenses incurred during the war, and instead of a remission of these heavy taxes, he expected they must be increased. Assigning as one reason that Major Rogers had borrowed at New Orleans a large sum of money, on the credit of the state, and that he had with him at the time of his defeat and death, aboard one of the boats, as much as a bushel measure of gold in a leather bag, as he, Gov. Henry had been informed, and that he was constantly expecting that the payment would be called for; adding that this would greatly increase the public burden and require a heavier tax to be laid. I had long supposed that the above statements were correct, (and no doubt Gov. Henry thought them so) until upwards of 20 years afterwards, when, in conversation with the late Capt. Benham, I observed to him that for the last 20 years I had been examining every wash bank, and the root of every tree that I had seen blown up to find the bag of gold you lost; what gold said he!—that which was lost at Rogers's defeat. I then related to him the conversation that Mr. Due had with Gov. Henry, Captain Benham assured me, that it was entirely a mistake: that there was no money, or at least no gold on board, without some of the crew might have had small sums in their pockets. That the pretended bag of gold was nothing but a bag of metal buttons, which had been procured at New Orleans as part of an extensive assortment of military clothing and trimmings. Capt. Lynn, who had made the first voyage to New Orleans, was some time after Roger's defeat killed by the Indians on Bear grass near the Falls of Ohio, so that nothing was to be feared from him respecting these laborious and adventurous undertakings—Thus the whole affair, except the toils, dangers, and sufferings of those who were engaged in it, has nearly sunk into oblivion. When the memoirs of the late Mr. Jefferson was first published, I embraced the earliest opportunity to consult them, hoping to find something to cast light on this mysterious affair; I could however find nothing on the subject but what I had already learned from other sources. In a letter from Colonel George Rogers Clark to Mr. Jefferson, dated at Kaskaskias, the 9th of April, 1779, Col. Clark mentions the subject, stating that Rogers left all his men except six at Ozark (now Arkansas) and with these he had gone to New Orleans; where he then was. In the above letter Colonel Clark mentions that Rogers was in great want of provisions. This concurs with what Captain Benham also related to me on that subject.—He observed that when it had been determined that he was to come through the wilderness to carry despatches, all the provision he could procure was Indian corn, and that he was obliged to have it boiled in lyre to prevent the wevil from devouring it on the journey.

A SPECTATOR.

From Mrs. Carmichael's Domestic Manners and Society in the West Indies.

THE CHASSEUR ANTS AND THEIR PREY.

One morning my attention was arrested at Laurel Hill (Trinidad) by a number of black birds whose appearance was foreign to me—they were smaller but not unlike an English crow, and were perched on a calabash tree near the kitchen. I asked D——, who at that moment came up from the garden, what could be the cause of the appearance of so many black birds. She said, "Misses, dem be a sign of de blessing of God—dey are not de blessing, but only de sign, as we say, of God's blessing. Misses, you'll see afore noon time, how de ants will come and clar de houses." At this moment I was called to breakfast, and thinking it was some superstitous idea of D——'s, I paid no further attention to it. In about two hours after this, I observed an uncommon number of Chasseur ants crawling about the floor of the room, my children were annoyed by them, and seated themselves on a table, where their legs did not communicate with the floor.

They did not crawl upon my person, but I was now surrounded by them. Shortly after this the walls of the room became covered by them, and next, they began to take possession of the tables and chairs. I now thought it necessary to take refuge in an adjoining room, separated only by a few ascending steps from the one we occupied, and this was not accomplished without great care and generalship, for, had we trodden upon one, we should have been summarily punished. There were several ants on the step of the stair, but they were not near so numerous as in the room we had left; for not only were the floor and walls covered like the other room, but the roof was covered also.

The open rafters of a West Indian house at all times afford shelter to a numerous tribe of insects, most particularly the cock roach: but now their destruction was inevitable. The chasseur ants, as if trained for battle, ascended in regular thick files to the rafters, and threw down the cock-roaches to their comrades on the floor, who as regularly marched off with the dead bodies of the cock roaches, dragging them away by their united efforts with amazing rapidity. Either the cock roaches were stung to death on the rafters, or else the fall killed them. The ants never stopped to devour their prey but conveyed it all to their store house. The windward windows of the room were glass, and a battle now ensued between the ants and the jack spaniards on the panes of glass. The jack spaniard may be called the wasp of the West Indies: it is twice as large as a British wasp, and its sting is in proportion more painful. It builds its nests in trees and old houses, and sometimes in the rafters of a room. The jack spaniards were not quite so easy prey, for they used their wings, which not one cock roach had attempted. Two jack spaniards hotly pursued on the window, alighted on the dress of one of my children, I entreated her to sit still and remain quiet. In an almost inconceivable short space of time, a party of ants crawled upon her frock, surrounded, covered the two jack spaniards, and crawled down again to the floor, dragging off their prey, and doing the child no harm. From this room I went to the adjoining bed chamber and dressing room, and found them equally in possession of the chasseurs. I opened a large chest of military linens, which had been much infested; for I was determined to take every advantage of such able hunters; I found the ants already inside; I suppose that they must have got in at some opening at the hinges. I pulled out the linens on the floor, and with them hundreds of cock roaches, not one of which escaped.

We now left the house, and went to the chambers, built at a little distance; but these were also in the same state. I next proceeded to open a store room at the other end of the house, for a place of retreat; but to get the key I had to return to the under room, where the battle was now more hot than ever; the ants had commenced an attack upon the rats and mice, and, strange as it may appear, they were no match for their insignificant foes.—They surrounded them, as they had the insect tribe, covered them over, and dragged them off with a celerity and union of strength, that no one who has not watched such a scene can comprehend. I did not see one mouse or rat escape, and I am sure I saw a score carried off during a very short period.

We next tried the kitchen—for the store room and boy's pantry were already occupied; but the kitchen was equally the field of battle, between rats, mice, cock roaches, and ants killing them. A huckster negro came up selling cake, and seeing the uproar, and the family and servants standing out in the sun, he said—"Ah Misses you have got the blessing of God, to day, and a great blessing it be to get such a cleaning." I think it was about ten when I first observed the ants, and about twelve the battle was formidable; soon after one o'clock the great strife commenced with the rats and mice; and about three the houses were cleared. In a quarter of an hour more, the ants began to decamp, and soon not one was to be seen within doors, but the grass round the house was full of them; and they seemed now feasting on the remnant of their prey, which had been left on the road to their nests—and so the feasting continued till about four o'clock, when the black birds, who had never been long absent from the calabash and pois deux trees in the neighbourhood, darted down among them and destroyed by millions those who were too sluggish to make good their retreat. By five o'clock the whole was over—before sun down the negro houses were cleared in the same way—and they told me they had seen the black birds hovering about the almond trees close to the negro houses as early as seven in the morning. I never saw these black birds before or since, and the negroes assured me that they never were seen but at such times.

MILITIA.

A Correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce thus humorously sets forth the humors of a Militia Muster, in that city. We have not since the days of Col. PLUCK, seen a real militia marching, in Philadelphia. The Hollow Guards, of course are an exception.

"Passing through John street last Friday I witnessed one of the most ludicrous scenes.—Approaching a large collection of people I found that the gathering was on account of a militia training. I understood that the officer had experienced no little difficulty in causing his company to halt. This word 'halt', which should render a soldier instantly stationary, not only failed to produce that effect upon the troops but on the contrary rather accelerated their march. The officer followed on crying 'Halt, *Halt*, HALT,' but without effect; until getting out of patience he exclaimed, 'If you don't halt I'll march you *five miles*.' This produced the desired effect, and the company halted,—though pretty much out of a line.

When I came up the Orderly Sergeant was doing his best to call the roll. In this however he found it next to impossiple to proceed; for no sooner was a name announced than the crowd one and all responded 'HERE' and the Orderly was unable to determine whether or not the man was on the ground. Finding it necessary to adopt some other course, he told the men that when a name was called, if the individual wished to avoid a fine, he must immediately march in front of the company.—But no sooner had he announced this mode of proceeding than a hurrah was raised, so loud that the Orderly could not even hear his own voice. At length a name was heard, and there was a general rush towards the front. The movement completely disorganized the company and mingled soldiers and citizens all together in one general hurly-burly.

At this juncture a council of war was held, and the conclusion seemed to be that the officers should make the best of their way off and get the men to follow. It was amusing to hear the soldiers giving advice to their superiors. 'Come Captain, says one,—'Why don't you send up to the Police office and get an officer to take care of these folks, for they will run over us, sure as a gun.' One advised to this thing, another to that until the officers found themselves about as much inclined to do one thing as another.

As the corps had no music, no time was beat, and of course each one marched on 'his own hook.' The captain was not in uniform, and seemed to possess much less authority, than the Orderly, who was completely accoutred from top to toe.

His new cap all polished and shining, somehow during the rushing and pushing of the crowd, received a bayonet entirely through it, and the mischievous boys as they happened behind him, amused themselves by pulling the skirts of his military coat. Indeed it was only by the dint of watchfulness that he was enable to preserve his perpendicular elevation; for various assaults were attempted upon his limbs, with the intent of bringing him down to the level of those who were so unfortunate as to find themselves upon the pavement.

A grand effort was at length made to take the company to some more quiet part of the city, where they might enjoy the benefit of being drilled without interruption. To this end the military skill and authority of the officers was exerted to form the ranks. Two or three were formed, and the plan was about to succeed, but it unfortunately happened that just then a coachman drove up and ordered the company out of the road. 'I tell you,' said the officer, 'you cannot pass.' 'I tell *you*,' said the coachman 'that I *can* pass,' Turn about contined the officer, 'I tell you again you shan't go through. 'Shan't ha?' replied Coachee, 'I'll see if a shan't. So each party prepared for the onset. Muskets glistened, bayonets, horse pistols, rifles, and other deadly weapons were raised to stop the enemy.—The officer looked as if great consequences were suspended upon the issue of the contest,

"Firm paced and slow, a horrid front they form,
Still to the breeze, but dreadful as the storm."

The coachman, confident of the superiority of cavalry over infantry, gave orders for a *charge*, and cracking his whip, the long lash of which drove back the soldiers, and urged on the horses, who being good metal, 'broke through the thick array,' and left the ranks in fragments. When the coachman had got fairly through, he paused to enjoy his triumph. The discomforted officer shook his head and looked things unutterrable, while the multitude on all sides, led by the conquering hero, gave three cheers, and the victor passed on. The farce at this stage was quite beyond description.

A retreat, the last resort of the brave, was now meditated. Hard as it was, it appeared the only alternative. Accordingly a push was made for Broadway, some in the road while others preferred the side walk. I understood that when opposite the American Hotel, the company were seized with a glow of enthusiasm, and gave three cheers to Henry Clay! What other deeds of valor they performed I am not able to say. H. B. S.

The Proclamation of Governor Smith of Maine, designating a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praises throughout that State, is expressed in the following terms. The example of the New England States is worthy of imitation, especially in the middle section of the Union, where the blessings of health abundance and good order have been experienced in an extraordinary degree:

The approaching close of another year, enriched by the usual beneficence of a bountiful Providence, again reminds us of our innumerable obligations to that ALMIGHTY BEING, whose guardian care regulates the Seasons, and liberally provides for the wants of all His creatures. To him we are indebted for an abundant Harvest, the general prevalence of Health, and an uninterrupted continuance of National Peace, Order and Prosperity. To His favor we would also gratefully ascribe the origin and continuance of our Republican Constitutions of Government, our civil and religious privileges, our unequalled advantages for early Education, and all those inestimable blessings associated with the endearing relations of domestic life.

That the people of this State may have an opportunity unitedly to present their devout and grateful acknowledgments to ALMIGHTY GOD for the manifold mercies He has conferred upon them individually and as a community, by the advice and consent of the Executive Council, I appoint *Thursday, the twenty first day of November next*, to be observed throughout this State, with the usual solemnities, as a DAY OF PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

And while on this occasion we penitently deplore our ingratitude for the past benefits we have received, let us devoutly supplicate our HEAVENLY FATHER, that He would still continue to visit us with His favor; that he would preserve us from every evil and mercifully supply our wants; that He would smile upon our Country, promote its interest and preside over our National and State Governments, so that their several departments may be administered with justice and wisdom; that He would bless our Schools and Seminaries of Learning, give all needful support and assistance to the Ministers of Religion and the teachers of youth, and cause the exertions of the Benevolent for the suppression of Intemperance, and for the more general diffusion of Christianity, Knowledge, and the useful Arts, to be signally successful in promoting the improvement and happiness of their fellow men.

May the oppressed and afflicted, the sick, the friendless and the destitute, be not only the subjects of our sympathy and prayers, but receive consolation and relief from the efforts of active Charity. Guided by the precepts of Christian duty, may it be the endeavor of all to comfort the afflicted, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, instruct the ignorant, reclaim the vicious, and according to their ability, to leave unimproved no opportunity of doing good. So will they most effectually manifest their faith in the Holy Religion they profess, and not only by their lips but by their lives, show forth the praises of their SAVIOUR and their GOD.

ALL BUT MURDER.

In the Naturalist's Library, now in the course of publication in England, the following relation is given, of the chase and destruction of a gigantic specimen of the red Ourang-Outang on the coast of Sumatra. Naturalists, it is often said, are hard hearted, and the experiments of "Spalanzani and Majendie," though undertaken in the cause of science, and for alledged benefit of humanity, might be adduced as a proof of the charge. In the case before us, we do not wonder at the misgiving of the hunters; though we do at their perservering, after such misgivings.

"A boat party, under the command of Messrs Cragyman and Fish, officers of the brig Mary Ann-Sophia having landed to procure water at a place called Ramboom, near Touraman, on the north west coast of Sumatra, on a spot where there was much cultivated ground and but few trees, discovered on one of them a gigantic animal of the monkey tribe.—On the approach of the party he came to the ground, and when pursued sought refuge in another tree at some distance, exhibiting as he moved, the appearance of a tall manlike figure covered with shining brown hair, waking erect with a wadling gait, but sometimes accelerating his motion with his hands, and occasionally impelling himself forward with the bough of a tree. His motion on the ground was plainly not his natural mode of progression, for even when assisted by his hands or a stick, it was slow and vascillating; it was necessary to see him among trees in order to estimate his agility and strength.—On being driven to a small clump, he gained by one spring a very lofty branch and bounded from one branch to another with the ease and alacrity of a monkey. Had the country been covered with wood, it would have been almost impossible to prevent his escape, as his mode of travelling from one tree to another is described to be as rapid as the progress of a swift horse. Even amidst the few trees that were on the spot, his movements were so quick that it was very difficult to obtain a settled aim, and it was only by cutting down one tree after another, that his pursuers, by confining him within a very limited range, were enabled to destroy him by several successive shots, some of which penetrated his body and wounded his viscera. Having received five balls, his exertions relaxed, and, reclining exhausted on one of the branches of a tree, he vomited a considerably quantity of blood. The ammunition of the hunters being by this expended, they were obliged to fell the trees in order to obtain him; and did this in full confidence that his power was so far gone that they could secure him without trouble; but were astonished, as the tree was falling, to see him effect his retreat to another with apparently undiminished vigor. In fact they were obliged to cut down all the trees before they could drive him to combat his enimies on the ground, against whom he still exhibited surprising strength and agility, although he was at length overpowered by numbers, and destroyed by the thrusts of spears, and the blows of stones and other missiles.—When nearly in a dying state, he seized a spear made of supple wood, which would have withstood the strength of the strongest man and shivered it in pieces. In the words of one who assisted at the death, the actions of this animal were so near human, in endeavoring to ward off blows, and seeking to cover his wounds with his hand, and to staunch the flowing blood as together with his dying moans, to occasion misgivings among the assailing party as to the nature of the act they were perpetrating. He measured when dead upwards of six feet.

PRUDENTIAL MATCHES.

Mortals have a general love of taking destiny from the hands of Providence; but in nothing does it show itself so strongly as in matrimonial affairs. It is a rare thing to find parents wise enough to let the matches of their children entirely alone. No wonder girls think of nothing but beaux, when 'prudent connexions' and 'eligible matches' are the everlasting theme of discourse. Love and matrimony are things that should come unlooked for, if they come at all. All rules, and arguments, and management upon the subject, are fatal to the delicacy and refinement of female character. A daughter should never hear her own marriage speculated upon at all. The fact is the young think too little of money in the concerns of the heart, and the old think too much, but the fault of the young is by far the best. The want of money is no doubt a very great evil, but assuredly love is better without money, than money without love!—Time and industry, and economy, will infallibly gain gold; but alas for the chained affections!—their bondage is eternal. Yet I have known those who jeered at economy, as a most contemptible virtue, indicative of the absence of all high and honorable feelings.—I have known such among the avowed advocates of wealth. As if there *could* be any bondage so vile as the life lease of a reluctant soul! *any* bargain and corruption so mean and so degrading as the sale of the affections!

After all, to look upon what are called prudential matches, merely as a matter of *policy*, do we find them usually successful? I do not say *happy*—do they answer the end for which they were so laboriously schemed?—Not in one instance out of ten!—I know a rich man in whom the love of gold has swallowed up all the kindlier feelings. He argued, and pursuaded, and coaxed his favorite daughter to marry a million of dollars against her will. The victim resisted,—and yielded at last to the powerful argument that love matches were always unhappy, and the love which comes after marriage is by far the most enduring. For a little while all was pomp and splendor. In two short years, where was the millions gone? the sea had swallowed it,—fires had consumed it,—and the whirlwind had swept it away.—Even according to her father's views she might as well have married the man she liked best. So vain is it for mortals to contend with Providence.

Another, in the middling class of life, had the same views, on a more moderate scale—He had a pretty, capable, intelligent daughter, whose hand was sought by a coarse and selfish man whom she regarded with utter aversion. But the coarse and selfish man had gold,—accursed, polluting gold—and with it he bought the father's heart. Long and varied were the persecutions that broke the spirits of the young creature, before they pursuaded her that worldly prudence sanctioned perjury. What could he expect from such a union?—That selfish man was selfish still; for he who consents to take a wife on such terms is ignorant of the pure and holy affection that elevates and improves the whole character. His fortune is nearly spent in dissipation, and she does her duty as well as patience and gentleness can do it, toward her negligent and unfeeling husband. If a parent have any heart, must it not bleed to see such fruit from his cool blooded maxims.—Assuredly the thoughtless inexperience of the young, could hardly work out more complete destruction than this restless and officious avarice. You that are wise, let such subjects alone! Give your children high and honorable principles. Teach

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