of all other considerations is the most to be desired. With such narrow and unmanly feelings is it to be considered oppression on the part of the whites, because they have debarred a class of people, living in their midst, of privileges, which they seem unworthy to enjoy, and we take it for granted that they were not fit subjects for so precious a boon, or they would have searched for it in other lands. We know of no spot in the U States where the colored man is permitted to enjoy the same rights and privileges, as the white man. Then why will they tarry longer in the land of oppression? If they possess the true feelings belonging to man, they will without delay, leave a land which debar them from those rights and privileges which God and nature intended for them.

BIG LEG; (A MIAMI CHIEF.)

HIS TRIAL FOR MURDER.

The Indians of the Maumee and Wabash valleys until very recently held a sort of supremacy over the white population of that region; or, at least so much so, as to cause their depredations among themselves to be overlooked, or winked at, by the civil authorities.

Fort Wayne, on the Maumee for many years the head quarters of the Miamies, Ottowas, and Pottowattamies, was, during this period, the scene of many a brutal murder, which, for want of power in the white population, was suffered to go unpunished—or if punished, or noticed at all, was left to the Indians themselves to redress, by their own well known custom of retaliation. This, of course, caused an accumulation of murders, and frequently brought these warlike nations into hostile collision with each other.

At length, however about the year 1825 or 30, when the white population had increased to about two or three hundred, it was thought proper to assume a more authoritative attitude, and if possible, to arrest the further progress of Indian murders. The resolution had hardly been formed, when an opportunity to try the white man's power was presented; one, too, which is no less amusing for its novelty, than characteristic of the Indian customs, and the entire ignorance of municipal law.

A Miami chief, called *Big Leg*, because of the large and muscular dimensions of his limbs, was the first selected to undergo the transition from savage to civilized punishment.

His father, at his outset in the world, had given him, as a part of his portion, a fine young, and interesting squaw. She was the child of the same father, but by different mothers. Big Leg was a pure Indian, but his squaw was the child of a negro woman, whom his father had taken captive in the wars. As the Indian had never read the xviii chapter of Leviticus, nor the christian codes founded thereon, they knew of no objection to a union where the tie of consanguinity existed only in the half blood. They accordingly exchanged the relation of master and slave, for the more affectionate one of husband and wife—or rather of Indian and squaw; and as such Big Leg and his squaw lived together for many years.

But at length, for some sayer, of which we are not apprized, they separated, and agreed to pursue their respective journies alone. Big Leg continued to reside in his ancient wigwam, and as he was a good hunter, generally kept it well supplied with venison. But she seemed to have been less successful, and either from want, or to gratify a thievish nature, could return, when Big Leg was absent, and steal his provisions.

This incensed the Indian very much. By the custom of his nation she was his own property which he might dispose of as he thought proper. But, as an act of *Indian humanity*, he choose rather to spare his life, than to be her murderer—but it was upon the express condition that she would leave him, and not return. His authority was thus trampled upon, and, as he thought, his humanity cruelly repaid—but still he refrained from the exercise of his sovereign right, and again pointed her that a further violation would certainly cost her life. This seems to have had but little effect. The same offence was again and again repeated. Big Leg now determined that his words should not be idle; and accordingly sought for an opportunity to consummate his resolve. A few weeks only elapsed before an opportunity presented. He had followed her to Fort Wayne, where he knew she had retreated, and there, while lurking round in her pursuit, he discovered her in a yard, at work, leaning over a washtub. Now was the time, he thought to make good his words, and to prove his power. He accordingly closed unto her, with the silence and adroitness of an Indian hunter, and while she was still leaning over the tub, unconscious of his approach, plunged a large knife clear through her body. A single shriek proclaimed her agony, as she sprang from her inclined position, and the next moment she lay struggling in death at the feet of her murderer.

The wretched monster still thought he had done right, and drawing the knife from her body, held it aloft, still reeking with her blood, turned to the spectators with a savage grin, and, in broken English, exclaimed, 'was not that nice.'

Such is but a single instance of an Indian murder; cruel, barbarous, and wretched in the extreme. The very recital shocks our nature, and brings down our whole indignation upon a people so dreadfully depraved. But stop, white man, stop! nor vent your whole indignation upon the poor Indian. He is savage and cruel, but he is wild and ignorant, and the dupe of civilized villany; with an education, too, which makes it honorable to kill. But in this, as in every other Indian murder with which I am acquainted, the principal ingredient in the crime was the bewildering spirit of intoxication; the use of a poison which the Indian drank *but which the white man made*.

Big Leg was arrested, put in jail tried for murder, convicted, and sentenced to be hung. Then follows a train of simplicities, before which the gravity of the law is turned into ridicule.

The Indian heard his sentence pronounced, and looked with wonder upon the solemnity of his grave and sympathizing judge. But he knew as little what was meant or intended, as the man in the moon. At length, however, after a great deal of trouble he was made to understand that he was to be suspended by the neck until he was dead.

For a long time he was unable to appreciate this mood of execution it was something entirely new. He was both a hunter and a warrior—learned in all the arts of Indian torturer; but the civilized idea of suspending people by the neck, had never before entered his mind. For a long time he knew not by what name, within his comprehension, to call it; but having seen traders weigh with steelyards, he adopted that idea, and accordingly called it weighing.

The word soon got out; and ran through the whole Miami nation; that Big Leg was to be *weighed* by the neck till he was dead. Alarm and and consternation followed. He was a useful Indian, a very good hunter, and killed most of the deer eaten by his tribe. For these reasons they wished to save his life: but they had been told that the law must be fulfilled—that is according to their interpretation, as sanctioned by immemorial custom, *that for blood, blood must be shed*.

In this they some what resemble the Jews, and from it, and some other customs, have been supposed by some to be the descendants of the lost tribes of Israel.

The principal men of the tribe were called together, to devise, if possible, some means by which to obtain the release of Big Leg, and at the same time to fulfil, if possible, the requisitions of the law. An expedient was soon discoverd fully equal in their conception, to satisfy all the demands of retributives justice.

They had, among their number, a lazy Indian called Sam. Him they determined to [illegible] or, as they said, 'swap' for Big Leg. Accordingly they all came to town in a body, and called their proposition to the jailer and urged [illegible] of Big Leg. "Sam" said they, [illegible] worthless Indian—him you may take [illegible] as you please. The absurd[illegible] was only equalled by the a[illegible] urged. But what was still [illegible] characteristic of the Indi[illegible] Sam was along, and w[illegible]

Thus passed things with t[illegible] lay in prison, patiently a[illegible] execution, and seriously [illegible] death he was about to d[illegible] heard of hanging. He k[illegible] ces, nor of the pain, [illegible] To inform himself, however, [illegible] he got his dog into jail, [illegible] cord round his neck, and hung it until it [illegible]

He then told the jailer that [illegible] did not wish to be weighed; he had weighed his dog, he said, and it made dog very sick. They might shoot him, or kill him in any way that Indians kill men; *but white man's way no good*."

The absurdity of a direct and forcible application of our laws to the condition of uncivilized man had now become too apparent to admit of futher consideration. Every body saw the impropriety of inflicting capital punishment on the poor ignorant Indian. His case was therefore, presented by the citizens to the governor, who very properly granted him the executive pardon. Thus was Big Leg after passing through what he thought a world of wonders, released from his threatened execution, and sent home to his tribe on the Wabash, where he continued to reside until last, when I saw him in this city, with the rest of the Miami Indians, on their way to the far west.—*Daily Enquirer.*

MAN OVERBOARD.

BY IKE MARVEL.

It was one of those [illegible] and lightning gales at night were, for a moment, all would be as light as day, and a moment after as dark that you could not see to oars length from the vessel. The Captain was forward, and all hands except the cook and myself were aloft.

The ship was pitching madly, and the waves were topping up sometimes as high as the yard arm, and then dipping away with a whirl, under our keel that made every timber in our vessel quiver. The thunder was roaring like ten thousand cannons; and every now and then, as I said, half the sky would split into a stream of fire that glared over the tops of the waves and glistened on the wet deck and the spars lighting up everything so plain that I could see the men's faces at the main-top, and catch glimpses of the reefers on the yard arm—clinging like death—then all would be horible darkness.

You could hear the spray spring against the canvass and the great waves breaking on the weather bow and the howl of the wind through the rigging, and now and then, when a gasket gave way and the sails bellied out to leeward—you could hear the canvass splitting like the crack of a musket. You could hear, too, the Captain forward, screaming out orders, and the mate in the cross trees, screaming 'em over, till the lightning came, and the thunder—both together—and deadened their voices as if they'd been a pair of little chirping sparrows.

It was in one of these flashes that I saw a hand on the the yard-arm lose his foot-hold, as the ship gave a plunge, but his arms were clenched round the spar. Before I could see any more the blackness came over, and the thunder broke with a crash that half-deafened me. I thought I heard something like a tiny howl, as it died off; and sure enough, at the next flash of lightning, which came in a moment, what should I see on the top of one of the waves a longside; but Tom Meeks; the lightning glared on his face, so that I could see the look in the poor fellows eye.

As good luck would have it he had caught hold of one of the studding sail sheets as he fell, and as we pitched, I could see it slipping off the coil upon the deck.

I shouted like mad "Man overboard!" and had just time to catch the rope when we could see nothing again. I was a boy then and couldn't hold on by the rope; the sea was too high, and the man too heavy for me.

I shouted; and shouted; and shouted, and felt the sweat starting all over my forehead, as the rope slipped through my hands. Poor Tom had been our messmate for a year, and we all loved him.

Presently the Captain felt his way aft, and took hold with me just as the coil was nearly spent and we pulled upon it, and the cook came, and we three hauled together upon it.

Poor fellow, it must have been desperate work for him, for the ship was diving at a prodigious rate, and we pulling up at the same time, but he clung like a man.

Presently at a flash, we saw him on a crest the oars length away from the vessel.

"Hold on, my man!" sang out the Captain.

"For God's sake, be quick" said the man, and he went down in a trough of the sea.

And we pulled the harder, and the Captain kept all the while calling to him to keep up courage and hold strong. But in the noise we could hardly hear him say:—

"I can't hold on much longer—I'm most gone."

We called on the more to him to hold on, and presently got him where we could most lay hold of him, and were only waiting for a good lift of the sea to bring him up, when the poor fellow groaned out:—

"It's no use—I can't—good bye," and a wave passed the end of the rope clean up upon the quarter.

At the next flash we saw him good down under the water.

I never shall forget how [illegible] we [illegible] "good bye" and let [illegible] *Evening Bulletin*

Moral Courage—Adventure, to save and redeem valor, must be connect with a certain degree of courage. We must be bold and resolute, to do what we think necessary to be done. Nay, more—we must be bold enough to admit that we are only what we [illegible] possess it. There are a few honest enough to admit that they cannot [illegible] there may be done by these [illegible] How seldom do we hear one confess his inability to buy this or indulge in that luxury. This miserable cowardice, the sole progeny of vanity, runs through the whole circle of society. The miserable trickery which decorate our persons, the motives and devices which change the constant changes of dress and furniture; the costliness of the materials used for both, these with a thousand other heads of expenditure, are almost universal sins! The concealed [illegible] change, and fancies [illegible] the recipient of untold evil of character, simply because he has nodded his head, or raised his finger at the happy moment! The poor moral butterfly, his wife, assumes that the devil is already pouring in upon her, the, so immediately [illegible] as the hair of a mulberry, the dunce proverbial as the favorite of fortune; and what [illegible] to the moneyholics, and world followers, and sycophants, of these parties? Nothing but the slight—as certain as fate at the usual season—which turns the root of all these precious nuisances, and consigns them to a bankruptcy which brings with it no shame, and to a poverty which finds them without any preparation. The whole life of such people is a lie—and must continue a lifeless lie, until they can recover sufficient moral courage to set out the truth and to appear the truth only. But all these evils, the very evils of vanity, rise in the exaggerations of trade; the illusions of which, like those of oriental fable be [illegible] and bewilder, [illegible] comparison, are utterly lost, [illegible] some painted vessel, with flags flying, and all sails spread, rushes on, unconscious [illegible] proud, headlong into the dismal maelstrom, which is a real vortex to be found in every human sea.

THE CHIME—How sweet [illegible] mingling their solemn symphonies on the [illegible] air! It seems as if spirits were leaning from the clouds and calling to us in their own [illegible] language. What heart can refuse the [illegible] invitation that in their fery to [illegible] the voices of the loved and lost from earth. An, who knows that were our hearts as open as our ears, we might not hear in very truth angel voices talking ever to us?

MEN of *splendid* talents are generally too quick, too volatile, too adventurous, and too unstable to be more relied on; whereas, men of *common* abilities, in a regular, plodding routine of business, act with more regularity and greater certainty. Men of the best intellectual abilities are apt to strike off suddenly, like the tangent of a circle, and cannot be brought into their orbits by attraction or gravity—they often act with such eccentricity as to be lost in the vortex of their own reveries. Brilliant in general are like the *ignis fatui*; they excite wonder, but often mislead. They are not, however, without their use; like the fire from the flint, once produced, it may be converted, by solid thinking men, to very salutary and noble purposes. ----*Bulwer.*

MESSRS EDITORS: Sirs, you will please insert in the columns of your next paper, by request, that the British ship Georgiana, Captain Charles Cone, 34 days out from Liverpool, passed the Cape on the 4th inst., bound to leeward.

Yours Respectfully,
N. M. HICKS.

Fatal Accident—On Tuesday afternoon, the 15th inst., Samuel, the son of Mrs. Ann Walker, was drowned in attempting to cross the Messurado River, from Barley Island over to Monrovia, while the river was in a rough state, by the accidental upsetting of the canoe which he was in. The youth was about the age of sixteen years. About three days after he was drowned, his body was found some distance up the river, which was nearly half eaten by some of the finny tribe. His remains were interred at low water mark where he was found.—*Communicated.*

MARRIED

At New Georgia on the S[illegible] by Thomas Early Esq. Mr. Alexander M. Murray to Mrs. Jane Marshall both of that place.

At Cape Palmas, by Rev. John S. Payne of the Episcopal Mission, S. F. M. Gatt, M. D. to Miss Louisa Coke, both of that place.

At Bexley in the County of Grand Bassa, on the evening of the 26th ultimo, by Elder John Day, G. L. Sawyer Esq. to Mrs. Mary Coker and Mr. Jacob Vanson to Mrs. Matilda Jones, all of that place.—*Communicated.*

At Millsburg on the 17th inst., by Rev. J. W. Roberts, M. Henry Preston, to Miss Helen Vanson, both of that place.

At Virginia settlement, on the 26th, ultimo by Elder P. S. James, Mr. Solomon Moore, to Miss Matilda Gist, both of that place.

At Millsburg on the 10th inst., by Rev. J. W. Roberts, Mr. Alex Manson, to Miss Fanny Wayne, both of that place.

In this town on the 13th inst. by Rev. A. D. Wanton, Mr. Harrison Storey, to Miss Louisa Smith, all of this place.

In this town, on the 14th inst., by Elder B. J. Drayton, Mr. Benjamin Douglass, to Mrs. Charity Fox, [illegible] place.

DEATHS

DIED at Marshall in the 4th [illegible] Mr. Charles Kennedy, after a lingering sickness. His end was peace.—*Com.*

In this town, on the 10th inst., Mrs. Ann B. Paxton, consort of Mr. John H. Paxton, after a lingering illness of a few days. Mrs. Paxton was a member of the M. E. Church in this place.—*Com.*

At Caldwell, on the 14th inst. Mr. Charles Carter, senior, after a lingering illness. Mr. Carter was a member of the Providence Baptist Church in this place. His end was peace.—*Com.*

NOTICE

The Copartnership business of S. F. McGill, & Brother, [illegible] dissolved. Published [illegible]

U. A. McGILL.

Monrovia, [illegible], 1848.

ADVERTISEMENTS

NEW STORE.

A piece of New Goods, fancy and staple which will be sold, [illegible] cash or [illegible] produce down on the hand, at my new store on Water street.

EDWARD J. ROYE.

Monrovia, 17th June, 1848.

FOR SALE

The [illegible] brig Anna her spars, rigging, sails, [illegible] chains, will be sold to the highest bidder, on the first day of September next.

J. N. LEWIS.

Monrovia, July 28th 1848

THE COLONIAL FARM

Persons desirous of purchasing the Colonial Farm, will please send in their proposals. It contains about one hundred acres—the land is good and can be cultivated to advantage. Bids will be received to the first of September next.

J. N. LEWIS.

Monrovia, July 28th, 1848.

MARINE LIST: PORT OF MONROVIA.

ARRIVALS.

July 29. French schooner Fly, Saint Aune, master, from the leeward.

August 17 Hamburg brig Anna, M. Meir, master, from the leeward.

" 21. United States Brig Bainbridge, A. G. Slaughter, Lieut. Commanding from the leeward.

DEPARTURES.

August 2. Hamburg brig Therese, J. H. Deihtz, master, for Europe, via. Sierra Leone.

" 11. French schooner Fly, Saint Aune, master, for the leeward.

" 22. Hamburg brig Anna, M. Meir, master for Sierra Leone.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers
B. Liberia Herald

February 1842(XI,4)--February 18,1857(n.s. VII,4)

1848

NEW SERIES NO 1