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(FOR THE ABBEVILLE BANNER.)
INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL.

LETTER VIII.

But the celebrity of Rock Bridge does not simply consist in its natural curiosities, its internal wealth, and its literary and military advantages: it also abounds in specimens of intellectual greatness. In the suburbs of Lexington was born and reared the learned and pious Archibald Alexander D. D., of the Princeton Seminary—son-in-law of the "Blind Preacher," whose talents and eloquence have been immortalized by the chaste and classic Author of the British Spy. The Hon. Robert Moore, the only United States Senator ever sent from Virginia West of the Blue Ridge, was also a resident of Lexington. Here Colonel Benton married his Lady, the accomplished Miss McDowell. Here now lives Ex-Governor McDowell, whose family the ungallant and ungenerous Governor Thomas, of Maryland, slandered. The able Judge Brockenborough of the U. S. District Court lives here. And last, but not least Rev. Horatio Thompson, whose refined taste, polished manners, exemplary piety, profound Theological lore, and cogent thrilling sermons are sufficient to give character to the age. And subjoined to the above catalogue, we may also mention Mr. Chapin, the venerable author of much of our good old church music. The solemn air Rock Bridge, he named in honor of the Natural Bridge. Liberty Hall after the Academic name of Washington College. Rockingham for a neighboring county. Primrose, Consolation, Tribulation, and many other such specimens of sacred Music.

In the process of my serpentine meanderings, my destiny was cast in a village, where an individual informed me, there would be, that night a "Ladies Fair;" and requested me to attend. My first impression was, he was trifling with my itinerating dignity (an insult, you know, South Carolina blood cannot bear) by retailing his tautologies at my expense. For suggested reason if fair be expressed ladies are evidently referred to; and if ladies be mentioned fair is necessarily implied—Why double and twist the thing, and darken ideas by the accumulation of words?—But my pugilistic ardor was cooled by a thorough explication. It appears from the facts connected with the case, that a certain denomination of Christians in the city, had a church, if not the most gorgeous and richly garnished, good enough for such Christians as Paul or John Bunyon and their respective adherents to worship in. But perhaps the fact of a Sister denomination erecting a more gaudy and ostentatious edifice suggested to this humble congregation, the probability of having to stand back, on account of a neighbor being holier. And this zealous exemplary society was inspired with that noble magnanimous spirit, which despises those, who from servile humanity stand afar off; and thank God for their rigid adherents to the letter of the law—their superiority to others—their prayers and their benevolence; therefore they resolved they would not live in costly houses and worship God in a tent. But when they had completed their temple the sine qua non was not available in sufficient quantities to defray the expenses. Hence the pious matrons and zealous maidens organized themselves into an association to be called

the Ladies Fair. The society meets in a capacious hall. All persons wishing to traffic with these merchant women, can enjoy that exquisite pleasure, by paying a respectable entrance fee, or pole-tax (a law Carolinians would nullify.) The stock in trade consist of bouquets, toys, drinks and others articles too "numerous to mention" as the advertisements says. The funds accruing from the sales of their merchandise is appropriated to the purpose of paying for, at least, the Church lot. As this is for a pious and holy purpose—and as Holy Mother Rome has decreed, the end, justifies the mean, they may with propriety indulge the extravagance of laying on 2 or 3 or 500 percent on their baubles and gewgaws. And as this organization is wholly under the control of Ladies, no young man, in whose soul corruscates a spark of gallantry will refuse to go, and purchase liberally. If he be not dead to a sense of the finer feelings he will go and take under his right, and left protection, at least, two young Ladies, whose capitation fee he will pay, and also treat them to as much as they can eat and drink, and buy them a bouquet or two, even if he should be charged 37 1-2 cents each. You know Lysander in the seizure of Athens taught when the *Lion's skin* is not sufficient to carry your point, it is no harm to stich to it the *Fox's tail*. And this apothegm is especially applicable in the case now before us. For, these vain irreligious young men will court popularity with the pretty misses of the Church; but their narrow unrighteous souls would not contribute one mite for religious purposes by way of benevolence, under any consideration. But the young ladies, whose sagacity is never baffled, have devised means, by which, the young infidels shall become subservient to the Church,

Tot, vobis, virgines, dotes, quot, sidera, caelo.

I know there are some christians of contracted minds and austere morals, who censure this polite, genteel method of obtaining money to defray the expenses of religion. They go so far as to throw the church on the tender mercy of the world, and expose her to the contempt and ridicule of infidels. But such persons deny the church privileges, that some men arrogate to themselves. A certain potentate of the continent, used the Jews as a sponge to absorb the gold of Europe, from which he could express it at pleasure. Now, why may not the ladies absorb a few dimes from the irreligious fops and coxcombs, when their avowed object is to squeeze it out into the purse of the church? Some old-fashioned, tasteless graceless professors will say, it is better to worship God *spiritually* in a tent under an oak in Mamre, than to do it *fashionably* in a gaudy, pompous cathedral, the architect of which has not been remunerated. It must be confessed it better comports with the Scripture command, "*owe no man anything*," to have worshipped in the old until money could have been earned for the new. But how can a zealous christian endure to see another denomination robed in finer apparel? They may stand higher in Jacob's ladder, for this is not visible to human eyes, but they must not worship in a more magnificent temple. Besides a spirit is craven and despicable, which withholds from professors rivalry and competition respecting the honors of the world. Perhaps some may have the impertinent audacity to say respecting this religious confectionary, "it is a strange mixture of worldly pleasure and religion, charity and profligacy. It is the spending of one pound for a good cause, for the purchase of an indulgence to spend five for questionable and decidedly sinful purposes. It is an attempt to sanctify worldly merriment, feasting and rioting by the sanctity of approved names, and an intermixture of religious performance." When censors strike such a vein of pathetic railery, christians must succumb.

Dat veniam corvis, vexat censura columbas.

(WRITTEN FOR THE ABBEVILLE BANNER.)

BAD HABITS.

Mr. Editor:—Put this in your paper, and tell all the little boys and girls to study it carefully, for I love them very much, and

desire their happiness. I heard one little boy say to another the other day: "this is the third day that our old teacher has talked to us about bad habits, I should think it was about time to change the subject, shouldn't you?" "Yes," replied the other; "but I don't care." I thought within myself, these boys little understand the import of the subject, or they would not wish to have it changed. Indeed I know they have formed some bad habits which might now be easily corrected but which are strengthening every day by indulgence. It is a very bad habit to heed not the advice of friends. It is a very bad habit to say, "I don't care," when you are reproved. It is a bad habit not to profit by the experience of others. It is a bad habit to be careless and inattentive when your teacher is talking to your class, and endeavoring to instruct you orally.

My dear children do you know that these bad habits will lead you to laugh and disregard all good counsel? Do you know that by and by you will make sport of the Bible, of religion, and of the holy name of God? Do you know that you will grow bolder and bolder in sin, until at last you will not hesitate to do what you would now tremble to think about? My dear little friends throughout Abbeville District, pause and reflect, and profit by this admonition. Correct bad habits in your youth, and when you grow to be men and woman you will be happy and respectable.

A TEACHER.

THE CITY OF MEXICO

This famous Capital, at the mercy of Gen. Scott, is thus described in Murray's Encyclopedia of Geography:

The State of Mexico comprises the Valley of Mexico, a fine and splendid region, variegated by extensive lakes, and surrounded by some of the loftiest volcanic peaks of the world. Its circumference is about 200 miles, and it forms the very centre of the tableland Anahuac, elevated from 6000 to 8000 feet above the level of the sea. In the centre of this valley stands the city of Mexico or Tenochtitlan having been built in the middle of the lake, and connected with the continent by extensive causeways or dykes. To new Mexico is three miles from the lake of Tezcuca, and nearly six from that of Chalco; yet Humboldt considers it certain, from the remains of the ancient teocalli or temples, that it occupies the identical position of the former city, that a great part of the waters of the valley have been dried up. Mexico was long considered the greatest city of America, but it is now surpassed by New York, perhaps even by Rio Janeiro. Some estimates have raised its population to 200,000 but, it may, on good grounds, be fixed at 120,000 to 140,000.

It is beyond dispute the most splendid. "Mexico is undoubtedly one of the finest cities built by Europeans in either hemisphere; with the exception of St. Petersburg, Berlin, London, and Philadelphia and some quarters of Westminster, there does not exist a field of the same extent which can be compared to the capital of New Spain, for the uniform level of the ground on which it stands, for the regularity and breadth of the streets, and the extent of the squares and public places. The architecture is generally of pure style, and there are even edifices of a very beautiful structure."

The palace of the late viceroys, the cathedral, built in what is termed the Gothic style, several of the convents, and some private palaces, reared upon plans furnished by the pupils of the Academy of Fine Arts are of great extent and magnificence; yet, upon the whole, it is rather the arrangement, regularity, and general effect of the city, which render it so striking. Nothing in particular, can be more enchanting than the view of the city and valley from the surrounding heights. The eye sweeps over a vast extent of cultivated fields, to the very base of the colossal mountains covered with perpetual snow. The city appears as if washed by the waters of the lake of Tezcuca, which surrounded by villages and hamlets, resemble the most beautiful of the Swiss lakes, and the rich cultivation of the vicinity forms a striking contrast with the naked mountains. Among these, rise the famous volcano Popocatepetl and the mountain of Izaccihuitl, of which the first an enormous cone, burns occasionally, throwing up smoke and ashes, in the midst of eternal snows. The police of the city is excellent; most of the streets are handsomely paved, lighted and cleansed. The annual consumption in Mexico has been computed at 15,000 beeves, 279,000 sheep, 50,000 hogs 1,600,000 fowls, including ducks and turkeys, 205,000 pigeons and partridges. The

markets are remarkably well supplied with animal and vegetable productions, brought by crowds of canoes along the lake of Chalco and the canal leading to it. These canoes are often guided by females, who, at the same time, are weaving cotton in their portable looms, or plucking fowls and throwing the feathers into the water. Most of the flowers and roots have been raised in chinampas or floating gardens, an invention peculiar to the new world. They consist of rafts formed of reeds and bushes, and covered with black saline mould, which, being irrigated by the water of the lake, becomes fertile. It is a great disadvantage to Mexico, however, that it stands nearly on a level with the surrounding lake, which, in seasons of heavy rain, overwhelms it with destructive inundations. The construction of a desague or canal, to carry off the waters of the lake of Zumpango, and of the principal river by which it is fed, has, since 1629, prevented any very desolating flood. The desague, though not conducted with skill and judgement, cost \$5,000,000, and is one of the most stupendous hydraulic works ever executed. Were it filled with water, the largest vessels of war might pass by it through the range of mountains which bound the plain of Mexico. The alarms, however, have been frequent, and cannot well cease, while the level of that lake is 20 feet above that of the great square of Mexico.

"The Beautiful Land and its Sentry Grim."

BY MACKELLAR.

I.
There is a land immortal—
The beautiful of lands;
Beside its ancient portal
A sentry grimly stands:
He only can undo it,
And open wide the door;
And mortals who pass through it
Are mortal never more.

II.
That glorious land is Heaven,
And Death the sentry grim;
The Lord thereof has given
The opening keys to him;
And ransom'd spirits sighing
And sorrowful for sin,
Pass through the gate in dying,
And freely enter in.

III.
Though dark and drear the passage,
That leadeth to the gate,
Yet grace attends the message
To souls that watch and wait:
And at the time appointed,
A messenger comes down,
And guides the Lord's anointed
From cross to glory's crown.

IV.
Their sighs are lost in singing;
They're blessed in their tears;
Their journey heavenward winging,
They leave on earth their fears.
Death like an angel seeming,
"We welcome thee"—they cry—
Their face with glory gleaming,
"Tis life for them to die."

The following lines, originally published in the Alabama Flag & Advertiser, were written by the Rev. Whiteford Smith, of this city. They will bear many republications. They are characterized by simplicity, and truthful tenderness, while the harmonious flow of the verse must strike every reader.—*Charleston Ecc. News.*

Written in answer to those of Mrs. Buckley in reply to Mr. Wilde's.

"My life is like the Summer Rose."
"The dews of night may fall from Heaven
Upon the wither'd rose's bed,"
And many a beautiful bud be given,
In lieu of that which now is dead.
The morning sun in halcyon hours,
May shine upon this bed of flowers;
But they whose grief is pure and deep,
Can surely never cease to weep.

The leafless tree when spring shall come,
May feel its warm reviving powers;
And put forth many a lovely bloom,
When moisten'd by its genial shower;
But sun nor shower can e'er restore
The friends whom now we see no more;
And birds may sing, and zephyrs blow,
These tears can never cease to flow.

The ocean wave may gaily swell,
Receding from the storm-lashed shore;
But memory hears the funeral knell,
Amid its loud resounding roar,
Though nature still her course may keep,
Nor know o'er all our ills to weep,
Devoted hearts when rudely torn,
Can never cease on earth to mourn.

POPEERY RENOUNCED.—The New York Observer says that 58 intelligent Germans renounced Popery a few sabbaths since at New Jersey. The Presbyterian Church was crowded on the occasion.

Later from Europe.

From the New York Herald, December 8.

Arrival of the Britannia.

The steamer reached Boston about 6 o'clock, and the following intelligence was immediately transmitted to this city over the wires.

THE NEWS.—The advices from Liverpool are to the 19th ultimo, inclusive.

The British Parliament was convened yesterday. No business was transacted beyond the mere ceremony of opening, which was done by royal commission.

The French loan of two hundred and fifty million francs has been adjudged to M. de Rothschild, at 75 1-4, which was the minimum reserved. The adjudication had little or no effect upon the English market.

An announcement reached London, on Monday, P. M., that a formidable conspiracy had been discovered in Paris, which had the effect of seriously depressing the English funds, for a short time.

The state of Ireland is truly frightful. A system of agrarian resistance is everywhere manifested, landlords daily falling before the vengeance of the people.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL.—Contrasting the operations of trade, and the general aspect of the monetary affairs of the country, for the last fortnight, with those of the preceding, it is gratifying to observe that a slight, but still a perceptible improvement has taken place. Nevertheless, this re-action, so well begun, under the combined influence of returning confidence and a general relaxation of the money pressure, has, within the last few days, been greatly affected by additional failures.

Although the price of money is still high, and insolvencies are rife, the fury of the panic has been stayed, and the prestige of brighter and happier days can be distinguished amidst the darkness of the past, and the gloom of the present. Trade is evidently making vigorous struggles to rise, despite the forebodings of disheartening and in many instances dishonest theories, and the still greater discouragements of forfeited confidence and extinguished accommodation. Money is yet difficult to be had. Commercial distress has not been materially assuaged, but hope is high, and the future is promising.

Towards the latter end of last week, there was a decidedly more cheerful feeling exhibited in the manufacturing districts, and an increased business was done, particularly by private treaty. The failure of Truman & Cook, before alluded to, cast a serious gloom upon the market, and although the casualty does not affect Manchester or its neighborhood to any considerable extent, yet it must produce results unfavorable to general credit, and retard for a while that gradual approach to well revived confidence so essential to the commerce of the country.

The English funds, for the last fortnight, have suffered less fluctuation than for a considerable time previous, though they have suffered many changes, they have displayed greater firmness, with an unequivocal tendency to ascend. Their steadiness has been considerably promoted by the transportation of foreign gold, amounting to nearly £1,500,000 sterling. The Bank of England still demands the high rate of 8 per cent discount, while its branches generally refuse to advance under 9 per cent; but many of the private establishments of the country have discounted bills, of course of indisputably good reputation, at 7, and even 6 1-2 per cent. In the money market, yesterday, a better feeling prevailed, and no new feeling prevailed. Consols closed at 83 7-8 for money. With extensive transactions, and for account at from 84 1-4 to 83 3-4. A considerable sale of stock, however, damped the market. Foreign bonds commanded very trifling attention.

THE CHOLERA.—The French Minister of Commerce has given to three doctors of the faculty of Paris mission to go and study the progress of the cholera in the countries where it is at present raging. These gentlemen are Doctors Beau, Contour and Monneret, and their places of destination are Trebizond, Moscow and Odessa. The Imperial Academy of Sciences of St Petersburg has offered a prize of 3000 rubles for the best "History of the Cholera."

CONTEMPTIBLE.—The "Catholic Telegraph," publishes a letter from Rome, showing that Newman and other perverts have been sinking themselves to a lower depth than they had heretofore reached. The letter says:—On the 9th the Holy Father designed to honor them with a visit, in the course of which he conversed with them and with Dr. Wiseman in the most affectionate manner, and gave them special marks of his favor. He also permitted them to kiss his feet.