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"AT THE PUBLIC GOOD WE AIM."

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AN ACCIDENT ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

There cannot be a more striking illustration of the vast advantages of steam, than the astonishing improvement which has taken place, in the navigation of the Mississippi, the 'great Father of the waters,' since its application by Fulton, propelling vessels. The communication between New Orleans and the upper country was effected principally by keel-boats and the crew made use of sails, oars and poles, according to circumstances, to urge them on the way. The passage up the river, now performed at ease in a few days, was long, dreary and laborious, and by no means unattended with danger. The banks of the river were not infrequently infested with bands of hostile savages, or white free-booters, who, exiled from civilized society, adopted the odious calling of preying upon their fellow-men. And many a dark and bloody deed of piracy has been committed on these banks, which will never be revealed.

Judge Hall, in his sketches of the West gives the following interesting description of an incident which took place on the Mississippi, at the period to which we allude:—

'In the spring of 1787, a barge belonging to Mr. Beausoliel, had started from New Orleans, richly laden with merchandise, for St. Louis. As she approached the Cottonwood creek, a breeze sprung up and bore her swiftly by. This the robbers perceived, and immediately despatched a company of the river for the purpose of heading. The manœuvre was effected in the course of two days, at an island, which has since been called Beausoliel's-Island. The barge had just put ashore—the robbers boarded, and ordered the crew to return down. The men were disarmed, guards were stationed in every part of the vessel, and she was soon under way. Mr. Beausoliel gave himself up to despair. He had spent all he possessed in the purchase of the barge and its cargo, and now that he was to be deprived of them all, he was in agony. The vessel would have shared the fate of many others that had preceded it, but for the heroic daring of a negro, who was a man rather under the ordinary height, very slender in person, but of uncommon strength and activity. The color of his skin and the curl of his hair, alone told that he was a negro, for the peculiar characteristics of his race had given place in him, to what might be termed beauty. His forehead was finely moulded, his eyes small and sparkling as those of a serpent, his nose aquiline, his lips of a proper thickness; in fact, the whole appearance of the man, joined to his known character for shrewdness and courage, seemed to indicate, that, under better circumstances, he might have shown conspicuous in the history of nations. Cacasotte, as soon as the robbers had taken possession of the barge, began to make every demonstration of incontrollable joy. He danced, sang, laughed, and soon induced his captors to believe that they had liberated him from irksome slavery, and that his actions were the ebullitions of pleasure.—His constant attentions to their smallest wants and wishes, too, won their confidence, and whilst they kept a watchful eye on the other prisoners, they permitted him to roam through the vessel unmolested and unwatched. This was the state of things that the negro desired; he seized the first opportunity to speak to Mr. Beausoliel, and beg permission to rid him of the dangerous intruders. He laid his plan before his master, who, after a great deal of hesitation, acceded to it. Cacasotte then spoke to two of the crew, likewise negroes, and engaged them in the conspiracy. Cacasotte was cook, and it was agreed between him and his fellow-conspirators, that the signal for dinner should be the signal for action. The hour of dinner at length arrived. The robbers assembled in considerable numbers on the deck, and stationed themselves at the bow and stern, and along the sides, to prevent any rising of the men. Cacasotte went among them with the most unconcerned look and demeanor imaginable. As soon as he perceived that his comrades had taken the stations he had assigned them, he took his position at the bow of the boat, near one of the robbers, a stout, Herculean man, who was armed cap-a-pie.—Every thing being arranged to his satisfaction, Cacasotte gave the preconcerted signal, and immediately the robber near him was struggling in the water. With the speed of lightning, he went from one robber to another, and in less than three

minutes, he had thrown fourteen of them overboard. Then seizing an oar, he struck on the head those who attempted to save themselves by grappling the running boards, then shot with the muskets that had been dropped on deck, those who swam away. In the mean time the other conspirators were not idle, but did almost as much execution as their leader. The deck was soon cleared, and the robbers, that remained below, were too few in number to offer any resistance.

'Having got rid of his troublesome visitors, Mr. Beausoliel deemed it prudent to return to New Orleans. This, he accordingly did, taking care when he arrived near the Cottonwood creek, to keep the opposite side of the river. He reached New Orleans, and gave an account of his capture and liberation to the governor, who thereupon issued an order, that the boats bound for St. Louis in the following spring, should all go in company, to afford mutual assistance in case of necessity. Spring came, and ten keel-boats, each provided with swivels, and their respective crews well armed, took their departure from New Orleans, determined, if possible to destroy the nest of robbers. When they were near the Cottonwood creek, the foremost boat perceived several men near the mouth, among the trees. The anchor was dropped, and she waited until the other boats should come up. In a few moments they appeared, and a consultation was held, in which it was determined that a sufficient number of men should remain on board, while the others should proceed on shore to attack the robbers. The boats were rowed to snore in a line, and those appointed for that purpose, landed and began to search the island in quest of the robbers, but in vain! They had disappeared. Three or four flat-boats were found in a bend of the creek, laden with all kinds of valuable merchandise—the fruits of their depredations. A long low hut was discovered—the dwelling of the robbers—in which were stored away numerous cases of guns destined for the fur trade, ammunition, and provisions of all kinds. The greater part of these things were put on board the boats, and restored to their respective owners at St. Louis.

'This proceeding had the effect of dispersing the robbers, for they were never after heard of. The arrival of ten barges together at St. Louis, was an unusual spectacle, and the year 1788 has ever since been called the year of the ten boats.

From the *Ala Argus*.

GOOSY GOOSY—GANDER.

'You perceive that large heavy bird, nearly all white, with red bill and feet, fat and unseemly in its body, waddling in its gait, awkward in all its motions, and by no means a handsome bird in any point of view; *It is a Goose*.

Look at that man who is eternally dabling in pollics, while he by no means understands even the elements of political economy, boring the public with crude notions and impracticable schemes, setting all the ignorant boobies about him in a ferment, making speeches in every public meeting, and although they have a beginning, have neither middle, (and alas) you look long for the end; as it regards common sense, vain are your expectations. Embroiling himself with his quiet neighbors, and making constant mischief among them; if he is a merchant or a tradesman, loosing their custom, and forfeiting the interests of his family for a will of the wisp: *He is a Goose*.

Look at him who never thinks himself right, unless he has two or three law suits on hand, who is so litigious, that, if he has not an action on his own account, either as Plaintiff or Defendant, feels quite uneasy; and rather than not have the enjoyment of managing a law suit, will provoke his neighbors to fall out, and manage the suit for them gratis. If he is a farmer his field lie uncultivated; if a tradesman, his shop is forsaken; if a merchant, his store is soon shut up; his neighbors fly from him in fear, his companions forsake him in disgust, he lives miserable, and dies unregretted: *He is a Goose*.

See that miserable wretch who, although rich, yet denies himself the common necessities of life; whose stomach gripes with hunger; whose body shivers with cold; whose house is almost roofless; it's windows stuffed with old hats; and old they must be indeed, ere they have the honor of filling that situation: all this merely to save the expense that the opposite comforts would cost him. His door, however, has a good lock, which was never drawn to admit the necessitous or the poor. His little grey eye never shows a scintillation of gladness, but when he sees a dollar, which he can grab, who would sell his father's body for dissection, were he well paid for it; who forever is grinding the faces of the poor; who will not have the comfort of a servant to assist him in his little wants; no, the poor wretch would have the same fears as Shylock had for the expense of the stomach of poor Launelot Gobbo. His whole life is penury, useless and wretchedness. His death is daily prayed for by his heirs; *He is a great Goose*.

Look at that man, who, to make a display of his house furniture, his plate, his wines, &c., frequently invites his neighbors to dinners and large parties, merely for the vanity of the thing, who spends regularly, a third over his yearly income, while those who are feasting and reveling at his expense, (or rather at that of his creditors,) despise and laugh at him, and would not give a dollar to save him from the jail, to which he is first conducting himself: *He is a Goose*.

But only perceive that young fellow, whose dress is *exquisite*, whose form and figure is robust, whose whiskers are tremendous, whose whole attention at the church, at the theatre, and at all public places, is exclusively paid to the ladies. He is even seen ogling them, and fiddling about them; who boasts in every company, of favors and attentions, he never received from them: *He is a Gander*.

The man who to scrape a bowing acquaintance with either the great, or the would-be great, who to be taken notice of by the slightest bow, or acknowledgement, especially if company was with those of what the world term respectable; who to get the honor of an invitation to tea, when the nobody, or nobodies are there, to these houses the masters or mistresses of which, avoid him in the street who would cling to, and cringe to an acquaintance, who, from some circumstance was more intimate with the great than he was, would try to wriggle in under the cover of his wing into families to which he had no hopes of an invitation; who would almost sell himself to the devil, to be generally understood to be on the most intimate terms, with Mr. Such-a-one, or Mrs. Such-a-one; *He is a mean Goose*.

The lawyer, or the doctor, who takes care to relate and tattle all that they have seen, in families, where the one has practiced, or of clients with whose affairs the other has been intrusted—the feelings and conduct, and weakness of the patients of the one—the expectations, hopes and fears of the clients of the other—all of which the soul of honor ought to stamp a sacred seal on; *Are they not a pair of Geese?*

The man who, on every occasion, becomes security for his neighbor; who is always ready to sign his name, when the pen is put in his hand in his favor, to appear with him in store and vouch for him, for the payment of any goods he wants to purchase; who is always ready to attest to the character of every one who applies to him for a recommendation, and who is indiscriminately the friend of every one who requests his pecuniary assistance, is fairly in the way of becoming *A Goose without feathers*.

The person who will come into a merchant's store, a lawyer's office, a printing office, or a room in which books, papers, letters, &c., are lying open and exposed, and who can with all the sang froid and coldness imaginable, read and examine them from unwarrantable curiosity, for the purpose of seeing into the affairs of his neighbors, is a shameless, a senseless, and an impudent *Goose*.

Gentlemen.—If this flock of Geese, which I send you, meet your approbation, and suit your taste, I may occasionally forward you a few more flocks, (God knows they are a plentiful article. They shall always be full grown, and well fed and as well selected as my judgment in the science of *Goosery*, will enable me to send to market. I am gentlemen, Your obt. ser'vt. G. S.

THE HORRORS OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.—'At my first arrest,' resumed Gerardi, 'I was transported to a dungeon in the citadel of Turin: so framed as to render communication impossible, even with my gaoler. My food was conveyed to me by a turning box inserted in the wall; and during a whole month, not the slightest sound interrupted the stillness of my solitude. It needs to have undergone all I then experienced, fully to comprehend the fallacy of that savage philosophy which denied society to be the natural condition of the human species. The wretch condemned to isolation from his kind, is a wretch indeed! To hear no human voice, to meet no human eye—to be denied the pressure of a human hand—to find only cold and inanimate objects on which to rest one's brow—one's breast—one's heart—is a privation to which the strongest might fall a victim! The month I thus endured weighed like years upon nature, and when, every second day, I discerned the footsteps of my gaoler in the corridor, coming to renew my provisions, the mere sound caused my heart to leap within me. While the box was turning round, I used to strain my eyes in hopes to catch, at the crevice, the slightest glimpse of his face, his hand, his very dress,—and my disappointment drove me to despair. Could I have discerned a human face, even bearing the characters of cruelty or wickedness, I should have thought it full of beauty; and had the man extended his arms towards me in kindness, have blessed him for the concession! But the sight of a human face was denied me till the day of my translation to Fenestrella; and my only resource consisted in feeding the reptiles which shared my captivity, and in meditating upon my

absent child! At length a favorable change befel me even in my dungeon. I discovered, by means of a straggling ray of light, a crevice produced by the insertion of an iron cross by way of support into the walls of my dungeon; which, though it enabled me to obtain an oblique glimpse of the opposite wall became a source of exquisite enjoyment. My cell happened to be situated under the keep of the citadel; and one blessed day, I noticed for the first time, the shadow of a man distinctly reflected upon the wall.

A sentinel had doubtless been posted on the platform over my head; for the shadow went and came, and I could distinguish the form of the man's uniform, the apaulet, the knapsack, the point of his bayonet—the very vacillation of his feather! Till evening extinguished my resource, I remained at my post; and how shall I describe the thrill of joy with which I acknowledged so unexpected a consolation! I was no longer alone;—I had once more a living companion!—Next day and days succeeding, the shadow of another soldier appeared; the sentinels were ever changing, but my enjoyment was the same. It was always a man,—always a fellow-creature I knew to be near me;—a living, breathing fellow-creature—whose movements I could watch, and whose disposition conjecture. When the moment came for relieving guard, I welcomed the new comer, and bade good by to his predecessor. I knew the corporal by sight, I could recognise the different profiles of the men, nay, (dare I avow such a weakness?) some among them were objects of my predilection. The attitude of their persons, or comparative vivacity of their movements, became so many indications of character, from which their age and sentiments might be inferred. One paced gaily along, turning lightly on his heel, balancing his musketry in sport, or waving his head in cadence to the air he was whistling; he was doubtless young and gay, cheered by visions of happiness and love. Another paced along, with his brow inclining, pausing often, and leaning with his arms crossed upon his musket meditating mournfully, perhaps, upon his distant village, his absent mother, his childhood's friends. He passed his hands rapidly over his eyes—perhaps to dash away the tears gathered by these tender retrospections! For many of these shadows I felt a lively interest, an inexplicable compassion; and the balm thus called into existence within my bosom, shed its soothing influence over my fate. Trust me, my good young friend, the truest happiness we derive from our sympathy with our fellow-creature.—[*Picola, or Captivity Captive*.

Variety.

DEAF BURKE.—A letter received by a gentleman in this city from New Orleans states that 'Deaf Burke, the champion of Great Britain,' in an affray with some Creole Spaniards, in that city, was shot, and mortally wounded—and has since died.—*Bost. Her.*

SWEARING.—A profane person being reminded of the commandment, *swear not at all*.—"Why I don't swear at all," he replied—"I only swear at those I am angry with."

GAMBLING.—In a late trial in England, Lord Roos, Baron Premier of England, was found guilty of *cheating at Cards!* Immediately on the result of the trial being made known, he left London for the Continent. It is said that he is to be expelled from the Peerage.

YANKEE INGENUITY.—The Chronicle of Norfolk, tells a story of a yankee pedlar who lately made his appearance in that region, and walked into the good folks with what appeared to be some very fine northern strained honey. The article being scarce, it was bought up by the grocers with avidity. It now turns out that this same prime honey is nothing more nor less than a compound mixture of *chalk, soda and molasses*, manufactured somewhere up in *Vermount*.

LAZY RICH GIRLS.—The editor of the Orion says, "lazy rich girls make rich men poor, and industrious poor girls make poor men rich." He does not mean by flattery to sacrifice truth.

"Mein Got!" said a Dutchman, "you may say vat you please bout bad neighbors—I haf the vorst neighbors dat neffer was. Dere is Hans Wagener, der tyfel! mein pigs and mein hens come home from dere up, mit dere tails slit; and 'todder day, mein Got! two of dem come home missing."

MARBLE QUARRY.—We have seen a specimen of a stone pronounced to be marble, and which admits of a very fine polish, found some miles South of Germanton, in the neighboring county of Stokes. We are informed that there is at the same place, almost inexhaustible supply of this stone. The marble is clouded very handsomely, and we are told that preparations are in progress for an immediate operation in the Quarry. The owners have kindly promised to furnish us some information respecting their quarry which will be given with pleasure in some succeeding number.—*Greenville Tel.*

THE WEATHER.—The Yorkville, Times of the 29th April, says:—"In conjunction with the 'hard times,' we have been visited with the hardest sort of weather, for this season. On Tuesday last, we had some snow and sleet; and on the two following mornings sharp frosts; and it still continues cool and dry. Vegetation generally with us, is exceedingly backward."

PERILS OF THE SEA.—Capt. James Poland came passenger in the Henry Lee, from Liverpool, having been blown off the coast on the 1st January last in the schoer, George Douglas from Norfolk for this city. He states that the schoer was dismasted in the gale, the sea making a complete breach over her, and sweeping the decks of every thing. For forty-six days the crew subsisted on raw corn when they were taken from the wreck by the British brig Albert, and carried into Liverpool.—*Bost. Morn. Post.*

STRONG NECESSITY FOR AN OFFICE.—The Exeter, New-Hampshire, News Letter relates the following excellent anecdote.

'A countryman from the Northern part of the State, once called upon Gov. Wentworth at Portsmouth, and begged his acceptance of a saddle of venison. The Governor loved venison, and smiled most graciously upon Jonathan as he accepted the present, and thanked him for so acceptable a mark of his respect. But the man hemmed, and scratched his head, and was in no hurry to depart. The errand was but half done. His excellency inquired of him, if he could in any way be of service to him when Jonathan informed him that there was no Ensign in the militia company at —, and he would be dreadfully obliged to his Governorship for a commission. The Governor would be very happy to oblige him if he had the proper recommendations, and asked if the company had elected him for their Ensign or sent any evidence of their wish for his appointment? "Why no, may it please your Excellency's Honor," said Jonathan, "there are only two other men in town but myself, and one of them is the Capt. and the other the Lieut., and they exercise me and manoeuvre me so much that I am really afraid if I'm not made an Ensign pretty soon, they'll drill me to death."

FATAL CARELESSNESS.—At Beaufort, in North Carolina, a few days ago, a person named Leffers met his death in the following manner: The deceased had recently been commissioned as an officer of militia, and, being anxious to improve himself in the manual exercise, he requested a Mr. Rogers, formerly of the army, to instruct him.

Rogers complied. Leffers standing in front of him, giving the command. At the word "fire," poor Leffers fell a corpse, Rogers having forgotten that the gun was loaded! The father of the deceased was the only other witness of the tragedy, and his testimony was such (Rogers having given himself up to the Superior Court then in session in the town) that the unfortunate perpetrator of the deed was immediately discharged by the judge.

AN HONORABLE EXAMPLE.—A note was placed in the hands of a Lawyer in this city, a day or two since, against a man who owns the house in which he lives, which is unincumbered, and worth ten times the amount of the note. On being informed by the Lawyer that the note had been placed with him for collection, he frankly told him that he had not the money, but would give him fifty dollars and pay the debt, if he, the Lawyer, would raise the money on a mortgage of his house. The attorney not being able to do this, told his client that, if, under these circumstances he was determined to put the note in suit, he must employ some other Lawyer to bring the suit, for he would not.—*Phil Com. Her.*

IMPORTANT INVENTION.—LIFE PRESERVER.—The public will recollect experiments of walking on the water some time since undertaken off the battery by Mr. McIntosh for several years a resident of this city. These experiments and those connected with his new life boat have been recently repeated before the heads of departments at Washington, and according to the Globe with great success. India Rubber, which seems to promise as many useful applications as steam, is the agent. Mr. McIntosh has for years made its useful properties his study. The life preserver consists of cylindrical hollow tubes of India rubber within the gunwale, and answering for that purpose. A stop-cock is attached to each for inflation.—Within the trunks, &c. of as many as 30 passengers are kept dry, while the passengers themselves are preserved from shipwreck. Whole weight of the apparatus, about 25 pounds—very useful for wreckers, and for armies crossing rivers, to carry ammunition, baggage, &c., and prevent accidents. A smaller kind is made which consists of leggings, which may be carried in the pocket, but when used will hold two persons and their trunks, and actually enable them to walk on water to the shore! With steam-packets at 20 miles the hour! and Life Preservers like these, the dominion of the ocean is conquered, and the most appalling tempest is disarmed of its terrors.