

Of rock standing boldly out, and running down, almost perpendicularly, an immense distance to the valley. I was expecting another monkish legend, and my very heart thrilled when the monk told me that this was the top of the hill on which Moses had sat during the battle of the Israelites and the Amalekites, while Aaron and Hur supported his uplifted hands, until the sun went down upon the victorious arms of his people. From the height I could see, clearly and distinctly, every part of the battle-ground, and the whole vale of Rephidim and the mountains beyond; and Moses, while on this spot, must have been visible to the contending armies from every part of the field on which they were engaged.

I stand upon the very peak of Sinai—where Moses stood when he talked with the Almighty. Can it be, or is it a mere dream? Can this naked rock have been the witness of that great interview between man and his Maker? where amid thunder and lightning, and a fearful quaking of the mountain, the Almighty gave to his chosen people the precious tables of his law, those rules of infinite wisdom and goodness which to this day, best teach man his duty towards his God, his neighbor, and himself?

The scenes of many of the incidents recorded in the Bible are extremely uncertain. Historians and geographers place the garden of Eden, the paradise of our first parents, in different parts of Asia; and they do not agree upon the site of the tower of Babel, the mountain of Ararat, and many of the most interesting places in the Holy Land; but of Sinai there is no doubt. This is the holy mountain; and, among all the stupendous works of Nature, not a place can be selected more fitted for the exhibition of Almighty power. I have stood upon the summit of the giant Etna, and looked over the clouds floating beneath it; upon the bold scenery of Sicily, and the distant mountains of Calabria; upon the top of Vesuvius, and looked down upon the waves of Lava, and the ruined and half-recovered cities at its foot; but they are nothing compared with the terrific solitudes and bleak majesty of Sinai. An observing traveller has well called it "a perfect sea of desolation." Not a tree, or shrub, or blade of grass, is to be seen upon the bare and rugged sides of innumerable mountains, heaving their naked summits to the skies, while the crumbling masses of granite all around, and the distant view of the Syrian desert, with its boundless waste of sands, from the wildest and most dreary, the most terrific and desolate picture that imagination can conceive.

The level surface of the very top, or pinnacle, is about sixteen feet square. At one end is a single rock, about twenty feet high, on which, as said the monk, the spirit of God descended, while in the crevice beneath, his favored servant received the tables of the law. There, on the same spot where they were given, I opened the sacred book in which those laws are recorded, and read them with a deeper feeling of devotion, as if I were standing nearer, and receiving them more directly from the Deity himself.

PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPE.—Yesterday afternoon, as a gentleman was driving along Chesnut-street, in a sulkey, he was thrown out when opposite the Tremont House, in consequence of the vehicle coming in contact with a cart. The gentleman fell upon the pitching at the moment an omnibus was passing, one wheel of which went directly over his throat. The bystanders thought he was killed, but wonderful to relate, he jumped up and seemed none the worse for the perilous situation and pressure he had escaped from.

From the Boston Mercantile Journal. It is well known that a very considerable portion of the inhabitants of China dwell in floating houses—or rather in boats, with large and convenient cabins—where men, women and children may be seen in abundance, having no other home, and gaining a slender livelihood by some occupation that does not require a residence on terra firma. In the neighborhood of Canton, many of the owners of these moveable dwellings, employ themselves in rearing ducks; and the sagacity which these animals exhibit is remarkable.

Every morning they are allowed to leave their habitation, and indulge in their aquatic amusements; and sometimes five or six hundred of these noisy creatures are seen sporting on the waters near one of these floating duck pens. They never stray far from their homes—and the sound of a little tinkling bell seems to produce upon them a magical effect. The moment the first sound of the bell is heard, the ducks hasten towards their home with astonishing swiftness, and the commotion thus instantaneously produced in their ranks, is amusing enough, each one apparently anxious to outstrip his companions in the race—and such a scene of shoving, swimming, flying, and gabbling, is seldom seen among ducks in any other part of the world, than in China. This prompt obedience on the part of those stupid water fowls, is the result of education—and the means used, although exceedingly efficient, are very simple. The last duck which reaches the boat, is invariably seized by the duck-master-general, and is compelled to undergo a severe drubbing, with a bamboo cane—and the fear of this punishment, which they are exceedingly desirous to avoid, ensures the most perfect order and obedience among these animals, which have been considered among the most stupid of the feathered creation. This mode of managing ducks, is some-

what, similar to the just and humane expedient resorted to on board of some of the English ships of war, and for aught we know, American also, to induce the men to hasten on deck with all possible despatch when all hands are called to quarters, or for any other purpose. A boatswain's mate is stationed at the hatchways, and those who happen, through negligence, indolence or accident, to be at the lag end, are sure to get a severe "startling."

DANGERS OF MODERATE DRINKING.—Do not say that I exaggerate your exposure to intemperance. Let no man say when he thinks of a drunkard broken in health and spoiled in intellect, "I can never so fall." He thought as little of falling in his earlier years. The promise of his youth was as bright as yours; and even after he began his downward course, he was as unsuspecting as the firmest around him, and would have repelled as indignantly the admonition to beware of intemperance. The danger of this vice lies in its almost imperceptible approach. Few who fall by it, know of excesses. Youth does not see or suspect drunkenness in the sparkling beverage which quickens all its susceptibilities of joy. The invalid does not see in the cordial which his physician prescribes, and which gives new tones to his debilitated organs. The man of thought and genius detects no palsying poison in the draught which seems a spring of inspiration to intellect and imagination. The lover of social pleasure little dreams that the glass which animates conversation will ever be drunk in solitude, and will sink him too low for the intercourse in which he now delights. Intemperance comes with noiseless step, and binds its first cords with a touch too light to be felt. This truth of mournful experience should be treasured up by us all, and should influence the habits and arrangement of domestic and social life in every class of the community.—*Dr. Channing.*

Communications.

FOR THE COURIER.

"Behold, how Doctors disagree, And soundest Casuists, just like you and me."

MR. EDITOR.—I observed in your "Courier" of the 24th inst., "CRISIS No. 1. by a Young Planter," whose remarks go conclusively to attribute the pressure in our money market, to the measures of our own government, but seems to imply a willingness to stand corrected if he is in error. This is gentlemanly.

I am a plain illiterate man but hope like the "Young Planter," "that I will not be deemed arrogant" in offering a few remarks, as to my opinion on that subject. I agree with him that the pressure began first in England, and there is no doubt, as he says, "of the relation and affinity that exists between us; but I cannot concur with him 'in assuming that the administration is responsible to the country for the present state of things,' for the following reasons.

And first of all, I know of no policy in this government to drench the specie from Europe" nor has it directly done so, except in that so justly exercised with France, and for which I hope the "Young Planter" is not prepared to censure; and as to the "specie being locked up in certain Pet Banks," and not used for the legitimate purposes of the Government under the acts appropriating it, I unqualifiedly deny.

How is it "invested in the most unhallowed land speculations in the west?" bare assertions are neither triumphs or proofs. Has not the Administration done all that could be done, to prevent these "unhallowed speculations?" Was the specie circular calculated to favor them? And how? That the Administration has had in the remotest manner any thing to do with the "unhallowed speculations," demands proof, conviction and punishment; else unprejudiced minds will not believe one word of it.

Again he says "now let us consider in addition to that, the destruction of the Bank of the United States, the removal of the Deposites, the Treasury order, requiring the payment of the Custom House Bonds and Post Office dues in specie; in fact, the very agitation of the delicate subject of the currency, the endless cant about Bank rags and the hard money system, has a tendency to impair confidence." Was not the United States Bank an unconstitutional, aristocratical monopoly, in dimical opposition to the rights of the States and the very genius of our free institutions? I hope the "Young Planter" will answer these questions, and shew us the constitutional right of any such monopoly.

If he does not, I for one, on republican principles, will contend that its destruction was a genuine republican measure, and that it was not so delicate a subject" when our liberties were at stake under the influence of a monied aristocracy. How did that measure "impair confidence" among our people, I would also like to know. As it respects the removal of the Deposites, I cannot for the soul of me, understand why that should destroy confidence. It did not take one dollar out of the country, and it was an act regarding the rights of the States, whose people paid their own quota of the money. Then why should it destroy confidence, to disburse it from the State Banks (Pet Banks) any more than if it had been disbursed by the Bank of the United States? I would be proud to learn, where there was any reasonable difference.

I think there are other strong reasons that could be assigned for the destruction of confidence, if it is really destroyed. It has

been hay day with us for several years past and our profession has kept pace with it.—Cotton was selling at high prices, and we conceived we were going on swimmingly. This created a spirit of speculation and Banking to a dangerous extent. The Banks issued two, three, or perhaps four times the amount that they could redeem with specie, which afforded a facility for ruinous speculations; many planters and farmers anticipated great prices for their cotton, and involved themselves to the amount of two or three crops yet to be grown; the Factors contending for a monopoly in their business, advanced large amounts of paper money borrowed of the Banks, and credits were extended in every direction; down goes the prices of cotton in Europe, like a thunder bolt, (the cause of which I am at a loss to account for) and then comes the tug. Many merchants having purchased cotton largely, are consequently involved in ruin; the factors having advanced larger sums to the planters than their whole crops on hand would justify, were compelled to stop payment at the Banks; the Banks aware of the critical situation, at once stop issuing their bills, and affording the planters and factors more facilities at their Banks, and all are in a desperate dilemma; and to cap the climax of those difficulties, the specie circular, intended as a check on the "unhallowed land speculations in the West," the ruinous flood of "Bank rags" into the Treasury, and unwarranted issues of more bills, compelled all the Banks, the United States Bank with the rest, to close their doors against redeeming their own bills with specie. Without any other cause, one would think, this was quite enough to destroy confidence. Now, how in the name of soldiership and sense is the "Administration responsible to the country" for all this?

Again the young Planter says: "All these measures together with the failure of the American importing merchants to remit specie to Europe as usual, forced the people of England and their Banks, to act on the defensive, and consequently when the Bank of England had to contract her discounts, the very fact of curtailing, had an immediate and sensible impression on the cotton market." How the "administration is responsible to the country" for the regulations the Bank and people of England may adopt, is to me unaccountable: every one has a right to do their business in their own way.

Again, "when they (the English) fail to receive from us the payment of our debts for the manufactured fabric, of course they could not sustain the high prices for the material." We have the "material," say cotton, and let them take it in payment. And again, "there is at this moment, as great a demand for cotton as ever;" then, for heaven's sake let them have it, as we still have a good deal on hand and would like to meet this "great demand." Nay, nay, but we must send the specie first, and hire them to take the cotton afterwards, when it is in "such great demand." This puts me in mind of a child I once saw, who wanted a wine-glass, and cried for it; his father thought the glass would be in danger if the child got it, and offered it a dollar to quiet it; but the child would not take the dollar until he got the glass first, but the father held on to the glass until the child took the dollar and was quiet. Just so we must do with our cotton, and then pay balances in specie, of which there is said to be 75 or 80 millions in the country, and not one third of that amount is locked up by the government in the pet Banks, the remainder being just about enough to pay off what we have overtraded, and thereby take "the responsibility to the country" off the administration's shoulders!!! To be serious, I really think that the honorable Mr. J. C. Calhoun has had as much, and a little more hand in causing the distress abroad now in our country, than the administration that is so "responsible to the country" for it. My reasons for thinking so, are simply these.

The English are a cunning calculating people, and have long, and perhaps justly, inimical to our tariffs of protection, and have been long striving to break down our manufactures, by pressing in their fabrics at a heavy rate; but Mr. Calhoun's vote last winter, to sustain a heavy tariff until the year 1842, and a considerable tax afterwards, has given all their hopes a damper. They little thought or expected, that the man, who at one time, thought the tariff so onerous as to put South Carolina out of the Union with all the concomitant evils thereby resulting, rather than pay it, would vote for its continuance up to 1842, when our constitution would warrant its repeal at any time, without making the "administration responsible to the country."

AN OLD FARMER.

FOR THE COURIER.

THE CRISIS.—No. II.

It has been definitely ascertained that the importations into the United States, the fiscal year, 1836, exceeded the aggregate amount of our exports, sixty-one millions of dollars. And when the balance of trade be against us, we regard it a self-evident proposition, that the balance of specie cannot be in our favor. How preposterous then the idea of attempting to retain the precious metals on this side of the Atlantic. The policy is absurd, and the measures adopted must prove totally unavailing; yes, it will go back in spite of the government. We already have frequent accounts of shippments to Europe, and not less than five millions have been remitted by our importing Merchants, since the pressure, and even the suspension of our Banks.

There is, perhaps, no subject in the whole range of political economy more abstruse than the system of Banking and the currency. It is not to be comprehended in all its bearings without more study

and laborious research than the people generally are disposed to devote to the subject. Hence it seems to be confided almost exclusively to the disinterested, financial management of our Statesmen—and it is only at times like the present, that the people can be aroused to take a proper interest in this vital question. What public indignations then will be visited upon those RULERS, who have conducted us, so unexpectedly to the present CATASTROPHE, under the specious, "experiment" of the "old humbug." That the policy of the administration, have, in a great measure, brought about this alarming conjuncture, we have no doubt. And the people are not to be duped by the declaration, that it was produced by overtrading and speculation, as maintained by the advocates of a metallic currency. We acknowledge the prevalence of a most unbridled and dangerous spirit of enterprise and speculation, but this I consider rather a consequence, and not a primary or even collateral cause. And the reader can well imagine, what influence the forty millions of dollars employed in speculations in public lands in the West, may have had in fostering this spirit. It gave an impetus to this spirit of speculation, which caused every species of property, suddenly to assume an artificial value. And behold the effects of the reaction; thousands who were in affluence are now in poverty. Certain visionary THEORISTS backed by the President in making war upon the currency, are uprooting the foundations of social order, and prostrating at one mighty blow, the living energies of the most prosperous nation on earth. This project of a metallic system in the United States, is based upon principles, subversive of our free institutions, and incompatible with an enlightened political economy. The scheme is impracticable. Let us here consider the vast trading capital of the United States, and the probable proportion, that the specie in our Banks would bear to that capital. And suppose this immense capital was brought down and restricted to our circulation in specie, would any one require a Prophet to foretell a mighty revulsion. We think not. And whenever that principle of a metallic currency is efficiently applied to our system, desolation and misery will overspread the land. This trading capital afloat, is founded upon civilization and integrity, and is sustained by confidence—it gives employment, facilitates business, and thereby conduces to the general happiness of mankind. Col. Benton's proposed currency is unworthy of the age in which we live. Amidst a blaze of political light, we are in darkness. May common sense revive again and predominate, that the honor and integrity of the country may be preserved.

A YOUNG PLANTER.

Commercial Courier.

CAMDEN, S. C. JULY 8, 1837.

Several Communications intended for this number, have been unavoidably crowded out. They shall have a place in our next.

JOSEPH DOBY, Esq., was, on Tuesday last elected to deliver the next fourth of July Oration.

We have understood that the match race between Col. Hampton and Johnson for 10,000 Dollars will be run at this place on the day previous to the next regular Races. Experienced sportsmen who have visited our course, speak of it as one of the best in the Union.

WILLIAM KENNEDY, Esq., was on Saturday last, elected Captain of Beat Company No. 1. We would be glad to see at each election for officers of our Beat Companies, the same determination evinced to place the command in the hands of competent individuals.

A North Carolina paper informs us of the death of the venerable Nathaniel Macon.

We are happy to learn that COL. JAMES CHESNUT, jr. has been prevailed upon to furnish us a copy of his Oration for publication.

ERRATA.—I the second column third line of "Asure Demons" (by a Lady) in our last paper, for MAD, read MARKED.

We regret the mistake which destroyed the sense of our fair correspondent's quotation as we feel indebted for her interesting communication, and will ever be proud to grace our columns with her effusions. We hope they will be repeated.

Monsieur Chabert the great Fire King, who withstood the effects of live coal and boiling lead, has at last been consumed by the influence of love, which seems to have melted the fair object of his adoration into "bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh." A nobleman set up pretensions to her hand and person, relieved his disappointment and broken heart by a BLUE PILL, not compounded by the skillful Doctor, but administered to "his brain diseased" through the medium of his own pistol, and the gallant and polished Doctor Julian Xavier Chabert, King of Fire be-

came King of Hearts. We trust the oven of matrimony will never prove too warm for the happy couple.

FOURTH OF JULY.

We do not recollect for several years to have experienced so great a display of enthusiasm as was manifested on this occasion. The day was ushered in by the firing of cannon and the ringing of bells, proclaiming the return of the birth day of a great and grateful people. At an early hour the carriages were seen rolling thro' our streets to the spot appointed for the presentation of a sword, to Col. JOHN CHESNUT, late Captain of the Florida Volunteers; where, already were assembled, a very large concourse of the citizens of both the town and District; all anxious to behold the ceremony, and by their presence and applause, to consecrate the gift.

At 10 o'clock the Florida Volunteers were escorted to the ground by Capt. HOLLEYMAN'S Company, under the inspiring influence of a full Martial Band. As soon as they arrived to the appointed place, the congregated mass which had assembled, crowded around—Col. JOHN CHESNUT making his appearance at the same time at the entrance of the Court House. As soon as the bustle had subsided, Adjutant MURRAY approached, and in a very handsome manner preface the presentation with the following appropriate remarks.

MAJOR MURRAY'S ADDRESS.

SIR,—I appear before you on this occasion, as the humble organ of the corps of Florida Volunteers, who, at their country's call rallied under her banner with chivalric promptness, to protect beauty and innocence from the scalping knife of the ruthless savage. In selecting you their commander, they felt, Sir, that your military skill, patriotism and prudence would reflect honor not only on yourself and the Volunteers, but on your District and State. Their expectations were more than realized—and as a token of these sentiments, and to gratify the spontaneous burst of feelings of our patriotic Fellow Soldiers: and as an inadequate tribute to your worth I am directed to present you a sword—and although I feel sensibly the honor conferred on me, as gratifying to my pride: I should have shrunk from the duty, if I was not conscious the expression of friendship and affection, needed not the ornaments of Speech to convey to you their deep sense and obligation, for the service you rendered us as an Officer, gentleman and friend.

Soon after our return from Florida, a meeting of the Volunteers was held, and resolutions unanimously adopted, expressing their approbation of the patriotic and soldier-like conduct of the Officers during the Florida campaign. On that occasion ALL were so deeply sensible of the value of your services as Captain and friend, arising from your high, honorable and chivalric deportment as a Soldier and a gentleman, evinced, in your attentive, cool and deliberate bearing on all occasions: and more particularly, when danger threatened, they felt secure under your guidance, and was proud that Kershaw district was so ably represented in the commanding Officer of her Volunteer Sons. These sentiments express the esteem, applause and good will of all who shared with you the hardships, privations and dangers of the campaign. At this meeting they all, with one consent determined to present you a SWORD. Many obstacles prevented our obtaining it ere this; and it is a source of joy, that time has not diminished their esteem and confidence in you. As a corps and as fellow citizens, they bid me tender to you their fervent wishes for your long life; that it may continue, exerted for the good of your country; that you may enlarge the respect and affectionate regard already so deservedly possessed throughout our District. And to assure you, whatever may be your destiny, you will always have the undoubted claims to the best feelings and wishes of the Florida Volunteers. I feel more than I can express; the pleasure and honor conferred on me, in presenting to you in their behalf, this SWORD, which they feel confident, will ever prove ready in defending your country's glory—and with these sentiments we hope you will accept it.

As soon as the applause subsided, Col. CHESNUT responded with his usual eloquence, as follows.

COL. CHESNUT'S REPLY.

I receive, Sir, with profound gratitude, this valued GIFT of a GALLANT CORPS. I feel most sensibly, in all its force, their generous friendship—and am well aware how much I owe to their kind partiality. I am grateful, too Sir, that my destiny placed me with those, by whom error of judgement is so readily overlooked, and honesty of principle so liberally appreciated.

The approbation of the enlightened and virtuous is the Freeman's highest reward, with the patriot, next to the stern moral obligations of duty, it is the strongest incentive to a course of action honorable and useful—with the soldier, it prompts to efforts the success of which give character his profession, and honor to his country—That my efforts, feeble as they were, have been deemed worthy of so