

DISCOURSE DELIVERED BEFORE THE GRADUATING CLASS OF THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON—BY R. V. J. W. MILES.

We noticed this able and eloquent production when delivered in the College Chapel. Its impassioned, and, occasionally, nervous and glowing diction is made the vehicle of sound opinions blended with judicious advice.

The theme which has been treated in the following passage has been made over and over again the subject of descent, in prose and verse; it has lost the attraction of novelty, whether of thought or language; yet there is something in the imagery and diction of this extract, instinct with eloquence, which will favorably compare with any similar exercise in rhetoric or composition.

We possess an instructor, whose claims it would here be impertinent to discuss; but to whose moral value, permit me to direct your serious attention. Let us seek it in contrast with the hoary and venerable lore of ages; and for this purpose, enter with me, in imagination, some well stored library, and glance around upon the stately array of tomes, in which the wisdom and the mighty thoughts of the dead are garnered up.

There they stand, so calm and solemn, as if conscious of their imperishable glory. Dare we hope, that we, too, will one day be numbered among those ranks, and leave thoughts for which the wise will barter their gold? And, yet, what matters it? Those creations, it is true, are great, noble, deathless: the instruction, the incitement, the very echo, of the heart of Humanity.

But they can tell us nothing of the mysteries most necessary to be known, and which, curtailed by death, and dreadfully pulled by futurity and retribution, agitate and oppress the inquiring spirit. They can only inform us that those mysteries have also darkened other spirits, awakened fears, doubts, and fruitless speculations; and the collected wisdom of the world, leaves us only more deeply conscious of the ignorance of man.

But amidst the grand array, the eye of the weary and unsatisfied inquirer, turns to one small and ancient volume. It has passed through a more fiery ordeal of criticism, than all the writings collectively of India, Greece, and Rome; and holds enthralled the faith and homage of the civilized world.

Strange, Venerable, Awful, Terrible book! It is folly to neglect you; it is madness to reject you! With all your hard sayings, and dark riddles, and dim traditions, and bloody stories, you have triumphed over the literature of Greece, and what is more, over the noblest intellects and the finest hearts which have regulated humanity.

STATE RIGHTS.

The following is extracted from a speech delivered by John Randolph, in reply to Patrick Henry on the subject of State rights. It may be found in the first volume of Garland's recent Life of Randolph. It must be recollected that the speech from which this is an extract was delivered as far back as 1800:

"Should the Federal Government, therefore, attempt to exercise powers that do not belong to it—and those that do belong to it are few, specified, well-defined—all others being reserved to the people and to the States—should it step beyond its province, and encroach on rights that have not been delegated, it is the duty of the States to interpose. There is no other power that can interpose. The counterweight, the opposing force of the state, is the only check to overaction known to the system.

"In questions of *medii et tuum*, where rights of property are concerned, and some other cases specified in the Constitution, I grant you that the Federal Judiciary may pronounce on the validity of the law. In questions involving the right to power whether this or that power has been delegated or reserved, they cannot and ought not to be the arbiters; that question has been left, as it always was, and always must be left, to be determined among the sovereignties in the best way they can. Political wisdom has not yet discovered any infallible mathematical rule, by which to determine the assumptions of power between those who know no other law or limitation save that imposed upon them by their own consent, and which they can abrogate at pleasure. Pray let me ask the gentleman—and no one knows better than himself—who ordained this Constitution? Who defined its powers, and said, thus far shalt thou go, but no further? Was it not the people of the states in their sovereign capacity?—Did they commit an act of suicide by so doing?—an act of self-annihilation? No, thank God, they did not; but are still alive, and I trust are becoming sensible of that importance of those rights reserved to them, and prohibited to that government which they ordained for common defence. Shall the creature of the states be the sole judge of the legality or constitutionality of its own acts, in a question of power between them and the states? Shall they who assert a right, be the sole judges of their authority to claim and to exercise it? Does not all power seek to enlarge itself? grow on that it feeds upon? Has not that been the history of all encroachment, all usurpation? If this Federal Government, in all its departments, then, is to be the sole judge of its own usurpations, neither the people nor the states, in a short time, will have any thing to contend for; this creature of their making will become their sovereign, and the only result of the labors of our revolutionary heroes, in which patriotic band this venerable gentleman was most conspicuous, will have been a change of our masters—New England for Old England—for which change I cannot find it in my heart to thank them."

Col JEFFERSON DAVIS.—We are informed that this distinguished hero, and Statesman, will visit every part of Mississippi, previous to the meeting in Congress, in December next, and address his fellow citizens on the dangers that surround the South. A cordial welcome awaits him every where. He is one of the Jewels of Mississippi, that she delights to cherish and honor. He led her sons to glory and fame that never dies, on the bloody fields of Monterey and Buena Vista. He is a Soldier and a Statesman, that any State, or nation may well be proud of.—Miss. Jacksonian.

Was Washington born in England.—The Boston Transcript publishes an extract from a letter dated Isleworth, Middlesex, England, Feb. 25th 1851, and addressed to Geo. Harvey, Esq., Winthrop House Boston, Mr. Field has in possession an original portrait of Washington's mother, which he wishes to present to our government. Mr. Field is 75 years old, and a gentleman in every way to be relied on. He raises the question of Washington's native land, by the following paragraph:

"It happened when I was a boy, that being in the neighborhood of Cookham, Berkshire, with an uncle of mine, he pointed out a pretty country cottage in which the parents of General Washington resided, and from which they removed to America. Our road led to a green or common, where there resided a Mrs. Anna Morer, whose maiden name was Taylor, who there showed me the portrait of Mrs. Washington and other reliques of the family, given to her when they quitted the place for America, to which country her aunt and mother, she told me, took their son (George Washington) in her arms. I believe I use her own expression."

Damages against the Telegraph Company.—The proprietors of the New York Express have recovered from Morse's Telegraph company for their failure to deliver a despatch in New York which had been paid for in this city, the clerk of the company at New York having withheld the despatch, because payment of a previous demand had not been made.

Washington Republic.

Mr. Whitney, despairing of Congress ever making his railroad to the Pacific, goes out in the steamer by invitation from England, it is said to negotiate for a route through Upper Canada, and through the lauds of the Hudson Bay Company, above the United States boundary.

The Sea.—The mean depth of the sea, according to La Place, from three to five miles. If the existing waters were increased by one-fourth, it would drown the earth, with the exception of some high mountains. If the volume of the ocean were augmented by only one-eighth, considerable portions of present continents would be changed all over the globe. Evaporation would be so much extended, that rains would continually destroy the harvest, and fruits and flowers, and subvert the whole economy of nature. There is, perhaps, nothing more beautiful in our whole system than the process by which our fields are irrigated from the skies, the rivers fed from the mountains, and the ocean restrained within the bounds, which it can never exceed so long as that process continues on the present scale. The vapor raised by the sun from the sea floats wherever it is lighter than the

atmosphere; condensed, it falls upon the earth in water; or attached to the mountains, dissolves and replenishes the conduits with which, externally or internally, they are all furnished. By these conduits the fluid is conveyed to the rivers which flow on the surface of the earth, and to the springs which lie deep in its bosoms, destined to supply man with a pure element. If we suppose the sea then to be considerably diminished, the Amazon and the Mississippi, those inland seas of the Western world, would become inconsiderable brooks; the brooks would wholly disappear, the atmosphere would be deprived of its due proportion of humidity; all nature would assume the garb of desolation; the birds would droop on the wing, the lower animal would perish on the barren soil and man himself would wither away like the sickly grass at his feet.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.

BRADFORD THE INNKEEPER.

Jonathan Bradford kept an inn in Oxfordshire, on the London road to Oxford. He bore a respectable character. Mr. Hays, a gentleman of fortune, being on his way to Oxford, on a visit to a relation, put up at Bradford's. He there joined company with two gentlemen, with whom he supped, and in conversation unguardedly mentioned that he had then about him a considerable sum of money. In due time they retired to their respective chambers; the gentlemen to a two-bedded room, leaving as is customary with many, a candle burning in the chimney corner. Some hours after they were in bed, one of the gentlemen being awake, thought he heard a deep groan in an adjoining chamber; and this being repeated, he softly awoke his friend. They listened together, and the groans increasing, as of one dying, and in pain, they both instantly arose, and proceeded silently to the door of the next chamber, from which the groans had seemed to come. The door being ajar, they saw a light in the room. They entered, but it is impossible to paint their consternation on perceiving a person weltering in his bed, and a man standing over him with a dark lantern in one hand and a knife in the other! The man seemed as much petrified as themselves, but his terror carried with it all the appearance of guilt. The gentlemen soon discovered that the murdered person was the stranger with whom they had that night supped, and that the man who was standing over him was their host. They seized Bradford directly, disarmed him of his knife, and charged him with being the murderer. He assumed by this time the air of innocence, positively denied the crime, and asserted that he came there with the same humane intentions as themselves: for that hearing a noise, which was succeeded by groaning, he got out of bed, struck a light, armed himself with a knife for his defence, and had but that minute entered the room before them. These assertions were of little avail; he was kept in close custody till the morning, and then taken before a neighboring justice of the peace. Bradford still denied the murder, but with such apparent indications of guilt, that the justice hesitated not to make use of this extraordinary expression on writing his mittimus, "Mr. Bradford, either you or myself committed this murder."

This remarkable affair became a topic of conversation to the whole country. Bradford was condemned by the general voice, of every company. In the midst of all this predetermination came on the assizes at Oxford. Bradford was brought to trial: he pleaded not guilty. Nothing could be stronger than the evidence of the two gentlemen. They testified to finding Mr. Hayes murdered in his bed, Bradford at the side of the body with a light and a knife, and the hand which held it bloody. They stated that, on their entering the room, he betrayed all the signs of a guilty man; and that, but a few minutes preceding, they had heard the groans of the deceased.

Bradford's defence on his trial was the same as before; he had heard a noise; he suspicioned some villainy was transacting; he struck a light, snatched up the knife, the only weapon at hand, to defend himself, and entered the room of the deceased. He averred that the terrors he betrayed were merely the feelings natural to innocence, as well as guilt, on beholding so horrid a scene. The defence, however, could not be considered as weak contrasted with the several powerful circumstances against him. Never was circumstantial evidence so strong, as far as it went. There was little need for comment from the judge in summing up the evidence; no room appeared for extenuation; and the prisoner was declared guilty by the jury without their even leaving the box.

Bradford was executed shortly after, still declaring that he was not the murderer, nor privy to the murder, of Mr. Hayes; but died disbelieved by all.

Yet were these assertions not untrue! The murder was actually committed by the footman of Mr. Hays; and the assassin, immediately on stabbing his master, rifled his pockets of his money, gold watch and snuff-box, and then escaped back to his own room. This could scarcely have been effected, as after-circumstances showed, more than two seconds before Bradford's entering the unfortunate gentleman's chamber. The world owes this information to remorse of conscience on the part of the footman (eighteen months after the execution of Bradford) when laid on the bed of sickness.—It was a death-bed repentance, and by that death the law lost its victim.

It were to be wished that this account could close here; but there is more to be told. Bradford, though innocent of the murder, and not privy to it, was nevertheless a murderer in design. He had heard, as well as the footman, what Mr. Hayes had declared at supper, as to the having of a sum of money about him; and he went to the chamber of the deceased with the same dreadful intentions as the servant. He was struck with amazement on beholding himself anticipated in the crime. He could not believe his senses; and in turning back the bed-clothes to assure himself of the fact, he in his agitation dropped his knife on the bleeding body by which means both his hands and the weapon became bloody. These circumstances Bradford acknowledged to the clergyman who attended him after sentence, but who, it is extremely probable, would not believe them at the time.

Besides the graver lesson to be drawn from this extraordinary case, in which we behold the simple intention of crime so signally and wonderfully punished, these events furnished a striking warning against the careless, and it may be, vain display of money or other property in strange places. To heedlessness on this score the unfortunate Mr. Hayes fell a victim. The temptation, we have seen proved too strong for two persons out of the few who had heard his ill-timed disclosure.

NARRAGANSETT TRAPPER.—Some time ago I called at the Saucuttuck river, between Wakefield and Peacedale, in South Kingtown, a great part of whose life had been passed in trapping and kindred pursuits. He showed me a book in which he had recorded the results of his exploits, from which I made the following extracts. Between the years 1814 and 1847 he had trapped 8084 muskrats; 2067 minks; 1185 wood chucks; 16,403 lbs. of turtle-meat, after being thoroughly cleaned and prepared for food.

During the same period he had caught with hook and line, 3734 fish; he had shot one eagle measuring 9 feet from tip to tip of wing; had shot nine wild geese; 1252 teal and duck, 300 crows.—for the heads of which he had received thirty three dollars bounty.

The turtles are what are called mud, or snapping turtles, and were taken in powerful steel traps, which were set in the water and baited. He showed me one of these traps; I could make but little impression on its springs with both hands, and yet, he assured me that in his prime he used to press it completely down with one hand, while he adjusted the fastenings with the other. Sixteen turtles caught in Nye's pond, in the South-western part of South Kingtown, weighed 86 pounds each, and when prepared for food yielded in the aggregate 666 lbs of meat. He stated as a curious fact that he had in several instances taken what appeared to be litters of this species of turtle, each litter from the same pond, and that when this was the case they were uniformly of the same individual weight.

To visit all his traps required a walk of about sixty miles in circuit. The value of the skins and food thus procured, exceeded five thousand dollars.—Newport Mercury.

Punch says that "My dear what will you have for dinner?" is now considered the greatest question of the day.

THE CAMDEN JOURNAL.

THO. J. WARREN & C. A. PRICE, Editors. TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 8, 1851.

Municipal Election. On yesterday the following gentlemen were elected Intendant and Wardens of the town of Camden, to serve for one year.

Intendant. JAMES DUNLAP. Wardens. K. S. HOFFAT, C. H. DAVIS, C. L. CHATTEN, A. M. KENNEDY.

Our Court. Adjourned on Saturday last, having lasted longer than is usual for our District, in consequence of a number of cases on the Sessions side, and a few on the other Dockets of a tedious and rather uninteresting character.

The sentences of the Court, for Assault and Battery or similar offences, were delivered by his Honor Judge Withers, and we have never on any similar occasion, heard or seen this unpleasant duty, so ably and feelingly discharged. We must think that those who listened to his charges or admonitions, when addressing himself as the Arbitrer of the law, to the different individuals before him for sentence, were forcibly impressed with the truth, dignity, and elegance of his language.

New Temperance Hall. We are pleased, that the town of Camden has a Hall sufficiently commodious to comfortably accommodate six hundred persons, perhaps a larger number. At a levants it will hold every person who is in the habit of visiting Concerts, Exhibitions, &c. in this place. This is quite an accession to our town; and it is probable that others may be induced to pass this way—since the advent of the world renowned Anna Bishop. For our part, we should interpose no serious objection to the more frequent occurrence of these grand musical events; and if we cannot however, hear M'le Parodi or Jenny Lind; we have heard one that sings well enough for us.

An Editor with a New Hat. Our friend and cotemporary of the Carolinian is in luck, he is congratulating himself upon having received through the delicate attention of his neighbours Messrs. Fullings & Co, "a new beaver of the latest Parisian style." Thus enabled as our friend is, from a practical observation, we are not surprised that he should give a voluminous description of the "fine and glossy texture" with the "very desirable shape," well adapted to the season, &c. We never think these "delicate attentions" out of place. Who wouldn't loom out extensively under a new Hat of a "desirable shape" on the same terms; for ourselves, we would feel perfectly Warren-ated in doing so at that Price.

"Casting Pearl before Swine." Or laboring to adorn an object unworthy of ones attention, or in other words, complimenting those who are incapable of appreciating favor, is sometimes an uphill business, and unfortunately, too often the fate of the Corps Editorial. One instance at least, in which this is significantly illustrated, is that of an old "Boxer" who stands out in "bold relief," and is to all intents and purposes, a purty considerable specimen of the class we allude to. This french gentleman, with Madame Bishop, are making a "brilliant tour in the States," and have en route visited Camden. After

enjoying the hospitality of the Town, and having demolished a considerable quantity (we judge by appearances) of the stores of the Mansion House, as we are informed and verily believe FREE GRATIS FOR NOTHING, or next thing to it. The said "old Boxer" attempts to abuse and vilify some of us, as high way robbers—he disputes with the Printer, and is unwilling to pay his Omnibus fare. Such a character ought to be held up, to the scorn and contempt, of every civilized community. We append the following notice taken from the Fayetteville North Carolinian of Saturday last.

"The Bishops and the Bookers gave a grand concert at Cheraw, but the people there, we learn, were so vulgar as not to appreciate their extraordinary powers, and they were hissed. Whether it was because they were too flat or too sharp, or whether the people had found out that they meanly refused to pay the Livery Stable hire for carrying them to Cheraw, we are not informed. They offered the driver just one-half the price agreed upon, which he refused to take, and sued them spolly. They gave bond by leaving the full amount in the hands of their security. If that was not the height of meanness, strike me musical.

After the grand concert by Madame Bishop, the citizens gave her and the Bookers, a semi-demi-cowbellion-calthampanian serenade, consisting of cow-bells, horns, pans, and other melodious instruments. Served out right; for they are a holy set; they take in all strangers, as our friend McKinnon and others can testify. P. S.—The Cheraw Gazette does not mention the serenade; and we should judge the editor was not thrown into ecstasies by the concert.

CAMDEN PRICES CURRENT.

Table listing various goods and their prices, including Baggins, Flour, and other commodities.

Our Cotton Market.

Cotton quotations are from 7 1/2 to 11 1/2.

We are authorized to announce JOSEPH J. MICKLE, as a Candidate for Sheriff of Kershaw District, at the ensuing election. April 8, '51.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

Waterloo Division No. 9. The regular meeting of this Division will be held on Thursday evening, at your New Hall over A. M. & R. Kennedy's Store, at 8 o'clock. By order of the W. P. D. R. KENNEDY, B.S.

CAMDEN DERATING CLUB.

An Extra Meeting will be held on Wednesday Evening the 9th inst. at Library Hall, when the following Query will be discussed. Query.—Are the causes which tend to perpetuate stronger, than those which tend to dissolve the union of these States. S. B. LEVY, Secretary.

Workman & Boone.

Are now receiving large additions to their Stock—embracing SEVERAL NEW STYLES, and rendering their Stock by far the most full and complete SPRING STOCK of BOOTS AND SHOES that has ever been offered in this market.

McDowall & Cooper.

HAVE opened, and offer for sale their Stock of Spring and Summer Goods. April 7, '51.

In the Court of Ordinary.

LANCASTER DISTRICT. Joseph Rodgers, Applicant vs. James Harvey Rodgers, Defendant. Division or sale Real Estate of James Rodgers, dec'd, devised to Jos. and Jas. H. Rodgers.

IT appearing to my satisfaction that James Harvey Rodgers the defendant, resides without the State. It is therefore, ordered, that he do appear and object to the 'e or division of the Real Estate of James Rodgers deceased, devised to Joseph and James Harvey Rodgers, on or before the 16th July, 1851, or his consent to the same will be entered of record. JAMES H. WITHERSPOON, C. C. D. April 5, 1851, (Fee \$3.00) 14 15th

\$100 Reward.

RANAWAY in November last a black boy named KENT; Kent is about 30 years old, is slim made, black with rather long hair for so dark a complexion as he has, he has very white teeth rather pointed, is smart spoken, and has a pleasant countenance; his hands are small and slim, and he has good feet and ankles, with high instep, and is about 5 feet 7 inches high. Kent was raised about horses, and has worked a little at the blacksmith trade.

The above reward will be paid upon his safe delivery in any Jail in the State, or that his owner will get him, with proof to conviction of his having been harboured by any white person or free person of color; or fifty dollars if his owner gets him. On his recovery, the amount will be paid by application to me or to my Attorneys at Sumterville, Messrs F. J. & M. Moses. RICHARD C. RICHARDSON. Fulton, S. C., March 26, 1851. 28 11

SPRING, 1851.

A. M. & R. KENNEDY, are just receiving their usual supply of SPRING GOODS, and will be pleased to receive a call from their Friends, and all who may be in want of Handsome Goods, suitable for the Season, either in LADIES OR GENTLEMEN'S WEAR. The Stock will be found complete in all its Branches. April 4, 1851. 27 11