

The Newberry Herald.

THREE DOLLARS A YEAR.]

FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF USEFUL INTELLIGENCE.

[INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE

VOL. III.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 9, 1867.

NO. 41.

THE HERALD

IS PUBLISHED
EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING,
At Newberry C. H.,
By THOS. P. & R. H. GREENEKEE.
TERMS, \$3 PER ANNUM, IN CURRENCY
OR PROVISIONS.
Payment required invariably in advance.
Marriage Notices, Funeral Invitations, Obituaries, and Communications subserving private interests, are charged as advertisements.

THIRTY PIGEONS In Thirty Days.

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(Concluded.)

CHAPTER FOURTH.

Master Peters conducted Leon to one of the finest houses in Piccadilly.
"Can Lord Lenisdale be seen?" the host asked, remaining respectfully, hat-in-hand, before the laced footman to whom he addressed himself, and making a sign to Leon to do the same.
"No," replied the footman, "my lord does not receive."
"Be good enough to tell his lordship," said Peters, "that it is some one for the pigeons."
"Ah! if it is for the pigeons," said the footman, "you can walk in."
Peters looked at Leon with a triumphant air.
"Every thing is going well," said he.
Leon thought himself in a dream. The footman introduced the two visitors into a drawing-room all brilliant with silk and gold, and said to them, with a deference which he had not previously shown: "I am going to tell his lordship."
At the end of ten minutes his lordship appeared.
"He was a man of about sixty, tall, thin, and white-haired, with a distinguished manner, and the look of a man who is accustomed to patronize petitioners, and to answer them."
"My lord," said Peters, rising, as did Leon, and bowing three or four times very humbly, "I have come to present to your lordship this gentleman, who wishes to compete for the pigeon-prize."
Lord Lenisdale looked at Leon as a naturalist would look at an insect that he saw for the first time.
"You are a Frenchman?" the nobleman asked, making use of the French language to address Leon.
"Yes, my lord," was his answer, in English, which flattered the son of Albion.
"And you wish to compete for the pigeon-prize?"
"I am ignorant as to what the prize is, my lord; but a quarter of an hour ago I was on the point of blowing out my brains, when Mr. Peters, my host, came into my room, and, moved by the story of my misfortunes, offered to put me in a way to gain sixty thousand francs in one month; only I have not been able yet to make him say by what means."
"The question, Sir, is this," the Englishman replied, in the grave tone of a diplomatist treating of the most important political matters; "there is in London a society of men of science, of which I am president. This society, anxious to throw light on all scientific questions, has offered a prize of sixty thousand francs for the man who will eat, every day, for a month, a roast pigeon for his dinner. This seems very easy at first sight, but nobody has been able to accomplish it, and yet many have made the attempt. Some gave up the attempt at the tenth pigeon, others fell ill at the fifteenth, and we have seen three candidates die between the twenty-second and twenty-fifth. The prize was at that time only thirty thousand francs. The difficulty that there was in winning it induced us to double it. Do you feel, Sir, that you have the necessary qualifications?"
"We give up the attempt to depict Leon's astonishment."
"Yes, my lord," he replied, not clearly knowing what he was saying, and thinking only of the sixty thousand francs; "but you will furnish the pigeons?"
"That is understood, of course."
"For my means would not permit me to incur that expense."
"And when will you begin?"
"From to-day."
"Be good enough to tell me your name," said the nobleman, sitting down and opening a large register-book, bearing the arms of England.
"Leon."
"Your age?"

"Thirty."
"Your profession?"
"I have none; I was employed in a government office, and I left my situation to turn my knowledge to profit in another way."
"You are a man of learning, then?"
"I have received a pretty good education."
"We have in our society a distinguished Hellenist, Lord Bourlam."
"I have heard speak of him; but he has made many mistakes in his translation of Orpheus."
"We have Lord Gastrouck, the Orientalist."
"Who has fallen into many errors in his studies on the poet Sadi?"
"You speak Arabic, then?"
"Yes, Sir."
"Then we have a great archaeologist."
"Lord Storley. If I had the honor of his acquaintance, I would point out to him that he is mistaken two or three times in the dates which he assigns to the Egyptian monuments."
"Do you know Lord Galby, too?"
"The astronomer?"
"Yes."
"Perfectly; at least by his works." "Has he made mistakes, too?"
"More than the others; while I have discovered a star, whose existence he has never suspected, and which I will show him when he pleases; a star of four times the circumference of the earth."
"Why, Sir, you know every thing, it seems."
"Almost, my lord."
"And now you wish to know if you can eat thirty pigeons in a month?"
"No, my lord; I wish to gain, by any means whatever, so long as it is honestly, fifty thousand francs within a month of this, for on this condition alone can I marry the woman I love."
"Well, Sir, I will do still better for you; if you win the prize, I will myself present you to the king, and I will get you admitted into our society."
Leon bowed in token of thanks.
"We say, then, Lord Lenisdale resumed, "profession, none?"
"Yes, my lord."
"You were born?"
"In Paris."
"And you now live?"
"At the Black Lion Hotel, Horn-bie street."
"Very good. Now here are the clauses of the treaty. You will be free to eat and drink whatever you please; but every day, for a month, at six o'clock, you will eat a roast pigeon. Two of us will be present at your repast, and will draw up an account of the manner in which it passes. The pigeon must be eaten in its entirety. If you renounce the attempt, you will not be able to compete afresh; in consequence of this diet you fall ill, twenty pounds will be allowed you for the expenses of your illness; if you succeed, like the three candidates of whom I just spoke to you, you will be buried at the expense of the society, and the cause of your death will be engraved on your tomb."
"Thanks, my lord, for all these instructions; but be kind enough to allow me to put a question to you?"
"Speak."
"Has your society not proposed a prize for the solution of some scientific problem, either in agriculture, or in astronomy, or in history, or in languages?"
"No. All that has little interest for us. We aim, above every thing, at informing ourselves as to the capabilities of the human body."
"You understand, my lord, that I would rather have utilized my intelligence than my stomach."
"Are you not in need of fifty thousand francs?"
"Yes, my lord."
"Well, it is your only way to get them. The positions which our scientific men have reached, are purely honorary positions, in which their self-love only gains any thing. So this is clearly agreed on; thirty roast pigeons, said the nobleman, insisting on this clause, "from to-day, the thirty-first of July, to the first of September next."
"Where shall I take this meal?"
"Where you please."
"At my house," said Peters.
"Yes," said Lord Lenisdale.
"And will my lord permit me," asked Peters, "if this gentleman wins the prize, to issue prospectuses of my establishment, and to state in them this extraordinary fact?"
"I will consult the society on the subject."
"My lord is very good!"
"Farewell, Sir," the peer of Eng-

land continued, "may you succeed! I wish it fervently, for your sake and for the sake of science, and as I think I have already told you, if you succeed, the king's favor will be secured to you, and the greatest houses of London will be open to you."
"Come," said Leon, on his return, still accompanied by Peters, "it was well worth while to learn Latin, Greek, Arabic, Italian, Spanish, German, English, history, geometry, astronomy, agriculture, natural history, natural philosophy, chemistry, and Moldo-Wallachian, to be reduced after all to eating thirty pigeons in a month if I wish to marry the woman I love, and to make fifty thousand francs. O Learning! thou art but a name!"

CHAPTER FIFTH.

That very evening Leon set to work.
A week afterwards, Lord Bourlam and Lord Storley, who had a wish to be the witnesses of the dinners for the whole month, returned at seven in the evening to the house of Lord Lenisdale.
"Well," said he, to them.
"Well, he has eaten his pigeon again to-day."
"A week afterwards, Lord Bourlam and Lord Storley, who had a wish to be the witnesses of the dinners for the whole month, returned at seven in the evening to the house of Lord Lenisdale.
"Well," said he, to them.
"Well, he has eaten his pigeon again to-day."
"Entirely?"
"Entirely."
"A vigorous fellow!"
On the fifteenth of August, Lord Lenisdale said to the two witnesses:
"Well, is our man dead?"
"No."
"Does he still eat his pigeon?"
"Still."
"Roast?"
"Roast."
"The whole of it?"
"The whole."
"Come, he has passed the second period."
On the twenty-fifth he went himself to see Leon, whom he hardly recognized. Our hero's eyes were on fire, and he had the fever of a horse.
"How are you?" said the president of the society.
"Very unwell," Leon replied.
"And you persevere?"
"Yes."
"You are the Wellington of pigeons!"
"Thanks for that encouragement, my lord."
Lord Lenisdale wished to be present at the three last dinners, which Leon could no longer get through except by stopping his nose, so tainted did he find the smell of the pigeon.
"Who would ever think that this bird, so renowned for its faithfulness, was so bad in the long run?"
On the thirtieth of August, the people of London crowded round the door of Master Peters' hotel. Leon was with difficulty snatched away from the marks of enthusiasm which he had excited.
After having eaten the last pigeon, he was obliged, though in great emotion at his triumph, and stifled by heart-burn, to go to the window and salute the populace of the quarter, to whom Master Peters made daily harangues.
Several men of science had come from Scotland to see Leon; but they had only been able to see him through the key-hole, and had been obliged besides to give Peters at least a pound.
On the second of September the prize was won.
Master Peters sold to an English tourist, who had bought the two hundred and thirtieth cane of Voltaire, the coat which Leon had worn all the time that the experiment had lasted. He sold this coat for a hundred guineas, and the collector would not have parted with it for a thousand.
At last, on the third of September, the *Times* contained the following:
"Our readers have doubtless heard of that young Frenchman who presented himself, a month back, as a candidate for the pigeon-prize offered by Lord Lenisdale and all the members of the Scientific Society of London."
"We have the happiness to be able to announce that this prize has been at length carried off by the young Frenchman, under whose window for the past week, and at this very moment, a curious and enthusiastic crowd has gathered."
"The thirty pigeons have been eaten in their entirety, and the bones have been preserved, to be offered and made over, with a report establishing the fact, to the Cabinet of Natural History."
"It will be remembered that before this young man, more than a hundred and fifty candidates have renounced the competition, after a struggle of eight or ten days, and three of the number even died."

"This young man must therefore be endowed with a very good digestion, and a vast amount of energy. Yesterday, the prize, together with a gold medal, was decreed to this young Frenchman, M. Leon."
Here, then, is an important problem solved for the future. A very fine discourse was pronounced on the occasion by Lord Bourlam, our great Hellenist. Lord Lenisdale himself replied to this discourse by a very beautiful theory on the Origin of Religions and the Birth of Languages. We are happy to be able to apprise our readers that M. Leon is not an ordinary man impelled to this experiment by the hope of gain; he is a man of the first rank in science and letters. Accordingly, he has made this experiment out of pure curiosity. This is proved by the fact that he has given ten thousand francs to the tavern-keeper who roasted the pigeons. The same evening he was presented to the King. His Majesty gave him a snuff-box set with diamonds, and questioned him for a long time on the different sensations which a frequent repetition of pigeon produce in the human organization. The Spanish Ambassador wrote immediately to his Queen, to ask for M. Leon the cross of Isabella the Catholic. Prince Kourzoff offered fifty thousand roubles to the successful candidate, if he would go and repeat the experiment in Russia; but M. Leon, whom his family and his interests recall to Paris, refused the offer with regret, adding, moreover, that he should find a second attempt impossible; what he had to suffer, during this month of pigeons, being beyond all expression.
On the fifteenth of September, 1838, Leon presented himself at the house of M. Lebrun, whom he found with his daughter in the same room where a year previously he had taken leave of him.
"Well?" said the father to him.
"Here are seventy-five thousand francs," Leon replied, taking from his pocket seventy-five bank-notes.
"Twenty-five thousand francs more!" cried M. Lebrun, wondering, while Julia's cheek grew pale with emotion and rosy with joy.
"Yes," said Leon, "not only have I made the money, but I have received presents which I have sold, and which are represented by the twenty-five thousand francs."
"And it is to your education that you owe this?"
"Yes," said Leon, with a sigh; for he did not care to acknowledge the source of his fortune.
"Then," said Julia, throwing herself on the neck of her betrothed, "if we have any sons we must make learned men of them."
"Devil take me if I even teach them to read!" said Leon to himself. And he married Julia, and he was very happy, and he had two sons, who, in spite of the oath which their father had taken, are already two prodigies, and have entered on the road which leads to the Academy of Inscriptions and Literature.
"Now that Leon has no longer any need of his knowledge for a living, he seeks to make it useful. He has already published his translation of the Arabic songs, which has gained him a name among translators, and brought him in thirty-two francs fifty centimes; his agreement with the publisher being to the effect that he was to share the proceeds with him, and the book having already produced a net gain of sixty-five francs.
Does this story prove that we ought to despise learning? No. It simply proves that you must seek from it only what it can give; toil always, renown sometimes, obscurity often, fortune never.
Do we despise love, which requires still more, and yields still less?
Does it prove that we ought to despise the freaks of the English? No. For, as we see, the freaks of some can subserve the happiness of others, and all the roads which a man takes to reach happiness are good, provided he reaches it.
Then what does it prove?
It proves nothing.
Ah! yes. It proves that pigeons are heavy diet, and that Providence uses all means to come to the help of those who have nothing with which to reproach themselves."

Venezuela.

The following letter is from the President of the Venezuela Emigration Society:
PORTO DE TABLAS, GUAYANA, VENEZUELA, July 6th, 1867.
COLONEL RUDLER—Dear Sir:—
Our party have just returned from a most thorough exploration of this country. The lands on the Courri, and between the Courri and Caroni—say one hundred and twenty-five by two hundred miles—are the most beautiful, fertile, healthy agricultural lands I ever saw. It is a vast prairie, wooded and watered, and will produce wheat (spring), corn, tobacco, cotton, coffee, cocoa. This is the agricultural region. This place is at the mouth of the Caroni, three miles below the falls. This is the commercial and manufacturing point. Between the Caroni and Sapata is the mining region. It is a dry, mountain savannah, interspersed with spots of the very richest lands, with heavy timber, but it can never be a farming section, though it may make cattle farms. The lands on the Oronoco are overflowing for about ten days in each rainy season now, but are adapted to corn, sugar and rice. They may be said to be the best sugar and rice lands in the world. The whole country is very healthy. We have seen but one snake, four alligators and two tigers, though we have traversed the country everywhere for hundreds of miles. The gold mines, owing to rain and exposure, are very sickly. Provisions are high and scarce, from the influx to the mines and demand for food. Emigrants must all bring flour, bacon, lard, furniture, and especially agricultural implements. The classes who will do well here and make fortunes are planters, blacksmiths, bricklayers, carpenters, machinists, merchants, with capital, surveyors and engineers.
The soil and climate has more than realized my expectations. The people are kind, very lazy and indolent, and anxious for us to come. Planters can make double here what they can make in the States, with one-half the labour. They should be sure to bring seed wheat (spring), Cotton seed and garden seed, as the change of Cotton seed has proved highly advantageous. With proper culture the Courri country will prove the garden of the world. It is navigable high up, and everything can be shipped with ease. Good roads and railroads in this region can easily be constructed. This region only contains eight hundred inhabitants. Bolivar is a large city, very flourishing, but too high up for commerce. This will be the future commercial centre, as it is the point of shipment for all the mining region.
We now have three settlements; but nineteen persons, including women and children, have become dissatisfied, and all these were Yankees, except two, who smugled themselves among us. Every Confederate who went to farming and trading has done well. Out of the party who went to the mines, all were sick, and four died. They have left the mines and gone to farming, and all are healthy.
I never saw such a river for fish as the Courri; they literally team in, somewhat like our shad, from twelve to fifty pounds; catfish from one to five hundred pounds. Strange to say, not a seine is run, and they still rely on the barb spear. I shall settle at this point, and will return here in November, but have selected my land on the Courri.
Your friend,
HENRY M. PRICE.

RESUMPTION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS.—The *New York Herald* says that a plan has been transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury which it is understood meets the approval of bankers and financial men who have conferred on the subject in New York, by means of which it will be practicable to accomplish the following important objects. It will be practicable to resume special payments in five years, retire all the national bank currency notes within ninety days, substitute greenbacks as the sole currency of the country, give commerce and the West ninety millions increased bank circulation (greenbacks) and reduce the coin interest debt three hundred millions, and all in a manner satisfactory to the banking and financial interests of all sections.

Seven tons of butter was shipped from Corry, Crawford county (Ga.) to New Orleans last week.

Threats of Resistance.

Some of the hot-heads of both parties, says the *New York Journal of Commerce*, are going too far in the use of threats, and should be rebuked. Take a few examples as follows:
Let these traitors, or their representatives, dare to carry such purposes into execution, and the wrath of an outraged nation, already approaching the very verge of forbearance, will sweep over them the besom of destruction.—*Washington Chronicle*.
To which the *Intelligencer* replies:
If by the word "such purposes" is meant that form of treachery to the constitution which usurps power by acting "outside of it," then we need not bespeak what of vengeance will come to pass on the part of the people.
If rebels and rebel sympathizers have not had enough of strife and blood they can, in my poor opinion, become easily satiated by stirring up Johnson to assault Congress by military violence; and, indeed, I am not sure that in the long run such a mad attempt would not, as leading to a final and conclusive suppression of the rebellion, by the condign punishment of their fomenters, be a decided benefit to the government and the nation.—*Senator Howard*.
I declare upon my responsibility as a Senator of the United States that to-day Andrew Johnson meditates and designs forcible resistance to the authority of Congress. I make this statement deliberately, having received it from unquestioned and unquestionable authority. I cannot point out the occasion on which he may attempt to use military force.—*Senator Thayer*.
Do these men suppose that the people will now permit them to act in a real trial of impeachment? Do they suppose that the revolutionary programme of suspending the President from the exercise of the functions of his office during trial, his sure sentence by such a court as the present Senate constitutes and the foisting of Ben Wade upon the country as President, by such means, is to be quietly proceeded with?—*Washington Union*.
From day to day the politicians go on with their discussions, work themselves into a rage, indulge in threats, and retort with accusations of "disloyalty," "traitor," &c. The people had enough of this in former years, and know too well the consequences in the misery experienced all over the land. It would be fortunate if, at the present time, before the opening of another electioneering campaign, the popular voice could be heard as that of one man in denunciation of the violence of political mountebanks and scribblers, wherever manifested. Agitators of whatever name should be ranked with the public enemy.—*Charleston Mercury*.

Steam Cotton Gins.

A Selma correspondent of the *Mobile Times* says there is a steam ginny on the plantation of Mr. George O. Baker, within a mile of that city, which is the first of the kind, to his knowledge, within the State. With a small engine located in a fire proof house, and a simple arrangement of a shaft and wheels, he is enabled to turn two gins at once, capable of turning out daily from fifteen to twenty bales of cotton. Mr. Baker had the misfortune to lose most of his mules, but finds steam a much better agent in ginning cotton, the great points being the economy of time and labor, and the undoubted improvement in the quality of the staple. One of these ginners is capable of ginning for several plantations, and planters in every community by uniting together would find it more economical, convenient and profitable than the old method in use.
Discarding another "old fogy" idea, Mr. Baker determined to cultivate a smaller area of land, in order to do it the more thoroughly, and the result is, that almost in the suburbs of Selma he has a crop of cotton equalled by few that have been seen in the cane-break section, thus realizing all and more than the advantages of a large breadth of land poorly cultivated.

Dr. Hermann Kohn, of Breslau, has examined the eyes of ten thousand school children and found that more than one in six were short-sighted.—There are four times as many short-sighted children in the town as in the country, and the evil increases just in proportion to the amount of study exacted from the children.

Two Young Ladies Burned to Death.

The telegraph has made brief mention of a distressing casualty in east Abington, in the burning to death of two young ladies in their dwelling. The unfortunate persons were daughters of Jairus Keene, a furniture dealer, who spends much of his time in New Orleans, where he now is. His wife and two daughters—Abby, aged nineteen, and Lucy, aged twenty one years—resided in a story and a half cottage, the mother sleeping in the lower part of the house, and the girls up stairs. The *Boston Traveller* thus tells the sad story:
About 11 o'clock Mrs. Keene was awakened by the noise of her daughters running around their chamber and screaming. She rushed immediately to the stairs, but the passage way was so filled with smoke, and the stairs themselves so entirely filled with fire, that she could not get to her children. She then ran to her nearest neighbor for help. Dr. Underwood was the first to reach the burning house. Finding it impossible to gain access to the chamber in any other way, he procured a ladder, and at great personal hazard got into the window. The room was so filled with smoke that he could live in it only by crawling along the floor. Feeling his way, he found the bed, but it was empty; he then felt around for the bodies of the young ladies, but could not find them, and was compelled to make his way out as soon as possible, his hair and face scorched by the flames.
This morning, the charred remains of the two accomplished and esteemed young ladies were found among the ruins of the burnt house. It is not certainly known how the fire took, but it is surmised that it must have been communicated to the closet of the back chamber, where the ladies hung up their Sunday dresses. They had both attended evening service, and returned home and retired between nine and ten o'clock. The fire probably had been smouldering and burning in the closet and the back chamber until it had filled the chamber with so dense a smoke as to bewilder and suffocate the poor girls on being awakened to their terrible danger.
Later information states that the grief-stricken mother has become hopelessly insane on account of this terrible affliction, and is now a raving maniac, constantly shouting, while in her fits of delirium, the names of her lost daughters, both of whom are reported to have been young ladies of rare beauty and intellectual culture.

Important Order.

CHARLESTON, September 29.—Gen. Canby has issued General Order No. 29, as follows:
"I. Numerous and well-founded representations having been made, that illegal and oppressive taxes have been imposed in different sections of the States of North and South Carolina, it is ordered that the collection of taxes be suspended in the following cases: 1. Whenever any tax is or shall be imposed otherwise than under the authority of the Government of the United States, which, by the action of the public authorities thereunder, shall apply to any property or rights parted with, or any transaction made and completed prior to the adoption of the act authorizing the same.
2. Whenever the power of Congress to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States is impugned, by the imposition of taxes, discriminating in commercial transactions in favor of the resident citizens and against the citizens of foreign nations, or of other States of the United States.
3. Whenever any tax is, or shall hereafter be, imposed for the purpose of discharging any obligation contracted in furtherance of the rebellion against the Government and authority of the United States, or to reimburse the public treasury, or any local body, or public officer, or other person, for any expenditure on account of any such obligation or pretended obligation.
Commanding officers of posts are authorized to suspend the collection of any tax embraced in paragraph 1, reporting their action and the grounds, and all proofs relating thereto, to these Headquarters.
A merchant's advice in selecting a wife was, "Get hold of a piece of calico that will wash."