

THE CAMDEN JOURNAL.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY T. W. PEGUES.

Miscellaneous.

From the Sumner Banner. NOVEL READING.

No. 2. In a previous number, we adverted to some of the evils of novel-reading...

In addition to the evils already enumerated, as resulting from this class of reading, it is obvious, that it produces a disinclination for the pursuits of solid literature...

Again, novel-reading unfits the mind, to an alarming extent, for the ordinary duties of life. Human life is not a dream, a mere ideal existence, but a solemn reality...

"The Confessions" of Rousseau furnish a melancholy illustration in point. "I cherished for myself," he remarks, "the situations which had interested me in my reading..."

Such are the confessions of this unhappy man; and how effectually, in his case, did the perusal of works of fiction divest life of its sober realities...

Novel-reading involves a criminal consumption of time. We say criminal; for most assuredly, in the estimation of every one but the infatuated novel-reader himself...

"Tired Nature's sweet restorer balmy Sleep." Are disregarded; and the hours which nature demands should be devoted to the repose of the body...

Novel-reading conveys false and dangerous sentiments in reference to the novel character of human existence. Man is placed here on trial for eternity...

Immortal honors reward the victor, eternal infamy awaits the vanquished. With this condition of our being, every thing around us corresponds...

convert a scene of eventful probation into a theatre of artificial splendor, high-wrought ideal, and ideal felicity. Can familiarity with such representations have any on the youthful reader...

These are some of the evils attending an inordinate devotion to novel-reading; and we have attempted to express them, with the hope of arresting, in some measure, the indulgence of a gratification...

GOLDSEEKERS RETURNING.—The steamer Francisco arrived at St. Louis on the 8th inst. from St. Joseph, brought down several California emigrants on their return-home...

AMBITION AND FAILURE.—Ambition and avarice are the two prominent actors in the formation of character.—Each induces an effort to arrive at distinction...

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moment such as I speak of, no rational reflection was admitted, no former stability was looked to; a general distrust was felt, and every one rushed to his banker's to withdraw his hoard...

Presently the door opened, and a stranger was ushered in, who after gazing a moment at the bewildered banker, coolly drew a chair, and abruptly addressed him: "You will pardon me, sir, for asking a strange question; but I am a plain man, and like to come straight to the point..."

W. HAMPTON. Millwood, (S. C.) March 19th, 1849.—Agriculturalist.

WOMEN ARE RARELY CONFUSED.—A young gentleman who was in the act of popping the question to a young lady, was interrupted by the father entering the room enquiring what they were about...

A COMMITTEE.—It is proposed in a Boston paper that every man constitute himself into a committee, to enquire into his own conduct...

FROM TEXAS.—Further Indian Depredations.—Murder of Families.—Women and Children carried into Captivity.—Call upon Mexico to protect our Settlements.

By the arrival here yesterday of the steam ship Globe, Capt. Ebery, from Brazos Santiago the 19th, and Galveston, the 21st instant, we have received the Brownsville Flag of the 15th and the Galveston papers to the 21st, inclusive.

We deeply regret to learn that, from the exposed state of our Texas frontier, no troops of that branch of the service which is alone adapted to cope with the ferocious tribes of wild Indians in that region of country being available...

"Such of our citizens as were able to procure horses speedily repaired thither, but their numbers were too small to do more than defend the settlement of Maj. Taylor; pursuit was impracticable. The commandant at Fort Brown, Col. Morris, likewise dispatched in wagons some thirty infantry—all his disposable force, leaving only a guard at the fort—but their progress was too tardy to avail anything against a foe so wily and well mounted.

But partial accounts have reached us of the acts of the savage marauders. Doroteo Zamora, a most estimable citizen, we regret to learn, is among the slain. Mr. Zamora had just decided, under the treaty, to become an American citizen. One of Mr. Zamora's sons was killed at the same time, another badly wounded, and his daughter, a girl about fourteen years of age, carried into captivity.

From the rancho Santa Oliva two men were killed and a woman and two children taken captive. From the rancho de los Indios, Mrs. Wilsey, the wife of Captain Benjamin Wilsey, his brother and sister-in-law were carried off captives. The aged mother of Mrs. Wilsey persisted in following her children, and did so for some distance, regardless of savage menace, when the Indians, seizing her, tied her hands behind her, pierced her with their lances and arrows, and left her on the ground weltering in her blood, as they supposed, dead. This poor woman, however, succeeded in reaching a neighboring rancho in a most shocking and mutilated condition, and is now, we understand, a maniac.

The destruction of property on this river has been immense. We learned to day of the loss of seventy horses by one gentleman. We are rejoiced to hear of the escape of Mr. Bangs and his companion from captivity. They were, however, reduced to a state of nudity. The foregoing is but a faint outline of the acts perpetrated within the last few days in our immediate vicinity.

The position of our officers on this line is truly painful—placed as they are upon an exposed frontier, without the means of affording that protection which their position implies as a duty."

Immediately after the intelligence arrived at Brownsville the following correspondence passed between the civil authorities of that town and Gen. Avales, the military commandant at Matamoros:

Brownsville, May 10, half past 9 P. M. Dear Sir: Learning that you are desirous to aid us in driving the Indians from the neighborhood, and our garrison containing no troops except infantry, when it is necessary to have

dragoons, we beg to accept your kind and generous offer to furnish us with a party of dragoons for the purpose of forcing the Indians off from further attacks on our neighbors.

The garrison at Fort Brown has already sent out a party of infantry soldiers; besides several of our citizens, some twenty in number, have also gone out on horseback; but we fear their efforts will prove ineffectual, and that nothing can be accomplished unless a force of dragoons be sent out above to cut the Indians off upon their retreat to their nation.

Your kindness and attention in this matter, which we learn has been promptly volunteered by yourself, will ever be remembered by Your obedient servant, L. B. BIGELOW, Chief Justice, Cameron county, Texas.

To Gen. F. Avales, commanding Mexican troops, Matamoros, Mexico.

Brownsville, May 10, 1849. Dear Sir—We, the undersigned citizens, being appointed a committee to wait upon Col. Morris, to ascertain whether he would regard it as an infringement on your part, with command, by rendering us some timely assistance, owing to the sudden descent upon this section of the country by a large body of Indians, take this occasion to say that we did call accordingly, and that Col. Morris stated that, if the citizens desired it, inasmuch as he had no cavalry, he would throw no objection in the way of your proffered assistance, nor would he regard it as an interference with his command.

Cornelius Peterson, R. W. Mackay, J. J. Jacobs, J. M. Abrams, P. Maxon, G. Goodman, J. Hawlett, Robert B. Gage, John E. Garey. To Gen. Avales, commanding Mexican troops at Matamoros.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH.—Children should be taught to use the left hand as well and as much as the right. Infants should be sponged with cold water every day. Infants should be carried into the air every day of the season.

Children should be nursed at regular intervals, once in about three hours. From the time they are weaned until they have passed the first dentition, children should be fed on bread and milk.

Coarse bread is better for children than fine.

Children should sleep in separate beds, and, where it is practicable, in separate rooms, and should not wear night-caps.

Children under seven years of age should not be confined over six or seven hours in the house, and that time should be broken by frequent recesses.

From the time of the first to that of the second dentition, children should be denied animal food.

Children and young people must be made to hold their heads up and shoulders back, while standing, sitting, and walking.

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