

The Independent Press.

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MISCELLANY.

[From the Charleston Courier.]
The Capital and the Capitol.

Our National Capital is rather a hacknied theme, but I love it for its glorious and hallowed name, and I value it for my country's sake, and therefore proceed to indite something of it in the descriptive and historic vein, expecting to say little or nothing new, (for "there is nothing new under the sun,") but rather to indulge in the iteration of the thrice-told tale.

Washington City, the Capital of the United States of America, is situated on the Eastern side of the Potomac, in that portion of the original ten miles square, or District of Columbia, ceded by the State of Maryland to the United States, Virginia having made up the complement by the cession of a portion of her territory, which was, a few years since, retroceded to her, and is now again embraced within the limits of the "Old Dominion." Its place on the map of the world is N. latitude 38 deg. 52 min. 45 sec., and W. longitude 76 deg. 53 min. 30 sec. from Greenwich, or 79 deg. 20 min. from Paris. Its distance from Baltimore is 40 miles S. W., with which place it is connected by a branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 38 or 40 miles in length; from Philadelphia, 137 miles S. W.; from New York, 224 miles S. W.; from Boston, 459 miles S. W.; from St. Louis, 856 miles E. by S., and from New Orleans, 1,203 miles N. E., from the Atlantic Ocean, via the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, it is distant about 200 miles. Its location is one of much natural beauty, greatly enhanced by art, as well as by the Potomac River and the Anacostia, or Eastern Branch, at the junction of which streams it stands, and from which it derives great commercial facilities and advantages. The extent of the city is about 4 1/2 miles from N. W. to S. E., and about 2 1/2 miles from E. to S. W.—its entire area being 3,016 acres, with a circumference of 14 miles. Occupying an undulating site of hill and dale, encompassed by forest-crowned hills, it presents a diversified prospect of picturesque scenery; and the adjacent elevations, commanding fine views of town and country, and of the broad bosom and gentle meanderings of the Potomac, invite to the erection of the frequent villa or elegant private residence. The streets run N. and S. and E. and W., intersecting one another at right angles, and vary in width from 70 to 100 feet, and are numbered and named 1st, 2d, 3d, and so on, when running from N. to S., and are designated alphabetically, as A street, B street, C street, &c., when running from E. to W. The squares are cut and traversed diagonally by spacious avenues from 130 to 100 feet wide, bearing the names of the different States of the Union. Conspicuous and chief among these great thoroughfares is Pennsylvania Avenue, so named in honor of the Keystone State—the Keystone of the Federal arch—which, I trust, will ever continue to bind that arch indissolubly together. It runs from the Capitol to the President's House, and is one of the noblest and most elegant thoroughfares in the world. Of these avenues, five radiate from the Capitol as their centre, and five from the Executive mansion—thus affording to these prominent places the readiest communication with every part of the city.

"The City," says "APPLETON'S U. S. Travellers' Guide," "is laid on a plan of great magnitude; and will, if the design of its founders be carried out, and their anticipations realized, be at once a magnificent memorial of the great man from whom it is named, and a city, the gigantic proportions of which shall harmonize with the powers and extent of the mighty republic of which it will be the capital. The ground on which the city is built, has an elevation, for the most part, of forty feet above the level of the sea."

Not far from the base of the Capitol, there runs through the city a small tribu-

tary of the Potomac, originally called Goose-Creek, but subsequently rather too ambitiously dubbed the *Tiber*, as if assimilated, in some occult particular, to the yellow Tiber of republican, and afterwards of Imperial Rome. Much ridicule attended this attempt to ape Capitoline Rome, and the new name has, I believe, fallen into desuetude, and is now only among the things that were.

The act of Congress locating our national Capitol at Washington was passed and ratified on the 16th July, 1790, but it was therein provided that the seat of government, then being Philadelphia, should not be changed till 1800, in order that in the intermediate time suitable legislative and executive buildings might be constructed. The removal from Philadelphia to Washington took place, according to the act of Congress, in 1800. This location of the capital was made at the suggestion of Gen. Washington; the embryo city received the baptismal name of "Washington," as the just and fitting tribute to the father of our country and the founder of our Republic. The corner stone of the District of Columbia was laid on the 15th April, 1791, and that of the Capitol, by President Washington, on the 18th September, 1793. Major L'Enfant and Mr. Edificott were the architects, by whom the design of the city was planned, and the streets laid out, in the present eligible mode. The ground on which the city stands, together with what is now the rest of the District of Columbia, including the city of Georgetown, was ceded to the United States by Maryland, on the 22d December, 1788.

The Capitol of the United States crowns a central eminence, in the plan of the city, called Capitol Hill, 87 feet above tide water in the Potomac, and commands a most extensive and varied view of land and river scenery, embracing the cities of Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria, and the fertile fields and forest clad hills of the adjacent portions of Maryland and Virginia, separated by the intervening Potomac. The original building, directly in front of it, on the Virginia side of the Potomac, distant about three miles or more, and 200 feet above the river, is Arlington House, the elegant country seat and residence of the venerable George Washington Park Custis, was commenced in 1793, and the work was carried on, under various architects, (Messrs. Hallet, Hadfield, Hoban and Latrobe,) until it was suspended by the war of 1812, and the building burned by an incendiary foe, during the capture and occupation of the city by the British army, near the close of the war. Its reconstruction was soon after commenced and completed; and it is now in the process of enlargement, by the addition of two elegant and spacious wings, which are to contain, when finished, the Representative Hall and Senate Chamber, in substitution for the present legislative chambers. The Capitol grounds, enclosed within the iron railing, contain 30 acres; the length of the foot walk, outside of the railing, exceeds a mile; the area occupied by the edifice, is one acre and a half, and 1820 feet; the length of the front is 35 1/2 feet, depth of wing 121 1/2 feet; eastern projection and steps 65 feet; western projection and steps 83 feet; altitude of wings to top of balustrade 70 feet; height to summit of centre dome 145 feet; height of present Senate Chamber 42 feet, and length 74 feet; height of present Representative Hall 60 feet, and length 95 feet; height of the great central Rotunda, to the commencement of the small curve 96 feet, and to the sky-light 122 1/2 feet deep; diameter of the Rotunda 96 feet. It is encompassed by a balustrade of stone, and canopied or covered with an immense and lofty dome, (now undergoing repair or reconstruction,) in the centre, and a flat dome on each wing. The projection on the east or main front is adorned with a splendid portico of 22 corinthian columns, and a portico of ten columns, in the same style, adorns the western projection. The building is constructed of white marble, and its architecture is of the corinthian order—and I can say, to a certain extent from personal experience in Europe, that, in ample proportions, in architectural style and execution, and in both external and internal embellishments and conveniences, it is fully equal, and, I think, superior to any Senate house in the world. The cost of the entire edifice was nearly \$2,000,000. Spacious and commodious as it is, in its original dimensions, the present massive structure, as already intimated, is in process of enlargement and improvement. Two new wings, in place of those now occupied by the Senate and House of Representatives, are in progress and near completion, each 238 by 140 feet in dimensions, so that, when finished, the area of the whole structure will embrace more than four acres.

The building presents eastern and western fronts each, with fine and spacious lawns or grounds, the western lawn being elegantly terraced and carpeted with verdure, and provided and adorned with walks, iron settees, trees, shrubbery, and flowers, and also with fountains supplied with numerous and perpetually multiplied gold fish—which the younger visitors amuse themselves by feeding with crumbs of bread and other plenary edibles.

"The exterior," says the Washington Guide Book, "presents, as its first story, a rusticated basement, and two other stories are comprised in a Corinthian elevation of pilasters and columns. The columns are 30 feet high, and form a portico on the eastern front of 160 feet round, crowned in the centre by a tympanum, embellished with a group of statuary, by John Quincy Adams, when President of the United States, and offered by him after forty designs had been rejected. The *Genius of America*, a colossal figure, holds in her right hand an oval shield, resting lightly on a slender altar, on the front of which is an oak wreath in bas relief, with the words "July 4, 1776," within it. Behind her stands a spear, with a star over her head, which is turned towards *Hope*, who gazes on her with smiling animation, with her left arm on an anchor, lifts her right exultingly, and as though predicting the glory of the republic. The *Genius* points with one hand to her shield and spear, and with the other to *Justice*, who, with eyes raised to Heaven, holds in her right hand the Constitution of the United States, and in her left, the ever poised scales of her office; wearing neither bandage nor sword, to show that she is clear sighted, respecting the rights of all. An eagle of great beauty, is at the feet of the *Genius*, its head raised and its wings partly expanded, as if ready for her command. This group was executed by Persico."

I omitted to state in the proper place that the object of the two additional wings to the Capitol is two-fold: First, to furnish the Senate, now "cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd," in a small and inconvenient apartment, having a mere apology of a gallery for an outside auditory, with a suitable chamber, furnishing ample verge and scope for themselves, and for their visitors and auditors of both sexes; Second, to furnish the House of Representatives with a hall, exempt from the echo, which now renders the House a scene of "confusion worse confounded."

The plan adopted for this addition to and enlargement of the Capitol, is that of Mr. Walter, of Philadelphia, and the corner stone of the Southern extension, or new Southern wing, was laid, on the 4th July, 1851, in the presence of President Fillmore and his Cabinet, and of an imposing military and civic array. The masonic implements used by Washington, at the laying of the original Capitol, were again put in requisition on this occasion.

The Library of the Capitol was a room ninety-two feet long, thirty-four wide and thirty-six high, with alcoves and two galleries, running its whole length. It was enriched with President Jefferson's valuable library, of about seven thousand volumes, purchased by Congress in 1815, for \$25,000, as the basis of a new collection of books, after the burning and destruction of the Capitol, by the British, in 1814; and numerous additions were made to it, from time to time, till it reached the large figure of about fifty thousand volumes. A considerable portion of these books was destroyed by fire in December, 1852, since which time, the library room has been remodelled and improved, so as to render it fire-proof, and a large number of books has been purchased, so that the Congressional Library is now more extensive and more valuable than ever.

I copy the following description of the new Library Room, and of its arrangements and decorations:

"The whole work, to the most minute part, is iron; and yet so splendidly is it painted and gilded, so elaborate and finished are the ornaments, that you can scarcely credit the fact. The ceiling, composed of immense iron plates, looking like massy blocks of brown marble panel work, is artistically constructed, so as to combine strength and beauty, in the most perfect harmony. It is the only entire ceiling on earth. Running through the centre is the sky-light, which is elegantly ornamented with a cluster of stars, numbering some hundreds, &c. Next are two long galleries, (all iron) the pillars, the lattice-work, the balustrade, the trusses, the scrolls, the floors, the shelves, the alcoves and the steps.

"The books are well arranged, and every attention is paid to those who may desire to avail themselves of its advantages.

"The library is open daily, Sundays excepted, during the Session of Congress, from nine to three, and in the absence of Congress, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, during the same hours. The privilege of taking books from the library is restricted to members of Congress, and the higher officers of the General Government."

In the basement of the old North wing of the Capitol is the Supreme Court Room of the United States, where Jay, Ellsworth, Marshall and Taney have successively presided as Chief Justices, and where Wm. Pinkney, Wirt, Webster and Legare, and numerous other Jurists and ornaments of the legal profession, were wont to instruct and electrify their auditors with the profoundest efforts of legal learning and the noblest bursts of forensic eloquence.

I have so far exceeded my intended limits, that I must here curb my epistolary *caboches scribendi*, and reserve my description of the Representative and Senate Chambers, and of the paintings, statuary, and other descriptions of the Capitol, together with some account of the other public

buildings and institutions of the Capitoline city, for my next missive.

September.
September strews the woodland o'er
With many a brilliant color;
The world is brighter than before—
Why should our hearts be duller?
Sorrow and the scarlet leaf,
Sad thoughts and sunny weather;
Ah! me! this glory and this grief
Agree not well together.

This is not the parting season;
The time when friends are flying;
And lovers now, with many a kiss,
Their long farewells are sighing,
Why is earth so gaily dressed?
This pomp that Autumn beareth
A funeral seems, where every guest
A bridal garment weareth.

Each one of us perchance may here,
On some blue morn hereafter,
Return to view the gaudy year,
But not with boyish laughter.
We shall then be wrinkled men,
Our brows with silver laden;
And thou this glen may seek again—
But never more a maiden!

Nature, perhaps, foresees that Spring
Will touch her teeming bosom,
And that a few brief months will bring
The bee, the bird, the blossom.
Ah! these forests don't know—
Or would less brightly wither—
The virgin that adorns them so
Will never more come hither.

Young America in Society.
American society, at least in our cities, is becoming both silly and stupid. "Young America" reigns paramount in it. Boys, who but yesterday were being flogged for false Latin, and ladies who have just escaped from pin-afores and bread and butter, take on themselves all the airs of grown up people, actually thrusting their parents aside, and assuming the entire control of the amusements. At most parties the tone is given by comparative children.

Conceited youngsters, on whose chin the down has scarcely begun to appear, strut about in high shirt collars, short tailed coats, deep cuffs, and tight pantaloons, take the head of cottons, as if by right of precedence; affect to be a blaze as a noble of the ancient regime, and annoy women, old enough to be their mothers and with more sense in a finger than these little monkeys have in all their bodies, with ridiculous compliments, absurd criticism on music, or slang intended for wit.

Little misses, also, with bare shoulders, bare arms, and minds more bare than either, look contemptuously around and express their imperial wonder that the hostess should be so stupid as to invite so many married ladies. In American society it is, at present, the day of small things.

The conversation at the social assemblies is what might be expected from the character of those who control them. It is as flat as stale beer, and as insipid as skim milk. The little girls giggle, and the little boys look solemn; the former smooth down their dresses, and the latter pull up their collars, but with this difference they behave much alike.

At the supper table they push forward into the most prominent places, help themselves first, scatter terrapin, cream and jellies indiscriminately over the dresses of such married ladies as happen to be in their way; drink what they elegantly call "lots" of champagne, and keep up such an incessant chattering, and laughing, that nobody, as the phrase goes, "can hear their own ears."

It would be fortunate, however, if "Young America" confined its presumptuousness to parties. But the lady who has opened her house is subjected, for days afterwards, to the morning visitors of boys seeking to play the fine gentleman, who talk to her in a style silly and half impudent, treating her as if she was unmarried; and this, though they were not invited to her ball; perhaps but one came with some female guest, and though they know or ought to know that the mother of a family, in America has something better to do of mornings than to listen to the empty talk of idle young fools.

Yet it must be confessed, this sovereignty of "Young America" is partly the fault of grown up people. Married women too generally subside into household drudges; neglect the cultivation of mind and manners; and by abdicating their true position in society make way for the usurpation of misses and masters that "polk."

We do not advocate the disregard of domestic duties. But we contend that their fulfillment is quite compatible with a proper degree of social recreation, and that, indeed a wife and mother is healthier, in body and mind, for occasional relaxation in society. Moreover, as a general rule, women do not begin to think till they are married.

A man of sense finds the conversation of a raw girl insufferably stupid, for it has lost the nativity of childhood, without the solid character of experience in life, and intelligent women, complain continually of the annoyance of having to talk to conceited boys. Why do not the real beauties of society, therefore, assert their supremacy, and by putting down the reign of the *Mazowka*, the Polka, and their companions "Young

American," restore to society a higher tone? The informed, the intelligent, and the really well bred, who now avoid what is called society, would then return to it, and a party would then become a place of rational amusement. But while "Young America" keeps the head, the heels will carry it "all hollow" against the head.

[From the Charleston Mercury.]
In Nile's Weekly Register of August 22, 1812, is the following notice. As it relates to persons, some of whom I have known, and occurred in a district of which I am a native, it affords me a pleasure to resuscitate it, and bring it more immediately to the knowledge of the present generation.

The times in which we live are stirring and eventful, and it may not be amiss to try and illustrate the actions of men now, by pointing to such signal instances of patriotism in the past:

"Female Patriotism."
"Mrs. Mary Pruitt, wife of Mr. John Pruitt, of Abbeville District, is the mother of sixteen children—fourteen sons and two daughters. Eight of the sons are on the muster roll, the eldest of whom commands a Company in the 1st Regiment of the Militia of the State. Several of these children are well settled, and live comfortably on their own farms.

"Mr. John Pruitt, the father, is an independent farmer, clear of debt, and enjoys ease and plenty amid the smiles of his family and the good will and esteem of his neighbors.

"Lieut. James Black was recruiting in the neighborhood of Mr. Pruitt, and the seventh and eighth sons, warmed by patriotic zeal, evinced a disposition to enlist. Mr. Pruitt, though a revolutionary soldier, and having at heart the honor and interest of his country, gave way to paternal affection, and hesitated about yielding his assent that the sons might enter the army; but, determined not to exercise his authority to prevent them, he sent Mrs. Pruitt, his wife, to the place of rendezvous, to use her influence on the occasion.

"The music commenced, and its influence on the sons was so visible to the mother that she abandoned all opposition, and immediately addressed them as follows: 'My children, I will not say one word nor shed one tear to oppose your wishes—go and serve your country like men.' The boys took the bounty, and the went home for their clothes. When about to leave them she spoke to them as follows: 'My sons, do not shed a tear and I will not shed one—Go, in God's name; and if you fall in your country's cause I will not regret it. Be virtuous, faithful, and honest, and my fears are at an end.'

"This conduct is worthy of imitation, and cannot be too much admired and praised in the present crisis. The heroic firmness and public virtue of the Spartan females is again realized in our day and country. Let those who think lightly of female virtue and patriotism, read this and blush for shame. In the Revolutionary War our females acquitted themselves well, and so will their daughters of the present day.

ANTI-MONARCHIST.

On the same page of Nile's Register, of the same date, August 22, 1812, very soon after the declaration of war against Great Britain, is a notice of a patriotic meeting of some of the most influential and distinguished sons of Pendleton District, held for the purpose of sustaining the action of the Government; and at page 417 of the same vol. (2) of Nile's Register, is an address of the House of Representatives to the people of Massachusetts.

With your permission, Messrs. Editors, I will make the Pendleton meeting, and the address of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Massachusetts to the people of that State, the subject of another communication for your paper; and, it may be, add something to the testimony already elicited in recent Congressional discussions, as to the tone of feeling that pervaded the States of South Carolina and Massachusetts, and influenced the action of her sons "in times that tried men's souls."

HANCOCK.

The Irish Highwayman.
Not many years ago, an Irishman, whose finances did not keep pace with the demands made on his pockets, and whose scorn of honest labor was imminently unfavorable to their being filled legitimately, borrowed an old pistol one day when poverty had driven him to extremity, and took the highway most convenient where he was likely to find a heavy purse.

A jolly old farmer came jogging along, and he put him down instantly as a party who possessed those requisites he so much stood in need of himself. Presenting his pistol, he commanded the farmer to "stand and deliver."

The poor fellow forked over some fifty dollars, but finding Pat somewhat of a greenhorn, begged a five to take him home, a distance of about half a mile. The request was complied with, accompanied with the most patronizing air—Old Acres and Rods was a most knowing one. Eying the pistol, he asked Pat if he would sell it.

"Is it to sell the pistol I, Sow, and is that same thing that I'll be after doing? What would you be after giving for it?"

"I will give you the five dollar bill for it." "Done—and done's enough between two gentlemen. Down with the dust, and here's the tool for you."

The bargain was made by immediate transfer. The moment the farmer got the weapon he ordered Pat to shell out, and pointing the pistol, threatened to blow his brains out if he refused.

Pat looked at him a moment with a comical leer, and buttoning his breeches pockets, sung out—
"Blow away, old boy; devil take the bit of powder that's in it."

We believe the old man never told the story but once, and that was by the purest accident.

Caricature of Fremont.
We are indebted to some one in New York for a very interesting caricature of Fremont and his party. The Colonel is drawn pretty well, standing in front of the heads and leaders of the different sections of his followers. First appears Coffee, in full costume, with huge ruffles and collar to his shirt swallowing his head, uttering the following words: "De popylation ob color comes in first; arter dat you may do color come in first; arter dat you may do color come in first."

Next stands a Romish Priest, saying: "We look to you, sir, to place the power of the Pope on a firm footing in this country." Then follows a woman, with awful sharp face, long nose and pointed chin, speaking as follows: "Colonel, I wish to invite you to the next meeting of our Free Love Association, where the shackles of marriage are not tolerated, and perfect freedom exists in love matters; where you will be sure to enjoy yourself, for we are all Freemounters!"

Close behind this woman, stands the personification of a vagabond, with a black bottle in his hand, saying: "An equal division of property, that is what I go for." The next figure in the scene is a bouncing young bloomer, with a whip in her hand and a sgar in her mouth—demanding, "First of all, the recognition of woman as the equal of man, with a right to vote and hold office." Then follows a grave, sedate fellow, saying: "The first thing we want is a law making the use of tobacco, lager beer and animal food, a capital crime." In reply, the gallant Colonel answers: "You shall all have what you desire, and be sure that the glorious principles of Popery, Fourierism, Free Love, Woman's Rights, the Maine Law, and above all, the equality of our colored brethren, shall be maintained, if I get into the Presidential Chair." The bloomer is a striking looking little buzzy, and altogether the most respectable of the group.—*Greenville Patriot.*

From Kansas.
St. Louis, Aug. 27.—Kansas advices state that 2,500 men from Missouri would enter Kansas on the 22d. Four hundred of Lane's men were posted on the Kansas River to intercept all relief to Leecompton. Gen. Richardson at the head of a large body of Territorial Militia had gone to the North-western part of Kansas to intercept Lane's retreat. At Lexington, Missouri, five hundred men were under arms, and Gov. Price expected orders from the President to take the field. Gen. Smith declines interfering with the Missourians while they confine operation to Lane's forces.

CHICAGO, August 28.—Advices from Kansas state that eighteen Missourians attacked Tucker's Mission, and demanded persons there to deliver up their horses and leave the Territory. The demand being refused, the assailants were too weak to execute their threats. The Missourians were concentrating at Leavenworth, Westport and Kansas. Quaker City had been sacked by the Georgians on Friday, but the inhabitants escaped.

Some half-educated philosophers (says the New York Times) are gloating over the discovery, that cockroaches were made to destroy bed bugs, and are publishing the fact that the two, like the small pox and measles, can't coexist. We have already a stack of letters from boarding-house keepers, denying the alleged fact, but we don't publish them, because as they give names and numbers we suspect that they are only adroit puffs. The use of cockroaches, as all truly wise people have known for years, is to flavor fine old Burgundy with.

WASHINGTON, August 27.—In the Senate, Mr. Weller's bill was tabled by 27 to 11. The House agreed to adjourn sine die to-morrow, at 3 p. m., by 170 to 76. Mr. Wheeler moved to instruct the Committee on Ways and Means to report a new Army Bill without the Kansas proviso, and moved the previous question, which was lost by the casting vote of the Speaker. Committees were then appointed.

VERBS.—A teacher one day endeavored to make a pupil understand the nature and application of a passive verb, said—
"A passive verb is expressive of the nature of relieving an action, as 'Peter is beaten.'—Now, what did Peter do?"
The boy paused for a moment with the gravest face imaginable, and replied—
"Well, I-I don't know of it, I s'pose he battered."

What would you be after giving for it?"