

# HARPERS-FERRY FREE PRESS.

"TO SHEW VIRTUE HER OWN FEATURE, SCORN HER OWN IMAGE, AND THE VERY AGE AND BODY OF THE TIME, HIS FORM AND PRESSURE."

VOL. III.—No. 5.

HARPERS-FERRY, VIRGINIA, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1823.

Whole No. 109.

PUBLISHED, WEEKLY, BY  
JOHN S. GALLAHER & CO.

## CONDITIONS.

The "FREE PRESS" is published at two dollars per annum, if paid in advance; two dollars and twenty-five cents if paid at the end of six months; or, two dollars and fifty cents at the expiration of the year.

No paper will be discontinued until all arrearages are paid; nor then, unless at least one week's notice be given, previous to the expiration of the term subscribed for.

\*Advertisements inserted three times for one dollar per square, or less; and twenty-five cents for every subsequent insertion.

The postage must be paid on all letters and communications, or they will not be attended to.

## Flowers of Ancient History,

COMPREHENDING, on a new plan, the most remarkable and interesting events, as well as characters, of antiquity, designed for the improvement and entertainment of youth, by the Rev. John Adams, A. M.—just received and for sale at this office, price \$1.  
Aug. 27, 1823.

## BOOKS.

For Sale at the Office of the Free Press.

WALKER'S Critical Pronouncing Dictionary, octavo, at \$3 50,  
Small edition of do. for schools,  
Murray's Grammar,  
English Reader, Introduction to do.  
Bibles and Testaments,  
Parke's Arithmetic, Pike's do.  
New York City Hall Recorder,  
History of Bristol (England),  
The Monastery, a novel,  
The Contrast, do.  
Children of the Abbey,  
Caroline of Lichtfield,  
Goldsmith's Roman History,  
Do. History of England;  
Grimshaw's do.  
Vicar of Wakefield, Esop's Fables,  
Watt's Hymns, Songs of Zion,  
Gass's Journal, Ladies' Library,

And a variety of pleasing works for children, such as

The Children in the Wood,  
Choice Tales, History of Bees,  
Story of Joseph and his Brethren,  
History of the Trojan Wars,  
Grandmother's Stories, Hocus Pocus,  
Amusement for Good Children,  
Present for a Little Girl, Black Giles,  
History of the Beggarly Boy,  
Academy of Compliments,  
Life of Baron Trenck, Gulliver's Travels,  
New Robinson Crusoe,  
Webster's Spelling Book,  
Wood's New York Primer,  
A Father's Serious Advice,  
Catharine Haldane, Biography of Girls,  
Song Books, &c. &c. and many others which need not be enumerated.  
Aug. 13, 1823.

## PARKE'S

Farmers & Mechanics' Arithmetic.

A CONSTANT supply of the above valuable work will be constantly kept for sale at this office, to a perusal of which *Parents and Teachers* are respectfully invited, as well as young gentlemen wishing to qualify themselves for business. The distinguishing features of this work are, the omission of all unnecessary matter, and the insertion of much *practical* matter in the space thus saved. The work contains, besides a sufficient course of Arithmetic, an abridgement of *Mensuration*, sufficient for ordinary purposes. It presents one of the most valuable compendiums ever offered to the "man of business;" and this opinion is corroborated by the written certificates of numerous and respectable preceptors, whose certificates might be adduced if necessary. The work has already obtained a *respectable circulation*, and to be more extensively patronized needs but to be known. Price 75 cents.  
August 13, 1823.

## FAMILY BIBLE.

JUST received, and for sale, at the Printing Office, a few copies of the FAMILY BIBLE, quarto size, with plates, at the very low rate of \$5 each. Heads of families wishing to have this invaluable work, (and what family would be without it?) will do well to make early application.  
July 23d, 1823.

## BLANK WARRANTS,

For sale at this office.

## EDUCATION IN SOUTH AMERICA.

From the Caracas Gazette, July 30.

On the 20th inst. the opening of the Bell and Lancasterian School took place, agreeably to the notification contained in number 47 of this paper. At 10 o'clock in the morning the members of the municipality and of the committee patronising this establishment, met in the chapel of the college of Caracas. The children already admitted, occupied the side seats of the chapel, and the Preceptor took his seat among the members of the committee. A considerable number of citizens filled the rest of the chapel, except in the centre, which was occupied by ladies. The children were remarkable for their modest demeanor and good conduct during the ceremony; as well as for the cleanliness and simplicity of their dress; which consisted of white linen jacket and trousers, and hats made of the palm leaf of the country: even the children of our opulent citizens giving this beautiful example of Republican simplicity, and amongst others the son of one of our Generals, who was led by his worthy father in this simple attire. After a short discourse on the part of the Intendant of the department, as patron of the establishment, and President of the committee, the bell was sounded, and the orator of the institution, Dr. Felipe Fermin Paul, Rector of the university, delivered a concise and eloquent speech in favor of the advantages of a system of education which, on the united plan of Bell and Lancaster, could be extended alike to all classes from the richest to the poorest. On the conclusion of the speech the assembly adjourned to the school room, the children leading each other with admirable order. The President of the committee then declared that the school of mutual instruction was opened, and the assembly withdrew, the master alone remaining with his scholars, making his preparatory arrangements.

Mr. Charles Bello has labored indefatigably, with the aid of the committee, in forwarding this institution, and to this co-operation is due the prosperity of the establishment. Such is the anxiety for instruction, that children from all parts have applied for admission, until the committee has been obliged to refuse them for the present, with extreme pain. The school room will only suffice for forty children; notwithstanding which fifty-seven have been admitted: and if circumstances had permitted, there would be upwards of two hundred. The committee propose applying the first funds that come to hand in enlarging the school room, and adding to it another room adjoining the house; for which object they rely on the co-operation of the neighbors and parents of families.

There are still among us some persons prejudiced against the foregoing system of education. We beg of these gentlemen to remember, that such sentiments are in contradiction to those of the wisest men of the wisest nations, and that this method has nothing innovating in it, beyond the novelty of instructing children, by means of themselves; establishing as it were, the permanency of a science, by renovating it in the same school.

A New York paper says—An edition of the abridgement of Murray's English Grammar, has been published by Messrs. Collins & Co. of New York, at the steam-printing press of Mr. Jonas Booth. It is well executed, and being the first work ever executed at a press of that description in the United States, is worthy the public attention, as furnishing evidence of the progress of the arts amongst us.

WOODSTOCK, VA. AUG. 20

On Friday last, two citizens of this place, whilst in Powell's Fort, near town, discovered a large snake, whose head was elevated about three feet from the ground, and whose jaws were extended, in the act of bearing to its den a young fawn, which it had caught but a few minutes before. The snake, in thickness, exceeded that of a common man's thigh, but its length could not well be ascertained!

Persons doubting the correctness of this statement, by calling at our office, may learn the names of the persons who are willing to make affidavit to the fact. [Herald.]

An Arkansas paper estimates the damage sustained by the planters on the Mississippi, in consequence of the late inundation, at not less than \$3,000,000.

Counterfeit ten dollar bills on the Mechanics Bank, New York, are circulating in Providence, badly executed.

## EXECUTION OF AN INNOCENT MAN.

We stated a few days since that John C. Hamilton was executed in Kentucky a few years ago, (1817,) for the murder of Doctor Sanderson, of Natchez, Mississippi, and that a man had recently been executed in Mobile, who confessed himself the murderer of Sanderson, and declared that Hamilton was innocent.

In the Providence Journal we find the following particulars of this melancholy affair, the perusal of which is sufficient to wring tears of anguish from the heart of a sympathetic man. [Morn. Chron.]

"The annals of judicial proceedings rarely afford a report of a trial and execution, of a more extraordinary and distressing character than this, and it should be universally circulated, that judges and jurors may be guarded against condemning supposed culprits on circumstantial evidence. Young Hamilton through life supported an unblemished character, and obtained the love, esteem, and admiration of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. As is common with the young gentlemen of Kentucky, he was in the practice of spending the winter season in the more genial climate of Mississippi. On his return from a winter residence in that quarter, he accidentally fell in company with Dr. Sanderson, who, being in ill health, was journeying to the celebrated watering place at Harrodsburg Spa, with hopes of recovering his lost health, and as he was anxious to make something out of his pilgrimage, he took with him a large sum of money, with which he contemplated purchasing negroes on speculation. On his way up the country, his infirmities increased, and as he was apprehensive he might expire on the road, he committed to the charge of Hamilton his treasure, having in his short acquaintance discovered that he was worthy of unlimited confidence. In a few days however, his indisposition abated, when he pursued his journey, and finally arrived in safety at the residence of Hamilton, in Barren county, Ky. where he remained during the summer, and received from his young friend every mark of courtesy, attention and hospitality. In the month of October, Doctor Sanderson made arrangements to depart, and on taking leave of his hospitable host, young Hamilton accompanied him several miles on the road, and then took an affectionate farewell. Ten or twelve days after, as some hunters were rambling through the forest, they discovered the body of Doctor Sanderson in a state of corruption, shot in several places, and mangled in the most shocking manner. As Hamilton was last seen with him, and as it was known that he had from time to time, made use of sums of money, originally the property of Sanderson, suspicion fell on his head, and he was arrested, tried and executed.

Previous to his arrest, he was advised to leave the country to avoid danger, but as he was conscious of his innocence, he disdained to take a step which would cast a cloud of obloquy and disgrace upon his character, and resolutely remained at home. As the inhabitants of the county were divided in their opinions as to his guilt, the affair gradually died away; but Hamilton being anxious that a trial should take place, firmly believing that in such an event, his reputation would remain unspotted, he solicited at the hands of justice a trial, which to his astonishment and sorrow closed with his condemnation. The only evidence against him was circumstantial, viz. that near the body of Sanderson were found a bloody pair of pantaloons and a pistol, both bearing the name of Hamilton. Through the whole of the trial he manifested that fortitude and determined coolness, characteristic of innocence, and expired with a full conviction that the real murderer would ultimately be discovered. When on the scaffold he took a manly leave of the world, expressed not the least regret for his fate, but lamented that his misfortunes would cloud the prospects of his family, and shed an indelible disgrace on his memory. Thus through the weakness of the law, was an interesting young man and a worthy citizen hurried from the world, and doomed to expiate on the gallows, that crime, committed by the hands of a villain and assassin. It may be proper for the welfare of the world to pass sentence on the accused, on the authority of circumstantial evidence, but it would be far better, by statute, to annul the practice; and it was the opinion of lord Hale, that it were better to suffer ninety guilty persons to escape, than to punish, unjustly, one that is innocent."

## FATAL DUELING.

A duel was recently fought in the neighborhood of St. Louis, between Doctor Mitchell of that place, and Mr. Waddle. The latter was killed, and the former escaped unhurt.

A day or two afterwards, another meeting took place between Wm. V. Rector, Esq. Auditor of the state of Missouri, and Mr. Crow,—in which the latter was killed, and Mr. Rector had his arm broken.

In no part of our country, have more frequent examples been furnished, or so many fatal rencounters of this kind taken place. But lately the even to be lamented Barron fell! The plains of St. Louis are still smoking with his blood! A large and numerous circle of relatives and friends is left deeply to mourn his untimely fate. He was the pride of his friends and associates, and in him were centered the many virtues that adorn the human character. He is snatched away in the midst of his usefulness; not in a good old age, or in the ordinary course of human destiny, but he fell by the pistol of the duellist, for having dared to assert his country's rights, and resolved to avenge her wrongs. The Bar is deprived of an able advocate—the state has lost a wise counsellor, a firm and independent politician, in his untimely fate, and to this bloody catalogue two more victims are added.—[Lex. Monitor.]

Attempt at Murder.—The Norfolk Beacon states that on Friday week last, about day light, Mr. Henry Culpeper, who resides near Major Parange's on the Canal, in Camden County, N. C. and keeps a small shop, was called up by a negro man, who had slept in the house that night, to furnish some liquor; he had only proceeded a few steps towards his shop, situated near his residence, when two guns were discharged at him, in quick succession. It is believed that Mr. Culpeper would have been killed on the spot, had he not been protected by a post, into which 13 or 14 slugs entered. Mr. C. instantly fell, and upon examination, seven slugs were found to have taken effect in different parts of his body, some of which have been extracted, but it is the opinion of the attending Physician, that his wounds will prove mortal.

The negro above mentioned has made his escape, and is strongly suspected of being concerned with those who fired at Mr. C.

The New York papers state, that the alarm caused by the death of Mr. M'Gee (supposed to be a case of yellow fever,) has completely subsided.

Sickness in Indiana.—A letter dated Salem, (Ind.) July 31, states that the neighborhood of that place was very sickly: a number of deaths had occurred.

Health of Savannah.—The Savannah Board of Health reported on the 14th inst. that to case of a serious nature existed, and but very few of the common intermittent fevers, and those at the extremities of the city.

Hail Storm.—An uncommonly severe hail storm was experienced on Monday evening, 18th inst. in Dinwiddie County. The Petersburg Intelligencer states that the congealed masses, which fell with the roar of distant thunder upon the earth, crushing every species of tender growth beneath them, are represented to us as having been many of them of the size of hen's eggs, and in some instances larger.

On the 12th July, a violent tornado struck part of the Parish of St. John's in Canada, throwing down eleven barns, and doing much mischief to the farmers. In Kamouraska, a large barn 100 feet in length, and a stable, belonging to Mr. Landrie, were consumed by lightning.

George Lock, an Irishman, and Norman Crane, late of Ogdensburg, were drowned on the 30th ult. near Windmill Point, in the St. Lawrence, by the upsetting of a boat. They have each left a wife and family.

A man named Rasser was thrown from his horse near Zanesville, into a deep rut, by which his neck was dislocated, and life immediately fled. Intoxication was the cause.—[Albany D. Advertiser.]

Atraciously crime.—The body of a young child was accidentally found last evening in the bottom of a privy, attached to a house in Second, near Gay street.—A coroner's inquest was held, but the verdict was not known when our informant left the place.—[Balt. Chron. Aug. 27.]