

# KENTUCKY ADVERTISER.

COLUMBIA UNITED, THE LAND OF FREEDOM, THE CLIME OF PEACE AND THE GRAVE OF TYRANTS.

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### DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLAND OF ST. HELENA.

From Sir George Staunton's Account of Lord M. Cartney's Embassy to China.

St. Helena lies in the southern part of the Atlantic, distant many degrees of latitude and latitude from any continent or other island; and may be considered as the summit of a great mountain, whose roots are buried in the bottom of the sea. Above its surface the island rises in towering eminences, hid frequently in the clouds. The ashes of a volcano cover still some parts of it; and the whole has probably been protuded upwards by the immense power of subaqueous fire. However, no part of the island hitherto examined seems to have undergone any degree of liquefaction. No layers of minerals, and few of stone, have been discovered in its bowels. The summit of the island is wooded; but is so cold, that fruits will scarcely ripen in it. Clear rills of water issue from the higher peaks, and take their course abruptly down towards the vallies, which they contribute to fertilize. Storms are little known in the immediate vicinity of this island. Thunders are rarely heard, or lightning perceived in it, from whence it is conjectured, that little electric matter is scattered in its atmosphere.

The circumference of St. Helena measures something less than twenty-eight miles. Along the whole coast to leeward, or to the northward, ships may anchor with perfect security in all seasons of the year; but the bank shelves so abruptly afterwards, being in deep water, is insecure. The tide seldom rises above three feet and a half; but the surge of the sea is sometimes tremendous and several accidents happened in approaching or quitting the shore, until a wharf was erected lately, which renders the arrival there, and departure from it, perfectly safe.

This little spot was discovered upwards of two centuries ago by the Portuguese. It was taken from them by the English; surprised from the latter by the Dutch; and lastly, recovered by the English likewise, by surprise. The steep eminences which intervene between the vallies, that are the chief seats of population render the communication from one part of the island to another slow and difficult. Planters on the windward side of the island consider a journey to the leeward, or seat of government, as a serious undertaking. Several of them take that opportunity of paying their respects to the Governor, which is called there, sometimes, going to Court. There are at St. Helena planters who never travelled so far. At present, by order of the Governor, there are signals so placed all over the island, as to give instant notice of the approach of vessels to any part of it.

The situation of St. Helena, in the track of the ships from India and China to Europe, induced the directors of the East India Company to turn their attention towards rendering it a place of convenient and comfortable refreshment, particularly in their passage home. This has been effected at no inconsiderable expense. Before this island was inhabited, the spontaneous productions that it yielded, which could be of any use to man, are said to have been little more than celery and purslain. Cattle, fruits and vegetables have since been introduced into it from India, Africa, and Europe; and human industry has, in a little time, enabled it not only to supply sufficient provisions for its ordinary sojourners, but to afford refreshments of most kinds to the various visitors that stand in need of them after landing from a long voyage. The numbers of such visitors, including the crews as well as passengers of ships lying there at anchor, is

sometimes equal to the whole number of the settlement. The chief officers, passengers, and invalids, reside generally ashore during the stay of their respective ships. There are no Inns; but every house is open for the reception of strangers, who are considered for the time, as a part of the family.—A moderate compensation is fixed for the host, in return for all the comforts which he ministers to his guests. For those who remain chiefly on board, quantities of fresh meat and vegetables, so grateful and so wholesome after a long marine diet, are furnished at regular prices to the ships. Supplies of fresh water and fuel are also provided for the remainder of their voyage.

In the year 1794, the island had not long recovered from a great calamity, a severe drought. Of the stock alone of horned cattle, the loss was computed at 3000, through the want of food and water. The evil raged the same length of time, about three years, as it did nearest to the coast of Africa; but partly from the resources of the country, and partly from the management of government, it was much less fatal in its effects at the Island of St. Helena than at those of the Cape de Verd; & few traces appeared of it in the former, when the Embassy passed there. Verdure was restored to the vallies, and to such higher grounds as were not too steep to retain the moisture with which they had been blessed.—Lands laid out in gardens were improved with considerable advantage to the proprietors.—Those of the garrison were sufficient to provide plenty of wholesome vegetables for the sick as well as healthy soldiers. For this purpose the humane Governor, desirous to derive public advantage from private offences, allowed the delinquent to commute, for labor at the military gardens, the punishments to which they were condemned.

Several sorts of fruit trees imported into the island had been destroyed by a particular insect; but encouragement has been given for the cultivation of those which that mischievous animal is known to spare, such as the apple, for example, with all the varieties of which it is susceptible. The plantain and banana, or the two species of the *Musa*, thrive also remarkably well.—The ground is fertile, and in favorable seasons produces, in some instances, double crops within the year. Plantations, however, of cotton, indigo, or canes, were not found to answer; tho' some good coffee has been produced in it. A botanic garden has been established near the Governor's country house. An intelligent gardner has been sent to take care of it by the Company; and a vast variety of trees, plants, and flowers of different, and sometimes opposite climates, are already collected in it.

The surrounding sea abounds in excellent fish; and seventy different species, including turtle have been caught upon the coasts. Whales are seen in great numbers playing round the Island, where it is supposed the southern whale fishery might be carried on to great national advantage.

The country is chiefly cultivated by blacks.

The principal settlement of St. Helena has the peculiar advantage of uniting the shelter of a leeward situation with the coolness of windward gales. The south-east wind blows constantly down the valley, rendering a residence in it pleasant as well as healthy. The country is so fertile, and so congenial to the human feelings, that perhaps it would be difficult to find out a spot where persons, not having acquired a relish for the enjoyments of the world, or already advanced in life, are surfeited with them, could have a better chance of protracting their days in ease, health, and comfort.

The hills on each side this happy valley, like those which present themselves to the sea, are extremely steep, and require several alternate traverses to render the ascent along them practicable. From the heights the view downwards to the sea is indeed tremendous. It is related upon the spot, that an unfortunate mariner, willing, in the gaiety of his humor, to throw from thence a pebble on the deck of his ship, lying at anchor at a distance in the road, he launched it from the overhanging precipice with such unrestrained exertion, that his own body obeyed the impulse, and he flew headlong into the wide gulf below. A man on board the Lion, while at anchor in twenty fathoms or one hundred and twenty feet water, made at this time some bold but successful experiments. This man, who was a native of the Sandwich Islands, plunged frequently from the gunwale of the vessel into the sea, to catch dollars thrown into it for that purpose. He caught them before they reached the bottom; as from their two opposite flat surfaces they descended in so vibratory a direction,

that he had an opportunity of overtaking them. He would also bring up two dollars at once, one thrown towards the head, and another towards the stern of the ship.

### CREEK INDIANS.

Notwithstanding our vicinity to the Creek Indians, few of us know any thing of their manners and customs.—The following articles on this subject, are copied from a manuscript, "Sketch of the Creek Nation" drawn up by Col. Hawkins soon after being appointed Agent for Indian affairs. Having been permitted to make extracts from this valuable work, we shall from time to time present our readers with such parts of it as we may conceive most interesting.

**War.**—This is always determined on by the great warrior. When the Micco and counsellors are of opinion the town has been injured, he lifts the war hatchet against the nation that has injured them. But as soon as it is taken up, the Micco and counsellors may intercede, and by their prudent counsels stop it; and proceed to adjust the misunderstanding by negotiation.

If the great warrior persists, & goes out, he is followed by all who are for war. It is seldom a town is unanimous; the nation never is; and within the memory of the oldest man among them, it is not recollected that more than one half of the nation have been for war at the same time, or taken, as they express it, the war talk.

The great warrior when he marches gives notice where he shall encamp, and sets off sometimes with one or two only. He fires off his gun and sets off the Warhoop. This is repeated by all who follow him, and they are sometimes for one or two nights marching off.

Peace is invariably concluded by the Micco and counsellors, and peace talks are always addressed to the cabin of the Micco. In some cases when the resentment of the warriors has run high, the Micco and counsel have been embarrassed.

**Marriage.**—A man who wants a wife never applies in person. He sends his sister, his mother or some other female relation to the woman he marries. They consult the brothers and uncles on the maternal side, and sometimes the father; but this is a compliment only, as his approbation or opposition is of no avail. If the party applied to approves of the match, they answer accordingly to the woman who made the application. The bridegroom then gets together a blanket & such other articles of clothing as he is able to do, and sends them by the females to the woman of the family of the bride. If they accept them, the match is made, and the man may then go to her house as soon as he chuses. When he has built a house, made his crop and gathered it in—made his hunt, brought home the meat and put all this in the possession of his wife, the ceremony ends and they are married; or as they express it, *the woman is bound*. From the first going to the house of the woman till the ceremony ends, he is completely in possession of her.

The law has been understood differently by some hasty cuckolds, who insist that when they have helped the woman to plant her crop, the ceremony ends and the woman is bound. A man never marries in his own tribe.

**Divorce** is at the choice of either of the parties. The man may marry again as soon as he will, but the woman is bound till all the Boosketau of that year are over—excepting in the cases of marriage and parting in the season when there is no planting; or, more properly speaking, during the season the man resides at the house of the woman, and has possession of her pending the marriage ceremony; in that case, the woman is equally free to connect herself as soon as she pleases.

[There is an inconsistency in the exception mentioned above, as in such season there can be no marriage; but the chiefs in their report on this article, mentioned it as an exception, and this practice in the cases of half marriage prevails universally. As soon as a man goes to the house of his bride he is in complete possession of her till the ceremony ends, and during this period the exception will apply.]

Marriage gives no right to the husband over the property of his wife; and when they part, she keeps the children and property belonging to them.

**Adultery** is punished by the family tribe of the husband. They collect, consult and decree. If the proof is clear and they determine to punish the offenders, they divide and proceed to apprehend them. One goes to the house of the woman, the remainder to the family house of the adulterer; or, they go together as they have decreed,

They apprehend the offenders, beat them severely with sticks, and crop them. They cut off the hair of the woman, which they carry to the square in triumph. If they apprehend but one of the offenders, and the tribe or family return home and lay down the sticks, the crime is satisfied. There is one family, the Hotulutgeo, who can take up the sticks a second time. This crime is satisfied another way. If the parties offending absent themselves till the Boosketau is over, then all crimes are done away except murder; and the bare mention of them, or any occurrence which brings them into recollection is forbidden.—*Geo. Journal.*

### IIUMOUR & HONESTY.

In the County of Dauphin, among numerous candidates, who offer for the Sheriffalty, are Melchior Rham, Henry Wolf and Jacob Bear; and last comes Andrew Lion, in the Dauphin Oracle, with the following advertisement:

To the Free and Independent Electors of Dauphin County.

GENTLEMEN.—Not having the least encouragement from friends or strangers, I beg leave to come forward at this late hour and offer myself as a candidate for the office of Sheriff. Relying solely on my own merit, and particularly as I see on the list of candidates, a Bear, a Wolf, and a Ran, with several other animals too tedious to enumerate. But I consider myself a far superior animal to any of my opponents, and am pretty certain you will be of my opinion when you become acquainted with the claims I have on your gratitude. I have been a revolutionary soldier, (and an officer if you please) suffered hunger, toil and heat, fought many bloody battles, got honorable scars, but little pay, and all this, gentlemen, merely that you may vote freely on the day of election. Now I tell you plainly how I shall discharge my duty, should I be so happy as to obtain a majority of your suffrages. 1st. If writs are put into my hands against any of you, I will take you if I can, and unless you can get bail, I will deliver you over to the keeper of the jail. 2d. If judgments are found against you, and executions directed to me, I will sell your property as the law directs without favor or affection, and if there should be any surplus money, I will punctually remit it. 3d and last. If any of you should commit a crime (which God forbid) that requires capital punishment according to law, I will hang you up by the neck till you are dead, dead, dead. Now, gentlemen, I hope you will not forget me on the day of election—and sincerely wish you may keep out of my hands, should you honor me with the office of Sheriff.

Your fellow-citizen to command.  
ANDREW LION.

Middle Paxton, Aug. 23, 1815.

### RENCOUNTER WITH A WOLF.

CATSKILL, Sept. 20.

Wyndham is lately as much distinguished by the ferocity of its wolves as by the intrepidity of its inhabitants.—We hardly ceased to admire the determined bravery of Doctor Wheeler, in a rencounter with one of these animals, ere we are called upon to give an equal tribute of applause to another. On the night of the 5th inst. Mr. Rich'd Peck was awakened by an unusual barking of his dogs, and leaving his bed to learn the cause, he discovered them in close engagement with a wolf of uncommon size. Mr. Peck's son now joining him, each armed himself with an axe, and entered the yard, where they soon, by the light of their lantern, discovered the wolf little more than two paces from them. He sprang furiously at them, but was forced back by their axes.—He made a small circular retreat, and re-approached them with great fury. Both struck at him with their weapons, and Mr. P. the father, in the violence of the blow, lost his hold, and his axe was thrown from the yard. The wolf continued the engagement with a sagacity and generalship that would have done credit to a cautious and scientific warrior. He soon seized the young Mr. Peck by the face with his teeth, and bit and mangled one his cheeks in a most shocking manner. The resistless violence of the assault, and the agony it caused, made him drop his weapon—he, however, in an instant, seized him by the throat, and after a violent struggle for a few moments, in which he and his savage enemy alternately had the advantage, he at length turned the wolf under him, after receiving several wounds in the knee. The father now seized the hind legs of the animal, when, after a further struggle, in which he was badly bitten in the hand, they severed the head of their enemy from his body. The next morning Mr. Peck discovered that many of his geese were

badly bitten, as were his dogs, swine and geese. By his communication to us, detailing the above circumstance, we learn that the wolf is suspected to have had the hydrophobia. This may have been the fact; though we think the animal displayed a sagacity throughout the whole contest, which leads, irresistibly, to a different conclusion.

### WEST POINT.

To a distinguished friend who lately visited West-Point, the Editor of the Weekly Register is indebted for the following description of that celebrated Post.

How often has the traveller occasion to remark the incongruity of geographical descriptions, with the real appearance of places which come under his notice.—From the manner in which Dr. Morse has mentioned West Point, a stranger would hardly expect to behold a spot, where awful magnificence, romantic wildness, and any just sublimity of scenery, rivet the attention with mingled influence; while associated recollection revives the days long past, when a band of patriots here opposed the sole barrier to the subjugation of our fathers. It is, indeed, a spot formed by nature to be the nursery of heroes. As its name imports, it is a point of land on the Western shore of the river Hudson, sixty miles from the City of New-York and one hundred from Albany. Viewing it as you ascend the river, it appears to be nothing more than a rugged and almost inaccessible promontory; but having gained the summit of the bank you are at once struck with surprise and admiration at finding yourself on a beautiful verdant plain containing nearly eighty acres, and forming the area of an amphitheatre; the one half of which is encircled by the river, and the other by a lofty mountain upon which stand the mouldering ruins of the old fort Putnam. From the centre of this area, looking up the river, the first object which arrests the eye, is the towering and precipitous mountain called the Crow's Nest, whose rocky sides overhang the water in awful and terrific grandeur. Opposite to this in the middle of the river, as if it had been driven by some convulsive throes of its parent mountain, from its original attachment, stands a small but beautiful Island; smiling in all the wild luxuriance of uncultivated nature. Further on, at the distance of ten miles, is to be seen the village of Newburg, a name which will awaken in the revolutionary soldier the remembrance of other times. Beyond this, the sight is bounded by a distant view of the Catskill mountains, the highest in the state. Thence casting the eye on the eastern shore of the river and pursuing its downward course, bleak and barren mountains, delightful vallies teeming with the fruits of industry, and here and there a farm house peeping through the embowering wood, alternately fix the gaze of the beholder; until at length it rests upon the white chimneys of a mansion, half concealed amid the surrounding foliage, as if still ashamed that it had once been the habitation of the traitor Arnold.

In 1802 the Congress of the United States passed a law to organize and establish a Corps of Engineers & Cadets; giving authority to the President to make promotions in the same, so as that the number of the corps should at no time exceed twenty officers and cadets. It was further enacted by the same law, that the said corps, when so organized shall be stationed at West Point in the state of New-York, and shall constitute a Military Academy.

From this circumscribed beginning, has sprung one of the noblest institutions of which our country can boast. For many years after its establishment, the academy was scarcely known beyond the narrow limits of its own circle; until among other measures preparatory to the declaration of war in 1812, another law was passed, augmenting the corps of engineers; authorizing and extending the limit of cadets to two hundred and fifty. Still, however, something was wanting, to excite the attention and awaken the interests of the public to the cradle of Mars.

Fortunately, the occasion was not distant which was destined to rouse the energies of the nation, and call into active exercise the latent benefits of the institution. The names of Wood, M' Rae, Douglas, and a host of youthful warriors, who with the valor, skill and confidence of hardy veterans, sprung at once from the peaceful lap of science to the rude and stormy field of war, soon rung with re-echoed sound to the remotest corner of an admiring country. They were pupils of the mil-

\*The perpendicular height of this mountain, ascertained by actual measurement, by one of the officers at the point, is 1415 feet above the level of the waters