

## OBITUARY.

Communicated.

DIED—On Sunday the 14th ult., at 6 o'clock in the morning, Mr. JOHN P. MILLIKEN, of Manchester, aged 20 years, after a severe illness of three days, which he bore with increasing resignation until he expired. In consequence of his putrefaction, he was interred in the afternoon, when a very suitable and sententious sermon was preached by Rev. Daniel Plummer to weeping hundreds, from this very appropriate passage:—

“This day shalt thou be with me in Paradise.”

Reverend Elias Horner and Rev. John Dashiell were present, and took each an active and feeling part in the solemnities of the day. He was a very pious youth and promised ere long to be a useful member of society. He joined the Methodist church at our last Camp-Meeting, and altho' his brethren were fearful for a season that he had not duly counted the cost of his great assumption, yet they were soon happily convinced that the work was real. He separated himself from his former rude associate, & his only delight was to be with the people of God. He attended his class uniformly, and always spoke with much assurance, and seldom without so affecting his brethren, that tears in abundance could not be suppressed. He seemed to walk in the light of Eternity, and he dwelt much on the thought of death. His leisure moments were spent in reading the Bible, of which he had a very accurate knowledge. A number of very beautiful verses on different subjects was found in his trunk, one of which is here subjoined, written on the back.

### “EVENING MEDITATION.”

Alas! how giddy and how gay  
Our youthful hours we spend,  
And little do we think or say  
Of death—our final end.  
But soon, Alas! we all must die,  
And leave our friends below,  
Our souls must dwell with God on high,  
Or sink to endless wo.

Then let us cleave to God, our friend,  
And live religious here,  
That death may prove a happy end,  
To sorrow, pain, and fear.

On Saturday he was asked if he was willing to die? said he: “I have much to hold me here, but the will of the Lord be done.” He soon gained the entire victory and was not only willing but anxious to depart; and notwithstanding his extreme agony, was enabled to say: “I am happy! I am happy! O bless the Lord! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Weep not for me my parents, weep not for me my friends! I shall soon be in glory! O! when will the time come? How long before I shall expire?” These were his express words, shortly before he left the world. Thus lived and thus died our beloved and much lamented brother when his triumphant spirit, as if mounted on a sunbeam, flew from this to a better world. Well may we say of him, in the language of the celebrated Hervey: “He shot deep, rose high, and bade fair for manhood. But just as the cedar began to tower and promised ere long to be the pride of the woods beheld! the axe was laid at the root of the tree” and with him our hopes fell prostrated with the dust. An unerring tho’ mysterious Providence in the bloom of life clipped the opening flower, and hath early taken him from the evil to come. What renders this still more interesting, is, that he was paying his addresses to a Miss Elizabeth Anderson, (where he resided,) a very pious young lady, of irreproachable character, and was on the eve of getting married. The friends on both sides were well pleased at the prospect of so pious a union. Shortly before he died he said, O Betsy! I must leave you. I should have been happy to have tarried longer with you, but God has otherwise determined. Then clasped her in his dying arms and said, “weep not for me, but make the Lord your constant friend, and prepare to meet me in Heaven, and soon expire.” She followed him to his grave as chief mourner, (and such she was,) supported by the hand of his kind brother, where he sleeps in soft and peaceful slumbers till Gabriel’s awful trumpet shall wake him up to immortality and eternal life. From first to last this has been one of the most interesting scenes that we have ever been called to realize. We ardently hope that all young men in particular will heed his dying precepts and follow his pious example.

With this striking instance of triumphant mortality before us, who can but say “Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my latter end be like his.”

The bells of death are tolling still  
Again we’re call’d to mourn,  
Our brother dear has fled and gone,  
No more will he return.

He bore the Cross in early life,  
Was nurtured in the Lord,  
He pious lived and happy died,  
And shares a beat’l reward.

Nor weeping friends, nor pain, nor death,  
One gloomy fear could rouse  
Though call’d from his intended bride  
To be to Christ a spouse.

But e’er he bade the world adieu  
He clasp’d her in his arms  
And oft my Betsy meet me there  
To dwell in Jesus’ charms.

Weep not, said he my, dearest friends,  
For mine’s a happy doom;  
Only prepare to follow me,  
Down to the peaceful tomb.

Farewell, Farewell, I’m going home,  
I soon shall be at rest;  
Shall join with all the saints above,  
And be forever blest.

Then yielding up his dying breath,  
With an expiring groan,  
His happy spirit took its flight,  
Into a world unknown.

With Christ he reigns in Paradise,  
To weep and die no more,  
O! that we all may meet him there,  
On Canaan’s blissful shore.

From the Selma Courier, April 17.

**Dreadful Disaster.**—The Steam boat, Florida, commanded by Capt. John Duncan, was destroyed by fire at Ruth-erford’s Landing, about 17 miles below Cahawba, about 2 o’clock last Monday morning. She was on her downward passage from Montgomery to Mobile, and had stopped a few hours before the disastrous occurrence, to lay by till day light. She was freighted with about 700 bales of cotton, which, together with every thing else on board, fell a prey to the devouring element.

It is not known whether the fire was accidental or the work of an incendiary. It was first discovered by Capt. Duncan, who was awake by the crackling of the burning pitch. He immediately alarmed the passengers, and advised them to leave the boat in order to save their lives; and though they used all possible expedition, some of their apparel was considerably burnt. Of the baggage none were saved. Maj. Alexander Pope, Register of the Land Office at Cahawba, Benjamin Tarver, Esq. of this vicinity, Mr. Russel Stebbins of Montgomery, were among the passengers. Maj. Pope had in his trunk 10,000 dollars belonging to the United States, which he was taking to desposit in the bank at Mobile, and about 400 dollars of his own money, which the rapidity of the flames rendered it utterly impossible to rescue.

The Captain and crew made exertions to get the fire under, but without the least success. Every thing in its way was so combustible that the whole boat was in a blaze in a few moments, and they were compelled to retreat speedily to save their lives. One of the boat hands is so dreadfully burnt that his life is despaired of. A negro man belonging to Captain Shelby, being more tardy than the rest in getting out of the way, perished in the flames!

We heartily sympathize with our citizens, on whom this loss so heavily falls. We understand that neither the boat nor any thing on board was insured. The loss of Capt. Duncan, in particular, is to be deplored. The Florida was one of finest boats on our waters, and built only two years since under his immediate inspection, expressly for the Alabama river trade.

He was himself principal owner. B. Tarver, Esq. and Messrs. B. J. Tarver and J. A. Tarver of this vicinity, have lost their entire crops of cotton, in all about 200 bales. Our townsmen Mr. H. Heintz, Messrs. Wyckoff, Fickens and Co., and Gen. M. M’Laughlin, are also among the sufferers, having made shipments of cotton on this boat of about 80 bales.

The aggregate loss, including the cash, is variously estimated between 60 and 100,000 dollars.

From the Montgomery Journal, April 11.

Mr. Benjamin Hawkins, a half breed Creek Indian, has returned from the Arkansas, whither he went in company with the emigrating party. He reports, that the main body of the emigrants are much pleased with their location; they finding game in the greatest abundance, and the surrounding tribes of Indians perfectly friendly. Col. Bearly may be expected in a very few days; and we are induced to believe that the time is not far distant when the whole Creek nation will remove west of the Mississippi.

It is a fact not generally known, that the tribe of Greeks called the Alabamas actually speak the same tongue as the Osages, and that a large body of them emigrated about forty years ago, whose descendants now form a part of the Osage Indians. How the Alabamas could have separated from the parent tribe, it is now a matter of curiosity to conjecture.

While on this subject, we would notice that some disturbances have lately taken place in the nation. Capt. William Walker, of whose abilities the government had availed themselves to induce emigration, lately erected a building for the purpose of storing the public property of the United States. A party of Indians, of about thirty, professing to act by the direction of the present authorities of the nation, have burned this building, and threaten to destroy all others which shall be put there. The whole affair has been properly represented to the government.

**RED BIRD—Dead.** Died, in prison, at Prairie du Chien, on the night of the 16th February last, Wau-nig-sooth-kaw, or the Red Bird, a Winnebago Chief of note. His free wilderness spirit could not bear the confinement of a narrow prison house, nor could his body be supported by the provisions usually dealt out on such occasions, they being so unlike those which he had gathered in his native forests. He was buried the next evening, in the presence of his fellow prisoners.

This was the Chief who killed and scalped Gagnier, and who was aided in the bloody adventure by the miserable looking Wekaw, or the sun, who scalped, at the same time, an infant, and mangled it in savage style. He is the same, who, together with his companion in guilt, last voluntarily surrendered himself, last

Summer, at the Portage of the Fox and Ouisconsin rivers, and who was afterwards delivered over by Major Whistler, to whom he gave himself up, to General Atkinson, who conveyed him and others to Prairie du Chien, to await the penalties of the law. From these, however, Red Bird has escaped.

This was an extraordinary man. In form and appearance he had few equals, white or red; and in the graces of action, of face, and of spirit, he was not surpassed. His character, too, had, during his whole life, and up to the period of this bloody adventure, been marked by all that was kind, and friendly, and faithful. His hospitality to the Whites and to Indians was notorious—and his means were ample. He was rich in traps and spears, in wampum, and all that constitutes the wealth of the hunter. He was highly distinguished and beloved in all the regions of the North-west. But all this distinction was swallowed up and lost in one fell resolve—one act of guilt.

But he rose, if not to innocence and life, yet high in the general admiration and sympathy, in the voluntary surrender which he made of himself, and in the manner of the act. No individual act was ever more imposing than was that act of self-devotion. His white dress, of beautiful deer skin, fitting his elegantly proportioned frame, as if to show the perfection and beauty of its finish; his war pipe, made fast to his breast, as if to indicate the attachment of his heart to the Indian’s glory; his white flag—the emblem of peace—in one hand; and his calumet, or pipe of peace, in the other; and then the long line of the one hundred and fourteen unarmed warriors, attending the self-devoted victim; and, to crown all, his death songs! All this was highly impressive; but it was overmatched by the calm, though commanding spirit, that gave grace and firmness to his steps, and spirit and life to his eye, and majesty to every movement of the man, and grandeur to the ceremony. As he entered the portal of death, stepping firmly up, he said, by a manner forcible as language, “I give away myself—my life!”

From the (Boston) Christian Watchman  
DISTRESSING CALAMITY.

On Wednesday morning last, after the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the Methodist Church, in North Bennett-Street, in this city, and near the conclusion of the Rev. J. N. Maffit’s address, the floor timbers gave way, and about one third of the whole extent of the flooring was precipitated into the cellar, a depth of about 12 feet. The fall was so awfully sudden that it is not known that any single person who stood on the part which fell, was so happy as to leap from it, or to save himself from the common disaster. About 200 persons were thus precipitated, in a moment, from their standing, into a confused mass of broken timbers, bricks, stone, and lime. The crash of the huge beams, which were broken like slender reeds, the exclamations of horror, affright, and pain, which arose, were heart-rending beyond description. The field of Waterloo could not have exhibited, in so small a compass, such a scene of intense and aggravated suffering. Aged men and women, children, and even infants, with some of all classes in society, were overwhelmed in the ruin.

As much order and decorum prevailed as could reasonably be expected in such circumstances, and the most resolute spectators, and many who had fallen and were not greatly injured, immediately began to remove the broken timbers, and relieve the sufferers. Many were removed, apparently lifeless, with broken limbs; but no one was taken up dead. It is impossible, at the present moment, to give an accurate list of those who were injured. Probably 50 or 60 received some hurt, and there are 15 or 20 cases of extreme danger and suffering.

### RULES AND ORDERS.

The following is the report of the select committee on the rules and orders, made a few days ago by Mr. Randolph, which was ordered to be printed on Wednesday last by a vote of the house. Report of the committee to whom were referred “the standing rules and orders of the house.”

Your committee propose the following alterations therein:

1. **Resolved**, That so much of the sixth rule be abolished as makes it the duty of the speaker to “examine and correct the Journal before it is read,” and that the Journal as heretofore, be made up by the clerk, (who is a sworn officer) subject to the correction of the house.

2. **Resolved**, That the sixth rule be further amended by inserting, in the third and last sentence, after the words “he shall” the following: in case of inability.

3. **Resolved**, That, in all elections by the house (other than of committees) the members shall vote *viva voce*, each member, on his name being called, designating the person for whom he votes to fill the office under consideration; and in all cases, except wherein it shall be otherwise provided by law, a majority shall be necessary to a choice. Strike out (of course) the 8th rule.

4. **Resolved**, That so much of the 17th rule be abolished as requires that “not more than one hour in each day shall be devoted to the subject of reports from committees and resolutions,” and in lieu thereof insert, that, whenever the subject of reports from committees and resolutions shall be under consideration, a motion to proceed to the orders of the day shall have priority, and if carried in the affirmative, the subject under consideration shall for that day, be set aside. This implies of course, the abrogation of the 18th rule.

5. **Resolved**, That the 19th rule, setting apart two days in the week for private business be abolished.

6. **Resolved**, That the committee on the public expenditures be abolished from and after the present session of congress.

7. **Resolved**, That no private petition, memorial, remonstrance, nor any other private document, shall be printed by order of the house until the same shall be referred to and reported upon, by a committee.

The committee have not seen cause to recommend the propriety of establishing a standing committee to be called the committee on retrenchment, who shall be charged with the investigation of the manner of discharging the public business in the different public offices; neither do they deem it expedient to devise any further measures to facilitate the public business, and secure its economical performance; because, that such committee should be a select one, and only raised on allegation of neglect or mismanagement in any specified public office or department. Past experience induces your committee to believe that such a committee, armed with general inquisitorial powers over the personal conduct of heads and clerks of departments, would in the first instance excite odium, and soon fall into disuse and contempt.

### THE PUBLIC LANDS.

In the house of representatives on the 16th April (ult.) Mr. McHatton offered the following resolution—

Resolved, That the committee on the public lands be instructed to enquire into the expediency of reducing the price of the public lands from one dollar and twenty-five cents, to fifty cents per acre, to take effect on or before the first day of January, 1829.

And, in the course of his remarks, read the following statement— The public lands, excluding Louisiana and Florida, were purchased at less than 5 cents per acre. Including Louisiana and Florida, the average was about 12 1/2 cents per acre.

The Indiana lands alone brought 3 1/10 per acre. The first cost of all lands purchased, taking the whole together, is less than 7 cents per acre.

### The expenditures on account of public lands are

For the purchase of Louisiana,	\$15,000,000
Paid the state of Georgia and Yazoo Script,	6,200,000
Paid on account of Indiana cessions, to the 1st January, 1826,	3,392,494
Paid for surveying 133,938-224 acres of public land,	2,184,368
Expenses incidental to the sale of 19,239,412 acres of public land,	1,154,951
	27,914,813
Due on account of Florida loan,	5,000,000
	\$32,914,813

All sales of the Ohio company, to John Cleve Symmes and associates; also sales at New York and Pittsburgh prior to the opening of the land office	40,351,880 19
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The overplus of money accruing from the sales of public lands more than they originally cost 7,440,067 19

Paid the soldiers as bounty, in public lands, for their services during the late war, what is estimated as being equivalent to

There is about 750,000-000 acres of public land

The national debt \$68,000,000.

Then reduce the price to 50 cents per acre, 136,000,000 would pay the national debt.

We would have still on hand and for sale by the general government, 614,000,000 of acres.

The resolution was laid upon the table, after some remarks from Mr. Vinton.

At a Female Seminary in Connecticut, diplomas, premiums and titles have recently been conferred upon several young ladies for excellence in literary attainments. We presume the title of MRS. would have been more acceptable, and if the preceptor of that institution would engage to confer this title he would not be wanting for scholars.

The Graduation Bill, was, on Tues-

day, rejected in the Senate. Messrs. Benton, Berrien, Bouligny, Cobb, Eaton, Ellis, Harrison, Hendricks, Johnson of Kentucky, Johnson of Louisiana, King, McKinley, Noble, Ridgely, Rowan, Ruggles, Tazewell, Thomas, White, Williams, voted for its passage; and Messrs. Barnard, Barton, Bateman, Bell, Branch, Chandler, Chase, Dickerson, Foot, Hayne, Knight, M’Lane, Macon, Marks, Parries, Robbins, Seymour, Silsbee, Smith, of Md. Smith of S. C. Tyler, Van Buren, Webster, Willey, Woodbury, voted against it.

That an unwillingness to reduce the price of land, and to impede emigration to the West, had its influence on some of those who voted against the passage of this bill, we have no doubt. Such is the doctrine openly avowed by Mr. Rush in his last *Message* to Congress. But that there were others who voted against the bill, because they considered the land in the new States as a common fund, which it was their duty to dispose of for the highest price, is also believed. No question has been before Congress of more vital importance to the new States. The abuse of power on the part of the National Legislature, has been heretofore submitted to without investigation. The *constitutional* rights of the new States have never until of late, been demanded. We are gratified that the discussion of the Graduation Bill has led the able Representatives of the Western States to examine into the pretext under which they have been made to pay tribute, to the last shilling in their purses.

—*Telegraph.*

WASHINGTON, May 1.

The Tariff Bill was yesterday reported by the Committee of the Senate, with various amendments; among others, one reducing the duty on molasses to 7 1/2 cents per gallon, and proposing a progressive increase of the duty on low priced woollens. This is a concession to the wants and wishes of the Eastern States, requiring a bill which may be of some use to the country, which if carried through, may save the bill in the Senate. But we have very strong doubts whether propositions which have been so uniformly opposed, and decidedly rejected, in the shape of amendments, in the House, will meet with a better fate there when they shall come back by the sanction of the Senate.

*Nat. Journal.*

The joint committee appointed on the subject of arranging the business to be acted on, and fixing a day of adjournment, made a report, in part, to both Houses, yesterday. The report fixes the day of adjournment for the 26th instant. A proposition was made in the House, by Mr. Martin, to amend, by striking out the 26th, and inserting the 19th, and this question was pending when the discussion was arrested by the expiration of the hour allotted to motions and resolutions. The subject will be taken up in both houses to-day, and the day will probably be fixed for the 26th.—*Ib.*