

OLD NEWS.

By Alice Beale Ross, Covington, Ky.

Not long ago the Librarian of Congress made an interesting purchase.

The ancestral home of the Nelsons here, an ancient house of red brick, built by an immigrant forebear from Virginia, has stood in gloomy and haunted isolation, walled high in the midst of wind-swept fields, far off the road, and unattended save by an aged man who has recently died. Among the accumulations in the garret of this old mansion was the hoard of newspapers which Mrs. Spears, in the vigilant pursuit of her inquiry for all matter appertaining to the early history of Covington, bought for the sum of five dollars.

The papers are local publications and date from 1836 to 1853, as follows:

1. *The York Kentuckian*, editor Jefferson Phelps, printed and published weekly by E. Rolifer Bartleson, Covington, Kentucky (fifteen copies), September, 1836, January, February, March and April, 1837.

2. *The Kentucky and Ohio Journal*, published weekly in Cincinnati, Benson & Phelps, editors (28 copies), August-December, 1837, January-July, 1838.

3. *The Covington Free Press*, published weekly by Bartleson (14 copies), December, 1838, January, February, March, 1839.

4. *The Kentucky Watchman and Advertiser*, published by Bartleson, in Covington twice a week (2 copies), October, 1840.

5. *The Western Colonizationist*, published weekly in Covington by E. R. Bartleson (12 copies), March-August, 1838.

6. *The Western Globe*, published weekly in Covington by Geo. Trotter (20 numbers), August-December, 1839, January-April, 1840.

7. *Yankee Doodle*, a Democratic anti-Harrison weekly, published on South street, between Third and Fourth, by George Trotter (13 copies), May-August, 1840. (The whole issue.)

8. *The Kenton Eagle*, published weekly on Garrard street, between Third and Fourth, by Jacob Mumfison (1 copy), April, 1842.

9. *The Licking Valley Register*, published weekly in Covington, by Richard C. Longdon (2 copies), May, 1842, April, 1843.

10. *The Western Visitor* (six), published weekly by William Campbell & Co., Milton Woodyard, printer. (3 copies of vol. VIII) March, May, September and October, 1844. It was sad to learn that these sheets lived to the eighth volume, as this must have been a prosperous one.

11. *The Kentucky Intelligencer*, published in Covington by Moore & Goodhue, editors, J. A. Marchand, printer, Two Nos., February and September, 1845.

12. *The Covington Union*, John Field, editor (2 Nos.), February and September, 1846.

12. *The Democratic Press*, published weekly by Arthur Childfield and Son (2 Nos.), October, 1850, and August, 1851.

14. *The Newport and Covington Daily News*, published in Newport, daily, Sundays excepted, in Southgate street, between Cabot and Columbia, near the Engine Shop, by Wm. S. Bailly (our copy), October 29, 1850. This is illustrated by a rude wood cut, depicting a long wooden covered bridge which spans the linking river and connects the Fort on the point, its flag flying, with the wooded hills of Covington, where are a single house and a paling fence.

The exactitudes of these dead journals has been a curious experience; through them we may enter into the life of our progenitors, not only by the usual front door, but also by the back. Through the medium of English still well under the stately influence of Dr. Johnson, one receives revelations intimate and naive as those of Mr. Prynne. And one realizes with Professor Shaler that these living men, from the social point of view, "were essentially unlike anything our race breeds in this day. Their manners and modes of thought were those of the Stuart times, when men felt the life of their neighbors and dwelt in their hearts."

The function of these old papers seems to have been two-fold. They must provide the news, and also a certain amount of literary refreshment; in the latter respect, holding the place now occupied by our innumerable magazines of the cheaper sort.

The front page of the principal ones

was given over to "Elegant Extracts," professed by "Poetry."

The verses were sometimes those of the old English poets, usually printed with no signature of authorship what ever. Sometimes they were patriotic flights of high-flown imagery written in smooth enough numbers. Here is a stanza of a somewhat Bacchic invocation from "The Young Hickory, A New Jersey Flag Staff," *To the Defenders of New Orleans*.

"Then, oh, ye daring spirits,
To danger's tumult haste!
The Devil is dead, and wreathed the Cross
To grace the Victor's haire!"

Sometimes they were political stunts, or campaign songs, as this:

"March for Pull and Dallas, boys,
The breach is growing wider
Between the rabble and the crown,
The round-shells and the red rider!
The way we'll strike them is the fall
'Twill be in all surprising;
For a dose of Pull will prove no joke
To Clay and Polkington."

Yankee Doodle, boys it up
Dressed it comes so handy,
To find the enemy with Ochs' rymen,
Yankee Doodle Doodle!"

Be it noted that these "songs" were of an entirely different variety from ours. Occasionally examined copies of the town would sixty address a fair one as does one "Ovid" a Miss Sibella . . . of Covington, Ky., whom he calls "Maid of the bright and lively eye!" (She of that lively optic has been identified as Miss Sibella Winston, afterwards the wife of Governor John W. Stevenson.) The poemers revel in the most depressing situations. There was Mrs. Ann Stephens, who after dozens of stanzas finally finishes "The Dying Husband" thus:

The setting sun with golden light
Was flooding all the room and bed,
Refracting with his golden rays,
The floating will, the wretched dead."

Even "A Very Young Lady," our M. A., of Covington, whose verses the great editor labels original, worthy after this fashion:

"I love to walk in the graveyard here,
And read my marble tomb,
The names of those I long have known,
Who sleep in death's dark gloom.

"I think me of the coming day,
When I shall sleep with them—
When this frail tenement of clay,
No more shall rest of them."

Here is a bit from Miss Elbert, who evidently was of the realistic school:

"Go away too late! Night's had tried
Her constant too long,
Her love had yielded to her pride,
And the deep veins of wine,
And when who word and woe he tried
Affecting still to prove
The nerve but heart with woman's pride
And against his noble love."

There is also a *School in Ministry*, by "Julia," and several consisting of twenty slightly rhymed couplets!

Think with what relief the gentle reader must have welcomed the appearance in an issue of January, 1858, of "The Night Before Christmas," by Clement C. Moore.

The poetry department was followed by literature of more or less worth according to the taste of the editor (Mr. Phelps' being the best). There were long extracts from Carlyle's *French Revolution*, from De LaMartine's *Pilgrimage to the Holy Land*, from Lathrop's *French in Mexico*, from the *History of Lafayette*, from Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. There were Tales, such as "Our Carrol, the Young Buck-

eye," "Fourteen Frick, A Temperance Tale," by T. S. Arthur; occasionally one by homocentist, underscored original, and running along like this: "The morning was beautiful which was to behold Emilia Stanhope united to Eugene Linmore, and attired in a plain white robe she waited his arrival with that tranquil happiness, made up of hopes and fears, which intense affection always creates."

There were sketches of great worth such as Jo Hamilton Devies.

There were Revolutionary reminiscences—written by those *quasi poets / versants* in "The Capture of Gen. Prescott," the big dispatch of the narrative, Mr. Wm. Hartig, does valiant battle with the many style. Says he: "The General was pleased to express his appreciation in the strongest terms. What he said was: 'Sir, you have made a damned bold push tonight.'"

There are short essays and reflections of a philosophic cast: "What a queer genius of the class mammalia is an infant," one begins. "He has no soul himself and is willing to admit nothing but geniuses to others."

There are anecdotes that we remember hearing our grandfathers tell. The one about Randolph's retreat to Clay, who had accused him in the Senate of being an aristocrat: "that at least he could not aspire to the heights frequented by the great emperor, who, as every one knows, spends all his nights in the company of Kings, Queens and Knaves!" And the down-east parson's admonition to the ladies present in his congregation: "Do not proud that our blessed Lord paid your sex the distinguished honor of appearing first to a

females after the resurrection morn, for it was done that the tidings might spread the morn." And the speech of the western stump-orator: "If I am elected to this office, I will represent my constituents as the sea represents the earth; as the night contends the day; I will correct human society, clean all its parts and sew it together again. I will correct all abuses, purge out all corruption, go through the members of our party like a rat through a new cheese. My chief recommendations are: At a public dinner given at ——— I ate more than six hundred men at the table; at the late election I got in three votes for the party; I've just brought a new bill of election that will do its worst to Congress, and I've got the harshestest votes in old Kentucky!" Does not the reading of these vituperations evoke visions of pitch and pestilence twisking over their riddles?

Then there are "filers," good darkey-tarvin or amusing material, such as: "There are at this moment 10,000 persons confined in the general prisons of this country. Of these over 3,000 are females and the balance poets, loafers and gentlemen." Or scientific items, as the one about the lady named London, who is the real of experimentation appropriated the eggs of her hen named Fanny, and, having made a human incubator of herself, proved to that excellent level the wisdom of specialisation in laying instead of in brooding.

Regarding the papers as newspapers from a modern and comparative point of view, one is struck first by the dearth of foreign items. There is an occasional continental correspondent who criti-

cises a performance of Edwin Forrest as Lear, or who says that on all the Hon. Mrs. Norton and her husband have reconciled their differences and taken a town house together for the coming season, or who tells that a German living in Amsterdam has invented a machine which will sew; that he has been rewarded by the King but that the tailor took his mind. But most of the news from abroad was fetched by post-chaises which took over a month to make the voyage and which put into port bearing tidings of storms and hurricanes and earthquakes, as well as reports of political news, now meaningless, made by European statesmen now forgotten.

As for the news of our own country, even its manner appears less chaotic than the manner of its presentation. We may find three pages of a four-page journal devoted to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, or to a verbatim report of the business of the House in Washington; it was something to be a Congressman in those days! There are page-long lists of the counterfeited notes in circulation. There were agitated accounts of the war in Texas; of Indian wars on the western frontier and of outrages in Florida and Alabama, where the braves of the southern tribes, cut-throat for transmigration to their new Indian territories, whited away the yellow of waiting for escort by massacring all the whites within reach. There is mention of bread riots in New York, of highway robbery in Boston, of fraud committed by a Philadelphia bank upon the Bank of Kentucky. There was much agitation concerning the financial depression of 1837 which brought

about many bank failures, and the Miami farmers are congratulated on their holdings in the only bank that *fluctuations cannot affect*." This, in view of the floods of 1912, affords a singular instance of the fallibility of prophecy. There is a story of how Mr. Wade, on his farm in Findley, Ohio, had struck a "spring of boiling water that gushed forth with a roar, burned like alcohol and continues to boil." (And no Standard Oil Company in existence as yet!) And there were details of the awful ravages of cholera among the negroes of the Louisiana plantations.

There sounds a very modern note in the reports of the strike of the New England Mill girls; of the Duchesses and Ladies who declined to be excluded from certain exciting debates in the English House and conspicuously and triumphantly took their seats in force despite male efforts to the contrary; of a "Fatal R. R. Accident," (until we read that it happened to "a locomotive and a train of burden-cars running at the frightful speed of ten or twelve miles per hour.") (1837.) And here is a bit that we are still reading every morning: "All news of rumors about battles and skirmishes in Mexico is false: as indeed is most of all that we hear from there."

What can the reader of a paper of to-day think of an editor who calmly states: "Owing to a dearth of news, we are printing on our front page one of Mr. Webster's speeches made in England," (many a long day since); and in the lower corner of an inner page records a murder, two suicides and a kidnapping, with but a brief statement of facts

and an entire suppression of detail. To be sure, we have the Hon. Cassius Clay's own account of the Foxtown Rencontre, when he knifed Judge Turner; and several lengthy descriptions of once celebrated duels. But if there were any scandal connected with those "affairs of honour," it was ignored or alluded to in veiled terms, "as our readers are no doubt familiar with the circumstances leading up to his trouble, so we will not repeat them."

When the young daughter of "one of the most prominent citizens of the Bowery in N. Y." attempted to poison herself on her wedding morning and was found unconscious by a gardener "in a cornfield near Third avenue and Kipp's Bay," in that city, the only name mentioned is that of the gardener. Even in the history of the Cognac Club, at Yale, which the scandalized editor prints to point a temperance moral, only the initials of the naughty young men are used. With the same restrained allusiveness is the suicide of "a youth of distinguished Philadelphia family" reported. "Few knew the motives that induced that young stranger to rush wildly into the presence of his God. It was the Bowl!" Should a paper so far forget itself as to print occasional unpleasant gossip, its contemporaries referred to it with the approval of all, as "a sink-pot of filth." If these conditions were a result of the active practice of the code duello, would we might revive its vogue again!

This reticence, however, is not preserved in regard to political antagonists. Then indeed are the floodgates of invective opened, and personal insults and accusations of the lowest crimes are com-

newspapers. Poor old General Harrison is libelled as a very monster of iniquity, while in local differences of opinion the gentlemen get so wrought up as to forget the argum and many-syllabled diction of the usual written English, and burst forth, as did Col. J. W. Leathers, of Covington, who reviled his opponent as "a little Impudent of Sophistry—a little forked upstart of a whinolist—a glass-eyed little drunk—a penny librettist of a Whig editor," and with considerable originality of grammar and spelling, he came up with the remark: "If there is any citizen of Covington, Ky., that is opposed to owning slaves or to his neighbors owning slaves, he ought to leave the commonwealth or keep his mouth shut up on that subject."

There is constant pre-occupation with slavery. And feeling grows bitterer and more odious during the fifteen years covered by these papers. Slaves but more or less fanciful schemes for ridding the whole country of the curse were under constant discussion. The *Colonizationist* was published to forward the Liberian or other plans involving deportation of the negroes. It printed the *Constitution of Liberia* and many letters from negro colonists settled therein. At first the interested cooperation of the planters is remarked; but year by year the feeling against the dangerous meddling of the Abolitionist party grows more intense.

In 1836 we have a shake-up over this item: "The Abolition convention, which met at Harribsburg a few weeks since, got up a pledge among its members to raise \$10,000 for the purpose of retaining the services of Mr. Darleigh

as lecturer in this state, but could only raise \$1,500." In 1837 there is no laughing over a long account of "an Abolition petition against the Domestic Slave Trade presented in Congress by Mr. Adams and signed by 3021 persons, all females;" nor later, when the same gentleman presented one signed by "several New Hampshire ladies and by twenty-seven ladies of Fredericksburg, Va." "Mr. Patton goes to remark that he had examined the petition and found it to be genuine, but that the signatures were those of free mulattoes and of the most infamous character." It was then moved that Mr. Adams be expelled for attempting to insult the Senate.

In 1839, following an account of the career of Phillis Wheatley, a negro girl who had been sold in the slave market in Boston, Mass., we have this quotation from a northern paper, *The Emancipator*:

"ANTI-SLAVERY WINDOW BLINDS.

"It is encouraging to see the various arts of embellishment even in this slavery-ridden land, beginning to employ their influence in favor of liberty. An ingenious painter of Transparent Window Blinds has brought to this office an elegant pair of Blinds, the designs of which are illustrative of the scenes of slavery. The main picture represents the pursuit and murder of a fugitive from slavery;† the bushes with Ospreys and broad hats, the bloodiness on the west, the poor trembling Man hiding behind a rock, wails one group; in another the planters are wiping their artillery, the hounds are seizing unaided with guns, while in the stream appear the victims reddening the waters with his

blood, all drawn to the life according to descriptions in the southern papers.

"Underneath is the American Flag containing the Declaration of Independence, flanked by two kneeling slaves, the whole being surrounded with an elegant border of sugar cane, rice and cotton plants; a handsome and tasteful article. We wish every parlor in New York had such a remembrance of the slave. Orders taken at this office."

One begins to understand why South Carolina was incorporated into firing on Ft. Sumter. And then we read such notices as these: "Gabriel Tandy's farm for sale in Burlington. Residence, property, kitchen and house furnishings; also a valuable young negro girl." "\$100 reward for negro man Jess" (follows a revealing description of him), "who ran away from Cass county, Georgia." "For Sale, a valuable negro woman, 33 years old, who washes, irons and cooks well. She will be sold to go out of the neighborhood, but not out of the state." "For Sale, John Cox's farm, with three mules, 1 stallion, 4 cows and calves, 2 negro boys, 1 woman and child, etc." We read these, and not twentieth century folk songs.

Not less horrifying, however, seem to us these advertisements for indentured white servants or runaway apprentices. "One cent reward—Run away from enslaver on Monday last an indentured apprentice by name John Nash. All persons are forbid to harbor him under penalty of the law. The above reward for his return of said boy to me, but no Maska." "Runaway I indentured apprentice to the tobacco business by name of Jim, and Jilson Hambrick, 17 and

18 years old." "One cent reward for Cecilia, aged 14 years. Persons are warned not to treat or employ her." "Run away, or was stolen from me, an indentured boy named Edward Long, about 10 years old, blue eyes and light hair. All persons are warned against aiding or harboring him."

Indeed, it is by means of the advertisements of their day in lists of the *Personal and Society Notes* of some that we can get close to the lives of our predecessors.

They are real works of a sort are these advertisements: heart to heart talks, so fluent, so descriptive and evocative, so instructive, that we are constrained to admit that the improvement we have made in spelling by no means compensates for our decline in this branch of literature.

Through them we can gather the topography of Covington when it was twenty-one or so.

Its northern boundary, the Ohio, was crossed only by Kennedy's Ferry, at the foot of Garrard, towards Shelby street. On the east the noble Licking had not yet loked up so much of the green banks on our side, and in 1831 the wooden covered bridge, near the point, spanned it. The south end of the town was at Twelfth street, and most of the land thereabouts was the property of the Western Baptist Educational Society, which in 1828 announced an extensive sale of town lots immediately in the rear of Covington, on Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth streets and the old Lexington road, nearly all of them being elevated, and so situated as to command a fine view

of the city of Cincinnati, and within five or ten minutes' walk of the river. In this year also Peter Jonte (sound- ing a note of prophecy), announced that "his new establishment, the Covington Brewery, is in operation, producing a constant supply of *Strong Beer*, and is situate at the foot of Scott street, immediately south of Covington." The western frontiers are indicated by bids taken in 1836 by Israel Ludlow, Jas. Robinson and Elmore Scott for the building of a bridge across Pleasant Run, by the "sale of lots on Russell, between Fifth and Sixth, running back 150 feet to Crigh's Old Road;" by the "Macadamizing in 1837 of the Banklick Road," by the "sale in 1840 of bargain lots, adjoining the Covington Burying Ground fronting on Crigh street or road, with a fine view of Cincinnati and the Ohio river, laying on a line between Upper and Lower Covington."

Although toward the late forties, the trend of business on Madison street turned south toward the "end of the Lexington Turnpike Road," (there being a new Market House at Seventh street in 1850, over which Mr. Rockwell let a hall for public entertainments, and near which various merchants settled themselves)—life in the main centered in the public square and the Market Space down town. This was not then, as now, a region of moribund industry, deserted shanties and cheerless drinking shops, with a faint dim hovering of eminent ghosts, visible only to the eye of the initiate. There in by-gone days, old Covington, a busy aristocratic little river town, hummed and buzzed. Our journals give us glimpses of that pleasant gayety

and bustle. Here were the Council House, the post office, kept in Mr. Buckner's store, the merchants, who advertised wares, to us so strange. What in the world did our forefathers do with such quantities of

Prime Manila Indigo.
Chinese Vermillion.
Cloves in barrels.
Five crackers in boxes.
Pure Otto of Roses.
Spanish floating indigo in cocoons.
Turkey opium.
English pen wafers in bundles.
Ginseng.
Epsom salts in barrels.
Beeswax, bitumens, and sulphur.
Ivory brushes and pearl powder in gilt papers.

Kentucky jeans.
Columbo Root.
Tamarife wine.
Kewartha salt.
Pilot bread.
Angelica.
Tonqua bean.
Merino wool.
Saffron.
Tamarinds.
Peruvian bark.
Moccasin, Happee & Scotch snuff.
Otter, beaver and muskrat furs.
Aniseed, peppermint and perfect love cordials?

Here on the old square was "the Finest Dry Goods Store West of the Mountains"—J. B. Casey's—sold in 1836 to Lewis and Mackoy. Opposite, W. A. Bowling, leathers, imported silks and woollens from New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. Withers, Lamme & Daugherty with "the handsomest stock of Staple and Fancy Goods," offer to "barter" for jeans, linsey, tow-linen, feathers and rags. Clarkson & Kendrick sell Merinos, cassimeres, calicoes, silks and bombazines, and Elliott and Rock- ingfold, British, French & American Dry Goods; Buckner & Meldrum, A. & T. Greer (who had a Drug Store, too).

Gen. Marshall, the Goggles (who also manufactured tobacco), all kept stocks as varied as any department store can offer now. Hodgson & Cannon had a fashionable Boot and Shoe Store, "comprising all the various sizes, and qualities from the infant up to the largest farmer and mechanic."

Miller advised gentlemen that "Tally" (Sept. 17, 1845) was the time to buy new Hats of the latest fashion, Hats of Beaver, Nutria, Castoreo and Mole-skin." Davidson crad his "Umbrellas and Swords-cases." Mrs. Johnson kept Millinery on Greenup street opposite the Public Square—"Lace-trims, Turbans and Straw Bonnets." Wm. Drake, a fashionable Hair-Dresser was "prepared to attend to the hair and beards of all who would favor him with their custom," and later John Singer, a free negro, advertised his barbership on Scott street, Y. Chevalier, "lately from New York," at his shop on Greenup street, the second door above Second, "was prepared to furnish clothing for gentlemen in the latest mode." And Miss Amelia Hawley "residing on Fourth street, the second door from Scott street," announced herself "a mantua-maker."

Here were the jewelers, Macdonald, Evans, Guillermo A. Martel, who were also Silversmiths and Watchmakers, and who sold "Minutemen-cases and spoons, gold and silver pen-cases, finger and ear-rings, watch-guard chains, spectacles and other jewellery of every description." On Market Space, near Cooper's Wholesale Grocery and Liquor Store, Thomas Blackburn kept a Bakery where he sold "Sponge, Fruit, Pound and Tea Cake," and Bread, which he

lyrically remarked, "would give to the tooth an agreeable action, and afford to the stomach a full satisfaction." He would also furnish fork parties, hats and wedding; and, "if desired, set the table for such occasions." Mr. Jackson Sparrows, likewise, having forsaken a chandlery for that express purpose, had remained nearby his barbership to the old stand. In the square, John Laird kept "dressing and smoking places, toilet soaps, pencils, pocket-books and violins." Chas. Lutz sold "Venetian Blinds." Reynolds had "a large supply of glass lamps which in Families, both for chandeliers and convolutions, should supersede tapers." The Chair Store, "equal to any in Cincinnati," offered, in Market Space "large mahogany rockers, small do., German chairs, various Windows, fancy Ottomans and stools of the latest fashion." At the China Store, ladies bought their "Flowing Blue and Mulberry—Balcon-Figures tea sets, Solar and Astral Lamps, Fine Caners, Preserve Dishes and Molasses-Cans with Britannia ware tops." Sevens Jones, a cabinet maker, admonished his townsmen that "the time had come when Covington people, if they desire to build their city, should stop at home and save their Ferriage." When we read that by so doing they could buy "beautiful high-post beds for \$4.00, mahogany-front bureaus for \$5.00 and mahogany chairs at \$4.00 the dozen," we hope they did abide in Covington and save their dues!

The Arts are not neglected. At the corner of Greenup and Market Space, Mr. John W. Venable painted portraits and miniatures; and later there was

"Fingertyping Mindertricks," our Hall and our own House; nearby, Mr. Cook had cycled his school for the "teaching of instrumental music," and offered to "furnish music for entertainers and parties in town or country." Neither were the Domestic Utilities overlooked. Witness an excited statement by our vendor that Hot Breakfast Cakes could be made Without Yeast, by his preparation of soda and cream-tartar. And see the listing of a new invention—Gould's Patent Cooking Stove, "Queen of the West" (with a wonderful excellent recommending a doghouse), signed by the heads of many leading families (not by their wives, observe), such as John Stillits, Capt. R. Wallace, Capt. Halderman, J. A. James, H. P. Harrison, Salmon F. Cross, S. H. L. Hornumiller, S. Kennedy and J. Lewis.

Throughout did dwell the Dentists, and the Apothecaries, they who played so subtly upon our predecessors' awe and dread of their mysterious insides. Patent medicines were regarded with respect, if one may judge by the number of notices printed by honorable men of position, and many of the druggists who recommended them were M. D.'s. Also, Bennett and Prebost called attention to their Anti-Bilious Pills, advising astutely, "for children, pulverize a pill or two." Al. & J. Groer had "the only genuine Grandmother's Vegetable Pills, be of the Black Mortar, with his miserable counterfeits, to the contrary notwithstanding." "Use of the Black Mortar," Mr. Chastain Scott, recommended a Digestive Elixir, "many families in this city," he assured us, "have become so attached to it, that they use it for their only Pan-

dy Medicines." He also instances a gentleman who found that Baazler Oil, Juddler's Liniment, Caspian Ointment and White Point ointment did him nothing; but that two applications of Black Opodeldoe were potent against "obstinate tertianism." Fleet and Simple had Cholera Drops for the "prevention and cure of Asiatic Cholera, and all other diseases incident to a dense population." "Pseudo Beauty" they exclaim "there is no cure for a Bald Head" and recommend with equal fervor, Post Hair Oil and Perfect Itch Ointment. Dr. R. A. Hunt kept constantly on hand "the truly popular and much admired medicine, Coffin's Chinese Liniment." Witherson and Bird had "Dr. Scudder's Anodyne Oil, a remedy for total or partial deafness in all its stages;" and Gray's Invaluable Ointment, endorsed by Chief Justice Marshall and Gov. Irwell of N. C. Dr. Evans generously advised mothers "to allay itching spasms with his soothing syrup if they wish to alleviate the dissolution of the infant." Dr. Rogers advised the Botanic System of Medicine; "Try Ieris," said he, "Roots of the Forest, which Dolly designed for healing your maladies;" and Dr. Reynolds with kindly words that he has Blackberry-Syrup; "it may spoil practice, but it will save lives," and Soda Water; "Fails to the Invalide, and to the health!"

Price,

same as the temperate of safe indulgence

By land or sea, or travel or at home
 Just wherever draughts than ever was sent
 to *Paris*!"

Our Dr. Walters announces that "he

has returned to Covington after fourteen years' absence, and much professional experience in the high limestone counties of Kentucky, in the humid and unhealthy Wabash Valley, and in the boundless prairies," and recommends himself highly, together with his wife, "who will attend cases of Females and Children (when called on); their residence being opposite Ashbrook's Tavern." Dr. Holt says he devotes himself exclusively to Medicine, Surgery and Midwifery, but that all the Diseases of the Eye he will particularly attend to." Dr. Felix Webb, from Crittenden, Dr. R. A. Hunt, Dr. Pretlow and Dr. T. N. Wise have cards in the papers; and during one of the terrible cholera years (1849), an editor refers feelingly to the skill and devotion of Dr. Major, and defends him from baseless slander, deploring after all Dr. Major's heroic efforts and his self-sacrifice he should have been accused of cowardice when he left the city, which he had done immediately upon a hasty summons to the death-bed of his mother.

The lawyers' shingles hung thick in the neighborhood of the public square; and there were giants in those days. Among them, Jefferson Phelps, John Tibbatts and Lars Anderson, on Third street, two doors east of the post office. H. J. Groesbeck on the south side of Market Place, a few doors east of Scott, Benton and Clemens; Moorehead & Stevenson, Phelps & Fisk, S. H. Cameron, Humphrey Marshall, Mortimer Benton, George Goodhue, Tibbatts & Helm, Phelps & Foley, Moor & Wall, Fred & R. Wise and Maurice J. Dudley.

At that time none could reproach Cov-

ington with a lack of inns, for then there was no dearth of them. On the south side of the Public Square, at the corner of Second and Greenup, was the Covington Hotel; it was the general stage office. And it advertises with a dashing picture of the stage coach with its four prancing horses, as it starts off on one of its daily trips, from Cincinnati to Lexington and back, via Georgetown, Williamstown, Crittenden and Florence. The Covington Hotel was under the care of Wm. P. Fisher, "late of Virginia," then of B. Moore, "heretofore Tavern-keeper at the Lower Blue Licks, Lexington;" afterwards of Richard Marrs, and finally of Lewis C. Bakes, and is described as a "large commodious house" and recommended for its convenience to the steam boats, to the ferry, "which crosses every few minutes," as well as for its stage coach facilities; its healthfulness, its beautiful view, its fine table, and it is added that it should appeal particularly to families traveling from the south, attended by black servants or slaves; they are assured that they would find a safe asylum, as they would be protected from spoliation by the laws of the state (1836-1849).

Alexander Morrow, "late of the Pearl Street House, Cincinnati," in 1842 announces that he has taken the "elegant mansion called the Montgomery House, situated on an agreeable eminence and commanding a full view of the city of Cincinnati and its environs; the house being completely furnished in the latest and most fashionable style, and opened for the accommodation of those who visit this part of the valley of the Ohio on pleasure or on business. It stands in the

centre of a large square highly cultivated and adorned with shade trees and contains a well of superior water. The chambers are spacious and well ventilated. This site combines all the advantages of city and country and is the termination of the macadamized road from Lexington, to which an excellent line of stage coaches pass daily. Persons who visit this place from the south and bring their servants are assured that there is no danger of escape. The proprietor promises that everything shall be done to make agreeable the stay of those who visit him. P. S.—He will keep a constant supply of Fresh Blue Lick water during the summer months."

Mrs. Arthur (1838) advises the citizens of Covington "that a few genteel boarders can be accommodated at her house in Scott near Fifth street if immediate application be made."

The Foster House is on the corner of Greenup and Third streets (in 1842) and is described as "the best located in the city, being in the centre of the business section and three squares from the ferry landing; the rooms airy and comfortably furnished in good style and the house in good repair. A large and well fitted stable is close by where horses will receive the best attention. A great variety of fine drinks is kept in the bar and the table supplied with the choicest provisions that Covington and Cincinnati markets can afford."

There was also (1842) *The Jefferson*, it being the "Tavern Stand at the corner of Greenup and Front streets." Mr. Offal, the host, recommends his bar, his table, and the location, to those who

have business along the river-front in Cincinnati.

Mr. Silas Rockwell beseeches all to "live while they live at Rockwell's Refreshing Eating House on Scott, near Fifth street."

George Girty, below Connelly's Tavern, on Garrard street, near the ferry landing, states that he can "accommodate gents with board," and that as he has "several rooms with fire-places and other conveniences, he can also accommodate gents with their ladies." The sort of gent who was wont to accept his hospitality is indicated by a lengthy advertisement of a Rabelaisian frankness of detail, which pervades the newspapers at that time, and is clamorous for a large dirk lost on the premises "with silver mountings, very heavy;" the owner beseeches that it be returned to him, together with the miscreant who took it.

A "*Virginia House*," on Madison avenue, is referred to, and about this time we are informed that the "*Madison House* is closed," a condition which was intermittent with it under that name or another forever after, even unto this day, when the place thereof knows it no longer.

As befitted a settlement which bid fair at one time to develop into a typical southern college town, Covington had many flourishing schools. There was the "*Beech Grove Academy*," which in 1837 the Rev'd S. H. Montgomery, "late President of the Cincinnati Athenaeum, having retired to that beautiful spot, had by the solicitations of his friends, determined to open as a school for the education of boys." It was an

establishment "containing 7 acres of ground, acknowledged to be one of the finest natural sites in the country, suitably suited to academiical purposes, as it lay on the Ohio river opposite Cincinnati, and commanded a fine view of that city, and the surrounding country. It was retired, elevated and healthy, and better water was not to be found in the neighborhood." Greek, Latin and French were specialized and tuition with board was \$17.50 a quarter.

In 1838 Mrs. De Haro's Young Ladies' Seminary & Boarding School was in the house lately occupied by Mrs. Grise.

A little later, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Fellows opened a School for Gentlemen and Ladies, and promised that a graduate from Dartmouth College would take charge of the male department.

Miss Heywood had a school on Gardner street, where "four young ladies could be accommodated in the home."

In 1838 The Covington Classical Academy, which had also a female department, was moved from North Grove by Mr. and Mrs. Manning, its principals, to a new and commodious brick building on Madison street.

The Covington Female Seminary was conducted by Bryan M. Patton, and in 1841 the Collegiate School Institute was pleasantly located upon the outskirts of Covington.

In 1842 A. Goodhue's Institute was on Third street, the "Female Department of which was in a separate building with a yard well advanced with a large variety of Flowers and Shrubs." There were also in that year S. Meade's High School for Young Men or Boys in the Firman's Hall No. 2, corner of Pike and Washing-

ton streets, and the Covington Commercial College on Madison street adjoining the Madison House.

But the dominating educational influence was, of course, the Western Baptist Theological Institute. This was situated to the "Theological Square," twelve excellent acres of beautiful grounds. Extensive buildings were planned, but only two—the Mansion House, designed for the President's residence, and the east wing of the Theological Building, a four story structure accommodating about 100 students, were erected before the college was moved away. They stood on the square which was "improved with groves of forest and fruit trees, ornamental shrubbery, the whole intersected with handsome gravel walks, exhibiting to the eye a landscape of quiet beauty rarely surpassed." (The old St. Elizabeth's Hospital, on Eleventh street, is what is left of it all now.) Here flourished a little centre of culture and learning and here many promising youths were taught. No doubt a certain Mr. Stockfield found a number to tutor among these young men, in answer to his card that he would give "Lessons in the German language at a moderate cost, and that if there were any who wished to learn to read the Sacred Scriptures in the original, he would give lessons in Hebrew and Greek gratuitously."

The townfolk did not lack for entertainment. We know that balls and parties were given, but we know it only through the advertisements of those who catered for them. These affairs were not referred to in the public prints; ladies' names were mentioned briefly, when

they died, but as in Charleston, S. C., to this day, it was deemed vulgar to parade the affairs of one's home and one's women in the newspapers. All advertisers of household wares addressed themselves to gentlemen exclusively; there are but few exceptions to this in our papers. One which we have quoted, that calls imperiously upon Female Society to give its help, and another which reads: "If any lady wishes to adopt a handsome, healthy, interesting Female baby partly brought up on the bottle, as the mother's mamma are rather limited, she can have it." No discussions of economy and retrenchment can provide an address to "Females," as they were always designated.

"How can we live?" cries an abolitionist; "Flour at \$12 a barrel, potatoes 25c to 50c per bushel, butter 25c a pound, lard 15c—how can we live!" Are the women appealed to for cooperation here? Not at all. "Get on rich-tacks," is the stern admonition. "Get your old hat lined instead of a new slick buyer, wear cow-hills instead of calfskin boots," etc., etc. The women are absolutely ignored—but this is a digression. Let us return to the relations of Old Covington.

In 1842 a "Grand Vaudivelle Concert" was given at the Covington Hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Hastings assisted by Messrs. Sloop, English and Graham

and

Moses W. Hastings, only six years old.

On the evening of April 28, Saturday, will be presented some of the most popular, chaste and moral entertainments of the day.

Two Popular Vaudivelles a great variety of singing

and

Master Hastings, 6 years old, in two dances

Doors open at half past seven, concert at 8 precisely. Admission 25c. Children accompanied by parents or guardians 1/2 price. Every attention to the comfort of the ladies."

There is this idyllic presentation of the Covington Pleasure Grounds:

"The undersigned is now prepared to accommodate all who may feel disposed to while away the tedium of an hour and indulge a pleasant amusement and a healthful exercise at his newly prepared establishment situate on Second street between Gurnard and Licking river. The location is airy and pleasant—the walks are laid off in the most approved and modern style. In the centre of the garden a neat house is erected where all the deficiencies of the season can be promptly set forth upon the least intimation that such is the wish of the visitors. Parties affording beautiful and pleasant Promenades offering the most extensive and sublime view of the city of Cincinnati, Covington and Newport, and the Licking river as well as a stretch upon the Ohio, are up and down. The proprietor pledges himself that no pains on his part shall be spared—no exertion left untried to afford comfort and convenience to all, and he hereby invites all to come and test his veracity and he will consider himself bound to abide by their verdict as he is determined to do his best to please and give satisfaction to all; he hopes and trusts that his enter-

ing efforts will send him a safe deliverance from censure on all sides and that he may grow in favour by your smiles and increase in prosperity by your deposits.

"June 8, 1837.

"SAM'L. PORRIS."

There was in 1836 an intellectual feast for the high-browed Dialectic, in the lectures of Madame Deveraux. "Mad. D.," reads the notice, "in continuing her course in History and Political Economy will speak on the true nature of Credit Bills. How banks have never supplied true credit money and how they have only supplied false exchange-money. Also on the place filled by the Banking System in the History of Civilization. The discourse will be delivered in the Amphitheatre, corner Seventh and Main streets, Cincinnati, on Sunday morning next at 11 o'clock. Tickets 12½ cents to be had at office near the door. *Persons will please to bring change with them. The discourse begins precisely upon the hour. When the house is filled the door will be shut.*" This learned lady brought upon herself a sharp admonishment from Hon. Samuel Adams, of Boston. Said he, after epitomizing some of her statements concerning Alexander Hamilton, which he refutes and rebukes: "I hope that the lecturer will restrict her remarks upon American Civil History, but in so doing, I would advise her to tread lightly upon the ashes of the Revolutionary hero, Hamilton."

In December, 1838, Mr. McChesny "Rags leave respectfully to inform his friends and the public generally that he

will give a Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Music at Moore's Hotel. In order to make the entertainment entirely agreeable, after the Concert there will be a Casino *à la mode* in attendance. The particulars of the singing will be given on small bills. Tickets to admit a gentleman \$2.00; Ladies Free. Concert commences at 7 o'clock."

There are notices of meetings of the Covington Debating Club in the New Baptist Church. Of meetings of the Colonization Society; Dr. John King Pres., Philip L. Bush, Robt. Wallace, Vice Presidents, H. J. Greenback, Corresponding Secretary, E. B. Barlow, Esq., Wm. Crust, Treas., H. W. Bushner, Rev. Cabell Harrison, Moses Grant, Jas. Clarkson, Hamilton Martin, Ben Wm. Powell, A. L. Green, and Wm. McMurry, Members.

There were "Confederacy and Emancipation" to be had at Bush Grove in the rear of Livingston where the proprietor invites "ladies and gentlemen to idle an hour in the shade while Mr. Thornton the eminent confederator serves them ice cream, for he feels sure of inspiring general satisfaction."

There were lectures by "the Emigrant Dr. McDowell on the Inferious Effects of Tight Lacing in Dress," and addresses by Dr. Beecher and Dr. McGuffey. There were "Barbarians" and political meetings, one of the latter is complained of as being "rude and indelicate;" there is a very funny account of it, the "Early Lane Free Meeting," as it is called. To quote: "Mr. Greenback asked all, regardless of politics, to come in and be seated," but upon accepting the invi-

tation, a fellow howled out, "All you who are in favour of the meeting will please walk in, and those who are derogatory to Democracy can stay out." "This," states the complainant, he considered "quite a Rebutter," so he decided to remain outside.

There were Target Shooting, and Drills of the Jackson Guards; meetings of the Fire Companies, Mr. Mackey, President; there were Vendues, where farms and household effects, including Mulberries and Silk-worms, sugar-bushes and tubs and hogsheads for catching sugar water would be sold. And in 1839 we had a notice which marks the end of a social era: "A great Furniture Sale— Beds, Sideboards, Bureau, Work and Washboard-stands, cane and Windsor chairs, Mantle, Quilt and other frame mirrors. A sale well worthy the attention of Housekeepers." This sale got the Real period to the good times at the time famed "Lancaster Springs," where the beauty and fashion of the three cities were wont to dance and to laugh while "trotting and drinking the waters."

There were the Lotteries: on Carmel near Second, Adam Fisher, Lottery & Exchange Broker, respectfully informed the citizens of Covington that he would be happy to attend to any business in treated to his care. Near by "The Kentucky State Lottery," and later the "Virginia Lottery," conducted thrilling drawings, the notable one being for the benefit of the Covington Lodge.

In 1838, "for seven days, excepting Sundays," everybody was going to the Synagogue Street Meeting House in Cincinnati to hear the discourses by Arch-

Bishop Purcell and Alexander Campbell. This is from a contemporary editorial: "We understand that Alexander Campbell is in this city prepared to demolish, not the Catholic Chapel which the Catholics have erected here, but the whole fabric of the superstition. Rebecca Reed has had her day. Maria Monk is rather on the wane. Mr. Campbell comes in at the South as Homer put the Irish to the life of Patroclus," (sic) Somewhat else we have an account of the dissertations of Maria Monk and the editor justly remarks that "It was an outrage that a whole religious organization should be treated to a self-confessed, attempt."

In 1851, we have printed the bill of the National Theatre on Synamore street, Cincinnati, between Third and Fourth the doors thereof opened at seven, the curtain rising at 7:30 precisely, as

"The Drama of Paris & London.

During the Piece a Grand Panorama and Masquerade Fancy Ball will be given.

During the Drama the Misses Raymond will sing the Duett of

"There is no Home Like My Own."

B. Walker in *La Bottega Magica.*

Stewart Mimes, *The Guita Precha Man!*

Miss Hopkins in a *Popular Fan Song.*

Mrs. Coal will sing a *Ballad.*

The Acrobatic Family in their *Classical Gymnastic Groups!*

Chinese Equilibrium by T. Mann.

Deeds of Dancing, by W. Walker.

To conclude with the laughable farce

"The Double-Double Room."

Price of admission: Boxes, 50c. Children under 12, 25c.—Third tier seats

30c.—Boxes for coloured persons, 25c.—
Gallery for coloured persons, 10c.

No females admitted to any part of
the house unless accompanied by gentle-
men."

And now we finish our resume:

Always, after a period of historical
research, of absorption in contemporary
documents, there is the old familiar, ter-
rifying sense of the fatality of life; of
the nothingness after the noise; always
the old questions, of what use? To what
end?

In 1842 there is in our old news-
papers the advertisement of Burial Lots
in the New Cemetery laid out by the
Western Baptist Theological Institution
of Covington. Lots 15x25 feet, \$50.00;
those 16x10 feet, \$10.00. Single inter-
ment, \$2.00. Apply to Mr. Markey and

to Mr. Watkins."

Following this Mr. A. P. Ross calls
attention to the fact that he keeps an
hotel coffin of all shapes and sizes
ready at fifteen minutes' notice, and a
fine one or two hours hears in constant
readiness for patrons. "Persons," says
he, "wishing coffins would do well to
call on me before going elsewhere."

Well, they have called on him, all of
them. All these busy, buying, selling,
fighting, loving, marrying, thinking,
laughing persons! They have got into
their coffins and lain down in Old Lin-
den Grove Burying Ground.

But the rest is not silence, for we
are the reason why! It is for us to jus-
tify the valiant industry of our fathers,
and by the revivifying of our Chris-
tians, to keep bright the torch they lit
for us.

