FROM THE BALANCE.

AMERICAN CAPTIVES IN TRIPOLI.

Extract from the journal of Dr. Cowdery, kept during his captivity in Tripoli.

[CONTINUED.]

August 9 —At about 12 o'clock, the alarm gun of Tripoli was fired. The Tripolitans all took their stations, and went through the Mahometan prayer, by kneeling and kissing the ground several times, with their faces, toward the east, all with as much regularity as the exercise in a well-disciplined army. Their military manoeuvring was a scene of the utmost confusion. I got permission to go on the top of the castle, where I had a most extensive view of the sea and land, and saw the American squadron approaching the town. At about 1 o'clock the attack commenced, and the battle soon became vigorous, with a tremendous cannonading on both sides. I now beheld the melancholy catastrophe of the explosion of one of our gun-boats. I saw the mangled bodies of my countrymen precipitated into the air. For a few moments a general silence took place, when the firing recommenced with unabated vigor. I saw shells explode, and set fire to the town in many places; but the houses being principally built of stone, mud and mortar, the fire did but little damage:—The shells and shot however, battered the town very much, and almost destroyed some of the houses. The firing ceased at about 4, P. M. when the ship John Adams joined the squadron. The Bashaw has a bom-proof room in his castle, where he staid during the action. On learning of the explosion of our gun-boat, he ventured out to take a peep, with the precaution of having a *Marbewt* or priest, seal a small piece of paper on the top of his head, with a Turkish or Mahometan scrawl, with assurances that it would entirely secure him from all danger; but he soon returned to his cell.—The Turks all wear a paper of this kind sewed up in a little velvet bag with assurances from the *Marabewt* that it will protect them in the greatest danger.—The *Marabewt* gets a sum of money for these blessings. If a Turk gets wounded or killed, it is supposed the blessed paper was too old, or not placed in a proper manner. In the time of action, the *Marabewts* get upon some secure place and cry to Mahomet in the most dismal yells to let them conquer their enemies; and beckon to the vessels to run on shore or be destroyed. Such of our crew as were able, were put to work, and drove about like horses or mules.

August 10—Lewis Hexiner, who lately Turned Turk, went by order of the Bashaw, and told capt. Bainbridge, the particulars of the two late actions. The Bashaw informed that the late commander of the schooner Vixen, lieut. Smith, was commodore of the gun boats in the late action, and was killed by a musket shot through the head. Our men complained of being drove and beat about at an unmerciful rate, in consequence of which they petitioned the Bashaw, in the following terms:

To his excellency the Grand Bashaw of Tripoli—The petition of the whole American prisoners humbly sheweth.

That your humble petitioners, when doing, with all their power, as they are commanded, are most cruelly beaten by our wardens, stoned, insulted, and spit upon by the soldiers and others; required to carry burthens impossible for us to sustain, and chased and bruised, until we are or soon shall be, unable to labor at all.

From the many acts of justice, kindness and generosity we have experienced from your excellency, we cannot suppose that such conduct is authorised by your commands; or that we should be punished for what is out of our power to perform; or for the actions of others, which we have no agency in, and which we cannot prevent.

Returning your excellency our sincere and humble thanks for your bounty and privileges heretofore shewn, and relying on your goodness for protection, we therefore, most humbly pray, that your excellency would interpose your royal authority, and grant us a speedy relief. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will remain your excellency's most humble and obedient servants.

On the petition being explained to the Bashaw by Hexiner, (or *Hamet American*, his new name) the Bashaw forbid the Turks striking the prisoners.

August 11—The Bashaw sent for me, and, agreeably to his orders, I took a seat by his side. He began conversation about my country, and our squadron, which was then in sight, and consisted of eighteen sail. He said that for two dollars he could repair all the damages that the bombardment did the town—that but one man was hurt by the shells—that what he had been offered for the American prisoners was about fifty dollars per man—that he would make them earn that sum in two months. He asked me what I thought my country would give for me. I told him I did not know.—He said he would not take twenty thousand dollars for me: to which I replied, that I might then expect to remain in slavery for life. He patted me on the shoulder, and said, I must then content myself to stay with him. I asked to go and see our men, but he refused, saying the Moors and Arabs would kill me if they could catch me.

August 12—Our squadron hoisted a flag of truce, sent in a brig and schooner, and fired a gun. The Bashaw did not, and swore he would not answer it; and said he would not treat with commodore Preble. A truce, however, was afterwards held—Consul O'Brien wished to come on shore, but was refused.

August 13—Another truce was held, when the Bashaw demanded one million of dollars for our ransom. One hundred and twenty thousand dollars were offered and refused.

August 17—The Bashaw informed me that fifteen American were found drifted ashore to the westward of the town, and that one of them was an officer, with an epaulet on the right shoulder. We supposed they were men who were destroyed by the explosion of the gun-boat, in the late engagement. I asked permission to go with two or three of our men and bury them: and the Bashaw told me I might go the next day. Our squadron lay at anchor off the harbor. The inhabitants had chiefly moved out of the town, through fear of another bombardment; and the Bashaw ate, drank and slept in the bomb-proof room. Several tribes of the back-country inhabitants had lately come in and offered their services to the Bashaw—in all, not more than one thousand men. Many of them had muskets without locks, but had a sort of match to put fire to them. They were almost naked, half starved, and without discipline. When they are going to battle, or appear before the Bashaw, they run to and fro, taking their rusty muskets over their heads, all crying *Hotesut Buey?* (I am my father's son.) Every tribe has a priest, or what they call *Marabewt*, whose badge is a small green flag, which is carried in his hand or stuck up at his tent. They pretend great skill in prophecy, in which the people put the utmost faith. They prophecy success in battle; and for a small sum of money, ensure any one against wounds or death in fighting a Christian. They often get on eminences, and beckon and sing to the American vessels to run on shore.—They prophecied that another American vessel was to get on the rocks, and the Bashaw fully believed it.

August 18—Was not permitted to bury our dead. Our squadron stood out to sea. At evening the Bashaw went to his country seat, and the Bey came in to keep the throne till his father's return. They never both leave the castle at once. When the Bashaw leaves it, the gates are shut until his return, for fear of incursions upon the throne. In the evening, the moon shining very bright, the prince or Bey ordered out the band of music, which was very ordinary, and made Christians, Turks, Arabs and Guinea Negroes, dance before him, according to the mode in their respective countries, at which he seemed highly diverted.

August 17—Between 9 and 10 o'clock in the evening, Mr. Church, a respectable English gentleman was shot through the head in the street, on his return from visiting his neighbors.

August 24—In the morning, between 2 o'clock and day light, two of our small vessels hove about thirty shells, as was supposed, for the round fort, but they all fell short of the mark. Such attempts served rather to encourage than to intimidate the Tripolitans; and the Bashaw was in high spirits on the occasion.

August 26—At about 4 o'clock P. M. the fellow who murdered Mr. Church, was executed near the spot where the crime was committed. It had heretofore been a custom in this country, when a person had committed murder, to fly to the tomb of a *Marabewt* (or priest; where they were protected from justice, and a fee to a *Marabewt* would procure them absolution. This fellow fled to a place of this kind immediately after killing Mr. Church. The English consul, Mr. Langford, on being informed of the murder, addressed the Bashaw, and demanded justice. The Bashaw then found out by a boy, who accompanied the murderer when he committed the crime, the particulars of the affair; and immediately sent a file of men and ordered them to prevent any person from carrying food or drink to the murderer. They watched him until night, when the Bashaw sent his *Marabewt*, who coaxed him away, brought him to the castle, and confined him in irons. The next day the Bashaw called his Divan, when it was decided that the prisoner was guilty of wilful murder, and ought to suffer death. It appeared by the evidence and the confession of the prisoner, that Mr. Church had lent a sum of money to a Spanish carpenter in this place—that Mr. Church had pressed him for payment; and that the carpenter's wife hired the Turk to kill Mr. Church for forty dollars. The villain took his watch from his pocket after he had shot him. The boy who accompanied him, and carried a lantern, was bastinadoed with 500 blows. The carpenter's wife was ordered to leave Tripoli.

August 27—Our squadron stood towards the harbor.

August 28—About 4 o'clock in the morning, I was awoke by a heavy and incessant firing of cannon, and the whistling and rattling of shot all around me. On getting up, I found that our gun-boats were close in, and were firing upon the town and batteries. Every gun in Tripoli, that could be brought to bear, was returning the fire. The Tripolitan gun-boats were close under the castle for protection. The firing continued until a few minutes after run-rise, when one of the largest gun boats ventured out, with an intention of boarding the nearest American boat. As soon as she got within pistol shot, the Americans discharged their piece, loaded with grape, and killed four and wounded two of the enemy. They then put about and retreated. At the same time commodore Preble bore down and gave the batteries at the westward of the town two broadsides. The squadron then stood out and anchored off the harbor. The damage done to the town was considerable. A large vessel was sunk in the harbor, and others damaged. Many men were killed, and wounded.

August 29—The Bashaw sent me to his palace in the country, to see his eldest son, the Bey, whom I bled in the foot. He requested me to spend the day and dine with him, which I did. He endeavored to have the dinner in the Christian stile. It was set on a table, and consisted of a large dish of boiled rice and stewed fowls, out of which we both ate, he with a wooden spoon, and I with a silver one, without knife or fork. The prince's servant stood by him, and pulled the fowl in small pieces with his fingers, for the prince to eat. I made use of my fingers and teeth to get mine in pieces. Our dessert was dates and watermelons. Our drink was *Lagby*, (or the juice of the date tree) which we drank out of a large gold cup. He shewed me the garden, and took great pains to entertain me.

August 30—A truce was held. I took a ride upon a mule, about eight miles to the westward of the town, in company with my guide Hamet, a Turkish officer, and several footmen. I there saw a boat, which had drifted on shore, with a dead man, and several muskets and swords in it. The man appeared to have been shot through the body with a cannon ball, which had also pierced the bottom of the boat. The Turkish officer collected about twenty Arabs, who hauled the boat upon the beach, dragged the dead man out of it, stripped him entirely naked, and left him on the beach. I tried in vain to hire the Arabs to bury the body; they said it was contrary to their religion to bury a Christian. I asked permission to get him buried by our countrymen, some of my fellow prisoners, but was refused. I found that our men, who were destroyed by the explosion of the gun boat on the 9th inst. lay in a state of putrefaction on the beach. They were scattered on the shore for miles, and were torn in pieces by dogs. The Bashaw had frequently promised me that these men should be buried; but refused to let me take some of our men to go and bury them.

[*To be continued.*]

From the Charleston Courier, of Nov. 6.

CAPTURE OF THE ESTHER.

In yesterday's paper we mentioned the capture of the British ship Esther; the arrival yesterday morning of the pilot boat Delight, with the mangled remains of that gallant, but unfortunate ship's crew, has furnished us with the particulars of that action, and of the base and brutal massacre which followed it. The leading facts are detailed in the following

PROTEST.

"James Spinks and John Smith, two of the seamen late on the British ship Esther, George Irving, master, make oath, That on Monday the 8th of Oct. last, they sailed in and with said ship from this port, bound to London, in company with the Ærial, capain Pyne; Minorca transport, capta Wood, and a schooner under convoy of his Britannic majesty's sloop of war Petrel, being tight, and manned with 35 men, two of whom shipped on board the Petrel. That they continued in the prosecution of their voyage without meeting with any material occurrence until Thursday following, at 2 o'clock, A. M. when the ship was taken aback and struck by a very heavy sea under the counter, which they soon after discovered caused her to make 18 inches water per hour. That they immediately got the powder out of the magazine on deck and discovered the leak near the stern post. That capt. Irving asked the carpenter whether he could stop the leak, and being answered no, that it was impossible to stop at sea, the crew was called aft, and they unanimously agreed to bear up and speak the commodore. That at noon they got within hail of the commodore, and informed him of their leak condition, and taking into consideration the season of the year and the bad weather he recommended that they should return to port. That they accordingly bore away for this port, and joined the Minorca, which had bore away some time before, also in a very leaky situation. That on Saturday morning at about 8 o'clock, they arrived on the Bar, and a pilot was put on board of each ship, who informed that there was a French privateer in shore—they immediately cleared the decks for action. At about 9 o'clock they saw the privateer bearing down upon them.—At 10 she came within gun shot. The ship Esther immediately gave her a broadside, and she hauled her wind and stood off, until between 4 and 5 in the afternoon, when she again run down upon the ship, received another broadside, fired one gun in return, veered round and again stretched off. That on Sunday morning at 8 o'clock, she again returned fired one gun at the Esther, which was returned by a broadside and the privateer sheered of a third time.——That they did not come to action after that till Monday morning at 7 o'clock, when the privateer run down with an intention to board, and received the Esther's broadside.—That after that a severe conflict was kept up by both parties for about 3 quarters of an hour; when the privateer boarded with nearly the whole of the crew. That they continued the fight for about twenty minutes after having being boarded—when having two men killed and several wounded, and of consequence being much reduced in numbers, Mr. Lowdon, the 3d mate by order of capt. Irving, struck the colors, and returning, was killed on the quarter. That after the colors were struck, the capt. was put down in the cabin, and mangled in a most inhuman manner—and the second mate was run thro' the body with a small sword. The prisoners being below were ordered up by Ross, the leader of the priveteersmen, that they might be put to death—but on some remonstrance, he ordered that his men should fire down the hatchway upon them which they accordingly did, killing the carpenter, and wounding two men so severely that they died of their wounds immediately on being put in the pilot boat. That the said privateer proved to be the *Cresie*, captain *Pierre Burgman*, from Barracoa, manned with 111 men, and mounting 7 guns of different calibres, upon swivels. They state their loss to be 6 killed, 7 severely wounded, and a number missing, supposed to have been knocked overboard and drowned.

In addition to the above particulars it is stated, that the captain of the privateer was wounded in the fleshy part of the arm by a musket ball and Ross slightly in the wrist—they were both knocked overboard but regained the privateer by swimming. After the wounded seamen on board the Esther had been collected on deck, it was proposed by Ross to throw them all overboard, instead of putting them into the pilot boat; and when the latter was agreed to, they were put into slings thrown over the side, and let down by the run into the boat. One poor fellow who had been wounded in the wrist and thrown overboard, was accidentally fell in with an hour afterwards, and picked up by the pilots. The pilot who was on board the Esther, being stationed in the magazine, escaped unhurt.

The state of the killed and wounded on board the Esther is as follows: the captain, 3d mate, carpenter and 2 men killed. The chief mate and 4 men have died of their wounds—12 are at the hospital, a number of which are expected to die of their wounds. These together with one boy (wounded) on board the privateer, and 4 men unhurt, also on board the privateer and 5 men arrived unhurt in the city, compose 33, the ship's company.

While we have a hand to write, we shall continue to expose the turpitude of that whole system of piracy called *privateering*—while we have breath to utter a vow we shall excreate it. No matter whether it be perpetrated by French, Spanish, English or Americans. The evil is great enough of itself—it always was so when confined to battle and robbery: But when vengeance goe hand in hand with plunder—when the trader is not only robbed of his means, but deprived of his life—and when fair defence leads to cold, cowardly, deliberate, vindictive murder, the hands and hearts of all mankind ought to be at once raised against all concerned in it.

The above *Ross* ought to be so designated and marked out to the eye of justice, that he should not escape. Frenchmen and Englishmen may plead the antiquated abuse of privateering, because they are at war with each other, but the American citizens having no such plea, have no excuse. He is a *pirate*, and ought to be excuted if taken. The person here alluded to is well known in this city and in Baltimore.

Recapitulation of the killed and wounded on board the Esther.

Killed—1 captain, 1 3d mate, 1 carpenter, 2 seamen.

Since dead—1 chief mate, 4 seamen.

Wounded—13 seamen, now at the hospital.

On board the Privateer—4 seamen, 1 boy.

Escaped unhurt—4 seamen, 1 surgeon. Total, 33.

From the Charleston City Gazette.

Mr. Cuckow, the pilot, who was on board, and was below during the action, mentions, that he was informed by Mr Ashton, the chief mate, who was put on board the pilot boat wounded, and died yesterday morning, that the colors of the ship were struck by the French captain, after he had got possession of the ship; he also states, that when he came upon deck, after the action, he saw Ross active in saving the survivors from the attacks of the crew of the privateer.

This account of Mr. Cuckow, it will be seen, is in contradiction to some things mentioned above. Having the relation from his own mouth, we have thought it but justice to give it a place.

From the Litchfield WITNESS.

FEDERALISTS OF CONNECTICUT!

Will you read Mr. ADAMS' description of a Faction?

It is reasonable to suppose, that the federalists will read the words of Mr. *Adams*, late president of the United States, even though offered in a democratic paper. We intreat the attention of our fellow-citizens, of both parties, to the following extract from Mr. Adams's Defence of the American Constitutions, page 284-5. It is descriptive of a *state* governed by *faction*.

'A *few* eminent or conspicuous characters will be continued in their seats, from one election to another, whatever changes are made in the fears around them, by superior art, address, or opulence, birth, reputation, or connexions: They will be able to intrigue with the people and their leaders, out of doors, until they worry out most of their oppofers, and introduce their friends. To this end, they will bestow all offices, contracts, privileges in commerce, and other emoluments, on the latter and their connexions: and throw every vexation and disappointment in the way of the former, until they establish such a system of *hopes* and *fears* throughout the state, as shall enable them to carry a majority in every fresh election.

'The *judges* will be appointed by them and their party; and, of consequence, will be *obsequious* enough to their inclinations. The whole *judicial authority*, as the executive, will be *employed*, *perverted* and *prostituted* to the purposes of *electioneering*. No justice will be attainable; nor will innocence or virtue be safe in the judicial courts, but for the friends of the prevailing leaders. Legal prosecutions will be instituted and carried on against opposers, to their vexation and ruin. No favor will be attainable, but by those who will court the ruling party, by voting for their friends and instruments; and pensions and pecuniary rewards and gratification, as well as honors and offices of every kind, voted to friends and partisans.

'The leading men, and most influential characters, among the *clergy*, will be courted, and the views of the youth in this department will be turned upon those men; and the road to promotion and employment, in the church, will be obstructed against such as will not worship the general idol.

'Capital characters among the *physicians* will not be forgotten; and the means of acquiring reputation and practice, in the healing art, will be to get the state trumpeters on the side of youth.

'The *bar*, too, will be made so subservient, that a young gentlemen will have no chance to obtain a character or clients, but by falling in with the views of the *judges* and their *creators*.

'The *press*, that great barrier and bulwork of the rights of mankind, when it is protected in its freedom by law, can now no longer be free! if the authors, writers and printers will not accept of the *hire* that will be offered to them, they must submit to the *ruin* that will be pronounced against them. The *presses*, with much secrecy and concealment, will be made the vehicles of calumny against the *minority*, and of panegyric and empirical applause of the leaders of the *majority*; and no remedy can possibly be obtained.

'In a word, the whole system of affairs, and every conceivable motive of hope and fear, will be employed to promote the private interests of a *few*, and their obsequious majority.'

There is *one* state in the Union, of which the above lines are exactly *descriptive*. We dare not, in these times, declare what state that is. We leave the discovery to the sagacity of the reader.

For Sale,

At Bloomingdale, Queen Ann's, the seat of Mr. Edward Harris, *on an accommodating credit,*

FIVE excellent working MULES, 4 years old, several Plough HORSES and about twenty head of HOGS, one of them a Boar of the famous Bedford breed, imported by Mr. Perkinson.

ELIJAH COVINGTON,
Overseer.

November 16, 1805. 3

To Rent for the ensuing Year,

A NEW brick house on Washington Street, between the houses where Dr. *Earle* lives, and Mr. *Philemon Willis's*, and possession given the first of January next. For terms apply to Thomas Abbott, in Easton, or the subscriber.

SAMUEL ABBOTT.

October 15, 1805. 4