

For the Democratic Press.

"LANG SYNE."

"Appear! appear! appear!"—FAUST.

To a man of "no particular age," like myself, there is not a more pleasing occupation than that of recalling the events and men of by-gone days, or of mentally rebuilding the fabrics which time and the restless spirit of innovation have demolished. I am the more especially incited thereto by the graphic, spirited and instructive details published in a contemporary journal, which no one can read without a feeling of gratitude to the author for having preserved a memorial of "matters and things" so useful, and at the same time so important! As imitators can never hope to equal their originals, it is not to be expected that I should produce descriptions to compare with those of my prototypes; vain would it be to think of equalling the account of "the ugliest, when viewed from without, and seemingly the most ill contrived old two story brickhouse in the city"—or to present events of a sublimity like that of the Colonel, who "finding his movements impeded by a boy, thrust him unceremoniously into the street, and walked on without once looking behind him!" Few men are fated to witness and record such circumstances; nevertheless, I hope my humble gleanings will be kindly received, though in accuracy and interest they may be somewhat inferior to those of my distinguished model. To begin:—

South of Chestnut street, and near about where William Fry's old printing office now stands, in the year 17— stood "a green mantling" pond, which visited in the dog days, when variegated by the old shoes and dead cats thrown into it by the school boys, could not fail strongly to impress the senses. Not far distant, about fifty feet south of this pond, waggishly named "sweet spring" by the boys, stood a small house. This was "built" so as to be but one story high, though, if its hip-ped roof of ample dimensions be considered, it might well be regarded as a two story. At the time referred to, it was tenanted by a very remarkable woman, Mrs. Hannah Hubbs; she was third cousin to Peter Sniffin, of Taylor's Alley, celebrated for wiping his nose on the cuff of his coat. Mrs. Hubbs was generally known through the city, on account of her superior skill in manufacturing molasses candy, at that time called by the harsh name of "belly wax." Mrs. Hubbs was the first person who set the fashion of drinking rum out of a tea cup, declaring it ungenteel that people should see how many "fingers" she took of her favorite beverage.

There was a curious old gentleman who lived in a large brick house in Chestnut street, near where the present large house, "built" by Mr. Walstands. His back yard ran near to George street, and contained two fine summer houses visible from the street. I never shall forget having one day gained access whilst the curious old gentleman was in one of his arbors. He was about to eat an apple or a peach, I forget which; at least, I cannot be certain, though I think it must have been a peach. He very carefully pared it so as to have all the pining in one string, and when he had completely denuded the fruit, he rose up with great deliberation, and threw the rind out of the window.

Conrad Goosecap, who lived at the corner of Raspberry alley, and William Whiff, who resided near the great Splatterdock pond, where now is the corner of Second street, about this time had a famous law suit. Conrad had borrowed 6 shillings of Billy, who was a great wag. Billy demanded his money. Conrad could not do "the needful," and Billy obtained a warrant against Conrad. When they appeared before the magistrate, who being of German descent, was named Teufelstreck, and lived near Cherry alley and Sixth street, Conrad says to Billy—"Billy," says he, "this is a very spiteful trick of yours." To this, Billy, who was a great wag, promptly replied, "not half so spiteful as you think—I only want to get my shillings back," whereupon the magistrate and all the bystanders burst into a loud laugh.

In the vicinity where the splendid mansion of Dr. Physick now stands, and in the place where the alley now runs past his stables, there was a lumber yard. In those days of ancient simplicity, these lumber yards were not so jealously fenced up, as in our degenerate days. It was singular to observe how many persons during the day would hasten into this lumber yard, as if on the most important business, and in a few minutes after would be sauntering forth, as if they had their time entirely at command.

My reminiscences here throng upon me; among others I am reminded of a singular game called "Span law," a great favourite among the chimney sweeps of that time. A line was drawn on the ground (generally with the big toe of the right foot) at a certain dis-

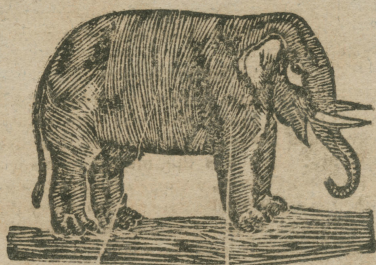
tance from a wall. One standing at this mark knocked a marble against the wall, and if it rebounded to within a span of the law, the other player forfeited a marble. Never do I see the sweeps lounging idly in the sun, but the circumstance brings forcibly back upon my memory the many merry days which had been passed in youth.

"When every sport could please."

LANG SYNE—Minor.

L Feb. 27-1829

Feb 4-1825.7



Pennsylvania Museum and Menagerie, No. 272 Market-street, above the Upper Market

LATE additions to the Menagerie—15 LIVING ANIMALS, among which are, TIPPOO SULTAN, the great hunting Elephant of India, weighing upwards of 7000 pounds. The MAMMOTH LION, from Asia, full grown, with a large flowing mane, the largest and most beautiful animal of this species, ever imported into this country—a LAMA, from Peru, an animal of wonderful speed—a SHETLAND PONY, a very diminutive and sagacious animal, &c. &c.

Tippoo Sultan was imported into this country about three years ago, and was formerly one of the most savage and intractable of the species. He was broke by Mr. Martin, his keeper, and would never be governed by any other person. The sagacity of this animal, together with the intrepidity and dexterity of his keeper, produce a spectacle, not only curious and diverting, but, in some instances, both horrible to the spectator and dangerous to the keeper. Among a variety of singular marks of sagacity, he takes a stand in the centre of the room, and moves briskly round—his hind feet remaining in the centre, forming a circle with his head—places his keeper upon his tusks, and in continued repetition, round the circle, tosses him up to the height of 10 or 12 feet, and with the most singular, and seemingly studied, accuracy, catches him upon his tusks and trunk, and, in conclusion, gives him a toss into the air, the keeper turns a summerset in his flight, and safely lands upon the back of the Elephant. The nature of the circumstance, and want of security of the keeper, render this exploit both more dangerous and intrepid than the hanging feats of the celebrated Mr. Stoker.

Late additions to the Museum—THE PROPHECY OF SIMEON, a splendid painting, by Mr. Street, together with a large collection of other paintings—70 WAX STATUES—A MECHANICAL ORGAN—a prepared SEA ELEPHANT, and other NATURAL CURIOSITIES.

Admittance to ALL 25 cents—Children half price. The Museum is a large new building, four stories high, containing four rooms, each 25 feet wide, and 125 feet deep. The two upper rooms are appropriated as a Museum and Repository of Paintings, Statues, and other curiosities. The lower story, together with a large yard, and outer buildings, are appropriated as a Menagerie, which already contains upwards of 25 rare and curious living animals.

The Proprietor invites the offer of Paintings, or other Pieces of Art or Natural Curiosities, which he will either purchase or deposit at a fair remuneration. Historical, Portrait, Transparent and other Paintings, for sale, will be thankfully received and deposited any length of time, and carefully preserved.

N.B. The Public are respectfully informed that Ladies and Children—or Children unaccompanied, may visit the Menagerie perfectly unapprehensive, as the rooms are uncommonly extensive, the animals are all well secured in strong iron cages, or by other proper modes of confinement, at a proper distance, within strong railing, and cautiously attended by their Keepers. dec 20—mthf

The above establishment was owned, and kept by Jesse Sharpless—who formerly kept said establishment in Market st. East of Second street, assisted by his son, Dr. and Townsend Sharpless, the latter occasionally working the hand-organ, and "invisible lady." The father was indicted, convicted and imprisoned for indecent and immoral exhibitions. —

VALUABLE BUILDING LOTS.

WALNUT STREET.

LOTS OF GROUND situate on the north side of Walnut street, between Thirteenth and Broad streets, extending in depth 235 feet to George street.

Lots of Ground situate on the South side of Walnut street, commencing at the distance of 66 feet west of Schuylkill Seventh street, containing in front each 22 feet, and in depth 150 feet to Chancellor street.

A Lot of Ground situate at the South east corner of Walnut and Schuylkill Sixth street, containing in front on Walnut street, 70 feet and in depth on Sixth street 150 feet to Chancellor street.

CHESTNUT STREET.

A Lot of Ground situate on the South side of Chestnut street, between Thirteenth and Broad street, [opposite the Mint] containing in front on Chestnut street, 69 feet and in depth 235 feet to George street.

A large Lot of Ground situate on the south side of Chestnut street, between Schuylkill Fourth and Fifth street extending in depth 235 feet to George street.

BROAD STREET.

A Lot of Ground situate on the West side of Broad street, north side of Locust street, and south side of Brighton street, containing in front on Broad street 150 feet and in depth on Locust and Brighton street 196 feet.

A Lot of Ground situate on the West side of Broad street, 100 feet south of Walnut street, containing in front 90 feet and in depth on Brighton street 100 feet.

RITTENHOUSE SQUARE.

Several Lots of Ground situate on the east side of Schuylkill Fifth street opposite Rittenhouse Square, containing in front each 22 feet, and in depth 150 feet to a 20 feet wide street.

NORTHERN LIBERTIES.

A large Lot of Ground situate in an improving part of the Northern Liberties, containing nine acres, having a main front of upwards of 1600 feet.

The above lots with many others in various parts of the City, Northern Liberties, Spring Garden and Kensington, are offered for sale, for cash or on ground rent. Apply to

A. D. CASH & BENJAMIN BROWN,
Jan 6-66t 104 N. Fifth st.

L Jan. 12. 1835

August-12-1829]

COMMUNICATION.

The Ladies and Gentlemen of our city, who love a pleasant evening walk, will be highly gratified by visiting the Philadelphia Labyrinth Garden, in Arch, above Broad-street, kept by Mr. Thomas Smith; it certainly possesses greater attractions than any thing of the kind we have seen here; the superior style in which it is laid out, does a great deal of credit to the abilities of Mr. Smith, as an horticulturalist; he has spared neither expense nor labour, in fitting it out to receive company, and always keeps a good supply of refreshments, suitable for his visitors. His garden is furnished with seats, over which the trees cast an agreeable shade, its walks are numerous, and well lighted, and afford an excellent promenade; the shrubbery and plants yield a most delicious fragrance, and render the air around pure and salubrious, which, together with a good band of music, that attends on the evenings, the retired situation, and the order which Mr. Smith always keeps, renders his garden an agreeable, pleasant and genteel resort.

The above garden was on a lot of ground on the N. E. corner of Fifteenth and Arch Street—extending on Fifteenth to Fifth st—where it likewise had an extensive front as on Arch Street—The property was said to belong to the Pepper Est. It was originally "taken up" and cultivated as a flower and vegetable garden by Deant Engelmann, who with his family lived in an oblong one-storied brick house on the northern part of the lot—Engelmann & his wife were much respected—they were Germans—remember their garden as early as 1813—

Edw. March 58-