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A * Pen * Picture * of
Newark and Vicinity,

☀ * As * it * Appeared * in * 1818. ☀

BY * A * NATIVE * OF * THE * CITY.

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By
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COLUMBUS, O.
THE COLUMBIAN PRINTING COMPANY.
1887.

PREFACE.

NEWARK was laid out in 1802, consequently it is safe to say that not one of the original settlers is now in existence. Their children are old, their grandchildren are middle-aged, specimens even of a fifth generation may be seen. To many yet living who may have seen the city even less than half a century since, as well as the present intelligent population of the city and vicinity, it is hoped that this sketch will afford some degree of information and amusement.

THE few now remaining who remember Newark as it appeared fifty years since will fail, at this time, to recognize a vestige of its ancient landmarks. At the period to which we allude, that part of East Main street which extends from what is now the Warden House to the residence of the late Adam Fleek, consisted of two parallel streets, the southern being a ridge some fifteen feet higher than the northern. On the south side there could be seen at that time but six or seven dwelling houses. Immediately opposite the Warden House, on the site of Keller's livery stable, stood Cully's Black-horse tavern, a two-story log building, weather-boarded. This lot was enclosed on the south and west sides by a split-rail fence; east of this to the corner of Main and First streets was a common. At this point was a public well from which water was drawn by an old-fashioned sweep. Here, also, was a large pond called Lake Kennedy, bordered by that beautiful flower called Gavit weed; here, also, a number of women were accustomed to do their washing. From this point eastward to the North Fork there were but four dwelling houses and three workshops, the cabinet, blacksmith and hat shops. Such is a true description of the

north side of East Main street as it appeared at the date of this sketch.

The eastern border of the town was formed by the two distinct banks of the North Fork, the eastern bank being some thirty feet lower than the western and about sixty feet in breadth, extending several hundred yards south. This bank was exceedingly beautiful, being covered with luxuriant grass and quite a number of magnificent sycamore trees. Here, during the summer season, many women were accustomed to do their washing. For a number of years no bridge existed where now stands the present substantial structure, and often have I seen teams painfully laboring up the hills on either side of the stream. During high waters a ferry was kept by Peter Brakebill. The public square was a rough piece of ground, elevated in the centre, but almost entirely surrounded by ponds which received names according to their several localities. In front of Cully's tavern was Lake Cully; in front of Houston's, Lake Houston; of Gault's, Lake Gault; the whole site of Palisade Row was occupied by Lake Davidson; between Patton's corner and the American Hotel was Lake Sherwood.

BUILDINGS AROUND PUBLIC SQUARE.

ON the north-west side of the square stood an old two-story log building on the site of the Lansing House, inhabited at different times by various poor families. My last remembrance of it is that it was occupied by a family of negroes, and I recollect seeing a darkey cutting wood in front of the house. From this point to Miller's grocery was a board fence. Going eastward to the south-western corner there were Stephen Gill's hat shop and dwelling, Buckingham's store, brick, and David Moore's warehouse, a two-story frame. On the east side of the square there were Taylor's store, a one-story frame, and a row of one-story frame buildings extending south to Cully's tavern. On the south side there were some six or seven dwellings, Weddel's store, Gault's tavern, and a few shops. On the west side, the present site of Palisade Row was occupied by Lake Davidson; a whole lot west of this was occupied by Col. Davidson's tanyard; on the site of Newkirk's store stood Handle Vance's blacksmith shop. Between West Main street and the American House, the principal building to be seen was Benjamin Brigg's printing office, a cheap frame set upon piles in the midst of

Lake Sherwood. The present court house is the third that I have seen on the same site.

The old Presbyterian Church stood a few rods immediately west of the court house, a two-story brick, the west side being a dead wall served as a ball alley for the boys. On West Main street, on the north side, there were but two dwelling houses: Thomas Taylor's, a two-story frame painted red in front, and the Gillespie house, a two-story frame, on corner of Main and Fourth streets. On the south side there was but one dwelling, 'Squire Evans' one-story cottage, at present the Wilson property. There were very few regular log cabins in the town. The majority of dwellings were substantial two-story log buildings, such as only the richest farmers of that time were able to build; of brick buildings there were but eight or ten, all told. Paint must have been extremely dear in those days, as there were but three houses painted white in front (William Stanbery's, on East Main, Captain Buckingham's and Dr. Brice's cottages), and three painted red in front. In the description of the town nothing further remains to be told than that a large portion of the western and northern part was a common. The whole southern part, with the exception of a few straggling cabins, was a common with some enclosed out-lots.

The present seems to be a suitable place to introduce a description of

ROBERT SHERWOOD'S PREMISES.

ROBERT SHERWOOD (father-in-law of the late Adam Fleek), owned a large lot on East Main street. His dwelling was a two-story hewed log building, fronting on the street; the stable was built of round logs and roofed after the old cabin style, with clapboards, weight-poles and knees. The lot was entirely surrounded with split-rails. Sherwood and his two sons tended out-lots, and kept all the stock usually to be seen on a farm. There could be seen on this lot hay and wheat stacks; linen spread on the ground to bleach; breaking, scutching and hackling flax; cows; and in the fall of the year great piles of corn in the husk. I have attended many husking frolics there. All this on Main street in the present magnificent city of Newark.

STORES.

AT the date of this writing there were four stores in the town: Buckingham's, a two-story brick, on the north side of the square; James M. Taylor's, on the north-east corner, a one-story frame, painted white in front; P. M. Weddel's, on the south side, a two-story frame, painted white in front; and Col. Davidson's, a two-story brick, on the west side. Of these stores, Buckingham's continued for years to do the most active and profitable business.

Many articles kept for sale at that time would be regarded at present as curiosities, such, for example, as iron candlesticks, lard lamps, rat traps, sickles, gun flints, split hickory brooms, Buckeye hats, and the Morocco hat for the small boy, red, blue and green, and adorned with star, cord and tassel. There were also to be seen large boxes of ginseng, the use of which I have to this day failed to learn. At that early day a few bolts of British broadcloth were occasionally to be found in the stores. This cloth was very expensive, costing from six to eight dollars per yard; consequently, it was worn only by the rich and well-born, such, for instance, as merchants, lawyers, doctors and preachers. The young man, also, on the eve of mar-

riage made desperate efforts to secure a suit of broad-cloth for that great event. Also, the apprentice at the expiration of his term; this was called his freedom suit. I had almost forgotten the splendid Leghorn hat worn by the wealthy ladies, and costing from sixteen to twenty dollars.

TAVERNS AND TAVERN-KEEPING.

AT this advanced period of civilization and refinement we read of hotels; nothing of this kind was known in my youthful days. Inns or public houses were known at that period simply as taverns. At the date of this sketch there were four taverns in the town. These were Houston's, on the site of the present Warden House, sign of crossed keys; Cully's, on the east side of the square, a two-story log house, weather-boarded, sign of black horse,

I. CULLY, 1808.

Col. Gault's, on the south side of the square, a two-story brick, called the Mansion House, the sign being a bell. Trindle, on the corner of Third and Church streets, a two-story hewed log building,

weather-boarded. These taverns all seemed to do a prosperous business. There was at that time considerable travel, principally from the east, and let it be remembered, always on horseback, as carriages were almost totally unknown in those days, and the word buggy had not yet found its way into the dictionary. Many travelers have I seen alight at the tavern door, tired, wearied and travel-stained. Certain articles of the traveler's apparel and his horse furniture would scarcely be recognized by the youths and middle-aged of the present day, such, for instance, were the old-fashioned saddle-bags and the valise, the green baize leggings tied with red garters, the corduroy overalls, the big drab overcoat with five capes and the oilskin cover for the hat. Besides the patronage of travelers, the landlords also enjoyed that of lawyers during the sessions of courts. Cully, who done by far the most profitable business, accommodated vast droves of horses and hogs destined for the eastern market. Another item of considerable profit was the retailing of whiskey. Whiskey was the popular beverage of the day, and was consumed without stint or limit. Distilleries abounded in every direction around the country. The drinking of whiskey seemed to be regarded as one of those inalienable rights which Mr. Jefferson neglected to mention in the Declaration

of Independence. It was a common occurrence, on public days, to see even staunch farmers lying around perfectly loose and quite respectably intoxicated. Whiskey being plenty and cheap, there existed no motive for adulterating it, and it was perfectly pure. We heard of no such a thing in those times as delirium tremens. It required some ten or fifteen years for a man to kill himself by drinking whiskey, and even then a great many claimed the honor of dying of consumption.

Those were the halcyon days in which the traveler in the winter season enjoyed the comfort of a rousing wood fire, and at bed time, having been furnished with a pair of fair-leather slippers, and partaking of a glorious night-cap, retired to a well-filled feather bed, furnished with an abundance of warm covering, and enjoyed a sleep probably not equaled by that of any millionaire. It was not less agreeable in the morning on descending into the lower hall, to find among a long row neatly arranged alongside the wall, his own nicely polished boots. Then followed the breakfast, probably never surpassed by that furnished by any restaurant on the continent, Delmonico's not excepted. It was said by a comic actor that the "sausages of youth never return." The same remark may very justly be made of fire-place cooked victuals.

In those primitive days the cooking stove was totally unknown. The cooking utensils consisted of the tin reflector, for baking biscuit; the Dutch oven, furnished with spit and skewers, for the purpose of roasting beef and fowl; the gridiron, the skillet, the long-handled frying-pan, and the crane, furnished with hooks and pots, for the purpose of boiling. Those being the days of cheap provisions it followed, as a matter of course, that the landlady could always furnish the traveler with the choicest and most substantial fare the most fastidious appetite could desire. We read in scripture of one Demetrius, the silversmith, who, when his craft was in jeopardy, exclaimed, "great is Diana of the Ephesians." Upon the same principle we may exclaim, "great were the days of fire-place cooked victuals."

One scene which I frequently witnessed is vividly impressed on my mind. It was that of seeing in the summer season a number of lawyers and other guests seated under the large locust trees in front of Cully's tavern, either reading newspapers or playing the long since exploded game of backgammon. A ludicrous sight in connection with this was a young blacksmith, who imagined that to sport a fine suit of broadcloth and a ruffled shirt bosom, in imitation of the lawyers, was all that constituted a gentleman. He would

occasionally seat himself in a chair beneath the locust trees, and placing his feet over the top of another chair, with an inverted newspaper in his hand, would seem to be intently reading, indulging at the same time in a loud laugh. It was well known, however, that he was ignorant of the first letter of the alphabet.

TEAMSTERS AND TEAMING.

IN the primitive days of Licking county the teamster was a mighty man. Seated on his powerful saddle-horse, having five other splendid animals in charge, he would probably have disdained to acknowledge Napoleon as uncle. I remember two families living at that time in the town, two brothers named Smith and two brothers of the Stickley family, besides Jacob Hill living in the country, whose principal business was hauling goods from Baltimore. The present generation may form some faint conception of this business of teaming when told that the round trip to Baltimore occupied some four or five weeks. No animal, or circus, or big convention could create a greater sensation than did in those days Stickley's big Virginia covered wagon with six horses, with bear-skin and bells, entering the town loaded with Buckingham's goods.

MARKET.

IN the early settlement of the county, marketing was conducted on a very limited scale. This seemed to follow as a matter of course, as the town people could, upon their own lots, raise their own vegetables and poultry. As for cows, when it is remembered that a greater part of the town and surrounding country was a common, it will be seen that this kind of stock could, in a great measure, maintain themselves. Besides many of the town people were essentially farmers, tending out-lots. Country people could, on rare occasions, such as court sessions, shows and general musters, upon a very limited scale and at very low prices, dispose of their butter, eggs and fowls, mainly to tavern keepers. The following may be regarded as the list of prices which ruled for many years: Eggs six cents per dozen, butter the same price per pound; chickens six cents apiece, and turkeys from fifteen to twenty-five cents. As for grain, such as wheat, corn and oats, it was nearly a drug in the market. Wheat when it could be sold at all, brought about twenty-five cents per bushel. Farmers were glad enough by hauling their wheat to Zanesville to exchange two bushels of wheat for one of salt.

The present generation may appreciate the scarcity of money in those days when told that the postage on a letter was twenty-five cents, and that many found themselves unable to take a letter out under two weeks, and some times not at all. It was even no small matter to procure money enough to see the shows. One good result seemed to follow this abundance of provisions, and that was that people were always sure of an abundance to eat, and of the choicest kinds that the country could produce. This abundance was nowhere more apparent than at the husking frolics, which were then in vogue. I have attended many of these frolics where nearly a hundred sat at a table loaded with the best victuals that could be desired. There was meat of all kinds, venison, pork, beef, mutton, chicken and turkey, wheat and corn bread, pies of various kinds, molasses, honey, in fact everything that could be reasonably wanted. Such a supper at the present time could not probably be afforded for much less than a hundred dollars. The whole of these provisions at that time would not have brought more than ten dollars in the market. As our ancestors had always abundance to eat, so also were they well provided with good and substantial clothing, seeing that they manufactured their own woolen and linen wear. In a word, so far as all the substantial comforts of life

are concerned, they enjoyed themselves fully as well as the present generation, notwithstanding railroads, telegraphs and all other improvements of the present day.

HEALTH OF THE TOWN.

NEWARK at the date of this sketch was a remarkably unhealthy town. I have already mentioned the chain of ponds which surrounded the public square. These ponds were sufficient of themselves to produce sickness; accordingly, intermittent fever, or fever and ague, as it was called, remained a fixture for many years. Dr. Brice was at that time the principal physician in town and I have a distinct remembrance of his mode of practice in this disease, having been obliged for several years in succession (much against my will) to take the preliminary dose of calomel and jalap, and during the intermission a wine-glassful of wine and Peruvian bark, several times through the course of the day. This was the mode of practice at an early day. Intermittent fever was also the prevalent disease of all the surrounding country, scarcely anyone escaping it through the summer months. Indeed, so common was the ague that it was scarcely regarded as a disease. In spite of all remedies employed

for the cure of ague, it frequently continued through the summer season and until the appearance of the first white frost, when it expired, as it were, by limitation. In the country a great variety of remedies were in use for the cure of ague. These were principally tinctures or extracts of various kinds of barks and roots, such as dogwood and wild cherry, snakeroot, etc. I do not doubt that these remedies were equally as efficient for the ague as the Peruvian bark or quinine. This article (quinine) was not introduced into use until the year 1825. Fortunately, whiskey of an excellent quality was plenty and cheap, and everyone could easily obtain it for the purpose of making medicine. In fact whiskey was a very good medicine *per se*. Tansey bitters were also in common use.

SCHOOLS.

THE first school house in Newark was a one-story log building on the north-west corner of west Main and Fourth streets. This building was erected some years before the date of my birth. I attended one term in this institution some time in 1820. Charles Adams, of Zanesville, was the teacher; the last teacher in this institution was a Miss Burnham. No building was erected in the town expressly for

school purposes until after 1825. At the date of this sketch, and long afterwards, schools were taught exclusively in rented buildings; I could enumerate some eight or ten buildings where I have attended school. Of the teachers whose names now occur to me there were Samuel English, from Virginia; Lewis Godden, from New Jersey; Cleaveland, from New York; McDonald, Jemison, Thomas D. Baird, and last but not least, the late Timothy S. Leach, from New York. In these schools were taught reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, geography and English grammar. The teachers above mentioned were thorough masters of their profession. Of the late Timothy S. Leach, as being the last common school teacher I ever patronized, my memory is perfectly clear. He was a strict disciplinarian, and taught all those branches which I have named in a thorough and effective manner; so that to this day to have a good general Leach education is considered all that is requisite to transact any kind of profitable business. After the close of teaching subscription Mr. Leach engaged in teaching district schools. At one time I took occasion to ask Mr. Leach his opinion of the series of school books then about to be adopted in the free schools. He expressed himself as being quite dissatisfied with the text books employed, and pronounced them much in-

ferior to those to which he had been accustomed. In this opinion I cordially agreed with Mr. Leach, and retain the same to this day. I regard the text books of the old common schools as altogether superior to those employed by the free schools. I claim that the genuine, unadulterated Webster spelling book needs no alteration, or addition, whatever, and never can be equaled by any substitute. Let a scholar become a thorough master of Webster's spelling book and he will find himself a good reader, a good speller, and well advanced in the rudiments of English grammar. This is more than can be said with truth of any of the elementary books of the free schools; in fact, the spelling book of the district school is nothing more than a garbled and mutilated version of Webster. Their series of readers I regard as very commonplace and superficial; on the contrary, no work can surpass the old English reader. This work is composed, as is well known, from the speeches and writings of the most eminent scholars of the British realm, such, for example, as Burke, Pitt, Johnson, Addison, Steele, Pope, Dryden, Thomson, Gray and Goldsmith. In a word, the superiority of the old school books over those of the new cannot fail to make itself apparent to the most superficial observer. If in the preceding remarks I shall be regarded as somewhat antiquated

in my views, I would simply remark that the opinion is my own and that no one else is responsible for it.

At the date of this sketch there stood on the site of the Second Presbyterian Church a two-story red painted building which has a history to me. It belonged to Jacob Little, as near as I can learn. It was here that I attended one school term with Samuel English, and afterwards a winter term with the Rev. Thomas D. Baird. Mr. Baird's scholars were Dr. John N. Wilson and brother Enoch, John Moore and brother David, Benjamin W. Brice, James R. Stanbery and brother, Dr. W., Nathaniel English, John C. Gault, Elijah Stadden, William Trindle, four named Cunningham, John Reed, Marvin E. Cully, and several more whose names I do not recall. This was a Latin school. I also attended the ensuing summer term in the old Maurice Neman building, the site of the late S. D. King's residence. In this school-room Mr. Baird had a stage erected, and the elder scholars were trained to declamation and dialogue. A comical figure one John Reed presented whilst standing on the stage with a pair of buckskin pantaloons much shortened at the bottom, and projecting out stiff and prominent over the knees like the cover of a gun-lock. It was Paul's defense before

Agrippa that he was speaking: "Then Paul s-tr-e-t-ched f-o-r-th his h-a-n-d and answered for h-i-m-s-elf."

I remember a dialogue of Brutus and Cassius enacted by two Cunninghams, William and Samuel. Cassius (Samuel) sported an ivory-handled dagger. This dagger belonged to one William Taylor, (brother of the late James M. Taylor), who, starting from Baltimore on horseback bound for Newark, and taking with him a considerable amount of specie, was followed by three men, who, at some point on the Allegheny mountains, waylaid Taylor, took him from his horse, blindfolded, bound him to a tree and robbed him of his money. The three robbers came on to Newark closely followed by one Charles Williams, from Coshocton. He overtook them on the North Fork bridge, and after knocking one of them down, with the assistance of several other men, secured all three of the robbers. One of the robbers attempted to throw several packages of specie wrapped in paper into the creek. They, however, fell on the bank and were picked up by one Mrs. Wilsey, a washerwoman, who restored them to Taylor. Such is the story as related to me when a lad of seven years of age. I remember, however, seeing Samuel Dewesse fitting handcuffs on the three robbers in the old stone shop

that stood on the site of Ball & Ward's shop, at the foot of Church street.

ANOTHER SCHOOL.

AT about the date of this writing one Col. Mills, of Mansfield, came to Newark and organized what he called a fencing school. The members of this school were Colonels Gault, Mathiot, Davidson and Sherwood, John C. Gault, Lucius Smith, Amos H. Caffé, Dr. Brice, Wm. Stanbery, Handle Vance, Wm. Cunningham, and several others whose names I do not now recollect. This company was at first exercised on foot as infantry, and afterwards as cavalry. It was amusing to see this troop start from the middle of the public square and charge furiously against the innocent board fence on the north side of the square.

TRADES.

NO town could have been better supplied with trades than was Newark at the date of this writing. To enumerate some of them we may mention three tanneries: Davidson's and Taylor's on West Main street, and Darlinton's in the northern part of the town. Judge Davis, whose shop was on West Main street, continued for many years to supply the town and country with the large and small wheel and the reel. Major Downey continued this business for several years afterward. There were also carpenter, wagon, cabinet, shoe, tailor, blacksmith, silversmith and cooper shops, together with the pump and saddle-tree business, tombstone cutting, the pottery, chair factory, the hat shops and gunsmith. The hat business seemed to be the most important of all trades, as three hat shops continued for many years to do a thriving business. These were Nathan Cunningham's, on the south-west corner of Third and Canal streets, Stephen Gill's, on the north side of the public square, and Gill & Cully's, at the east end of East Main street. Four different grades of hats were then in vogue: the wool hat costing one dollar, the roram, napped with coon fur, two dollars, the castor, napped

with mink and muskrat, three dollars, and the big bell-crowned beaver costing five or six dollars. This latter kind was only worn by the wealthy, such as lawyers, doctors, preachers, and occasionally a rich farmer. After the completion of the Ohio canal, hats so numerous and cheap were brought from New York that the Newark hatters were obliged to abandon the business. Stephen and James Gill and Thomas Cully, after doing a prosperous business for many years, sold out and became farmers.

The greater number of shops were to be found on East Main street. On the present site of Lewin's residence was the cooper shop of Laughlin Kennedy ; eastward on the same side were the cabinet shop of Leonard Goodrich, the blacksmith shop of Henry Shurtz, and the hat shop of Gill & Cully. On the opposite side of the street stood a remarkable hewed-log building, occupied at one time by a family, afterwards at different times by various tradesmen. Here at one time was the chair factory of John Atherton ; at another the cabinet shop of Leonard Goodrich ; the harness shop of Captain Owens, and his brother, a painter. This, also, for several years was the saddle-tree shop of Eli Wigal, who also conducted the business of pump-making, boring a huge log with an immense auger. On the site of the late Col. Sher-

wood's residence was the pottery of Peter Brakebill.

A rigid system of apprenticeship existed in those times. An apprentice was bound for a term of five or seven years. For his service during this time he received the liberal compensation of board, very plain clothing, three months' schooling, and a freedom suit at the close of the term. In consequence of the rapid invention of machinery, nearly all these trades have become obsolete; in fact, I have known many young men who faithfully served the term of their apprenticeship and never afterward worked at their trade.

Of little less importance than the hat business was the gunsmith, Charles Miller, who emigrated from Hardy county, Virginia, and owned a farm in what is now East Newark. In a log shop, together with his two eldest sons, Enoch and John, he conducted for many years the business of rifle-making. Miller manufactured every part of the rifle, lock, stock and barrel, even the brass and silver mountings. Hunting at that time was the employment or amusement of almost every one. Game of every description was abundant in the early settlement of the county. The shotgun was an article not much respected by the pioneers; this was principally used by boys, and a better hunting ground for this purpose could not be found.

in the state than a tract of land comprising about a hundred and fifty acres belonging to William Stanbery, (the present Roe farm), about one mile east of Newark, just beyond the corporate limits of the city, in Madison township. The tract was covered with a dense growth of hazel, jack-oak, haw, sumac, crab-apple and plum. This was the favorite resort of the town people, for gathering hazel nuts and plums. In no other part of the state could there be found such an abundance of plums of different varieties, and of such excellent quality. The ground under the trees was literally covered with them yearly, half of them going to waste.

Up to the year 1830 this thicket was the greatest rabbit warren to be found in the state. Rabbits were to be found there by the hundred. The hatters of the town were mainly supplied with fur from this place. Here, also, were to be found a great number of pheasants, a species of game which has in a great measure disappeared from the country. There were also to be found in this thicket squirrels and quail in great numbers, and not a few opossums. During the great squirrel season of 1820 the lane between Newark and Madison township, running from the Zanesville road south to the Licking river, about half a mile in length, was the great resort for killing squirrels.

Hundreds of squirrels were killed that year with clubs. Troops of men and boys might be seen daily coming into town loaded with squirrels.

INCIDENTS.

THE principal incidents of the early history of Newark occurred in the year 1825. These incidents have heretofore been fully portrayed by Licking county's historian, Isaac Smucker, Esq. At the risk of a repetition, however, I will proceed to describe several which I personally witnessed in my youthful days, and which I distinctly remember.

THE DIAMOND AFFAIR.—Peter Diamond was a young man employed at the Mary Ann furnace. Whilst at work with several other men he became involved in a quarrel with one of them. Another man named Mitchell interfering in the quarrel, Diamond, who was engaged in cleaning a rifle, struck him a desperate blow on the head from the effects of which he died in a few days. Diamond was arrested, brought to Newark, and had a trial before Judge Harper, who sentenced him to be hanged. All the preliminaries for the execution were completed. On the appointed day Diamond was led forth from the jail in charge of several companies. His coffin was placed in a wagon

drawn by Col. Gault's mules, and driven by one Griff Johnston. Diamond, dressed in a long white robe, walked immediately behind the wagon. At the head of the procession the military band, composed of the celebrated Odel family, with muffled drums, played the mournful dirge, "The Logan Waters." The procession moved to the place of execution, which was an open piece of ground between Church and Locust streets. This ground was bounded on the west side by a semi-circular embankment extending from the residence of Col. Smythe to that of H. S. Sprague. This place was admirably adapted for such an occasion, as it afforded excellent seats for the thousands there assembled. Diamond, together with the sheriff, Col. Gault, Rev. Noah Fidler and Benjamin Briggs, ascended the scaffold. The rope was placed around his neck, a prayer was offered by Rev. Noah Fidler, and Col. Gault stood ready, hatchet in hand, to cut the rope. At this moment Isaac Cool, the jailer, approached at full gallop on a white horse, bearing a reprieve from the Governor commuting the sentence to ten years imprisonment in the penitentiary. Diamond, together with the rest of the company, descended to the foot of the scaffold. A tremendous shout of joy arose from the vast multitude. The band now tore the black scarfs from their drums and

struck up the lively air of the "Blackbird." A drunken man in the crowd being sadly disappointed at the result of the affair, having come, as he said, one hundred miles to witness the execution, expressed himself in a boisterous manner, and even proposed to hang a dog. At this moment Lawrence Van Buskirk approached the man, and with a stout cane leveled him to the ground, walking deliberately away without looking to see whether he was dead or not. In that crowd, among those who were acquainted with the circumstances, there was great sympathy for Diamond. They believed that the crime did not constitute what the law defined a murder in the first degree, being done in the heat of passion and without a moment's reflection. But the principal reason for their sympathy was the fact that among the vast crowd assembled on that occasion, Diamond was undoubtedly the handsomest man. He was a young man of some twenty-two years of age, well-made, nearly six feet in height, with fair hair, blue eyes, and a clear, florid complexion. Diamond was conducted back to the jail in the midst of great rejoicing, the band playing the cheerful air of "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

THE HERON TRAGEDY.—On a bright Sunday morning in the autumn of 1820, being out in the middle of East Main street, I heard the loud report of a

gun toward the northwestern part of the town. Very soon there came the news that Samuel Heron had been shot. Together with a great crowd I hastened to the place of the tragedy, which was a cornfield near the bridge crossing the South Fork on the Lancaster road. On arriving at the place I beheld the field full of people, and Heron, shot directly through the heart, was lying at full length on his back, between two rows of standing corn. So close had the muzzle of the gun been to him that his clothing was burnt entirely through. Samuel Heron was a bachelor of some forty-five years of age, a remarkably innocent and inoffensive man, living alone in a log cabin close to the lock at the southern end of First street. He had tended that season a cornfield on the South Fork. Having been much annoyed by Shaver's hogs, he proceeded that morning to the field, accompanied by his one-eyed dog, Watch. Shaver, a man of violent temper, who lived a quarter of a mile distant, hearing the squealing of the hogs, seized his double-barreled shotgun and hastened to the field. Upon arriving there Shaver, who had the gun cocked and his finger on the trigger, endeavored to shoot the dog who was at that time worrying a hog among the standing corn. He was confronted by Heron, who, in his anxiety to save the dog, seized hold of the gun

barrel and pulled it violently towards himself. Shaver having his finger on the trigger the gun was discharged, and the contents, a large load of shot, passed through the heart of Heron. Such was Shaver's version of the affair as, whilst walking back and forth through the corn in the utmost distress, I heard him relate it immediately after his return from town, where he had been to deliver himself up to the law before Esquire Evans. No different version of the affair ever appeared, as no one witnessed it. A coroner's inquest was held on the ground by Captain Samuel Elliott. So great was the prejudice against Shaver in Licking county that he was obliged to procure a change of venue. The trial was held in Muskingum county, and Shaver was acquitted. Thomas Ewing and William Stanbery were his attorneys.

FOURTH OF JULY.

THE first Fourth of July celebration held in Licking county within my remembrance was in the year 1820, in a beautiful hickory grove of some forty acres belonging to Judge Wilson. This was the same year in which Benjamin Briggs arrived in Newark. Mr. Briggs was present and delivered several toasts, and afterwards published a full account of

the celebration in the *Advocate*. To the great crowd assembled there the occasion was entirely new. The Declaration of Independence was read in the old Presbyterian Church by one Dr. Burnham. I am not aware that any oration was delivered. There was an old-fashioned barbecue, an ox and several pigs being roasted whole and served up on a long table covered with a beautiful bower. The day was unusually fine, and together with the rattle of musketry and the music of the drum and fife was highly enjoyed by the vast multitude. Quite a sensation was made by the appearance of ice on the table. The ice was furnished by William Stanbery, Esq., who was the first person that built an ice house in Newark. We may here add that this hickory grove was the farthest point to which the town people resorted at that time for the purpose of squirrel shooting.

THE JAIL OF 1815.

I N reading the history of Licking county I discover no mention made of the second jail, which must have been built as early as 1815. This jail stood on the south-east corner of Second and Canal streets. It was a one-story hewed-log building, and was said to have been built by Jacob Little. It

fronted on Second street and had four iron grated windows, two on the north and two on the south side. This jail was kept during its existence by Patrick Cunningham. It would appear strange that no attempt was ever made to break this jail, did we not remember that criminals were always heavily ironed. The jail was removed some time in 1820, and converted into a stable by Henry Shurtz.

THEATRE.

Q U I T E a respectable theatre was well-sustained in Newark for several successive winters. The members of this society were Calvin Warner, Joshua Mathiot, Samuel English, Benjamin W. Brice, one Bliss, a silversmith, and quite a number of others whose names have escaped my memory. This theatre was held at one time in the upper story of the remarkable red painted building which we have before mentioned; at another time in the upper story of Leonard Goodrich's dwelling, on East Main street.

THE NORTH FORK OF LICKING.

UP to the year 1825 the North Fork of Licking, as it passed through the present limits of Newark, was a remarkably clear, cold and beautiful stream. Many years since it has lost all these features in consequence of the diversion of a great volume of its waters into the canal feeder. Before the completion of the canal it abounded with quite a variety of excellent fish, among which were to be found several species of the sucker, the white, the black and the mullet; there were also the catfish, sunfish, bass, perch and pike. Fishing afforded pastime or employment to the community. Besides the ordinary modes of fishing, such as the single hook and line, the dip-net and the seine, the three hooks and the wire snare were extensively used for the purpose of taking the sucker, numbers of which, and very large, abounded in the stream. Quite a number of experts at this kind of fishing resided in the town, among the most skillful of whom were Enoch, John and Job Miller. The principal resort for this kind of fishing was that beautiful lower bank of the stream just below the bridge. Here the fisherman might frequently be seen standing upon one end of a plank projecting far over the stream, the other end being made fast to the bank.

LIME.

AMONG the number of Licking county pioneers whose names are recorded in the history of the county, I have sought in vain for Martin Lincoln, one of the greatest benefactors to Newark and vicinity of which the town could boast. Martin Lincoln, bachelor, gentleman and scholar, came to Newark at a very early date—before my remembrance. His home during his residence in the town, which was several years, was with Abram Johnson's widow. According to the impression which I received from some source, he was a native of Connecticut. The occupation of Martin Lincoln was that of burning lime. His lime kiln was on the west bank of the North Fork, on the site of Shield's factory. At this place he constructed a cave for the purposes of sleeping at night and retiring during stormy weather. He had so educated himself that he could rise at any time of night and replenish his fire. Martin Lincoln not only burnt the lime, but delivered it to all parts of the town with his cart and a yoke of very broad-horned oxen. After the retirement of Martin Lincoln from the lime business it was continued by Enoch Miller, up to the time of the completion of the Ohio

canal. The lime was procured from what is called pebble limestone, dug from the creek bank and the streets. It was no easy matter to determine what was limestone simply by inspection. I remember seeing Miller testing the rock by striking it with a hammer; if it emitted a sulphurous smell it was pronounced lime.

CLIMATE, PRODUCTIONS, ETC.

HAVING treated at some length of the appearance of Newark at an early day, we will proceed to make some remarks on the climate. We will premise by saying that at the early settlement of Licking county the climate of Ohio, and of the western states generally, was materially different from that which we find it at present. During the first settlement of the county no such excessive alternations of heat and cold, rain and drought prevailed as have been experienced for many years since. On the contrary, as is well known by all the early settlers, the winters were remarkably mild, so much so that cattle and swine found a good living with but little care from their owners. Spring began much earlier than at present, so that corn planting after the tenth of May was considered late. The summer seasons

were by no means so excessively hot as they have been for years past. Autumn was a mild and pleasant season, frequently followed by a beautiful Indian summer. In short, the seasons were uniform. We heard of no such complaints as at present, of wet and drought and short crops. Wild fruits of every description were abundant. So uniform was the yield of acorns, beech and hickory nuts that farmers relied upon this crop to feed their swine. In fact, whole herds of swine fed exclusively on nuts, were driven to the eastern market. Cultivated fruit was also abundant, such as apples, pears, peaches, plums and cherries. For many successive years I remember no failure of the apple or peach crops, thousands of bushels yearly going to waste. Occasionally an enterprising farmer distilled his apples and peaches.

FARMING.

IN the early days of Licking county farming was necessarily a tedious and laborious business. Being favored, however, with good seasons, the yield of grain and especially of corn was even better than at present. Especial attention was paid to the raising of corn. Had corn commanded fifty cents or a dollar a bushel they could not have bestowed more labor in raising it. With the rude plow then in use they pre-

pared the ground, and furrowed it with the old single shovel plow. They planted by hand dropping and the hoe, and afterwards cultivated it well with the shovel plow. It was then laid by, as it was termed, by an effectual hoeing. Farmers' boys were seldom seen in town, in fact, only on occasions of musters and shows. Their time was more profitably employed in tending corn; after that came the harvest which, according to the facilities then within reach, was no small affair. At the present time a sixteen-year-old boy can accomplish more in the harvest field in a day than ten men could at an earlier date.

By the rapid improvement in agricultural implements farming has become mere child's play. Country people may be said to live in town. We see them daily swarming into town with their elegant buggies and splendid horses and harness, the ladies invading the milliner shops and the men the stores, returning home with groceries and goods of all descriptions which they are abundantly able to purchase from the sale of their farm products. The drugs of early times, such as butter, eggs and fowls, have long since become legal tenders at high prices. The farmer can at present meet the greater part of his current expenses from the sale of these articles, without encroaching upon the sale of his other products, such as

grain, cattle and swine. For years past the export of butter, eggs, cheese and poultry is said to exceed in value that of wheat. In view of this state of things it follows that the farmer is essentially lord of the soil, and that agriculture is the most lucrative, honorable and independent employment in which mankind can engage. It is rather surprising that the young men of the present day make no effort to secure the cheap lands, millions of acres of which are offered for sale all over the western country. It would seem, however, as a general remark, that they entertain the utmost aversion to agricultural pursuits, considering them degrading, and prefer to engage in other kinds of business, such as soliciting for books, papers and pamphlets, enlarging pictures, and a thousand and one other things with which the community has long since been thoroughly surfeited. It is remarkable that we daily see stout, able-bodied young men engaged in these pursuits. It is true that all the learned professions, such as law, medicine, divinity, school teaching, as well as all mercantile pursuits, in fact, every species of business requiring a knowledge of letters is full to overflowing. Still, there remains the vast field of agriculture, as we before remarked, the most lucrative, independent and honorable in which mankind were ever employed. The days of the lcg

cabin, the latch string, the hunting shirt, the moccasin, the barshire plow, the sickle, the scythe, the cradle and the fence-hewing hog have been played out for nearly half a century. Now one riding through the country in any direction beholds splendid and costly dwellings with highly ornamented yards, with all manner of elegant barns and out-buildings, the choicest kinds of blooded stock, horses, cattle, sheep and swine. The market, the school and the church have been brought to the farmer's door; his daughters are school and music teachers, and have their pianos, their elegant horses and buggies, and are the most profitable customers of the milliner and dress-maker.

GENERAL MUSTER.

GENERAL muster was the great event of the year. To the day of general muster all classes looked with the utmost eagerness. General muster was the grand court of Oyer and Terminer, where all the quarrels which had been brewing in the county for the last year must be settled. Licking county could at that time boast of a great number of mighty men. These were principally from the classic region of Hog Run, of the old Virginia and Pennsylvania stock. I have witnessed many desperate encounters on the public square on general muster day. The

wounded and bruised were generally taken to Colonel Gault's tavern on the south side of the square, there to be bathed with whiskey, the sovereign remedy in those days for all external and internal injuries. Wrestling and hop-step-and-jump were practiced to no small extent. The man who could cover forty-five feet in three hops was reckoned among the mighty. I have seen a number perform this feat. In addition to the agreeable pastimes of fighting, wrestling and jumping, there was the no less interesting occupation of eating watermelons and drinking cider. These refreshments were served out on the east side of the court house, that being the shady side in the afternoon. I retain a vivid remembrance of seeing swarms of yellow jackets and occasionally a big bald hornet buzzing around the cider barrel and apples. It was highly exhilarating to witness the manner in which the gallant Hog Run captains led the ladies up to the tail of the wagon, and treated them to apples and cider. I may here remark that the most agreeable recollections of my youthful days are associated with general muster. Great was general muster, and great was the grief of the young community when a fatal flank movement by the Fantastics totally obliterated this glorious institution.

As a sequel to general muster we will introduce the following tale of ancient Newark.

HOW A GROCERY WAS SAVED.

A TALE OF ANCIENT NEWARK.

SOMETHING more than half a century since the great Ohio canal was completed as far as Newark, at that time quite an insignificant one-horse village, but now a magnificent city. For a short period Newark remained the terminus of canal navigation. During this period there sprang up on the north side of the canal a long row of groceries. Now, of the several proprietors of these groceries by far the most distinguished was the hero of our story, one I. C. Davis. A sharp, keen, quick-witted fellow was I. C. Davis. I have him distinctly in my mind's eye to this day, with his span new suit of well-fitting sheep's grey and bright metal buttons, a clear milk and cider complexion, and "smart as the slam of a drum." Mr. Davis had early in life determined to be the author of his own fortune. By rigid economy and industry he had accumulated the (to him) enormous sum of fifteen dollars and eighty-seven and a half cents. We wish the reader to be thoroughly advised of the prodigious amount of the investment in order to fully appreciate the extreme caution necessary to be employed in making a successful use of it. Mr. Davis, always keenly alive to his own interest,

had early in life resolved to by all legitimate means secure popularity. In accordance with this resolution he privately determined not to commit himself upon any of the disputed topics of the day, such as religion, finance or politics, especially the latter. This Mr. Davis plainly foresaw would be no easy matter in his commerce with his fellow citizens. He had a promiscuous, heterogeneous education, picked up at random from the vast field of literature. One particular couplet in *Hudibras* powerfully attracted his attention. It was this :

"In all the trade of war no feat
Is better than a good retreat."

He greatly admired the skillful retreat of General Moreau through the Black Forest, also that of General Washington through the Jerseys. In short, the idea of retreat constantly occupied his mind. Fortunately, as will appear toward the conclusion of our story, Mr. Davis effected his retreat in the most adroit and successful manner of which we can have any conception.

It must be remembered that at that early day the grocery dispensed not only such provisions as butter, eggs, cheese, hams, bologna, crackers and gingerbread, but also an unlimited quantity of pure whiskey. A few of the oldest inhabitants of the city doubtless remember with great affection the unrivaled brands of Smith & McKinney.

In the autumn of this year there occurred the grand general muster of Licking county. As a natural result the town was filled with the military from all parts of the country. Conspicuous among this vast crowd was a jolly company from the classic region of Hog Run, called the Hog Run Rifles. It was always well understood by the citizens of Newark that when Hog Run came to town in force vast quantities of cider, beer, gingerbread and whiskey must necessarily disappear. This company chose to patronize Mr. Davis, knowing him to be a genial, whole-souled, clever fellow. When the military were dismissed at noon Mr. Davis found his store crowded with his friends, the Hog Run soldiers. He proceeded with great cheerfulness and alacrity to supply the various calls of his customers—cider to this, beer and cakes to that, and to another, whiskey. In a short time the company began to be quite boisterous. Politics ran high. It was on the eve of the Presidential election, Jackson and Adams being the candidates. Our Hog Run friends were Democrats to a man, and as they became warmed up through the genial influence of the Smith & McKinney loud shouts of "Hurrah for Jackson" were heard. One of the company boldly called out, "Mr. Davis, what is your politics?" Mr. Davis, well aware that this question

must inevitably come, was amply prepared for it. Affecting not to understand it, he replied, "Oh, cakes and beer! Here they are, the best to be found in the town." Presently another of the company repeated the same question. Apparently not regarding it, he answered, "Cheese and bologna, here they are!" In this way, by various subterfuges, he managed to evade the direct question. The time had now nearly arrived at which our military friends must appear on parade. A determined soldier resolved to bring matters to a crisis, and to ascertain decidedly the politics of our hero thus addressed him: "Mr. Davis, we will be obliged in a few moments to appear on parade. Now, we all want to know straight up and down what's your politics." Thus peremptorily appealed to, he proved himself fully adequate to the task. Leaning back against the shelves of his grocery, he thus delivered one of the most remarkable speeches ever recorded in ancient or modern history.

"Gentlemen, I am well aware that there are two candidates in the field for President, Adams and Jackson. Now, we all know that Adams is a distinguished man of great stock and blood. His father was twice President, and John Q. has been frequently a member of Congress, and was a minister to England. Yes, gentlemen, Adams is a great man. As to Jack-

son, every one knows that he is a great military man and statesman. He fought the Creek Indians, and conquered the Seminoles in Florida. He also defeated the British army at New Orleans, where Pakenham and fifteen hundred men were killed. Yes, gentlemen, I acknowledge that Jackson is a great man. But, gentlemen, understand me distinctly, these conclusions and matters and things must be brought to a conclusion, whereby we can form a conclusion with regard to the human family."

Our Hog Run friends were perfectly astounded at this prodigious piece of eloquence. Just at this moment the drum beat to arms, and the gallant company suddenly vamoosed the ranch. On the way to the parade ground the conversation turned upon the amazing learning and eloquence of their friend, I. C. Davis, ignoring the unmistakable fact that they were now no wiser in regard to the politics of Mr. Davis than they were at first. By this artful, ingenious and non-committal speech he succeeded in effectually maintaining his neutrality in regard to politics, gave offense to no party, and ever afterward secured the patronage of his fellow citizens. Thus beyond all question the grocery, together with the immense investment, was triumphantly saved. Mr. Davis pursued the even tenor of his way, and continued for several years to do a prosperous business.

Newark, Oh. Public Library