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National Intelligencer.

Extract of a letter from a respectable American gentleman in London, dated, 10th September, 1801.

I have but a slight acquaintance with the author of the annexed Memoir: from what I have seen of him, I have conceived a favourable opinion of his truth and integrity. Perhaps the communication may be worth the attention of the Inhabitants of the Southern States.

[Translation from the Spanish.]

Antidote against the bite of Poisonous Snakes.

The great number of venomous Serpents in the warm regions of South America, has compelled the poor Indians and Negroes, who generally go barefoot in the woods, to seek for the most certain remedies against the fatal accidents resulting from the bite of those animals. Of the remedies they have discovered, none is so efficacious as the juice of a Sarmentose [or running] plant, called Vejuco del Guaco; for this, besides curing the malady that ensues on the bite of a Snake, protects whoever drinks it before-hand, from the malady, even though he should be bitten; so that the Negroes & Indians who know this plant, suffer no inconvenience from handling the most venomous snakes. This skill, of which they made a great mystery in former times, gave them considerable importance in that country, and without doubt procured them large sums of money, as well from people who were bitten by snakes, as from those who thro' curiosity wished to see them handle those dangerous animals.

As I was born in the Viceroy-ship of Santafe, which belongs to South America, I of course had often heard people praise the skill of these Negroes, who are called by my countrymen *Curanderos*, or *Curers*; but as there were no Snakes in the Capital where I was bro't up, it being a cold part of the Country, I never had it in my power to see one of these Curanderos, till the year 1788, at which time being in Mariquito, I heard of a slave that belonged to a gentleman of that place, and that had great reputation in the art. Being resolved to examine the matter myself, I requested the gentleman to permit his slave to call upon me well provided with Snakes, which he positively complied with.

On the 30th of May, the same year (1788) the Negro came to the house where I lived, with one of the poisonous Snakes of the Country: he brought it in a calabash, which is a sort of a vessel used for the same purposes as glass bottles are in Europe. Having expressed to him my desire to be a witness of his skill, he answered that he was ready to satisfy me; and in fact drawing the snake out of the calabash he took it in his hands with so much boldness and unconcern, that I suspected he had previously taken out the fangs in which the poison is contained. However, on making him open the snake's mouth, I perceived that was not the case, but that in fact the Negro had something in his flesh, by which the snake was deprived of its senses; for it was as gentle and quiet as the most harmless animal could have been.

After a long conversation with the Negro, and various questions which he answered with great propriety, I intimated how much I should be gratified, if I could do as he did, with the snakes; and finding he had no objection to procure me that satisfaction, I offered him a sum of money, to which he agreed, and the next day he came with leaves of the *Guaco plant*, which he moistened and bruised in my presence, and made me drink two large spoonfuls of the juice. He next made three incisions between my fingers on both hands, and infused some of the juice into them. The same operation was performed on both my feet, and on each side of my breast. This ceremony being finished, he told me I might now take up the Snake. I made several observations upon the ill consequences I apprehended in case the Snake should bite me, and thus cause my death; but finding him persist in his assurances to the contrary, I resolved to take up the animal, without any more scruples; and in fact I did it, and several times too, without the animal's doing me the least harm. One person, however, that was in the house, and was willing to run the same risk that I did, was bit the second time he took up the Snake, but it did not occasion the slightest harm, except an inflammation of short continuance in the part bitten, which was his hand.

Two of my servants, who had also had the juice infused into them, being encouraged by this first trial, went into the fields, and soon brought a Snake of another species, but likewise venomous without receiving any injury. In short I have taken up several others since, with no other preparative than first drinking a little of the juice of the plant above mentioned: and having repeated the experiments both by myself and by means of my servants, and always with the same happy result—I determined in 1791 to offer a Memoir upon this admirable antidote in a Periodical paper, published every week at Santafe, together with a description of the plant, and every circumstance that should make this discovery generally known, for the benefit of mankind.

In that piece may be seen all the experiments in detail, and the witnesses who were present at them. The paper is dated Sept. 30, 179 .—I shall here confine myself to observing that the tradition among the Indian and Negro curers of Santafe, respecting the manner in which the virtues of this plant became known, is as follows: In the warm and temperate parts of that Country, there is a bird of the Hawk-kind, (and very possibly the species described by Catesby under the name of *Epervier a Serpens*, or Snake-Hawk) that lives chiefly upon Snakes. This bird has a uniform note which is sometimes disagreeable from its repetition, and which resembles the articulate sound of *Guaco*, [pronounced *Gwauco* in English,] from which circumstance the country people have given the bird its name. When this bird cries (or sings) these people say it is to call together the Snakes, over whom he exercises a certain authority; with other extravagant stories of the like kind. But what is certain is, that the *Guaco* pursues them wherever he finds them; and the Indians and Negroes, who pass the greater part of their lives in the Forrests and Fields, say that for the greater security in taking them, the bird prepares himself by eating some of the leaves of the plant. This is very likely to be the case; and they have hence inferred its virtues, and made the experiments with success. Here then, as in other instances, the instinct of animals is found to have been useful to us.

Description of the plant Guaco.

As to the plant itself, its genus is not yet classed in any Botanical work that I have seen, for which reason I will venture to give a description of it, in the best manner I am able, availing myself, for this purpose, of the above mentioned Memoir. The root is fibrous, and extends itself in every direction. The stalk is scandent, or climbing (trepador) and when the plant is young, is perfectly cylindrical; but, when old, it becomes pentagonal, or five cornered. The leaves which grow along this stalk, are opposite each other, heart shaped, of a dark green colour, intermixed with purple or mulberry colour, (morado) smooth underneath, rough above, and with foot-stalks or petioles (con cabillos 'o peceolos). Its flowers, which are in a corymbus (or head, like the flowers of cabbage and others of that sort) are yellow, and flosculous, or tubular with four florets in each common calyx: The corolla is monopetalous funnel-shapped, with five segments (lascinias) and contains five stamens, united by their authers, which are cylindrical, and embrace the style of the germ. The germ has its stigma deeply cleft, and contains several broadish or flattish (larguchas) seeds, each of which has a stiff or bristly pappus or down, like that on thistle seeds.

The plant is vigorous (vivaz: perhaps *perennial*) and grows in the warm and temperate parts of the province of Santafe': it prefers commonly the margins of rivulets in shady situations to the open fields. Nature has not propagated it in the high or cold parts of that continent, and doubtless for this reason, that its virtues would there be useless; there being no venomous snakes except in the places where it grows.

(Signed)
P. OREBEY VARGAS.
London, Aug. 4th, 1801.

Dissolution of Partnership.

THE partnership of CHARLES VARDEN and THOMAS CARPENTER, did by mutual consent dissolve on the 21st day of November last. It is requested that all persons indebted to the said firm will settle their accounts; and that all to whom the firm is indebted will present the same for payment, either to

CHARLES VARDEN, or
THOMAS CARPENTER.

City of Washington, Capitol Hill,
Dec. 4. eptf

National Intelligencer.

Agreeably to a late intimation, we this day commence the publication of those parts of the Journal of the House of Representatives, which are not noticed in the sketch of each day's proceedings.

Whatever is considered as interesting to the public will receive the earliest attention, while subordinate objects will be delayed to be noticed, generally for a few days. By these means we may promise our readers more correctness than would otherwise be attained.

SKETCH

Of the Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States.

Tuesday, December 8, 1801.

A committee of elections was appointed, consisting of Mr. Milledge, Mr. Tenney, Mr. Condit, Mr. Dennis, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Stanley, and Mr. John Taliaferro.

A committee of revisal and unfinished business was appointed, consisting of Mr. Davenport, Mr. Clay, and Mr. Allston.

A committee of claims was appointed, consisting of Mr. John Cotton Smith, Mr. Gregg, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Mattoon, Mr. John Smith (of New-York) Mr. Plater, and Mr. Moore.

A committee of commerce and manufactures was appointed, consisting of Mr. Samuel Smith, Mr. Eustis, Mr. Dana, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Jones, Mr. Newton, and Mr. Lowndes.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire whether any, and if any, what alterations or amendments may be necessary in the existing government and laws of the District of Columbia; and that they be authorised to report by bill or otherwise, and that Mr. Sprigg, Mr. Brent, Mr. Foster, Mr. Sumter, Mr. Plater, Mr. Stratton, and Mr. Bacon, be the committee.

A petition of James M'Cashen and others, was referred to Mr. Davis, Mr. Hoge, and Mr. Fearing.

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1801.

The petitions of Polly Cumming, of Peter Harvey, of Ephraim Davis, of Joseph Eaker, and of Joseph Goss were referred to the committee of claims.

The memorial of Montgomery and Newbold, and of John Siesman, for himself and Godfrey Haga, and of sundry brush manufacturers of the City of Baltimore, whose names are thereunto subscribed, praying a repeal of the duties at present imposed by the revenue laws of the United States, on bristles imported from foreign countries; and that an additional duty may be laid on imported brushes, were referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

The petitions of Henry Mumbower, and others, was referred to Mr. Leib, Mr. Campbell, and Mr. Johnson.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting an account of the receipts and expenditures of the United States, for the year 1800, together with a letter from the Register of the Treasury, in relation thereto, which were read and ordered to be referred to the committee of ways and means.

Thursday, Dec. 10, 1801.

The petition of Alexander Hill, was referred to the committee of claims.

The petition of Sarah Fletcher and Jane Ingraham, widows and relicts of Patrick Fletcher, late commander of the United States frigate Insurgent, and of Joseph Ingraham, late a lieutenant on board the United States brigantine of war, Pickering, were referred to Mr. Eustis, Mr. Goddard, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Giles, and Mr. Stanton.

The petition of John Holland, junr. and William Oliver, were referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire whether any, and what amendments are necessary to be made in the acts establishing a post office and post roads within the United States; and that the said committee have power to report by bill, or otherwise, and that Mr. Southard, Mr. Archer, Mr. New, Mr. Boude, Mr. Butler, Mr. Walker, and Mr. L. Williams, be appointed a committee pursuant to the said resolution.

Friday, Dec. 11, 1801.

Petitions of sundry inhabitants of the lower and western counties of the state of New-Jersey, whose names are thereunto subscribed, were presented to the House and read, respectively, praying that the present post road from Philadelphia, through Salem, to Bridgetown, may be discontinued; and that a new post road may be established from Philadelphia, through Woodbury, in Gloucester county, Bridgetown, Millville, and Port Elizabeth, in Cumberland county; to be extended to the lower end of Cape May county, in the said state.

Referred to the committe appointed yesterday, to enquire whether any, and what amendments are necessary to be made in the acts for establishing a post-office and post roads within the United States.

The petition of Joseph Chase, was referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of amending the act, intituled, "An act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters; and that the said committee be authorised to report by bill or otherwise, and that Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Goddard, Mr. Holland, Mr. John Smith (of Virginia) and Mr. Lowndes, be the committee.

Monday, Dec. 14, 1801.

The memorial of John Hobby, was referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The petition of Caleb Eddy was presented.

Resolved, That the committee of claims do enquire into the expediency of extending to the refugees from the British provinces of Canada and Nova-Scotia, a further time for exhibiting their claims for lands, under the act, intituled, "An act for the relief of the Refugees from the British provinces of Canada and Nova-Scotia."

Ordered, That the memorial of Philip Sloan, presented on the twenty-sixth day of February last, be referred to the secretary of state, with instruction to examine the same, and report his opinion thereupon, to the House.

The petition of John Hoxe, and of John Corbett, were referred to the committee of claims.

Mr. John Cotton Smith, from the committee of claims, to whom was referred on the ninth instant, the petition of Joseph Eaker, made a report, which was read and considered: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the prayer of the petition of the said Joseph Eaker ought not to be granted.

On motion,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of giving further time to persons entitled to military land warrants, to obtain and locate the same.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to report what provision ought to be made by law, to authorise the secretary at war to issue military land warrants; and that the committee also report, what provision ought to be made by law, to authorise the secretary at war to issue duplicates where satisfactory proof is made that the originals have been lost, destroyed, or obtained by fraud.

Ordered, That Mr. Davis, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Talmage, Mr. Dennis, and Mr. Fearing, be said committee.

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 1801.

The memorial of William Kilty, and the petitions of Philip Wilson, and of Andrew M'Guire, were referred to the committee of claims.

Mr. Samuel Smith, from the committee of commerce and manufactures, to whom was referred on the tenth instant, the petition of William Oliver, made a report, which was read and considered: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the prayer of the petition of the said William Oliver ought not to be granted.

Mr. Samuel Smith, from the same committee, to whom was referred on the eleventh instant, the petition of Joseph Chase, made a report, which was read and considered: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the prayer of the petition of the said Joseph Chase ought not to be granted

Mr. J. C. Smith, from the committee of claims, to whom was referred on the ninth instant, the petition of Peter Harvey, made a report, which was read and considered: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the prayer of the petition of the said Peter Harvey ought not to be granted.

SPEECH

Of the Governor of the North-Western, Territory, delivered Nov. 25, 1801.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and of the House of Representatives,

At this first meeting of the second General Assembly of the Territory, I cannot lay any business before you without first turning your thoughts to the Supreme Being, the author and giver of all good. Favoured as we have been with another most plentiful harvest in every kind, and blessed with the continuance of peace at home and abroad, when we contrast our situation with many countries in the old world, suffering from want—deluged in blood and shaken to their centres—their civil and religious institutions overturned, and anarchy & despotism & atheism reigning in their stead, how thankful ought we to be to Almighty God, whose kind Providence has sheltered us from similar calamities; neither should our gratitude be withheld from the general government of our country, which has been the instrument in his hands to shield us from harm, and to procure us so many blessings. This comparison, gentlemen, which it seems impossible not to make, holds out to us also a very useful lesson, not lightly to part with the advantages which we enjoy, in the hope of imaginary and contingent good. Could the thousandth part of the atrocities that have been committed in, and the miseries that have been brought upon unhappy France, been presented to that people before hand, they would have turned from them with horror, and exclaimed with one voice, "Are thy servant's dogs that they should do this thing?" It is true, gentlemen, that many parts of our country have, this last season, been severely afflicted with sickness; but this, far from being a ground for murmuring or discontent, should lead to examine ourselves—to the correction of our vices, which may have brought that evil upon us, & to a reformation of manners. I submit to you, gentlemen, whether it would not be proper, by law, to set apart a day for a public and solemn acknowledgment to God for the numberless benefits we have received; to supplicate the continuance of them; to deprecate his wrath for the multitude of our transgressions, and to implore his grace to assist us to amend our lives.

The time, gentlemen, that was chosen for your meeting will, I hope, be found convenient to you. The labours of the field are now over, and a sufficient space for the business of legislation, to which you are called, remains, before you will be obliged to return to them. Of legislative business a considerable field lies open before you, for, from the unavoidable early adjournment of the last assembly, many things were left unattended to, which would otherwise have been taken up by them. You will find them, gentlemen, on the journals, in my address to that assembly on opening the last session, and I request you to consider them as now repeated to you. But, in a particular manner, I must recommend to you the revision of our criminal laws. From some defect in the laws themselves, or in the application of them, it is painful to think how often offenders escape with impunity—the laws become dispised—offenders audacious, and the peace of society is endangered.

The militia, gentlemen, have been organized as far as it could be, in all the counties except the county of Belmont, and there has not been time for it there since it was erected. But I suggest to you the propriety of altering the law establishing and regulating the militia; all that part of it which relates to general officers, should be repealed. The appointment of those officers is reserved to the general government, and by it they will be appointed as soon as they are thought necessary; but the propriety of making regulations upon matters exclusively with that government, may well be questioned, and of this I was well aware at the time, and thought it appeared an incongruity, it was prefered to losing the law entirely. A sufficient time has since elapsed to shew that it was a needless provision, and that the militia may do well enough without generals and the cumbrous staff that is added to them. As connected with the militia, gentlemen, I have to observe to you, that a considerable number of the people called Quakers, have lately become inhabitants, and that more may be expected. The general character of the people of that profession for industry, sobriety and good morals, is generally known and acknowledged, and renders them a valuable acquisition;—but their religious principles forbid them to take