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WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, December 24.

THE following description of Peale's Museum will be perused with pleasure by every friend of the arts and sciences. The merit of the individual, whose distinguished services it attests, entitles it to a republication in every print in the union. We not only feel it a duty to reprint it, but likewise we consider ourselves under an obligation to express the sense we entertain of the merit of the proprietor. The difficulties and embarrassments attending its commencement are fresh in our recollection, and we do not confer exaggerated eulogium, when we declare our conviction that no other man could have overcome them. He had some assistance; but the great work is eminently his own.

The maturity to which the Museum has attained, places it beyond the need of public support. We rejoice to hear that it is a source of emolument to Mr Peale. But there are powerful considerations that recommend it to the patronage of the state of Pennsylvania. If that state is duly sensible of the great importance of retaining this nursery of science in her own bosom, she will discern that this is the most eligible season for making an arrangement to that effect. The time will soon arrive when competitors will spring up, and the difficulties attending arrangements for its permanent disposition increase. Now the thing is easy. If we are correctly informed, Mr. Peale is anxious to place this distinguished record of his labours on a less precarious footing than individual superintendance. Should the legislature of Pennsylvania direct their attention to this object, we trust they will display a liberality of spirit, that, while it reflects honor on them, will render the remaining days of Mr. Peale easy and comfortable.

From the Literary Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM.

There is no institution of the kind, in N. America, which bears any comparison, in importance, value, and extent, to the Museum in the city of Philadelphia, the founder of which is C. W. Peale. The credit due to this gentleman can only be rightly estimated by those who are acquainted with the history of this establishment: the small beginning from which it arose, the indefatigable zeal and industry with which it has been reared to its present state, the skill and ingenuity displayed in its arrangement, are all, in the highest degree honorable to Mr. Peale, and place him by no means low in the list of those who have advanced the dignity and reputation of his country.

This museum is the property of C. W. Peale, who began it in 1785.—Unceasing industry has raised it to a respectable scale. For ten years it was kept in the Philosophical Hall, where a branch of it still remains; but, in 1802, the legislature of Pennsylvania influenced by an idea of its increasing utility, granted for the use of the museum, the greatest part of the state house, where it is now displayed in a manner better becoming the importance of the institution, and more worthy of the state which gave it birth.

The whole is divided into seven apartments: the lobby, the quadruped room, the long room, the marine room, the mammoth room, the model room, and the antique room.

The Lobby.

Contains a large electrical apparatus, sufficiently powerful to give a moderate shock, without the Leyden phial; likewise a Galvanic apparatus.

Quadruped Room.

This room, which is 40 feet long, contains upwards of 190 quadrupeds, placed in their natural attitudes; those of the larger kinds, with their names in gilt frames, are placed on pedestals behind wire netting, the smaller quadrupeds are in glass cases on the opposite side, with numbers which refer to corresponding ones in frames over them, stating the *genera* to which they belong and their specific names in Latin, English, and French. The Linnæan classification is generally adopted throughout the animal department.

Among the most remarkable of the quadrupeds, are the grisly bear, from the source of the Missouri; the buffaloe; the great ant eater, seven feet seven inches from the snout to the tip of the tail; the curang outang; crested porcupine; American do. Madagascar, measuring four feet from tip to tip, hooded bat, &c. lama; hyæna; elks; picary; sloths; antelopes; Indian musk. Few museums are so well supplied with quadrupeds, thus naturally mounted and so well preserved; but it is the effect of the proprietor's indefatigable exertions to render his museum complete, and worthy of comparison with many of the most celebrated in Europe.

Long Room.

Linnæus's classification of birds, with the characters of each order and genus, is, for want of space to display it better, exhibited in a gilt frame at the entrance of the long room. All the birds are in glass cases, the insides of which are painted to represent appropriate scenery, mountains, plains, or waters; the birds being placed on branches or artificial rocks, &c. These cases extend the whole length of this room, which is a hundred feet, and are placed twelve feet above the floor, which is the greatest height at which they can appear to advantage.

The first order, rapacious birds, begins in the upper row at the head of the room, and extends nearly to the centre; and each succeeding order begins at the left, extending to the right. In frames over each case the *genus* is the first noted, then their species and names in Latin, English, and French, referring to the numbers attached to each species.

There are now in this collection (including many non-descripts) perhaps all the birds belonging to the middle, many of which likewise belong to the northern and southern states; and a considerable number from South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the new discovered islands in the south seas. The variety of interesting objects in this department is too great to particularise them; the number exceeds seven hundred and sixty, without counting the duplicates.

On projecting cases, between the windows at the west end of the room, is a classification of four thousand insects in gilt frames. Those species which are too small to be examined with the naked eye, are placed in microscopic wheels, with the numbers continued from the glass frames; there are also two other compound microscopes, of a new construction, adapted to a large collection of curious insects, one for opaque, and the other for transparent subjects, with a catalogue of each.

Projecting between the windows, at the east end of the room, are glass cases containing minerals and fossils arranged, to facilitate their study, according to Kirwan. It is of importance that this department should contain a complete collection of American minerals, accompanied with a description of the quantity and situation where found.

Over the birds, in handsome gilt frames, are two rows of portraits of distinguished personages, painted from the life, by C. W. Peale and his son Rembrandt. This collection was begun in 1779, and contains various characters of distinguished eminence both natives and foreigners; as Franklin, Priestley, Rittenhouse, Humboldt, &c. Their several names are in frames over each portrait, yet there is a number which refers to a concise account of each person in small frames on the opposite cases. Of seventy persons here portrayed, forty are dead. Some portraits of a larger size adorn each end of the room.

In a gallery in the centre, between the windows, is an excellent organ for the use of such visitors as are acquainted with music.

A person attends in this room with Hawkin's ingenious physiognotrace, who draws the profiles of such as chuse to pay the cost of paper, free of other expence.*

Marine Room.

On the centre of the room, supported on a pedestal, stands the chama, a shell three feet long and one hundred and eighty five pounds weight; a pair of them are behind the railings.

A railing at each end of the room encloses the larger fishes and amphibious animals, on each of which, in a gilt frame, is the respective name. The smaller animals are displayed in two large glass cases on inclined shelves, with numbers referring to a framed catalogue. The tops of the cases are ornamented with artificial rock work, supporting marine productions, such as corals, sea fans, feathers, &c.

Between the windows, projecting six feet into the room, are four glass cases containing a classical arrangement of shells, corals, spunges, &c.

Against the wall are sundry skins of large snakes, one 16 feet long (Amboiya) from S. America.

Arts and Antiquity.

This part of the museum is in the Philosophical Hall.

Mammoth Room.

Contains the skeleton of the mammoth, which was discovered in Ulster county (New York) in 1801. It is the first put together, and is as valuable as it is stupendous: being an almost perfect skeleton, the bones belonging to one animal, and very few being deficient. It is eleven feet ten inches high, and nineteen feet long. A particular account by Rembrandt Peale, of its discovery, with many interesting remarks on it, is in 92 gilt frames, hung up in a convenient gallery for viewing the skeleton.

The mammoth is a non descript, and, as it is called by some, an ante deluvian animal, with carnivorous grinders; and although formerly supposed to be a species of elephant, yet differing from it, and from all other animals, in several extraordinary particulars. Since the year 1740, the learned have been gratified with the occasional discovery of various mutilated specimens of similar bones; but it was not until 1801, that C. W. Peale, after great exertion, was enabled to obtain this skeleton. Some bones of the mammoth first gave rise to the museum in 1785, which, 16 years after, possessed the first entire skeleton.

Here is also a part of the skull of an unknown animal of the ox kind, the pith of the horn measuring 21 inches in circumference; probably the horns would have measured from 14 to 16 feet from tip to tip.

This precious relique belongs to the philosophical society, by the request of the donor, Dr. Brown, to be placed with the mammoth.

There are various small skeletons in the same room, among others that of a mouse, as an object of contrast with the mammoth.

In frames hung against the wall, are engravings of the whole skeleton, and the detached parts, of an unknown quadruped of the sloth kind, of great size, found in South America, and now in the museum at Madrid. Inside the railing are similar bones found in Virginia.

Model Room.

Opposite the former room you enter the model room, where there are in glass cases ten wax figures of different nations of Indians, dressed in their proper habiliments; and sundry arms, utensils, &c. of the North American Indians, those of the south sea islands, and other places.

Extending across the room, in front of the windows is a case containing 14,000 elegant casts from antique gems: these are part of the collection in the antique room. In the same cases are various Indian and European antiquities, articles of dress and curiosity, &c. Here is the commencement of a collection of models of useful machinery, and a few paintings.

Antique Room.

Contains several fine casts from the celebrated statues of antiquity, such as the Apollo de Belvidere, the fighting and dying gladiators, the Antinous, Meliager, &c. besides busts and basso relievos. We are indebted for these casts to the taste and liberality of Mr. Smith, brother of Wm. Loughton Smith, esq. of South Carolina, who deposits them with Mr. Peale, until they become the foundation of an American academy of the fine arts.

A considerable number of other subjects are now in preparation, and only waiting for such an arrangement in the museum as will enable them to be systematically displayed, without which they answer no other end than mere show, enough of which already exists; since the chief value of a museum depends upon an arrangement calculated as much to instruct as amuse.

As this museum, like all others, has necessarily grown into importance by means of gradual increase from the collection of individual subjects; the same means pursued with unceasing care will ensure its perfection. The proprietor therefore solicits the assistance of gentlemen travelling into foreign countries, into whose hands articles occasionally fall, which are rendered valuable in a collective view, but otherwise lost to the public, and of little value to the possessors.

* The attendant is allowed to receive 6 cents for cutting out each set of profiles, from such as chuse to employ him.

A FEW Hundered bushels of white, well burnt SHELL LIME, will be sold for cash, at 16 DOLLARS the 100 bushels, if applied for immediately, a less quantity than 100 bushels will not be sold at this price.

Apply to CON. CONNINGHAM.

November ——

☞ Cash will be given for WELL cleaned BARLEY.

MESSAGE of the GOVERNOR of OHIO, to the General Assembly.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives,

WHILE you are about to enter on the labours of another session of the general assembly, we are called on by the ties of gratitude to render our sincere acknowledgements to the Divine Disposer of human events, for his distinguishing favors towards us, and while we sympathize with those of our fellow citizens in the other states, who have suffered under those various visitations and afflictions attached to the condition of man in this life, we have abundant reason to acknowledge the Divine Goodness in the merciful manner we have been dealt with for the last year; our crops have been abundant, storms, pestilences and severe afflictions have been withheld; those partial diseases incident to the first settlers of all extensive and uncultivated forests, are gradually disappearing before the improving hand of industry; the climate with its natural productions, the soil, the navigable streams which run through the interior and wash the shores of our state; the donations made for schools and universities; the great provision for rendering easy the means of intercourse to every part by good roads, added to the form of government we possess; the participation of equal laws, and the enjoyment, not in name, but in, fact, of civil and religious liberty, are all conspiring to realize the expectation that our state will soon be filled up with a people, who for simplicity of manners, purity of morals and industry of habits, will constitute a state strong in itself, every man enjoying that personal liberty which like the air of heaven, was given by the author of our existence, free to all; even our oppressed fellow men from different parts of Europe are traversing the ocean to seek an asylum from tyranny, for themselves and posterity, in these United States, and are finding their way in companies, bringing their industry, wealth and knowledge of the most useful and necessary arts with them to the banks of the Ohio; under these circumstances and with these prospects, how all-important are the stations you now fill, and the heaven-like duties you are called upon to discharge, that of dispensing laws for the government of a growing people; to you they look up as the collected wisdom of the state, and with watchful eye mark all your conduct; let then not the rude breath of fame be able, while you are together, to tarnish the purity of those morals which adorn your characters in private life; let a dignified simplicity and a spirit of amity, conciliation and mutual forbearance, be breathed through all your deliberations; let the ease, the wants, the wishes of that political society from which you are selected, and the future prosperity of our rising republic, be your polar star, that when the labours of the session are ended, you may return to your constituents with that experience and confidence which an honest pride inspires; meet them happy in the confidence with which they invested you, and which a grateful people will always continue to those who have dignified their stations and been faithful servants, and enjoying what to you will be of infinitely greater importance, the approbation of self approving minds.

The acknowledged maxim, "that knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness," is strikingly exemplified by contrasting the situation of the people of these United States with those of other governments, where its diffusion is neglected, or is beyond the reach of the lower classes of the people; for, however just the observation may be, that governments are instituted for the benefit of the governed, yet if they have not the means of acquiring a knowledge of their rights, they will never feel their value, and consequently not be careful to guard against their invasion; they cannot discern between oppression and the exercise of lawful authority—between burthens imposed from a regard to their public wants and those which might be imposed insidiously, under colour thereof to accomplish the means of wresting from them every vestige of liberty; the great resources of lands which this state possesses for the support of schools and other seminaries of learning, affords the legislature a sublime employment, inasmuch as the benefits which may result therefrom, will have their effects in the continued support of the best government in the world, truly stiled its "best hope," and which, while correctly administered, is eminently calculated to promote public and individual happiness, as well as extend the civil and religious blessings we enjoy to future generations.

These observations will naturally lead you to enquire whether any, and if any, what improvements are necessary to the act, entitled, "An act establishing an university in the town of Athens;" under this act, a quorum of the trustees met in June last, and so far as their powers extended, carried it into effect; a committee of two members of the board were appointed, to superintend the surveying of such part of the two townships of land which were appropriated for the university, as might be applied for by those willing to become lessees, also to superintend the sales of a small part of the town and out lots, which were designated by the board to be sold as an experiment, and in Exhibit, No. 1, I lay before you a communication from general Putnam, one of the committee, which shews that the prospects are flattering, but it is necessary to observe, that from actual observation when there, and from information derived from intelligent characters since, that the settlers on these lands were induced to apply for leases under an impression that the legislature would review the law and be governed by a more liberal policy; should it be thought that those lands ought to be valued at a generous price, once for all, and leases be authorised to issue upon the payment of the legal interest yearly, there can be no doubt but that they would soon be all occupied, and from the sales of the town and out lots, a sufficient sum would be raised to erect such public buildings as may be immediately wanted, and that the rents of the lands and lots would be sufficient to support the university, answer every purpose for which the donation was originally made, and the state be immediately benefited by the institution.

It is further thought that it would greatly enhance the demand for those lands and town lots, as well as prepare the way for the accommodation and comfort of the youths who may be sent to the university, if a new county was erected & its seat established at Athens, which may conveniently be done without injury to those adjacent, and which the convenience of that part of the country imperiously requires.

But few of the school sections are yet leased under the "Act to provide for the leasing of certain lands therein named," and it is presumed for want of observing a more liberal policy; for where the means of acquiring a fee simple to lands are so easy and almost within the reach of all, but few will be induced to improve lands not their own, without sufficient compensation, and those lands which ought to be brought into a state of productiveness as soon as possible, will be suffered to lie, either in a state of nature or be pillaged of their timber, to the great injury of the public.

Considerable embarrassments have been experienced by the generals of divisions in discharging the very arduous and important duties assigned them by the last legislature under the "act to provide for organizing and discipling the militia," yet, in the discharge of those duties, they have manifested a zeal and patriotism beyond all praise. The first division, consisting of three brigades, is organised and a complete return is daily expected by the adjutant general; the second and third divisions are nearly so, and the fourth division has all its company officers elected. We shall, therefore, not be able to array our whole strength until the next season, when the militia will make a formidable and respectable appearance; some improvements are wanting to the law under which they are created, and I rest satisfied nothing will be wanting on your part to foster this very important and necessary institution.

The "act levying a state tax," passed at the last session, taken into view with those heretofore enacted on that subject and which have not been repealed, present difficulties to those concerned in the collection of the revenue, in ascertaining the duties expected of them; and from the memorial of the collector in the Virginia military district, which will be presented you, it will be found necessary to review this subject.

I cannot but recommend to your serious consideration the propriety of enacting an entire new code of criminal law for this state; the reasons which lead to this recommendation are too obvious to need detail, and I have no doubt are anticipated by you; and in forming this code, it is respectfully submitted, whether it would not be a provision on the side of humanity to distinguish the crime of murder into at least two degrees, and that proportionate punishments may be