

H. B. MASSER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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A Family Newspaper—Devoted to Politics, Literature, Morality, Foreign and Domestic News, Science and the Arts, Agriculture, Markets, Amusements, &c.

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H. B. MASSER, ATTORNEY AT LAW. Business attention is given to the Counties of Northumberland, Berks, and Columbia.

CHARLES W. REGIN'S, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Pottsville, Pa. Will promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care.

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JOHN C. FARR & CO. Watches, Jewelry, Plated Ware, AND FANCY GOODS. THE Cheesnut St., between 3d & 4th Streets.

WM. MCARTY, BOOKSELLER, Broadway, SUNBURY, PA. HAS recently received, among other articles, a great variety of New, Cheap and Entertaining publications.

JACOB REED'S CLOTHING ROOMS. South-west Corner of Fifth and Market Streets, PHILADELPHIA. WHO always keeps on hand a large stock of every variety of clothing made up of good materials.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. CHAS. DUMMIG, No. 207 Chestnut Street, front Arcade, PHILADELPHIA. IMPORTER and Manufacturer of all kinds of Musical Instruments.

EDWIN HALL, (LATE OF THE FIRM OF WATKINS & HALL) No. 24 South Second Street, Philadelphia. RESPECTFULLY informs his old friends and customers.

ROBT. L. SEEL, THOS. P. R. SEEL, SETH & BROTHER, WHOLESALE GROCERS AND Commission Merchants, No. 99 PLAZA STREET, (Near Bowler's Wharf), BALTIMORE.

SELECT POETRY.

From the St. Louis Republic. The Gollin Telegraph. When first the Lightning's stylus traced Its characters of wonder,

Miscellaneous Matter.

SNAKES AND SNAKE CHARMERS.

A recent number of Bentley's Miscellany contains an account of the method of Snake Charming practiced in the East, which we find so interesting that we give our readers the substance of it.

THE SNAKE CHARMERS IN LONDON.

At the present time there are at the London Zoological Gardens two Arabs, who are eminently skilled in what is termed "Snake Charming."

holds this by the tail he also buffers him on the head with his open hand, and the serpent, quite furrowed, frequently seizes him by the forearm.

After amusing himself in this way for some time, the serpent is told to lie quiet, and stretched on his back, the neck and chin being gently stroked.

HOW IT IS DONE.

Dr. John Davy, in his work on Ceylon, denies that the fangs are extracted from the serpents which are exhibited, and says that the only charm employed is that of courage and confidence—the natives avoiding the stroke of the serpents with wonderful agility.

THE STING AND THE BITE.

The expression "sting" as used repeatedly by Shakespeare, as applied to snakes, is altogether incorrect: the tongue has nothing to do with the infliction of injury.

the serpent is distinctly seen, while its great strength confines them with perfect safety. Each cage is, moreover, provided with a pan of water.

Except when roused by hunger, the serpents are generally in a state of torpor during the day, but at night draws on, they in common with other denizens of the forest, are roused into activity.

TO JEMMY LIND.—Huh! Huh!

BY PARK BENJAMINE. I heard you sing, oh Northern bird, The South's music strain,

ORNITHOLOGICAL.

Although birds in general do not suffer colds in their heads, yet the smaller varieties are liable to hawk, and the domestic fowl to spit.

HOW IT IS TO BE DONE.

An Irishman who was very near sighted, about to fight a duck insisted that he should stand six paces nearer to his antagonist than the other did to him, and that they were both to fire at the same time!

REMARKABLE CASE OF SUBSISTING WITHOUT FOOD. The singular history of Cicely de Ridge-way, found in records of Towers of London, occurred in the reign of Edward III.

The Cambridgehire farmer's wife was buried under the snow for ten or twelve days, during which time she swallowed nothing except a little snow which covered her.

CONFESS MUCH IGNORANCE ON THE SUBJECT.

We know that certain animals will live a long time without food. We know that loads have been found impacted, and alive, in solid blocks of crystallized marble, that must have been a century or more in forming.

THE PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN STATES THAT THE MANIFEST SUM OF OVER \$400,000 HAS RECENTLY BEEN PAID TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS AND INSTITUTIONS BY MRS. ELIZA KOHNE, WHO DECEASED HUSBAND BEQUEATHED THE SUMS IN QUESTION.

Table listing names and amounts: John C. Lang \$200 00, William Hazard, May 26 240 00, Theological Seminary, (Episcopal) 100,000 00, Missionary Society, do 10,000 00, Advancement of Christianity in South Carolina, 5,000 00, Ladies' Benevolent Society in South Carolina, 5,000 00, Shiras Dispensary in Charleston, 10,000 00, Bishops Fund in South Carolina, 5,000 00, Female Benevolent Society of St. James Church, 3,000 00, Philadelphia Dispensary, 10,000 00, Female Association, 5,000 00, Orphan's House of Philadelphia, 60,000 00, Infant School of do, 5,000 00, Charleston Domestic Missionary Society, 10,000 00, Mariner's Church in Charleston, 5,000 00, House of Refuge in Pennsylvania, 100,000 00, Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania, 5,000 00, Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, 20,000 80, Bishops Fund in Pennsylvania, 5,000 00, Sunday School Union, 20,000 00, Eliza Kohne, 100,000 00, Annuities paid off to John C. Lang, 3,39 66, William Hazard, 2,217 60, Susan Inglis, 2,600 00, Total \$401,649 29

A LEARNED COUNSELLOR, IN THE MIDDLE OF AN AFFLICTING APPEAL IN A COURT ON A SLANDER SUIT, LET OFF THE FOLLOWING FLIGHT OF GENIUS.

Slender gentlemen, like a box constrictor of gigantic size and immeasurable proportions, wraps coil after coil of its unwieldy body about its unfortunate victim, and heedless of the shrieks of agony that come from the inmost depths of its victim's soul, looms and reverberates as the mighty thunder that rolls in the heavens, it finally breaks its unlucky neck upon the iron wheels of public opinion, forcing him first to desperation, then to madness, and finally crushing him in the jaws of mortal death.

COFFEE COMING.—Nearly thirteen thousand bags of Rio coffee were received on the 26th ult. at New Orleans, by the arrival of four vessels from that port.

PESS IN THE CORNER.—A bale of cotton, recently sent from Liverpool to the Aberdeen Railway, was found, on being opened, to contain a live cat, which, from her emaciated appearance, was judged to have made the passage across the Atlantic in that manner. She must have lived like a bear by sucking her paw.

TEA AND COFFEE.—In 1846 there were 16,891,020 pounds of tea, and 124,336,054 pounds of coffee brought into the United States.

THE MEMBERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE MASONS AT GEORGIA, RECENTLY IN SESSION AT MARIETTA, WERE EARNEST ADVOCATES OF THE UNION.

THE PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE CITY OF CINCINNATI AMOUNTS TO ABOUT \$1,500,000.

THE DIFFICULTY PRESENTED BY THE AWKWARD POSITION OF THE RABBIT, THE DILATION AND SECRETION OF LUBRICATING MUCUS WERE EXCESSIVE. The serpent first got the fore-legs into his mouth; he then coiled himself round the rabbit, and appeared to draw out the dead body through the folds; he then began to dilate his jaws, and folding the rabbit firmly in a coil, as a point of resistance, appeared to exert at intervals the whole of his anterior muscles in protruding his stretched jaws and lubricating mouth and throat, at first against and soon after gradually upon and over his prey.

When the prey was completely engulfed, the serpent lay for a few moments with his dislocated jaws still dropping with the mucus, which had lubricated the parts, and at this time he looked quite sufficiently disgusting. He then stretched out his neck, and at the same moment the muscles seemed to push the prey further downward. After a few efforts to replace the parts, the jaws appeared much the same as they did previous to the monotonous repast.

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The different volumes of the Philosophical Transactions contain numerous cases of the same character, apparently drawn up with scrupulous accuracy, and supported by the best kind of evidence. We there read of four men who were suddenly buried by an excavation of earth under which they were employed. The earth covered them in a manner which left them free to move about for some little distance. They had free access to a spring of water, and were not extricated for twenty-one days, during which time they tasted nothing but water. They all lived.

THE SAME JOURNAL RECORDS THE CASE OF A YOUNG MAN WHO DRANK FREELY OF COLD WATER WHEN IN A VIOLENT PERIPERATION, AND WAS THEREBY THROWN INTO AN INFLAMMATORY FEVER FROM WHICH HE WAS DIFFICULTLY RECOVERED.

But the fever left him with a dislike for food of all kinds. At the time the account of this case was drawn up by his physician, it is stated that he had not tasted anything but water for eighteen years. Several persons who saw the young man, suspected imposture. To test the correctness of their suspicions, it was agreed that he should be confined closely for twenty days, having access only to water.—At the expiration of the time no change was manifested in his appearance, which, it is said, was uniformly good.

IN MOST OF THESE CASES IT APPEARS THAT WATER WAS USED; IN HILLIAMS MENTIONS A CASE WHERE BOTH SOLIDS AND LIQUIDS WERE OBTAINED FROM HER FOR 16 YEARS.

But one of the most singular, and at the same time the best authenticated cases on record, is that of Jan M. Loos, published in the Philosophical Transactions by Dr. Mackenzie. She was 33 years old at the time the case was recorded, and had had epilepsy and tetanic affections for the 18 preceding years.—The power of speech and swallowing was lost, and with it all desire to eat or drink. She was confined to her bed, slept much, passed nothing from her system, except some blood from her nostrils, which seemed to come from the lungs. She had occasional periods of relaxation, when the muscles employed in swallowing would be disposed to act. On a few of these occasions, and after several intervening months of abstinence, she would be prevailed upon to swallow a few crumbs of bread, soaked in water, in the hollow of her hand. With these few exceptions, and even those cases, most of what she swallowed was immediately ejected. She lived many years without food or drink. She lay motionless most of the time, thought she lost none of her freshness or comeliness she had a regular but feeble pulse, and a fullness of muscular development.

DOCTOR MACKENZIE VISITED HER FOR ABOUT NINE YEARS, AT THE END OF WHICH TIME SHE HAD SLIGHTLY IMPROVED.

Before the history of this case was sent to the Royal Society, it was read to the parents of the patient and certified to by the minister of the parish, all of whom were persons noted for their excellence of character; also, by several persons, including the sheriff and justice of the peace of the place.

WE HAVE NOT MENTIONED THE CASE OF ANN MOORE, WHO WAS CALLED THE "FASTING WOMAN OF TATBURY."

There was no doubt of deception or imposture in this case. It was ascertained that her daughter conveyed a little tea and water to her occasionally, although she pretended neither to eat nor drink. Her object was to obtain contributions from visitors.—Yet the committee who investigated her case, reported that the detection of the fraud left the case almost as remarkable as before.—They watched her for ten days, and she took neither food nor drink; but at the end of that time her daughter stated that her mother had drunk either tea or water at intervals of about ten days; so that the imposture was proven, though the committee assert that Ann Moore could endure privation longer than it would be supposed compatible with life.

A GREAT MULTITUDE OF HYPOTHESIS CONJECTURES, AND OPINIONS HAVE BEEN OFFERED IN EXPLANATION OF THESE WONDERFUL PHENOMENA OR ANOMALIES. THE MEDICAL WORLD HAS NEVER GIVEN ANY SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION OF THEM.

Suppose we try to give one. If it be incorrect it will do no harm. It will be observed that in most of these cases, if not in all, the patients were persons whose nervous organizations were deranged; they were epileptic or tetanic patients. Disease had made inroads or changes in their constitutions. We know so little of the laws which govern the nervous system, or so little, in fact, of the causes of animal life, that it would be presumptuous in us not to

IRON IN THE UNITED STATES.—The value of iron produced in the United States in 1849, was \$42,000,000.

EXPRESSING FAMILIES.—The United States and California Express Company has been established, to take to the gold region the families of those residing there. The company was established at San Francisco.