Altoona Tribune.

McCRUM & DERN, [INDEPENDENT IN EVERYTHING.] EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

VOL. 6. ALTOONA, PA., THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1861. NO. 19.

MEDICAL AND CHEMICAL

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On the Common sense of Medicine.
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How the Physician should be.
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And many other things. SEND FOR IT.

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Select Poetry.

"BE BRAVE."

From the Johnstown Tribune.

[Mrs. G., whose sons, four in number, left their homes with the Johnstown volunteers, to defend their country, in parting with them, only uttered the words "Be Brave."

"Be Brave!" the patriot mother said,
When direful war's alarms
Across Columbia's valleys spread,
And called her sons to arms.
"Be Brave!"—no more heroic word
The Spartan mother gave,
When at Thermopylæ was heard
The din of war—"Be Brave!"

Go forth, ye gallant Volunteers,
Though dangers may be rife,
To fight for all that man reveres,
For 'tis your country's strife,
And Heaven propitious smiles on all
That dis their land to save;
A nation mourns you, if you fall;
Then forward, and—"Be Brave!"

And whether near your mountain home
Your serried hosts shall tread,
Or by the wild Potomac roam,
Near Vernon's mighty dead;
Or where the sultry Southern sand
The sweet Santee shall lave;
At home—abroad—on sea or land,
Press forward, and—"Be Brave!"

When mothers thus their jewels give
Upon their country's shrine,
That country cannot cease to live—
Her mission is divine.
And, Cambria, such thy matrons are;
And where the coward slave
Would falter when her virtuous Fair
Bids all her sons—"Be Brave!"

EBENSBURG, May 6, 1861. R. L. J.

Select Miscellany.

Chesapeake Bay—Its Rivers and Important Cities.

After making the entrance to the Chesapeake, Hampton Roads opens to the right, a broad estuary, with a deep channel a mile and a half in width in its narrowest point. Eight miles from the buoy which marks the entrance to the Roads, on the north side of the channel, is Old Point Comfort, on which is Fortress Monroe, whose guns command the channel.

FORTRESS MONROE.

This fortress is the largest and one of the best constructed in the United States. It was built like all the coast forts, for defence against a foe approaching from the sea, and is casemated only on the side facing the channel, having simple wall masonry only to the landward. Against an attacking force from that quarter it will need protecting out-works. Its walls enclose a parade ground of about seventy acres, making it an admirable school for recently recruited regiments. Opposite the fort, in the channel, distant about a mile and a third, are the walls of a small fortification commenced by government, not finished, called the Rip Raps. Farther up the Roads, and four miles in a right line across westerly from fortress Monroe, is Caswell's Point, where the Virginians have attempted to erect batteries. At this point to the south, opens Elizabeth channel, the entrance to Norfolk harbor. Fortifications at Caswell's Point, although too far distants to threaten Fortress Monroe, would effectually guard this entrance. Elizabeth channel, from its opening into Hampton Roads to the city of Norfolk, is eight miles long, direct in its course, very deep, and scarcely a quarter of a mile in width. Craney Island lies close to the channel, on the west side, about three miles from Norfolk, on which are the remains of an old fort, which the secessionists are rebuilding. Nearer to the city on the other bank of the channel is Fort Norfolk, also being improved and mounted with ordnance by the Virginians.

NORFOLK AND THE SUBURBS.

The city of Norfolk, located upon an almost level site, presents but few natural defences against an attacking force. The city and Portsmouth lying opposite, can be approached from several points. Troops could be landed from the Hampton or Lynn Haven roads within seven miles of the city; the approaches being easy and indefensible. An approach could be made from London bridge on the south, with an easy march of ten miles.

Norfolk is important for its railroad connections; as the location of a navy yard, whose dry dock and machine shops are proving usefull to the Virginians, and as the Chesapeake terminus of the Dismal Swamp canal through which passes the commerce of Albemarle and Familico sounds. Into Hampton Roads empties the James river, a large stream affected by the tide one hundred miles from its mouth, at which point the falls and rapids, with a descent of one hundred feet in two miles, effectually block further navigation, giving at the same time an unlimited water power. At this point is stituated the city of Richmond, beautifully built on several elevations, the most noted of which are Shockhoe and Richmond hills, between which flows Shockhoe creek. The city is handsomely built, the streets intersecting at right angles. On Shockhoe hill are the capitol and other prominent public buildings, and about them are clustered the aristocratic mansions of the city. Vessels drawing ten feet of water fasten to the wharf of Richmond, and those drawing fifteen approach within three miles of the city. Lines of steamers, before the secession difficulties connected Richmond commercially with New York, Philadelphia, Norfolk and Baltimore. Richmond has been the great depot of Virginia wheat, which its mills have converted into flour.

RAILROADS FROM RICHMOND.

Five Lines of railroad diverge from Richmond. One line running due north, passes Fredricksburg on the Rappahannock, and terminates at Aquia creek, near the Potomac. A line running east, terminates at Whitehouse; on the York river. A third line runs due south to Wilmington, North Carolina, having indermediate stations at Petersburg, Va., and Weldon, N. C. The Richmond and Danville railroad extends in a southward direction to the latter town, near the North Carolina boundry line, beyond which it is unfinished. The Virginia Central runs nearly west, being finished as far as Covington, beyond the Blue Ridge. At Gordansville it forms a junction with the Orange and Alexandria road running northeast, and the Lynchburg road running southwest. This city is thus the military as well as the commercial centre of the State, and a point of great strategic importance.

YORK RIVER.

From the buoy at the entrance of Hampton Roads to the lightship at the mouth of York river, the distance is about fifteen miles. From its source at the junction of the Pamunky and Mattapony, its debouchment into the Chesapeake, the York river flows forty miles, being an estuary with a heavy tide, varying from two to four miles in width. It is navigable by the largest vessels to Yorktown, and by vessels of secondary draft to its source. A land spit separates the mouth of the York river from Mob Jack bay, which sets inland about fifteen miles, with eighteen feet of water. Into this bay empties the Severn, North and Ware rivers, inconsiderable streams, navigable a short distance for vessels of light draft. From the lighthouse at New Point Comfort to the lighthouse at the entrance of the Rappahannock, is twenty miles. A space of four miles to the south of the light comprises the entrances to the Rappahannock and a small bay and river called the Piankeetank.

THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

The Rappahannock, like the James river, rises in the mountainous portion of the State. At one hundred miles from its mouth, navigation is stopped by falls and rapids. The river below the falls has the character of an estuary, being broad and affected by the tides. At the head of tidewater is the city of Fredericksburg, a great tobacco depot; lying on the line of the Richmond and Pontomac Railroad.

Twenty-two miles from the lightship, moored at the mouth of the Rappahannock, is the lighthouse at Smith's Point, guiding the entrance to the Potomac.

Seven miles below Washington lies the city of Alexandria, the most important town on the Virginia side of the river. The shores of the Potomac below Washington have but a few slight elevations, and would be difficult to impede navigation by hastily constructed batteries. The width for the same distance varies from one and a half to five miles.—*New York Commercial.*

FORBIDDEN FRUIT.—M. Noel, a French agriculturist, speaking of the introduction of the potato says:—This vegetable was viewed by the people with extreme disfavor when first introduced, and many expedients were adapted to induce them to use it but without success. In vain did Louis XVI wear its flower in his button hole and in vain were tubercles distributed among the farmers; they gave them to their pigs but would not use them for themselves.—At last Parmentier, the chemist, who well knew the nutritive properties of the potato, and was most anxious to see it in general use, hit upon the following ingenious plan: He planted a good breadth of potatoes at Sablons, close to Paris, and paid great attention to their cultivation. When the roots were nearly ripe, he put notices around the field that all persons who stole any of the potatoes would be prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the law, and *gens d' armes* were employed to watch the field day and night, and arrest all tresspassers. No sooner were the roots thus fordidden, as it were, by authority, than all persons seemed eager to eat them, and in a fortnight, notwithstanding the *gens d' armes*, the whole crop was stolen, and, without doubt, eaten. The new vegetable having been found to be excellent food, was soon after cultivated in every part of the kingdom.

How Secession works.

The *ostensible* purpose of the Southern conspirators against the Federal Union is, the better *protection* of slave property, although no reflecting mind can, for a moment, believe that this is the *real* object. How completely such purpose, however, would be defeated, in case of the actual and permanent separation of the North and South, may be deduced from the following circumstance, which occurred in this vicinity within the last fortnight:

In one of the townships of Montgomery county, within ten miles of Philadelphia, resides a prominent and influential citizen, of unimpeachable probity and high intelligence. For more than thirty years he has taken an active part in the politics of Pennsylvania, and has been elected to important civil trusts, municipal and legislative. During all this time, too, he has been a consistent Democrat, and an *unwavering friend of the South*, battling manfully for all her vested constitutional rights.

On a recent Sabbath afternoon, this welltried and devoted friend of the South met, in the immediate vicinity of his residence, a colored man and his wife, both young and athletic, clad in coarse homespun, and weary with dust and travel. He interrogated them as to whence they had come, when they frankly admitted that they were *fugitive slaves*, from the county of Prince George's, in Maryland, and that the intense war excitement had afforded them an opportunity to escape, which they had gladly embraced.

"Was not your master *kind* to you," asked the Montgomery county Democrat.

"O, yes;" responded one of the sable strangers, with a tear of gladness starting to his eye, "but we thought we had worked *for nothing* long enough, and, as freedom is sweet, we took the first chance to get ours, and God in Heaven be praised, we *have* it! But for the *war*, we would still be slaves. Bless God for the war?

Six months ago the upright and conscientious Montgomery farmer, as he himself religiously affirms, would have lost not a moment's time in imparting to the United States Marshal intelligence of these fugitives from labor, and had them returned to their master. But *now*, since the South is engaged in an unholy crusade against the Union and the Government, he could not find it in his heart to do anything of the sort. On the contrary, he "took them in" cared for them hospitably, and then sent them rejoicing on their way to a farmer close by, where they would be sure of receiving both work and *wages*, and the "Prince George's" Secessionist may now whistle for his "property." His two valuable slaves have afforded him a practical exhibition of the right of "secession" which he, most likely, will not soon forget.

And this is the way, forsooth, in which Southern demagogues, at the point of the bayonet, are "*protecting*" their slave *property!* What infatuation! The most arrant Abolitionist in the country is JEFFERSON DAVIS.—*Phila. Press.*

Parson Brownlow's Daughter.

A gentleman just arrived in Chicago from Knoxville, Tenn., brings intelligence of affairs in that city. He says that 2,500 Secession troops are stationed there, for the express purpose of overawing the Union men. It is a part of their business to engage in quarrels in saloons, and in street fights, with all who are not friendly to Secession. Two men were last week shot for no other offence than speaking words of loyalty to the Federal Government. The house of the celebrated, bold hearted, and out spoken Parson Brownlow, is the only one in Knoxville over which the Stars and Stripes are floating. A few days ago two armed Secessionists went, at six o'clock in the morning, to haul down the Stars and Stripes. Miss Brownlow, a brilliant young lady of twenty-three, saw them on the piazza, and stepped out and demanded their business. They replied that they had come to "take down them d—n Stars and Stripes." She instantly drew a revolver from her side, and presenting it, said: "Go on! I'm good for one of you, and I think for both."

"By the looks of that girl's eye she'll shoot," one remarked. "I think we'd better not try it; we'll go back and get more men said the other. "Go and get more men," said the noble lady; "get more men and come and take it down, if you dare." They returned with a company of ninety armed men, and demanded that the flag should be hauled down; but on discovering that the house was filled with gallant men, armed to the teeth, who would rather die as dearly as possible than see their country's flag dishonored, the Secessionists retired.

CAVALRY GRAPNAL

THIS is a newly invented weapon of warfare, and is designed to render cavalry vastly superior to infantry. It is an admitted fact, in the science of war, that infantry formed into a square, or in mass, and standing firm and unbroken, can defeat and equal number of cavalry, each being armed with the ordinary weapons. This fact has been fully demonstrated upon many a well-fought field in the last half century, the most notable of which was the celebrated battle of Waterloo, where the French cavalry repeatedly charged the squares of English infantry, and were uniformly repulsed, the squares standing firm and unbroken. The firm stand of the infantry and uniform repulse of the cavalry were doubtless the main causes of the defeat of the French at that celebrated battle, contested between the best cavalry and infantry of any age, and commanded by the greatest generals of the world. A man and horse acting as one, have the strength and speed of several men. The cavalry grapnel is a new weapon, adapted to this superior strength and speed, and a regiment of horse, armed with this destructive weapon, and skilled in its use, can easely defeat four times their number of infantry, moving them down like grass before a scythe. This weapon can also be used by cavalry against cavalry, and even infantry could use it against infantry with great destruction. The grapnel was invented in one of our Northern States, and 100,000 have been recently manufactured for a European Government for the arming of cavalry. The present wide spread rebellion in our own country caused the inventor to offer them to our Government. They were submitted to the proper department, and approved of and purchased, and it is expected that the President will shortly call into the service of the United States 50,000 cavalry, to be furnished with the grapnel as an additional arm. With this destructive weapon they will be able to cut in pieces and annihilate 200,000 of the best infantry that ever entered a field.

Quarrelling Over the Spoils.

Secession has not produced a political millenium in Virginia. Politicians are still demagogues, and not patriots, and "the spoils" are sought for as bitterly as in the old Union. Witness the following from the Richmond *Examiner*:—"But while the spirit of the people is as high as it can be, the complaint against the State authorities is deep. The most odious and most abject submissionists of the late political struggle get all the good prizes—get all the prizes which decency, necessity and all the actual safety of the State would require to be distributed elsewhere. The whole machinery of the war and Government falls, day after day, more and more into the hands of men who have utterly denied the State's right to secede, and who have constantly denounced her present position. All who have done anything to create the Southern Confederacy are proscribed, tabooed and disfranchised. We have yet to hear of a single original champion of the south who has been treated with common consideration or ordinary politeness. The men are Southern, the masters were Northern, till it was profitable to be something else."

PATRIOTISM.—We give the following as proof that even the ties of blood are forgotten in the fervency of the common devotion to the national flag: An aged gentleman—of Jewish extraction—living in a neighboring city, has two sons—one an officer in a Pennsylvania Regiment, the other an officer in the rebel army. The latter wrote to the father a few days since, advising him that he had taken up arms for the South, and that he proposed to come north with the command to fight the abolitionists. This was too much for the equanimity of the parent. He replied to his disloyal son substantially as follows: "I have but two children in the world. One of them has gone forth to defend the flag of his country. You are fighting against that flag and conspiring against the government. I disown You. No traitor shall bear my name. I have but one hope left, which is that if my loyal son goes to battle the first bullet he shall send against the Jew can feel thus, how must it be with the enemy may pierce you to the heart! If the Gentile?

THE BLOCKADE.—A Mobile paper speaks very gloomly of the blockade, which is just commencing in the Gulf ports. It says: "If our revenue is destroyed by it, we must of course resort to direct taxation. This will be an unpopular measure just now." It will not only be unpopular, but it will be *impossible* to collect a direct tax in some of the Southern States. They have already substituted skin-plasters for small change.—where, then, is gold and silver to come from to pay a direct tax?

The Montgomery *Advertiser* of the 16th inst. says that the various accounts about hundreds of letters of marque having been granted by the War Department of the Southern Confederacy, and that thousands of applications are already on file, is a gross error. Applications for that business are made to the collectors of the different ports and not to the department at Montgomery, where none have been received. A number of applications have been made to the collectors of New Orleans, Mobile, and other Southern ports.