American Volunteer.

BY JOHN B. BRATTON. "OUR COUNTRY—MAY IT ALWAYS BE RIGHT—BUT RIGHT OR WRONG, OUR COUNTRY." AT $2 00 PER ANNUM.

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OFFICE.—The office of the *American Volunteer* is in the second story of James H. Graham's new stone building, in South Hanover street, a few doors from Burkholder's hotel, and directly opposite the Post-office, where those having business will please call.

THE VOLUNTEER.

John B. Bratton, Editor and Proprietor.

CARLISLE, THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1848.

AGENCY.

☞V. B. PALMER, Esq. is our authorized Agent for procuring advertisements, receiving subscriptions and making collections for the *American Volunteer*, at his office, N. W. corner of Third and Chesnut streets, Philadelphia.

KEEPS INDEPENDENT.—A recent letter from General Taylor to a Committee in Alabama, who had addressed him on the subject of the Presidency, has the following emphatic sentence:

"I shall offer no active opposition to the use of *my* name in connexion with this responsible office, so long as they continue to use it thus independent of party distinctions."

A GOOD SENTIMENT.—When the French ministry fled, one M. Herbert, was recognized by a group of citizens, but he got through the crowd without any injury. "Let him go," said a young advocate of the people—"the higher the people rise, the more they respect their fallen enemies." People who entertain such noble sentiments, exhibit the best proof that they are prepared for governing themselves, and able to do so.

☞The *Ohio Statesman* very happily remarks: M Guizot, the deposed minister of the dethroned King, is the same Guizot that gravely asserted, a year or two since, that it was necessary for the great powers of Europe to hold the "balance of power" on the American continent. In losing "power," he may thank his stars that he did not lose his own "balance" by losing his head.

ALCOHOL FROM TOMATOES.—At Norfolk a company has been formed to distil alcohol from tomatoes. The plan has been tested.

It does not follow that because a gentleman is a member of Congress he is necessarily a man of rare acquirements and extensive information.
Phila. Times.

That's a fact. The member from this district, (Cumberland, Perry and Franklin,) is a case in point.

ONE OF THE BEAUTIES OF ARISTOCRACY.—It has been ascertained by careful experiment in England, that three rabbits, properly called landlord's vermin, consume as much food as one sheep. On one farm a tenant testified that his landlord's game had injured him £800. The rabbits alone injured his turnip crop the half of that sum. On this farm the tenant was forbidden to mow his winter corn, the wheat and rye, but was restricted to reap it, so as to have a high stubble to protect the game. And this is but a sample from the sack of ills the farmers suffer from game damage in England.

WHIG PLATFORM.—Near the close of Mr. Corwin's afternoon speech, says the Hartford Times, he laid down the Whig programme for the settlement of our difficulties with Mexico. It was a plan worthy only of a traitor. Our government, said he, should withdraw its armies from Mexico—GIVE UP *New Mexico and California, ask pardon* of Mexico for the wrongs we have done her, and then we shall occupy a position from which we can start anew in a just and honorable intercourse with the world.

NEW YORK FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS.—The Federal members of the Legislature of New York, passed, on the 5th inst., the following resolution expressive of their views as to the nominee of the Federal National Convention, by a nearly unanimous vote:

Resolved, That in selecting Delegates to the National Convention, we feel it a right and duty to express it as our opinion that HENRY CLAY *is the first choice of the Whigs of New York, and that they can give and will give to him, or to any other reliable Whig* who may be nominated by that Convention for the Presidency, the 36 Electoral votes of this State.

☞The John Donkey says that formerly the seat of the French King was spelt "throne,"—but since the article was pitched out of the Tuilleries' window, it is written "thrown."

☞The *Rochester Democrat* tells of a man who came to market to dispose of his cattle, which naturally led to conversation on the very common theme of "hard times." "Yes," said the cattle dealer, with an air of peevishness, "times are hard, and this is a hard world—and in my opinion, very few will get *out of it alive*."

BOOKS.—Dow, jr., of the N. Y. Sunday Mercury, says many good things. In speaking of books, in one of his rececent sermons, he says—"As bees gather honey from flowers, so may you extract the sweets of knowledge from books—sweets that shall afford both solace and sustenance to the soul in the Winter of age, when the friends of former days are few—when the fires of youthful love are extinguished, and life's greasy candle is about to sputter in the socket. From books you can gather treasures of which none can rob you; and then you may well say with the poet: "*Precious* treasure, thou art *mine!*"

☞There is much truth in the following words in one of Mr. Allen's eloquent addresses to the Senate:

"One great truth has been established within the last forty days; and I pronounce it one of the most important truths which has been politically established since the foundation of society, and it is this: that armed men an longer afford a guaranty to despotism. Standing armies can no longer be relied on to sustain thrones; but, on the contrary, mix and mingle with the oppressed multitude, and are the first to reduce those thrones to ashes. That is the great truth of the age. It has just been established in France—established in the presence of a hundred thousand bayonets in the pay of the crown.

"There are but two powers in the government of man now in operation—force and public opinion.—Force has failed in the heart of Europe, and the governments there must forever rest upon opinion, and that opinion, founded upon the enlightened reason of the people."

Political.

From the Democratic Union.

THE BANK VETO.

We invite the attention of our readers to the sound and statesmanlike views of Governor Shunk, contained in his veto message returning to the Houses in which they originated, the four Bank bills passed by the Legislature which has just adjourned. Bank restrictions has been an article in the Democratic creed for several years past, but owing to a variety of causes it has not been made as operative as it should have been. In 1846, something was gained on this subject by the partial individual liability provision engrafted on the charter of the Western Bank of Philadelphia, and made to apply to all charters granted subsequently. The time has arrived, however, when public sentiment demands still more stringent and operative restrictions; and the Governor will receive the thanks of the Democracy of the State, for presenting the question to the public in such shape that the people will have a more full opportunity of discussing the subject, and instructing those who are hereafter to represent them in our legislative Halls, in regard to the kind of guards and checks to be thrown around all banks that may hereafter receive charters from this Commonwealth. Certain restrictions are specified in the message as necessary to be engrafted on Bank charters to insure the signature of the Executive. These restrictions are of so reasonable a character that they certainly must meet the approbation of the great mass of the people of this Commonwealth, and we trust the Democracy may take such action on this subject, in their primary meetings throughout the State, as will induce their representatives to support them in good faith. We believe the people have long been in advance of their representatives on this subject, and we think we will be sustained in this belief by their action hereafter. Crude, undigested and impracticable provisions should not be proposed, as they are only calculated to defeat the great objects which those desirous of effecting Bank reforms have at heart; but well matured, judicious and salutary restrictions should be adhered to, as of the most vital importance to the Democracy of the State and nation.

GOVERNOR SHUNK'S BANK VETO.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

GENTLEMEN:—The bill entitled "An act to extend the charter of the Bank of Chambersburg," has been presented for my approval.

The charter of this bank will expire by its own limitation on the first Wednesday of May, 1850, and the present bill proposes to extend it for a further period of ten years from that date. The bills to extend the charters of the Farmers' and Drovers' Bank of Waynesburg, the Columbia Bank and Bridge company, and the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank of Philadelphia, are also before me. The charters of these institutions will expire by their limitations in May and November, 1849, and it is proposed to extend each of them for ten years from the time of their expiration.

The importance and responsibility of giving or withholding my sanction to the renewal of the charters of these institutions as well as others of a similar character, which may be presented during the present session, has induced me to bestow upon the subject my most serious consideration.

The great injuries which have been inflicted upon the whole people, but more especially upon those who are entirely dependent upon their daily wages for the subsistence and comforts of themselves and families, by the failure of banks and the depreciation of bank paper, demand at the hands of those entrusted with the power of legislation on the subject, the utmost caution and deliberation, before they extend a system which has, in so many instances proved itself vicious and deceptive, and ruinous *to the laboring and producing* portions of the people.

In the annual message, presented to the General Assembly at the commencement of the present session, I took the occasion to present the following views on the subject:

"Nothing can contribute so much to the maintenance of our present prosperity, as a sound currency. Pennsylvania is rich in productions of almost every description required by the wants of mankind; and nothing is necessary to make her people the most independent in the world, but a proper regard for her true interests. To advance these, she must not be seduced from her devotion to sound principles, by the artificial contrivances of false economists, whose selfish theories are as delusive as they are destructive of the public good.

"The present is a most propitious period, when there is an abundance of gold and silver in the country, to make a determined effort to increase its circulation, and secure to the people the currency which the framers of the Constitution of the United States provided. Instead of creating new banks, or increasing the capital of old ones, our efforts should be directed to secure the solvency of those which already exist, and thereby render their circulation sound and reliable.

"Impressed with the force of these considerations, I am convinced that the increase of the banking capital of the State, would be unwise and impolitic; and I respectfully recommend that before any one of the existing banks is rechartered, a searching scrutiny be instituted into its affairs, its management, its credit, and its means; and if it be found that the notes have been suffered to depreciate;—that the accommodations have been bestowed upon favorites and large speculators, and dealers in money, instead of being diffused among moderate and safe customers; that the issues have at one period encouraged speculations by their excess, and at another oppressed honest industry by their contraction; in short, that the legitimate objects *for which the privileges were* granted, have not been by fair, faithful, and judicious management accomplished, then the charter should be suffered to expire by its own limitation. The discontinuance of *such institutions will promote the* public good, and will be hailed with approbation by all but those who have, for private gain, *wrested them* from the purpose for which they were established.

"This policy so just towards the public, while it *may*, to a moderate extent, diminish the present amount of banking capital, will strengthen public confidence in the other banks, and add to the stability and soundness of the currency. And as it may, also, increase *the profits of existing banks*, beyond a just compensation to the shareholders for their investments, and as this excess of gain is derived from the special privileges *conferred upon them by the* Legislature, I recommend, that the tax imposed by the act of the 1st April, 1835, upon dividends exceeding six per cent per annum, be increased. While the inducement to excessive banking will be reasonably checked, by the increase of *this tax, the finances* of the State may be, to some extent, improved, and the public welfare promoted. The policy indicated will lead to the rigid execution of the law, prohibiting the circulation of foreign notes, under the denomination of five dollars, as soon as the balance of the relief issues is cancelled. *This will be a positive advance* in the improvement of the currency, which should be then followed by a law prohibiting the circulation of all notes, below the denomination of ten dollars. The channels of circulation *will then be filled* with an abundance of gold and silver, the public secured against the chances of *loss by broken banks*, and a depreciated currency; and the way will be opened to such further improvements, as the real interests and convenience of *the people may demand.*

"The cautionary enactments I have suggested, cannot fail to increase, rather than diminish, the amount of a sound circulating medium, fully entitled to the public confidence. The effect will be to bring the specie of the country into active circulation, to furnish the people with a substantial currency, that cannot be impaired by bank failures, and to restrain the tendency of the banks to foster extravagance, in time of prosperity, and check the means of oppression in time of adversity.

"A theory has been advanced and put into practice, in some of the States, called free banking. It is based, in part, upon specie, and in part upon State stocks, hypothecated with the government. In other words, banks become the creditors of the Commonwealth, by purchasing her bonds; these are deposited with the government, and the government endorses and returns to the bankers, notes prepardd for circulation to an equal amount. I can perceive no grounds for confidence in this system. It must explode, in a country where it is adopted to any considerable extent, whenever a revulsion occurs to test its stability, for it is a deviation from true principles. Sound and safe banking can only be based and conducted on money, gold and silver. Neither individuals nor bank can lend that which they have not; and if they lend credit in the shape of bank notes, without the means to redeem them in gold and silver, they commit a fraud upon the community, as they lend, and put in circulation, that which is not money nor the representative of money.

"If this system of converting State stock into banking capital, and hypothecating it as a security for the payment of bank issues, were not a delusion, mortages upon real estate, might be used for the same purpose, which would afford an equal, if not a better security, for the payment of the notes, and by this process, the whole value of the real estate of the country, might be converted into banking capital, and the people into a nation of bankers. This proposition shows, that the whole scheme is illusory and unsound. Free banking, in its legitimate sense, is the right which every man enjoys to lend his own money to whom he pleases. It is the exchange of money for securities, to repay with interest. It involves no fictitious increase of the circulation, but may be carried on to an indefinite extent without affecting the currency. This is the free banking, which has at all times supplied, and does now supply, the wants of a large proportion of borrowers, and commends itself to general confidence and approval by its simplicity and adaptation to the circumstances of the people."

In recommending "that before any one of the existing banks is rechartered, a searching scrutiny be *instituted into its affairs, its management, its credit* and its means, and if it be found that the notes have been suffered to depreciate, that the accommodations have been bestowed upon favorites and large speculators *and dealers in money*, instead of being diffused among moderate and safe customers—that the issues have at one period encouraged speculation by their excess, and at another oppressed honest industry by their contraction—in short, that the legitimate objects for which the privileges were granted, have not been by fair, faithful and judicious management accomplished, then the charter should be suffered to expire by its own limitation," I intended that the investigation should be rigid and thorough, and that the charters should not be renewed as a mere matter of course without examination, as has generally been the case heretofore. The time for the mysterious secrecy which has so long shrouded the transactions of banking institutions, has gone by. When they apply to the Legislature for a renewal of privileges, they should come with clean hands, and ought to be required to give the most satisfactory evidence of the character of their discounts, and the nature and value of all their assets, and of their faithfulness in the execution of the trust confided to them. It is only by requiring such testimony, that a reliable opinion can be formed, as to their solvency, and their title to perfect confidence.

In regard to the bill immediately before me, as well as the others referred to, so far as I am informed, no such investigation has taken place, or indeed any other, beyond the examination of their quarterly statements, and the representations of those immediately interested. These statements, it is well known, furnish little information which can be relied on, as satisfactory, in regard to the solvency of the institutions. It is only by a rigid inquiry into the character of the notes and bills discounted, and of *all the assets*, that any valuable and practical result can be attained.

In withholding my approbation from the bill under consideration, as well as the others to which I have referred, I do not mean to intimate the most remote suspicion in regard to their solvency or management. So far as I know, they are as sound as any other banks in the State, and may have been as well conducted. Indeed, some of them sustain as fair a reputation as any in the State, but the time has arrived when the public interests demand that no bank should be rechartered, without the most thorough scrutiny into its condition and management; and it was only on condition of such an investigation being first had, *that I expressed a willingness to give my* assent to the recharter of any bank. In creating, or renewing institutions, which are to furnish the circulating medium of the State, and which every man in business is compelled, from the habits and customs of the country, to receive as money, nothing should be *taken for granted*, or left in doubt, which is susceptible of satisfactory proof. By pursuing the course indicated, those institutions which are unsound will be detected and exposed, and the community may be protected against fraud and imposition, *while those* that are sound, and honestly conducted, will receive the confidence they merit.

As none of the charters of the institutions which are now before me for a renewal of their privileges, will expire before the 1st of May, 1849, I cannot perceive that they will suffer any material detriment, or that the public interests can be jeoparded by the postponement of their applications for another year. I am the more persuaded that this is the true course from the fact, that I am fully satisfied there are many valuable provisions which ought to be engrafted upon every bank charter in the State, in order to protect the interests of bona fide stockholders, and to secure the people from a recurrence of the evils which have heretofore resulted from the defects of the present system. Much has already been done. The principle of individual liability, which was for a long time pertinaciously resisted, as destructive of the whole system, has been established, and is now received with favor, not only by the people at large, but by many of the most enlightened bankers in the country. It is true, the application of the principle may not yet be perfect, but that its introduction, even in its modified form, will have a salutary influence, by producing more caution and care on the part of stockholders in regard to the management of the banks, as well as by affording a better ultimate security to their creditors, will not be denied.

Having attained this point, it is our duty to progress with the advance of enlightened public opinion, and to provide such other reasonable and wholesome restrictions, as the public interests require, and as the public sentiment demands. Among the further restrictions which have occurred to me as practicable and proper, are the following:

1st. One restricting the amount of issues to a less proportion to their capital. They are now generally authorized to issue three times the amount of their capital. This is too much, and ought to be reduced. It is the main cause of those fatal expansions, and contractions, which have heretofore proved so destructive to the best interests of the country. The amount of debts they are permitted to contract, ought also to be reduced, so as to restrain their operations at all times within reasonable and safe limits.

2d. The banks of the State ought all to be required to keep their notes at par in the city of Philadelphia. It is the products of the country which are sent to the eastern markets, that form the legitimate basis of bank discounts in the country and as the country banks have the benefit of the country circulation, and the advantage of discounting the bills and drafts on the eastern cities, where they receive par funds in payment, it is asking but a small return for the favors conferred upon them, that they should keep their paper at par. This would put an end to a system of brokerage and speculation, which indirectly robs the people of the interior of many thousands of dollars, annually.

3d. Banks ought to be treated as public institutions, because they furnish the currency of the State, and effect the pecuniary interests of the people more than any other institutions of the country. The directors ought to be placed under oath, and sworn to observe the provisions of the charters, and any wilful violation of them, ought to be made perjury.—The whole proceedings of the banks should at all times be open to the inspection of any reasonable number of the stockholders, to a committee of the Legislature, and to any officer of the State duly authorized.

4th. A failure to redeem their notes on demand, in specie, ought, in itself, to be an absolute forfeiture of their charter, except as to winding up their concerns; and for any act done as a bank after such failure, the fact ought to be allowed to be given in evidence as a bar to any suit in relation to any banking operation, subsequent to such failure.

5th. After a lapse of a few years, they ought not to be permitted to issue paper of a denomination below ten dollars.

These are some of the most prominent provisions, which ought, in my opinion, to be engrafted on our banking system, and applied to every bank in the State; and I cannot perceive any time so favorable for their adoption, as when the banks are asking an extension of their charters.

No extreme measures towards the banks, that are calculated to disturb or derange the business habits of the community, are desirable, but the people have a right to expect from every public functionary, who has it in his power to contribute in any degree to the correction of the evils of a system, which has heretofore been productive of so much mischief, his best exertions to prevent the recurrence of these evils.

Entertaining the views I have expressed, and the belief that no injury can be sustained by delay, I have come to the conclusion at present to withhold my assent to these bills. By the postponement, the banks will have time to prepare and exhibit satisfactory proof of their condition and management, which is not now before me, and some well digested amendments to the system, calculated still further to mitigate if not eradicate its defects, may be matured.

For these reasons, I have directed the bill to be returned without my approbation to the Senate in which it originated.

FRS. R. SHUNK.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, April 7, 1148.

AN ADDRESS BY HENRY CLAY.

His name submitted to a National Convention.

CINCINNATI, April 12, 1848.

Henry Clay has given publicity to the following Address, authorizing his name to be presented to the Whig National Convention.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The various and conflicting reports which have been in circulation in regard to my intentions with *respect to the next presidency, appear to me to furnish* a proper occasion for a full, frank and explicit exposition of my feelings, wishes and views upon the subject. This it is *now proper to make*. With a strong disinclination to the use of my name again in connection with that office, I left my residence in December last, under a determination to announce to the public in some suitable form my desire not to be thought of as a candidate. During my absence I frequently expressed to different gentlemen my unwillingness to be again in that attitude; but though no one was authorized to publish my decision one way or the other, having reserved the right to do so exclusively to myself, on reflection, I thought it was *due to my friends to consult with them before I took* a decisive and final step.

Accordingly, within the course of the last three months, I have had opportunity of conferring fully and freely with them. Many of them have addressed to me the strongest appeals, and the most earnest entreaties, both verbally and written, to dissuade me from executing my intended purpose.

They represented to me that the withdrawal of my name would be fatal to the success, and perhaps lead to the dissolution of the party with which I have been associated, and especially in the free States; that at no former period did there ever exist so great a probability of my election if I would consent to the use of my name; that the great States of New York and Ohio would in all probability cast their vote for *me, that New York would more certainly bestow* her suffrage upon me than upon any other candidate, and that Ohio would give her vote to no candidate residing in the slave states but to me; that there is a better prospect than has heretofore at any time existed; that Pennsylvania would unite with them; that no candidate can be elected without the concurrence of two of these three States; and none could be defeated upon whom all of these should be united; that great numbers of our fellow citizens, both of native and foreign birth, who were deceived, and therefore voted against me at the last election, are now eager for an opportunity of bestowing their suffrages upon me, and that while there is a strong and decided preference for me entertained by the great body of the Whig party throughout the United States, they (the friends to whom I refer) at the same time are convinced that I am more available than any candidate that could be presented for the American people. I do not pretend to vouch for the accuracy of all these representations, although I do not entertain a doubt that they have been honestly made, and are sincerely believed.

It has been, moreover, urged to me that the great obligations under which I have been hitherto placed by a large portion of the people of the United States, the full force of which no one can be more sensible of than I am, demand that I should not withhold the use of my name if it should be requested. And I have been reminded of frequent declarations which I have made, that whilst life and health remain, a man is bound to render his best services upon the call of his country.

Since my return home, I have anxiously deliberated upon my duty to myself, to my principles, to my friends, and above all to my country. The conflict between my unaffected desire to continue in private life, as most congenial with my feelings and condition, and my wish faithfully to perform all my public duties, has been painful and embarrassing. If I refuse the use of my name and those injurious consequences should ensue which have been so confidently predicted by frien's, I should justly incur their reproaches, and the reproaches of my own heart; and if, on the contrary, I should assent to the use of my name, whatever the result may be, I shall escape both.

I have therefore finally decided to leave to the National Convention, which is to assemble in June, the consideration of my name, in connection with such others as may be presented to it, to make a selection of a suitable candidate for President of the United States, and whatever may be the issue of its fair and full deliberations, it will meet with my prompt and cheerful acquiescence.

It will be seen from what I have stated, that there was reason to anticipate that I would decline giving my consent to the use of my name again as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

Owing perhaps to this, as well as other causes many of my friends and fellow citizens have avowed a preference for, and directed their attention to the distinguished names of other citizens of the United States. I take pleasure in truly declaring that I have no regrets to express, no complaints, no reproaches to make on account of any such preferences, which I am fully persuaded, are generally founded on honest and patriotic convictions.

H. CLAY.

Ashland, 10th April, 1848.

REVERENCE AGE.

How beautiful it is to see the young reverence old age! We never see a little boy bowing respectfully to an aged man in the street, but we feel sure he is a good boy. *Reverence is always due aged people.* Good nature, and a proper education, say to the young, reverence old age. Gray hairs are crowns of glory, when found in the way of righteousness. The promptings of our kindly nature teach us to respect the aged, to rise up before the hoary head. Boys, never be saucy or insolent to those older than yourself.

Miscellaneous.

WASHINGTON'S LAST VOTE.

Every incident in the life of Washington is full of interest. That plain heroic magnitude of mind which distinguished him above all other men was evident in all his actions. Patriotism, chastened by sound judgment and careful thought, prompted all his public acts, and made them examples for the study and guidance of mankind. It has been said that no one can have the shortest interview with a truly great man, without being made sensible of his superiority. Of too many, who have some way earned the title of great, this is by no means true. Its applicability to the character of Washington is verified in the following interesting circumstance related by a correspondent of the *Charleston Courier:*

"I was present," says this correspondent, "when Gen. Washington gave his last vote. It was in the spring of 1799, in the town of Alexandria. He died the 11th December following. The Court House of Fairfax county was then over the market house, and immediately fronting Gadsby's tavern. The entrance into it was by a slight flight of crazy steps on the outside. The election was progressing—several thousands of persons in the court house yard and immediate neighboring streets; and I was standing on Gadsby's steps when the Father of his country drove up, and immediately approached the court house steps; and when within a yard or two of them, I saw eight or ten good-looking men, from different directions, certainly without the least concert, spring simultaneously, and place themselves in positions to uphold and support the steps should they fall in the General's ascent of them. I was immediately at his back, and in that position entered the court house with him—followed in his wake through a dense crowd to the polls—heard him vote—returned with him to the outward crowd—heard him cheered by more than two thousand persons as he entered his carriage—and saw his departure.

"There were five or six candidates on the bench sitting; and as the General approached them, they arose in a body and bowed smilingly; and the salutation having been returned very gracefully, the General immediately cast his eyes towards the registry of the polls, when Col. Deneale, (I think it was) said, 'Well, General, how do you vote?' The General looked at the candidates, and said, 'Gentlemen, I vote for measures, not for men;' and turning to the recording table, audibly pronounced his vote—saw it entered—made a graceful bow, and retired."

Educated Mind is a Nation's Wealth.

When we witness the mighty achievements of art, the locomotive, taking up its burden of a hundred tons, and transporting it for hundreds of miles between the rising and the setting sun; the steamboat cleaving its rapid way, triumphant over wind and tide; the power-loom yielding products of greater richness and abundance in a single day, than all the inhabitants of Tyre could have manufactured in years, the printing press, which could have replaced the Alexandria library within a week after it was burnt; the lightning, not only domesticated in the laboratories of the useful arts; but employed a messenger between distant cities; and galleries of beautiful painting, quickened into life by the sunbeams—when we see all these marvels of power and of celerity, we are prone to conclude that it is to them we are indebted for the increase of our wealth and for the progress of our society. But were there any statistics to show the aggregate value of all the thrifty and painful habits of the people at large; the greater productiveness of the educated than of the bruttified labor; the increased power of the intelligent hand and the broader survey of the intelligent eye—could we see a larger account of the profits which come from forethought, order and system as they preside over all our farms, in all our workshops, and emphatically in all the labors of our households; we should then know how rapidly their gathered units swell into millions. The skill that strikes the nail's head, instead of the finger's ends; the care that mends a fence and save a corn field, that drives a horse shoe nail secure both rider and horse; that extinguishes a light and saves a house; the prudence that cuts a coat according to the cloth; that lays by something for a rainy day, and that postpones marriage until reasonably sure of a livelihood; the forethought that sees the end from the beginning, and reaches it by the direct route of an hour instead of the circuitous gropings of a day; the exact remembrance impressed upon childhood to do the errands as it was bidden; and, more than all, the economy of virtue over vice; of restrained over pampered desires—these things are are not set down in the works on Political Economy; but they have far more to do with the wealth of nations, than any laws which aim to regulate the balance of trade, or any speculations on capital art.—The vast variety of ways in which an intelligent people surpass as stupid one, and an exemplary people an immoral one, has infinitely more to do with the well-being of a nation, than soil, or climate, or even than government itself, excepting so far as government may prove to be the patron of intelligence and virtue.—*Horace Mann.*

Anecdote of John Jacob Astor.

His wealth is literally beyond calculation, enormous; for it is impossible to give true ideas of the value of his multifarious resources. Forty millions of dollars would scarcely cover the worth of his real and personal property. Stephen Girard's estate was compared with Astor's, but was always far below it. At the time of the former's death, John Jacob asked:

"How much did he leave?"

"Seventeen millions," was the reply.

"That won't do," said the survivor—"that won't do."

Since Girard's death, Astor's wealth has nearly doubled. Three summers ago, he made, in the profits of certain purchases of real estate within the city limits, for more than sixty days consecutively, $40,000 a day.

The old millionaire was reported to be mean: he was not so: he was merely particular. He gave freely; he was most bounteous in his private charities. To his countrymen, the Germans, he was ever munificently kind. It is not to be denied that his ancient habits clung to him—habits of saving, a dislike to pay out his money. Take a true anecdote as illustrative of this:

Among the subscribers to Audubon's magnificent work on Orinthology, the subscription price of which was $1000 a copy, appeared the name of John Jacob Astor. During the progress of the work, the prosecution of which was exceedingly expensive, Mr. Audubon of course called upon several of his subscribers for payments. It so happened that Mr. Astor—probably that he might not be troubled about small matters—was not applied to before the delivery of all the letter press and plates. Then Mr. Audubon asked for his thousand dollars; but he was put off on one excuse and another.

"Ah, Mr. Audubon," would the owner of millions observe, "you come in a bad time; money is very scarce; I have nothing in bank; I have invested all my funds."

At length, for the sixth time, Mr. Audubon called upon Mr. Astor for his thousand dollars. As he was ushered into his presence he found William B. Astor, the son, conversing with his father. No sooner did the rich man see the man of art, then he began—

"Ah, Mr. Audubon, so you have come again after your money; hard times, Mr. Audubon, money scarce;" but just then catching an inquiring look from his son, he changed his tone: "however, Mr. Audubon, I suppose we must contrive to let you have some of your money, if possible." "William," he added, calling to his son, who had walked into an adjoining parlor, "have we any money at all in the bank?"

"Yes, father! replied William B., supposing that he asked an earnest question, pertinent to what they had been talking about when the ornithologist came in, "we have two hundred and twenty thousand dollars in the bank of New York, seventy thousand in the City Bank, ninety thousand in the Merchants', ninety-eight thousand four hundred in the Mechanics', eighty-three thousand—

"That'll do, that'll do," exclaimed John Jacob, interrupting him, "it seems that William can give you a check for your money."

Effects of Cultivation—New fruits, and Grasses, and Grains may be Expected.

Remarks have already been made to encourage experiment with the common *blackberry*—selecting the largest and best to begin with; and arguing that a delicious fruit may be expected to be produced, from the fact that the apple, the plumb, and some of our best grapes, have come by art, and perseverance in cultivation, from the rudest and most distasteful originals. Providence seems, in fact, to have kindly ordered that it should be so, to keep our minds in wholesome exercise under the double influence of want and of hope. Had all things been given to us in abundance, and in a perfect state, we should have had nothing to do; and who does not know, that for idle people, Satan is sure to find employment?

As to the effects of cultivation, Buffon asserts that *wheat* is a factitious grain, and that there is scarcely a vegetable, whatever its present character, on our farms, that can be found growing naturally in its improved condition. Rye, rice, barley, and even oats, cannot be found; that is to say, growing naturally, in any part of the world, like the cultivated grain.—All have been modified by the industry and skill of man from their originals, and so much so as forbid our recognizing them. It is, thus that we have succeeded in obtaining the fine mealy *murphy*, on which, four millions of poor Irish people have been living exclusively, and in failure of which they are now starving by hundreds and thousands. The origin of the Irish potato was a small bitter South American root—taken, some say by one, some by another, to Europe—some say by Sir Walter Raleigh, which may be true, but not personally from *Virginia*, for he *was never there.*

From the nauseous *opium gravsalens*, we have derived, by artful and persevering culture, our delicious celery, for which the Baltimore market is so famous—thanks to the old French Gardners who escaped to that city from the massacre of St. Domingo, not only for that, but for many other culinary luxuries in great perfection, and for examples of courtesy and orderly deportment every where. The diminutive colewort, with its ungrateful flavor and seven leaves, has been nurtured by the skill of the gardner into the nutritive cabbage of a dozen pounds weight.—We lately measured one at Springfield, the residence of George Patterson, near Sykesville, that was more than four feet in diameter, as it stood in a large field of its peers. A Dutchman would have been regaled at the thought of the quantity of *sour kraut* they would make! There are doubtless many berries and many grasses in our fields and swamps, that might be nurtured into great excellence. If Farmers will only hand them over to their good wives, and give them the means of having them tried in their gardens, it will be done.

VALUE OF A CHILD'S TIME.

It is sometimes said that a child's time is not worth much; some even say they send their children to school to get them out of the way. But parents often find that they learn some things very young.—Children "learn to go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies," that is, they learn to deceive, and utter falsehoods, at a very early period in their childhood. And to their joy, too, they sometimes find, that when very young children have the opportunity afforded, they lay a broad foundation for such a superstructure as makes men hold up their hands and wonder. The mother of Baron Cuvier, I remember to have heard, would have her son recite his Latin to her every morning before going to school, although she did not understand a word of it, because, she had an impression that, on the whole, spring was the time, to sow the seed. His schoolmates and his teacher wondered how it was, that the little baron always had so good a lesson: and France has still wondered how Cuvier came to be so great a man, the secret was he was schooled upon his mother's lap.

A MOTHER'S TEARS.

There is a touching sweetness in a mother's tears when they fall upon the face of her dying babe, which no eye can behold without imbibing its influence.—Upon such hallowed ground the foot of profanity dares not approach. Infidelity itself is silent, and forbears its scoffings; and here woman displays not *her weakness, but her strength, it is that strength of* attachment, which can never, to its full intensity be *realized. It is a perennial dependant upon no climate, no changes; but alike in storm and sunshine, it knows* no shadow of turning. A father when he sees his child going down to the dark valley, will weep when the shadow of death has fully come over him, and as the *last parting knell falls on his ear, he may say* "I go down to the grave of my son mourning." But the hurry of business calls him away: the tear is wiped from his eye, and if when he turns from his fireside, *the vacancy in the family circle reminds him of his* loss, the succeeding day blunts the poignancy of his grief, until at length it finds no permanency in his breast. Not so with her who has borne and nourished the tender blossom. It lives, in the heart where it was first entwined, she sees its playful mirth, or, hears its plaintive cries; she seeks it in the morning, *and goes to the grave to weep there.*

A short chapter on Politeness.

It is not polite to exhibit a littleness in pecuniary matters, especially towards those who deal fairly and generously with you.

It is not polite to break into the conversation of others abruptly, and give an opinion unsolicited. It is an evidence of ill breeding.

It is not polite to enter into personal controversies and "bar room brawls," particularly when it is an annoyance to others.

It is not polite to engage in disputes with a blackguard, for in so doing you put yourself on a level with him.

It is not polite to refuse a favor when you need it, neither is it polite to extend one unless you can do it cordially.

It is not polite to lavish money, profusely to keep up appearances, at the expenses of honest creditors. It smacks a little of dishonor.

It is not polite to crowd yourself into society where you are not wanted. It proves that pride has got the upper hand of reason.

It is not polite to call at stores merely to make examination of goods with no intention of buying. It looks too much like shoplifting.

It is not polite to crowd into an editors sanctum, disarrange his papers, read his manuscripts and detain him with idle conversation. With him "time is money." Wrong: we invite people to call upon us, bring new subscribers, and *the rhino*, and we will talk just as long as any one pleases.

Royalty Unmasked.

Jefferson, in one of his letters, gives the following daguerreotype sketch of the reigning kings of Europe, as they appeared *in his day:*

Louis XVI was a fool of my own knowledge, and in despite of the answers made for him on his trial. The king of Spain was a fool; and of Naples the same. They passed their lives in hunting, and despatched two couriers a week one thousand miles, to let each other know what game they had killed. the preceding days. The king of Sardinia was a fool. All these were Bourbons. The Queen of Portugal, a Braganza, was an idiot by nature, and so was the king of Denmark. Their sons, as Regents, exercised the power of government. The King of Prussia, the successor of the great Frederick, was a mere hog in body as well as in mind. Gustavus of Sweden and Joseph of Austria, were really crazy, and George of England was in a strait waistcoat. There remained, then none but old Catharine of Russia, who had been too lately picked up to have lost her common sense. In this state Bonaparte found Europe, and it was this state of its rulers which lost it with scarce a struggle. These animals had become without mind, and powerless, and so will every hereditary monarch be after a few generations.

SHEWED HIS GOOD SENSE.—*Louis Philippe*, it is said, has purchased a fine estate in Hampshire England.

EARTHQUAKE.—A slight shock of an earthquake was felt in Zanesville, Ohio, and the region round about, on the 6th inst.