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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Poetical.

THE BIRTHDAY OF SPRING.

BY HORACE SMITH.

Cry Holiday! Holiday! let us be gay,
And share in the rapture of Heaven and earth;
For see! what a sunshiny joy they display,
To welcome the Spring on the day of her birth;
While the elements, gladly outpouring their voice,
Nature's Pæan proclaim, and in chorus rejoice!

Loud chrols each rill as it leaps in its bed;
The wind brings us music and balm from the South,
And Earth in delight calls on Echo to spread
The tidings of joy with her many tongued mouth;
O'er sea and o'er shore, over mountain plain,
Far, far does the trumpet the jubilee strain.

Hark! hark to the cuckoo; its magical call
Awakens the flowerets that slept in the dells;
The snow-drop, the primrose, the hyacinth, all
Attune at this summons their silvery bells
Hush! ting-a-ring-ting! don't you hear how they sing!
They are pealing a fairy-like welcome to Spring;

The love-thrilling hedge birds are wild with delight;
Like arrows loud whistling the swallows flit by;
The rapturous lark, as he soars out of sight,
Sends us sunlighted melody down from the sky.
In the air that they quaff, all the feathery throng
Tastes the spirit of Spring that outbursts in a song.

To me do the same vernal whisperings breathe
In all that I scent, that I hear, that I meet,
Without and within me, above and beneath;
Every sense is imbued with a prophecy sweet
Of the pomp and the pleasantness Earth shall assume
When adora'd like a bride, in her flowery bloom.

In this transport of nature each feeling takes part,
I am thrilling with gratitude, reverence, joy;
A new spring of youth seems to gush from my heart,
And the man's metamorphosed again to a boy,
Oh! let me run wild, as in earlier years;
If my joy be suppress'd, I shall burst into tears.

Miscellaneous.

A Country School House.

No one can journey through any section of the country without being impressed with the fact, that schoolhouses are generally constructed without taste, convenience, or even comfort. Located in the geographical centre of the district—be that on the bleak hill-side or in a frog-pond—erected at as little cost as possible, with nothing without or within to make it attractive,—with no grounds save the public highway belonging to it,—like some relic of the past, stands the school-house.—Popular sentiment demands better schools and more highly qualified teachers, than it did twenty years since; but in few instances, has a corresponding improvement been made in the edifices devoted to the primary, and almost the only education of children.

The Architect of Nature has not failed to scatter locations of beauty thick over our land, and scarce a school district can be found where a proper site for a model building does not invite attention. The additional expense of erecting a building in this style, is not worth a moment's consideration in comparison with the results growing out of the change. The love of the beautiful is instinctive in childhood, and only the narrow prejudice of self seeking man can see nothing to admire in the loveliness of nature, or in the fair proportions of art. Next to the attractions of the home fireside, school house should be the most desirable and inviting place. Here does mind receive its first impressions and form its tastes and character. Here does the boy fix his standard of attainment, acquire his notions of gentility and propriety, and first learn to compare himself with others. An air of neatness and elegance should be given the school house, and in point of finish, decoration and furniture, should equal the best apartment of a private residence. Children would respect such a building, would love to be in it, and what is more, would form there, habits of propriety which would save the man many a bitter lesson of mortification. Children imitate the manners of those around them, and rudeness is no more *natural* than politeness. This is not mere speculation. We have seen a school house which had been in constant use for three years, upon whose carpet there were no marks of the commanding taste of scholars, whose neatly stained desks showed no signs of the Yankee proclivity to whittle, whose walls were disfigured with no semi-barbaric artistic designs; yet there had been no blows struck in that school, there were no rules to prevent injury to the building. A *gentleman* had taught the school, and as naturally as effect follows cause, *gentlemanly* and *lady like* scholars were in attendance. It is needless to remark that intellectual improvement was in perfect keeping with advance in other respects.

Thousands of dollars are wisely laid out every year in erecting churches after the best models, and decorating them according to the most approved standards of taste; and why should not equal pride be taken in combining beauty and fitness in the district school house? If architecture be the expression of ideas of beauty, if it has a meaning, will not six days in a beautiful school house do more in impressing the mind with a correct taste, than one in a beautiful church? Each has its appropriate place, is associated with its peculiar ideas, but in point of importance are so nearly allied that they should not widely differ.—*Albany Cultivator.*

An Irishman's Revenge.

A few days since, in Portland, Maine, (where the liquor law is in operation,) a good natured son of Hibernia, whose laudable vocation is the digging and selling of clams, fancying the necessity of procuring for medical purposes, a quart of the contraband spirits, called for the purpose on the authorized agent for its sale, who fearing it was not all right peremptorily refused to grant his request unless he produced a prescription from a regular physician.

The poor Irishman really wanted the liquor, and provided he had obtained it, would undoubtedly have appropriated it to no improper uses, being a temperate man himself. But his importunities were unavailing, and he was obliged to leave the constituted agency minus the soothing drops, and of course not a little chagrined at his usage. 'But,' said he, 'I'll be revenged on you for your bad manners.'

A few days subsequently, the honest Hibernian was wheeling a covered hand barrow laden with the goods of 'his profession,' by the City Hall, under which the intoxicating agency is located. The agent espying him, and suspecting that he was wheeling off to a place of security a load of 'evil spirits,' accosted him thus:

'Hallow! Pat, what have you in your wheel barrow?'

'Clams be jabers!' replied Pat.

'Ah! that is just what I want. I will take a peck, hand them in,' said the agent of spirits.

'No, sirrah! By the holy St. Patrick, yer can't have them, be jabers!' said the inflexible Irishman.

'Why not?' inquired the agent.

'Well, sirrah,' says Patrick, it is meself who is the authorized agent to sell clams, and yer don't have a divil of a one of them without yer get a certificate from a regular practicing physisihun, as I am afraid that yer will be after making a bad use of 'em anyhow.'

The authorized liquor vender did't get his clams.

WORTH KNOWING.—An exchange paper says: 'It is a fact, perhaps not generally known to farmer, and which, at this season, is important, that there are two parts in the potato, which, if separated planted at the same time, one will produce potatoes fit for the table eight or ten days sooner than the other.—The small end of the potato, which is generally full of eyes, is the part which produces the earliest; the middle or the body of the potato the late and larger ones.'

A Donkey in a Ball Room.

Mr. Kendall, writing from Paris, describes the following scene in a Paris ball room:

"A highly ludicrous incident occurred a few evenings since at the Casino Paganini, a large ball room located at the head of a passage, leading out of the Chaussee d'Antin, and which is much frequented this season by a mixed and most miscellaneous crowd. The orchestra had just struck in the Galop du Chemin de Fer, (Railroad Gallop, and the merry dancers had taken their places, when into the room bolted a donkey snorting and braying at the top of his powerful lungs, and joining in the gallop, went round the large salle with a perfect rush. Never was such a stampede seen in a ball room. The affrighted dancers scattered in every direction, and 'sich a gitten' up stairs,' such a jumping upon chairs and tables, and such a climbing up pillars, up to that moment had never been witnessed in the Casino Paganini, or any other. The police were struck dumb at the strange apparition, the musicians dropped their instruments and fled in terror, while the donkey kept galloping on in his mad flight, careering in circle round the room amid the wild screams of hundreds of women all only bent upon seeking places of safety.

What could have brought such an intruder into a dancing hall no one could imagine, but it was afterwards ascertained that the donkey had been left by his master standing before a door in Chaussee d'Antin, and that, struck by one of the carriages continually passing through the noted thoroughfare, and frightened by the rattling of others, he had suddenly started off at the top of his speed. The more he ran, as it is always the case, the more frightened he became, and in his flight seeing the passage leading to the Casino, he bolted into it for refuge. But poor refuge did he find; for he now had to run gauntlet of at least fifty coachman, always stationed in the passage on the look out for customers, who, yelling and cracking their whips at him, further increased his terror and his pace. The saloon is on the first floor, and without stopping to procure a ticket of admission, but knocking over the astonished doorkeeper in his headlong career, the poor brute made his advent among the dancers, as already mentioned. Solitary and alone he set the ball in motion,' and commotion, too. Without stopping to select a partner, he joined in the grand gallop, and at a stride which soon distanced him everything on the track.

After half a dozen turns round the saloon, and to music of his own composition and performance, he finally cooled or tired himself down, came to his senses, and quietly commenced a survey of the premises. From this out, he is said to have been the pet of the evening, the female portion of the crowd, in particular, pressing around him, and regaling him plentifully with cakes and other notions. When the ball was over he was sent by the Commisary of the Police to the public pound, and thus ended the doings of a donkey in a dancing saloon.

Keep Cool.

Good heavens! reader, do try to carry a cheerful face. What if your path be beset with perplexities—don't fret. There's no use in fretting though you are in debt, and business is dull, and the banks won't discount, and your friends can't lend. Getting vexed at yourself and every body else won't help the matter—no not a bit. You may fret yourself into fiddle strings, but you will only make yourself wretched—not cure the evil. If you jam your fingers in the crack of a door, or stumble against a pile of bricks, left carelessly on the side walk, or are half a minute too late for the cars, take it coolly—fretting won't heal the mischief. If the girl you like gives you the mitten, or if you have got married and found yourself egregiously 'taken in,' keep cool—fretting won't bring back the one, or make an angle of the other. If your umbrella 'comes up missing' when you especially need it, or you get caught in a rain storm with your Sunday clothes on—if you want to be captain of a military and can't, or run at an election for pond keeper, and get defeated—if your trunk is lost in travelling; or some gentleman pickpocket relieves you of your superfluous bank bills, take it easy—fretting may elongate your face, but won't afford any consolation for your troubles. Learn to be patient for your perplexity. It is scandalous for any man, however, to be always fidgeting and fussing, growling and grumbling. One mond fault is worth ten find faults all the world over. Why what a fever will a man put himself into to-day at something which he will only laugh at to-morrow—and yet, perhaps the next morning you will find the same individual in a perfect phrensy of passion about some matters ten times more trifling. Keep cool, then, and don't be needlessly worried.—Remember that care once killed a cat, and it may kill you yet, if you are not careful. 'There's nothing,' says a cotemporary, like coolness; it never breaks things in its impatience. Coolness—did you ever see it tumble up stairs, or do itself a mischief?—Study to be cool—ay, even if the house be on fire, or your horse runs away. Dangers retreat, when coolly they're confronted.

A Vigorous Race of Warriors.

Within the limits of the territories of the Hudson Bay company, there resides a class of men who, ground down by the tyranny of that huge monopoly, seek to place themselves under the protection of the United States. These men are usually know as the Red River half breeds. They are, generally speaking, of mixed Indian, English, Scotch or French blood. Brought up from earliest youth to feel that their subsistence will depend upon their skill as horsemen and hunters, they accustom themselves to every exercise and privation which can tend to harden their muscles and prepare them for their vocation. As a matter of course, the whole body of these hunters are capital horsemen, and amazingly expert in the use of firearms. Depending entirely upon the Hudson Bay Company for amunition and arms, they must submit to any and all the arbitrary rules imposed upon them, and they are heartily tired of these exactions.

Twice each year, these hunters, four or five hundred in number, start for the American territories, after the buffalo, with from a thousand to twelve hundred carts, drawn by horses or oxen which are driven by women and children. The men are governed by fixed rules while at the hunt, which must not be infringed under severe penalties. They all leave the camp together, with the exception of a few who are left as a guard; and when a corne or surrond of buffalo have taken place, the women and children are sent for to assist in butchering and drying the slain animals. Each cart will contain the pemmican (or dried meat, pounded and melted tallow poured over it,) of ten buffaloes; so that the slaughter of these animals may be estimated at upward of twenty thousand annually. The meat thus prepared, is purchased at a small price by the Hudson Bay Company, and is used to provision the Inland trading posts.—Attempt has on one occasion been made to prevent the incursions of these people within our boundaries, but without effect. Many of these mixed bloods now desire to remove to Pumpinr, which is on the American side of the line, and settle there, if permission can be obtained from our Government. They would constitute a formidable and efficient defence to our norhern frontier in case of Indian disturbances, as they are feared by all the different tribes. The British settlement at Red River in the vicinity of Fort Gary numbers about five thousand souls.—*St, Paul Register.*

FOLLY OF FRETTING.—Two gardners, who were neighbors, had their crops of early peas killed by the frost. One of them came to console with the other.

"Ah!" cried he, "how unfortunate! Do you know, neighbor, I have done nothing but fret ever since! But bless me, you seem to have a fine crop coming up; what sort are they?"

"Why, these are those I sowed immediately after my loss."

"What, coming up already?" said the fretter."

"Yes," replied the other, "while you were fretting, I was working."

A Definition of Bigotry.

Old Job Dundee was at one time one of the most popular "darkies" in our city. He was a kind of a patriarch among the colored population, and universally liked by the white folks. About the time that he stood at the head of the Church he was subpœned before Squire (now Judge Wiseman,) to testify to the character of a negro who was charged with petty larceny.

"Well Job," said the Squire, "what do you know about the character of the defendant?"

"Well, I knows considerable 'bout de colored individual, and I nebber fin's him guilty ob only one 'fence,'" replied Job with great reverence.

"Well, what is the nature of the offence you allude to?"

"Why de niggar am bigoted."

"He's what?"

"Bigoted, bigoted—doesn't you know what dat means?"

"Why no," replied the Squire, who is much of a wag, "will you define the term, Job?"

"Sartinly, sartinly, I does. To be bigoted, colored pusson must know too much for one niggar, and not enough for two niggars?"—*Cin. Times.*

Not a Privileged Member.

A gentleman on a visit to Washington, recently, and anxious to listen to the debates, opened, very cooly, one of the doors of the Senate, and was about to pass in, when the door-keeper asked,

"Are you a privileged member?"

"What do you mean by such a man asked the stranger. The reply was,

"A Governor, or an ex-member of Congress or a foreign minister."

The stranger said, "I am a minister."

"From what court or country, if you please?" asked the official.

(Very gravely pointing up.)—"From the Court of Heaven, sir."

To this our door-keeper waggishly remarked,

"This Government at present holds no intercourse with that foreign power!"

A Beautiful Extract.

Hon. G. A. Grow, delivered an able speech in Congress, on the 30th of March, on the Homestead Bill We have perused it with great satisfaction. The following paragraph, which we select from Mr. Grow's speech, is a rare specimen of refined literature:

If you would cad the erring back from the paths of vice and crime to virtue and to honor, give him a home—give him a hearthstone, and he will surround it with household gods. If you would make men wiser and better, relieve your alms houses, close the doors of your penitentiars, and break in pieces your gallows—purify the influences of the domestic fireside. For that is the school in which human character is formed, and there its destiny is shaped; there the soul receives its first impress, and man his first lesson, and they go with him for weal or for woe through life. For purifying the sentiments, elevating the thoughts, and developing the noblest impulses of man's nature, the influences of a rural fireside and agricultural life are the noblest and the best. In the obscurity of the cottage, far removed from the seductive influences of rank and affluence, is nourished the virtues that counteract the decay of human institutions—the courage that defends the national independence, and the industry that supports all classes of the State.'

Developement of the Lungs.

Much has been said and written upon diet, eating and drinking, but I do not recollect ever noticing a word upon breathing. Some persons have a habit of breathing. They suppress their breathing, and contract the habit of short, quick breathing, not carrying the breath half way down the chest, and scarcely expanding the lower portion of the chest at all. Lacing the bottom of the chest greatly increases the evil, and confirms a bad habit of breathing.—Children that move about a great deal in the open air, and no way laced, breathe deep and full in the bottom of the chest, and in the every part of it. So also with most out door labores, and persons who take a great deal of exercise in the open air, because the lungs give us the power of action, and the most exercise we take, especially out of doors, the larger the lungs become, and the less liable to disease. In all occupation that require standing, keep the person straight. If at table let it be high, raised nearly up to the arm pits, so as not to require you to stoop; you will find the employment much easier—not one half so fatiguing, whilst the form of the chest and symmetry of the figure will remain perfect. You have noticed that a vast number of tall ladies stoop, while a great many short ones are straight. This arises, I think, from the table at which they sit or work, or occupy themselves, or study, being of a medium height for a short one. This should be carefully corrected and regarded so that each lady may occupy herself at a table to suit her, and thus prevent the possibility or necessity of stooping.

A GOOD ONE.—A good story is told of two bachelor brothers, down in Tennessee, who had lived a cat and dog sort of life, to their own and the neighborhood's discomfort, for a good many years, but who having been at a camp meeting, were slightly "convicted," and concluded to reform.

"Brother Tom," says one, when they had arrived at their home, "let us sit down now, and I'll tell you what we'll do. "You tell me of all my faults, and I'll tell you of yours, and so we'll know how to go about mending 'em."

"Good!" says brother Tom."

"Well, you begin."

"No, you begin, brother Joe.

"Well, in the first place, you know, brother Tom, you *will lie.*"

Crack! goes brother Tom's "paw" between brother Joe's "blinkers," and a considerable "scrimmage" ensues, until, in the course of ten minutes, neither are able to "come up to time," and the reformation was postponed sine die.

A citizen of Washington city is travelling in the Old World. He thus describes the inhabitants in the interior of Sicily:

"Syria, or the Holy Land, can scarcely furnish a more deplorable example of the decay of civilization in the old world than one meets with at every turn of the road throughout the interior of Sicily. It is almost impossible for an American traveller, accustomed as he is to progress and enterprise, and all their concomitant results, to realize the barbarous condition in which these poor people live. Passing through the villages at night, I saw many of them asleep on the road side, without covering or shelter; and the squalor and destitution of those who lived in houses surpass belief. Whole families are huddled together in one wretched apartment, without beds or furniture, living in common with mules, goats and swine, and about as cultivated as the brutes around them. Few that I conversed with had ever heard of America, and even those who know there was such a country, had no idea if it was in China or England. That such a state of things should exist in the nineteenth century, in a country once so highly civilized, and still boasting antiquities that excite the admiration of the world, is also incredible."

ANECDOTE OF THE TWIN SISTERS.—We know a farmer in Connecticut who has a pair of twin daughters of whom a capital anecdote is told. They both attended the same school, and not long since one of them was called up by the master to recite a lesson in geography, which she had learned very imperfectly, and in fact could not get along at all. The teacher, who was getting quite out of patience, was called to another part of the room, and just at that moment the twin sister sprang to the floor, and pushing the delinquent scholar to her seat, took her place. The master proceeded with the questions, which were answered with a degree of promptness and accuracy which at the close drew from him a few words of commendation. The joke was not discovered by the teacher until some days after. Of course it was too good and successful to occasion any offence.

ELEVEN BANKS VETOED!

Veto Message.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN:—Bill No. 590, on the files of the Senate, entitled "An act to incorporate the Meadville Bank," with a capital of $100,000, has been presented for my consideration, together with others, providing for the establishment of sundry new banks, to be located as follows, to wit: one at Pittsburg, with a capital of $300,000, another at Allentown, Lehigh county, with a capital of $150,000, another at Erie, with a capital of $150,000, another at Carlisle, with a capital of $100,000, another at New Castle, Lawrence county, with a capital of $100,000, another at Tamaqua, Schuylkill county, with a capital of $100,000, another at Manch Chunk, Carbon county, with a capital of $100,000, another at Phœnixville, Chester county, with a capital of $200,000, another at Monongaheln city, Washington county, with a capital of $100,000, also, another, to add $150,000 to the capital stock of the Southwark Bank, in the county of Philadelphia.

Since the General Assembly has thus indicated to me their views on the subject of increasing the banking capital of the State, I have given the question, in all its bearings, my most anxious consideration—have contemplated the probable effects of this proposed measure upon the interests of the whole people of the State—upon the laborer, mechanic, farmer, merchant, and manufacturer, and bringing to the aid of my judgment, the lights furnished by the past experience of the country, I have arrived at the conclusion that it is my solemn duty, however unpleasant, to differ with you on this subject. To dissent from the wishes of the representatives of the people, on a question of public policy, is painful to me in the extreme, but to shrink from the responsibility of performing a conscious duty, would be cowardly and criminal.

In returning so large a number of the bank bills, without my sanction, for the re-consideration of the General Assembly, I deem it right that I should present my reasons for so doing at length, in one message, and have reference to this as applicable to these measures severally.

On assuming the duties of the Executive office, I distinctly announced, "that, in my opinion, no pretext can justify the creation of a superabundant amount of paper money, and that it was with painful alarm I have witnessed a growing disposition in the entire country to increase the use of this medium on a small specie basis, regardless of the inevitable effects of the large accessions of coin which California is furnishing to this country and to the world. Every people should have a circulating medium as a matter of convenience, and should have whatever amount the transaction of wholesome business affairs may demand; but unfortunately we are too unwilling to stop at the proper point in the creation of this medium." That as coin becomes abundant it should supplant and render unnecessary the use of paper, is to my mind, the plainest teaching of common sense. Such practical effect is demanded by the true interests of the people."

The sentiments thus announced, I have long entertained, and their correctness is the more confirmed by every day's experience and reflection.—I should, by assenting to these bills, agree practically to reverse this doctrine and maintain that as to be increased. This position would be so manifestly unsound that argument is not necessary to refute it.

The proposed new banks would add to the present banking capital of the State an aggregate sum of $1,550,000, or over ten per cent. on the active capital now in use, and thus swell the present amount of our paper circulation to the extent of four or five millions.

Whilst I am not prepared to say, that at the proper time, a bank might not be useful, if properly managed, at some of the points named, I have had no difficulty whatever in satisfying my mind that there is at this time, no real necessity for such an extensive increase of paper money, nor that if such increase were permitted, the effect would be prejudicial to the true interests of the mass of the people, and that it would exercise a demoralizing influence upon the business affairs of the State. The immediate effect would be, I have no doubt, to enhance the nominal prices of all kinds of goods and property, by the depreciation of bank paper, stimulating thereby a spirit of wild and fanciful speculation, begetting prodigality and idleness, the legitimate fruits of an inflated currency. All violent movements on this subject are unwise and especially injurious to the unwary citizen. Experience has demonstrated that all sudden expansions and contractions of a paper currency, exercise a prejudicial influence on the real prosperity of the country. Such sudden convulsions, it is true, are sometimes, turned to the advantage of the shrewd capitalists, but the unsuspecting farmer or mechanic, enticed from his safe pursuit by the fair promises of the expansion, is crushed in his new experiment by the violence of the contraction.

If it be true, that "experience teaches wisdom"—and none will doubt this—the people of Pennsylvania should be wise on this subject, and a mere reference to that experiment, it seems to me, should be sufficient to awaken them to the danger of the measure in question.

The consequences of a similar policy, adopted in 1814, regardless of the admonitions of the sagacious and patriotic Snyder, are still remembered by some who participated in the scenes of those days, and are known to all of us as a dark page in the history of the State. Let no man flatter himself with the belief that the same cause will not produce the same effect in the future that it has done in the past. The country, it is true, is now inhabited by a new generation, but the nature of man has undergone no change since the days of Snyder—his impulses and objects are the same, and the laws of trade remain unaltered; and, assuredly, if we rush into the errors of that day, we may justly anticipate a similar retribution. Nor is this the only practical demonstration of the danger of the proposed policy, to be found in our history. Who does not remember something of the condition of affairs that existed through the whole extent of our vast country during the years 1834,—'35—'36. Who has forgotten the warning voice of the patriotic Jackson, admonishing the people against the consequences of an inflated currency and an unrestrained system of credit, which then pervaded our business circles, and affected deeply domestic arrangements. But his warning was not heeded until it was too late to arrest the evil. The great bank expansion of that period engendered a spirit of desperate speculation and habits of prodigality which distinguished alike the career of States, corporations and individuals. And who can contemplate, without regret and shame, the disgrace and misery which followed as the legitimate consequence. The imaginary fortunes of individuals were dispelled as fog before the rising sun, and the meshes of the speculator were rent asunder as cobwebs before the torrent of revulsion that ensued. States, corporations and individuals were prostrated beneath its weight—their plighted faith became a by-word and scoff, and their credit was hawked about in the market and offered for a mere fraction of its nominal value. Whilst the unwary citizen who had been misled by this artificial state of affairs, including widows and orphans, whose means, under the force of the delusion, had been invested in schemes purely speculative, found themselves thrown houseless and penniless upon the charity of the public. Nor is this all. The effect of extending the banking capital of this State, in 1836, by the charter of the United States and other banks, from a little over fourteen to exceeding fifty-eight millions, and its sudden reduction, in a few years afterwards, to an active capital of not less than nineteen millions, was scarce less disastrous. The consequences to our State credit, to the trade and commerce of our metropolis, to the interests of all classes of our people, and to the honor of the Commonwealth abroad, are topics too unpleasant to be discussed at this day, and I only allude to them as so many admonitions against the tendency of the effort now making to increase the amount of banking capital, evidently calculated to produce a somewhat similar state of affairs.

These expansions are delusive and unprofitable, and as shown by their past history, clearly inimical to the rights and interests of labor. From an able report made to Congress on this subject, in 1840, I have gathered some very interesting facts which speak a language that cannot be misunderstood. They are to the effect that, from 1834 to 1836, the increase of paper currency in the United States was near 48 per cent.,—that the advance in the price of that kind of real estate, which was constantly in the market, was over one hundred per cent.,—in stocks, real and fancy, about one hundred and twenty per cent.,—in flour, pork, corn, &c., about sixty per cent., and in the price of labor, the source of all real wealth, but a little over sixteen per cent. But not so when the contraction comes, for then labor bears the first shock, and depreciates most severely. In every view, therefore, is a fluctuating currency prejudicial to the interests of the laborer. Labor is the last thing to rise in price, and does so least, with an inflation of the currency, but suffers first and most severely under the contraction. Besides, during the times of such inflation, the laborer is forced to receive his wages at the standard price of a sound currency, in that which is depreciated, and purchase his necessaries at the high prices consequent upon such depression. Such expansions, in addition, are adverse to the real prosperity of the country—and retard rather than advance it. The artificial growth produced by the expansion is more than counteracted by the paralyzing influence of the contraction, and the aggregate prosperity is less than it would be were the country left to its steady natural advance.

But how clearly impoverishing is the effect of an inflated currency upon all our State and National interests, now closely pressed by foreign competition. It virtually opens our ports to invite such rivalry against all these pursuits, and no rate of tariff that the wisdom of Congress can devise, within any reasonable limit, can counteract its influence. It greatly enhances the nominal prices of goods and commodities in this, above what they will bear in other countries, whilst at the same time it retards rather than facilitates their production. It thus gives the foreign producer the opportunity of manufacturing at the low rates of his own country, and selling at the inflated prices of ours; for he receives his pay not in our depreciated paper but in gold and silver. It is this state of the currency, more than any other feature in the policy of this country, that enables the foreign manufacturer to compete, if not to undersell, the American producer in our own [illegible] increase. But where is the evidence existed to show why authorize such an increase all at one time? During the official service of my two last predecessors, covering a period of nine years, but four new banks of issue were created; and when has Pennsylvania been more prosperous than during that time? When, since first burthened by her heavy debt, did her credit stand higher? And when did the labor of her citizens reap a better reward? She has, during the whole time, stood erect, maintained her faith, and by the proper exercise of her own inherent elements of wealth, has been steadily extricating herself from the embarrisments brought upon her by a spirit of prodigality, transfused throughout the whole country as the consequence of the expansions of paper money to which I have already referred.

There is now near nineteen millions of banking capital in the State, of which about four and a half millions of dollars are invested in stocks, bonds, &c., a business not necessarily connected with banking nor contemplated in the creation of banks. This fact furnishes some evidence that at times there had been more banking capital than the legitimate business of these institutions seemed to require, and certainly there is nothing in the present condition of the country to justify so large an accession to our paper medium.

The present period is one distinguished for the great abundance of coin. The mines of California and Australia have recently been contributing to swell inordinately the usual supply which other parts of the world still continue unbatedly to furnish.—Money is unusually plenty in this country and has not been so much so, nor so cheap in Europe, for many years. The Bank of England now contains the enormous sum of near ninety millions of gold and silver, whilst in France and Holland there is an evident excess above the demands of business. In the United States we have a full supply, which is now being rapidly augmented by new receipts.—These receipts as I learn from reliable, though unofficial sources, by importation and coinage, for the months of January, February and March, amounted to over thirteen millions and a half, leaving in this country, after deducting all exports of specie, for the same period, a balance of near seven millions of dollars. This ratio of increase would upon double and treble the whole capital of the country. And it is worthy of remark that this great increase of gold coinage is beginning to awaken the inquiry as to what is to be the effect upon this great standard of value, as compared with other coins or circulating medium.

The effect of this superabundance of money on the business affairs of the country is already being made manifest. The signs of the times, it seems to me, indicate very clearly that we are approaching a period of more than natural prosperity resulting from this excess of money. The mania which prevails for all kinds of business and projects of improvement; which require the investment of large sums of money, is the evidence of such tendency in our monetary affairs. If then, we are to take counsel from the past, and the indications of the present, we must believe that this abundance of currency will, of itself, produce an inflation of price and lead to speculation and prodigality. But such artificial prosperity will be of short duration. The re-action will as certainly come as that the sun will continue to rise in the east and set in the west; and, unfortunately, when it does come, the innocent and unwary who have made least in this game, are forced to suffer most. Is it wise then, in full view of such unmistakable indications, to hasten this State of affairs, and aggravate the evil by an improvident increase of paper money? Shall we so far forget the severe lessons which have been heretofore inflicted upon this noble State? I trust not. I do not say that it may not be proper at some future time to charter new banks at some of the points in the State where it is now proposed to locate them; but I most sincerely believe, and I express this belief with the utmost deference to the views of the General Assembly, that the present is not a propitious period for an increase of banking capital. Let us first see what is to be the effect of the increase of gold coinage and the abundance of money to which I have already alluded. It is prudent, at least, to remain on the safe side of this question. There is no danger of the real prosperity of the state being retarded for the want of paper money, and I have never known the people to suffer from such cause. Our currency is now as sound as at any other period in the history of the Commonwealth, and her prosperity and growth resulting from the energy, industry and enterprise of her people, equal to that of any of her sister States. Artificial means to improve this condition, might readily produce the a reverse result.

I think the aggregate banking capital of the state large enough, and that of the whole county too large—much too large for the welfare of those persuits closely pressed by foreign competition. But the great monetary movement which, at this time, would seem wise and necessary, is not within the control of a single state. If it were so, and Pennsylvania were that state, I have no hesitation in saying, that I should not, during my official career, sanction the charter or re-charter of any bank. It should be my purpose to reduce, rather than increase, the paper circulation. But a single member of this confederacy can do but little more than show a good example and invite imitation on the part of sister states. Situated as we are, therefore, we can only make the best of the circumstances which surround us—restrain the evil and promote the good, so far as the influence of the state can do this.

I have not been insensible to the force of the reasoning in favor of establishing banks in particular localities as a medium through which to conduct heavy business transactions, and I should not object to institutions for this purpose with all the attributes of a bank, except the right to create paper money. It is urged, also, that certain localities need what are called banking facilities, that are now without such accommodations, and that some, or all of these bills are only intended to afford to such places that which has been already extended to others. I am free to admit that there are localities thus situated, and that it is intended, by the bills in question, to supply some of these, and were it practicable to afford to them these facilities without increasing the present amount of paper money, or in other words, if this end could be accomplished by taking from localities that now manifestly have too much, the evils of an increase of banking capital, which I have suggested could not apply. But it cannot, to my mind, be justified, that any inconvenience suffered by certain localities should be regarded as paramount to the important considerations that seem clearly, at this time, to weigh against any increase of the paper medium of the state. This complaint may be gradually met at rest hereafter, should the consideration against an increase of capital continue, by refusing to re-charter banks in localities where there is an excess of such facilities and distributing them in other quarters.—But in this the utmost scare will be necessary, for we have learned by sad experience that it is a dangerous policy to locate these institutions in a region of country greatly deficient in capital. I need not call to mind the numerous instances in which banks, thus located, have misled the business community by their promises to pay, without a dollar in their vaults, and then exploded to the vast injury of the people. They are so many arguments to sustain the truthfulness of this position, and nothing but my unwillingness to excite unpleasant recollections, restrains me from pointing out the particulars of some of these occurrences. But I trust they may not, on that account, escape your reflection. A bank created for the use only of those who desire to become borrowers, cannot answer. The mere corporate franchises cannot give it all the elements of a good bank. The patrons of such an institution must put money into its vaults before they can draw any out. In other language, if a particular locality be poor, it will not be made rich by the possession of a bank possessing no better qualities than the right to make paper money. There must be not only a necessity for such an institution, but legitimate business and wealth in such locality to sustain it, or the probabilities are that the result will be disastrous. It is not always a good argument in favor [illegible] to get money at such a place. That may be the very reason why public interest and safety would forbid such location. Besides, it is to this difficulty, to a great extent, that this commodity is indebted for its value. I am quite sure that if it were made sufficiently abundant to answer the views of some political economists, it would neither be valuable nor useful. The advantages resulting to the particular localities in which these institutions are found, are, as a general principle, greatly overrated. I can bring to review in my mind a vast district of the state, embracing some eighteen contiguous counties, all flourishing and prosperous, in which there is not to be found a single bank of issue, and yet I do not see that these are less prosperous than localities favored with many banks. A number of the counties within the range to which I refer, were at one time favored with banks, but these institutions have failed and gone out of existence, and I cannot perceive that such counties are less flourishing than they were when their respective banks were in full operation. This seclusion from banks, it should be remembered, is not without its advantages. The people of such regions are perhaps fully rewarded for what they suffer in inconvenience, by the protection they thus enjoy from the force of commercial revulsion. What they lose at a time of bank expansion is more than made good to them by their escape from the full force of the contraction. A little reflection on the occurrences, during the periods to which I have repeatedly made reference, will satisfy any one that this is no mere fanciful idea, but a clear practical truth.

I have thus, gentlemen, performed what I regard as an imperative duty. Should subsequent events demonstrate that I have erred, I shall at least have the consolation to know that such error is of the head, and not of the heart.

WM. BIGLER.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Harrisburg, April 20, 1852.

Use of a Cat's Whiskers.

Every one must have observed what are usually called the whiskers, on a cat's upper lip. The use of these, in a state of nature, is very important.—they are attached to a bed of close glands under the skin; and each of these long hairs is connected with the nerves of the lip. The slightest contact of These whiskers with any surrounding object is thus felt most distinctly by the animal, although the hairs of themselves, are insensible. They stand out on each side of the lion, as well as in the common cat, so that from point to point, they are equal to the width of the animal's body. If we imagine, therefore, an animal stealing through a covert of wood in an imperfect light, we shall at once see the use of these long hairs. They indicate to him, through the nicest feeling, any obstacle which may present itself to the passage of the body; they prevent the rustling of boughs and leaves, which would give warning to his prey, if he attempts to pass through too close a bush; and thus, in conjunction with the soft cushions of his feet, and the fur upon which he treads (the retractile claws never coming in contact with the ground,) they enable him to move towards his victim with a stillness even greater than that of the snake, who creeps along the grass, and is not perceived until he is coiled around his prey.

THE PRESS.—The Richmond Examiner, speaking of the common notion that every body has a right to publish what he pleases, at the publisher's expense and not his own, says, very forcibly:

The press is only free to its editors, and to those whom its editors believe to have good ground for addressing the public, and something to say which the public has an interest in hearing. We would recommend those who labor under this mistake to consider the following fact—that newspapers are made for large class who read, and not for the small class who want to write. The idea that when a man subscribes to a newspaper, he lays its proprietors under some undefinable obligation, or that he has a right to publish his compositions therein, with the single proviso that they shall be inoffensive, is a popular fancy and most ridiculous mistake, which ought to be corrected. Not only has he no such right, but the editor who permits him to put uninteresting matter in his columns, infringes upon the rights of four or five thousand other people to gratify one individual. Very few editors act so absurdly.