

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER, WILLIAM B. FOSTER, JR.

AGENTS.—Geo. Pratt, at his Agency Office, New York is our duly authorized Agent for the transaction of all business connected with the Reporter office.

V. B. PALMER, No. 30 Ann street, (adjoining Tribune Office) New York; Real Estate and Coal Office, 59 Pine street, Philadelphia is authorized to receive subscriptions and advertisements for the Reporter.

In selecting a medium for the purpose of advertising we would respectfully call attention to the Reporter.—We have no desire to boast when we say that it affords a most desirable opportunity for communicating to the public information wished to be conveyed in advertisements, having nearly double the circulation of any paper in the County; and much larger than any paper in Northern Pennsylvania (with perhaps but one exception), and located in a thriving and prosperous county, containing enterprising and intelligent citizens, who understand to the benefit of purchasing from those who are desirous of selling.

Editor's Correspondence.

ALBANY, MARCH 7th, 1846.

I am gratified in being able to inform you, that at last a bill has been reported from the proper committee, in the House of Representatives of this state, incorporating a company to construct a canal from the State line near Athens, to unite with the Chenango Canal at Elmira.—As far as I can judge, after my brief journey here—there is a fair prospect of the passage of this bill. Another one is prepared, with similar provisions, for a connection with the Chenango Canal, at Binghamton; and will be reported in a few days.

I have sent a copy of the first named bill to Wm. E. Wells Esq., of your place, and another to C. F. Welles, Jr., of Athens, for inspection of those interested. I could obtain but a limited number of copies, or I should have distributed them more extensively. I make this public reference, to remedy the difficulty.

If the bill passes finally as reported—and I think it will—I am persuaded the stock will be subscribed, and the work on this, as well as on the North Branch Canal in Pennsylvania, be prosecuted without much delay.—Unless the nation is plunged into a war, or some extraordinary revision takes place, in the monetary affairs of the country, I feel confident, that an improvement which will insure so ample a return for the capital invested, will not long want the necessary means of completion.

In the long struggle which has been necessary to procure the requisite laws, and perfect the proper organization, in order to complete this grand link in the improve ments of the country—it has been felt by some of those thus engaged, that there was a strange indifference, on the part of many of the citizens of the Susquehanna valley, to their own best interests. Can they possibly be aware of what is going on around them? A company is now forming, with a view ultimately to extend a railway the whole length of the Lackawanna valley, uniting with the New York and Erie road near the North Eastern corner of Susquehanna county. This would form an outlet on the EAST of us, from the anthracite coal region. The Williamsport and Elmira rail road company has had given to it by a law of Pennsylvania, all the tolls on descending freight (which shall pass over that road when completed) on the Pennsylvania canal as far down as Duncan's Island! This, in my opinion, is a gift to that company quite equal to the one accorded to the North Branch Canal company, in the finished and unfinished works from Wilkes-Barre Northward. The rail road company run no risks—pays no expenses, and are able to no repairs. They, literally, get the use of seventy or eighty miles of finished canal, for nothing.—The friends of this company are bestirring themselves: they are now here at Albany—seeking a revival of their charter from this state, which they have improvidently suffered to expire: and I have little doubt, that their road will be completed and ere long extended to connect with the Reading road—probably by way of the Catawissa and Little Schuylkill improvement, which is also moving on. This forms an outlet from the interior of Pennsylvania, WEST of us. The New York and Erie road will rapidly forward this season. The President of the company lately informed me, they should expend nearly a million of dollars on their work, the coming summer and fall.

I mention these things not because I am sorry to see them taking place. On the contrary—I rejoice in the gleams of light which are thus breaking through the lowering horizon, that has hitherto hung over Northern Pennsylvania. So far from staying their progress, whatever I could do in my humble sphere, and with my limited powers—I have always done to cheer them on to a successful issue.—But I refer to them now, and in this connection, to enforce this position: not a muscle should be relaxed—not a moment lost, by the friends of the North Branch Canal. If we can move on, (if not ahead) pari passu with these improvements, all will be well. But if on the East and on the West new avenues are opened, apparently, (though not really) rivals to ours—we shall find our difficulties greatly increased in any after struggle.

The next twelve months will be the critical period with us—both the prudence and patriotism of the citizens of Susquehanna valley, will be put to the test. In May 1847, the time expires within which by law, the North Branch canal must be commenced, or the charter is lost. It may happen, (I hope otherwise) that some two or three hundred thousand dollars of the stock already subscribed, will have to change hands; and that a portion of it will again be offered to the citizens along the line of canal. I am not sure that this will occur.—But let those interested in the prosperity of the valley, be prepared to come forward, should the completion of our great work demand their assistance. Meetings, speeches and reports are very useful in their way; but will never construct a canal, unless substantially supported in some form.

HARRISBURG, March 9, 1846.

An accident of great magnitude, although not fatal in its consequences, occurred here this afternoon about two o'clock. The boiler to the steam press in the Union Office exploded, bursting out all the doors and windows—tearing up the floor and setting fire to the building. The Union Printing establishment occupied four stories, beginning at the basement in which was the press and engine. At the time of the explosion, Mr. Adams the foreman and a boy were sitting on the first floor above it, yet strange to say neither were badly hurt. In the room with the press were several hands just about to commence work—among them were several girls who work on and about the press. Some scolded, some run and some swooned, but none were killed. The walls of the building are badly shattered, and the press and other materials greatly injured.

THE LATE FERRYMAN, has almost completely stopped the mails. The Philadelphia mail due on Saturday, came in on Tuesday night; while from Harrisburg we have as yet, been unable to obtain any communication. This arrangement, will sufficiently excuse the non-appearance of the Reporter at the accustomed time.

Pauper Labor of Europe vs. American Labor.

The great panic argument of the Whigs in favor of a high tariff is, that it is necessary to give American industry from the ruinous competition of European pauper laborers. In answer to this, I demur, say, that the effect of such a tariff will be, to induce what we called the pauper laborers of Europe to emigrate to this country, and thus be brought personally in competition with American labor. And further, that Capitalists employed in American manufactures, and who clamor so loudly against European labor, would themselves turn off the American laborer, and take the European, if he could be got at less wages. We did not expect this answer would be so soon verified. But we have an instance in our neighborhood, which shows off these American labor-loving people.—It is the following, taken from a Danville paper, and was published as an exhibit of the increase of population of that village, within the last year:

STATE LETTERS.—Fifty ship letters were received at the Danville P. O. office, on Tuesday morning last, from England; they came by the steam-ship Cambria, which vessel arrived at Boston last week. Fifty-nine letters were brought from England, by the Steam Ship Hibernia, for the same office in January. These letters were chiefly for the workmen employed at the Mountour Iron Works.

Such men, as those concerned in the Mountour Iron Works, have been loud and long in their abomination of European labor, prostrating American industry; yet we see, from a fair estimation made from the above, not less than four hundred foreigners are employed by them. How much is American industry benefited by a tariff which induces armies of foreign laborers to migrate and supplant our own citizens by laboring for low wages!

VOCAL CONCERT.—The Baker Family have announced that they will entertain the citizens of our Borough on Thursday evening, the 19th inst., at the Court House, with a Vocal Concert. The Bakers, enjoy a reputation for musical ability unsurpassed by few, and we know from personal experience, that this reputation is well deserved.

The programme consists mostly of pieces, with a few songs. Nearly all the pieces were composed by the different members of the Family; the Poetry selected differs in style, and presents as great a variety as possible: Sentimental, Majestic, Descriptive, Historical, Comical, &c. There will be but one Concert given at this time. The Baker Family consists of five persons: Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Baker, Messrs. G. E. Baker, H. F. Baker and C. C. Baker.

Tickets only 25 Cents; Children, if accompanied by parents or guardians, half price. Doors open at 6 o'clock. Concert to commence at 7 o'clock, P. M.

HIGH WATER.—Never, "within the memory of the oldest inhabitants," has the Susquehanna been high at this place as it was on Saturday and Sunday last.—The rise was very sudden, though as far as we have been able to learn but comparatively little damage has been done. The lumbermen, we believe, were pretty well assured that the freshet would be tremendous, and have secured themselves from its effects.

The Bridges have suffered most, several having been swept away, among which was the bridge near Mrs. Hale's, and the new bridge above P. C. Ward's.

The Luther's Mills, in Burlington, owned by M. C. Mercier, were swept away, and made a complete loss.

THE RICHMOND MURDER.—We marked for insertion, last week, the particulars of the bloody tragedy at Richmond, but they were deferred for matters of more general importance. Comment on such a transaction can be of no benefit, unless it be to deprecate the formation of a political issue, or the tinge of a partizan coloring. We would say to our neighbors, that it is no parallel case with the lamentable CILEY'S, but the legitimate fruits, of that "law of honor" fast becoming obsolete, and upon which it is the duty of every one to put the seal of condemnation. We look upon Mr. Pleasants as a martyr only to this barbarous custom of feudal times; while though his death is lamentable, his conduct is equally as reprehensible as Mr. Ritchie's.

THE LAND PIRATES OF NEW JERSEY.—The New Jersey Wreckers, who infest the coast, have among their diabolical practices, says the Newark Advertiser, a contrivance for decoying vessels in a storm to the coast, for the purpose of robbery, and they have been known in this way to steal \$50,000 worth of property in the course of a single storm. The stories that are told of their depredations in fact exceed anything in the annals of crime in our country. And all this on the short coast of a State in the very heart of the American Union, and almost within hailing distance of its two largest and wealthiest cities.

The Advertiser remarks: We have cherished a hope that the efforts made some years ago to punish them for their savage treatment of shipwrecked mariners, and the subsequent labors of Christian missionaries among them, had in some degree redeemed the region from barbarism; but the heartless splendor of the crews of the vessels recently wrecked upon the coast affords painful proof that there has been no amendment. The vampires not only refused succor to the living sufferers, but robbed the dead of every thing found upon their persons and carried off all valuables thrown upon the shore. It is stated, among other things, that the Monmouth county coroner, within whose jurisdiction these cases fall, has declared "that he dared not keep the property saved from the dead bodies within five miles of the beach for his life would be endangered." So that it appears the outlaws have become as bold and formidable as before they were routed some ten years ago. It will be remembered that somewhere about the year 1835 their robberies and outrages had become so frequent and diabolical that the interposition of the Government was imperatively demanded, and Gen. Darcy, then U. S. Marshal, with the aid of his deputies, and a Revenue Cutter furnished by the N. Y. Collector, undertook the difficult task of breaking them up and bringing some of them as could be caught in that inhospitable region to justice. After much toil and exposure some forty of the thieves were taken including their leader, "Squire Platt," (an appointed Wreck Master too), (an appointed Wreck Master too), and were lodged in prison at Trenton. Several others took to the pine woods and camped out all winter to avoid arrest. The prisoners were indicted and tried, but most of them escaped with fines, though Platt was sent to the State Prison for two years. It proved a salutary lesson, and we have heard nothing of them since within a year or two, when they seem to have renewed business with all their original audacity.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—Miss Sarah Rider, of Lebanon, Ohio, while drawing a bucket of water last week, fell headlong into the well and was drowned. Although discovered in a few minutes after the accident occurred, life was extinct.

GEN. JACKSON'S EPITAPH.—The Union, of Nashville, Tenn., says the following will be the epitaph on Gen. Jackson's tombstone: Andrew Jackson, born on the 15th of March, 1767—died on the 8th of June, 1845.

The Manufacturing Capitalists.

Mr. Abbott Lawrence of Boston, the rich manufacturer has addressed two letters to Mr. Rives, of Virginia, upon the advantages of the protective system. The following editorial from the "Lowell Advertiser" shows the degree of credit which is due to some of the facts set forth in Mr. Lawrence's epistles. The details which are stated in this article, from the centre of the manufactures of New England, besides the impress of accuracy on their face. Besides Mr. Hildreth, the editor, is extensively known as a gentleman of high standing and scrupulous integrity. His statements are entitled, independently of circumstances which give them conclusive authority, to quite as much weight on the score of personal character as those of Mr. Lawrence.

It is idle, as Mr. Lawrence and his allies attempt to do, to attribute the prosperity of our country to the tariff of 1842. A young and enterprising country like the United States can scarcely be arrested in its onward march by the blunders of its government. It must march on, although it does not march so rapidly as if it were left to its native energies and resources. But there are other elements in the calculation which the tariff champions are pleased entirely to overlook. We would advert, among others, to the facts that in 1841 and 1842, the currency in most of the States was in a very bad condition, and all kinds of business in consequence thereof less deranged.

That in September, 1842, one of the greatest revolutions ever known in banking history occurred in New Orleans, the effect of which were felt throughout the country.

That the effects of this revolution continued to be felt till May, 1843, since which time the banks have been steadily increasing the amount of the circulating medium.

That much of the prosperity, or apparent prosperity, which has been attributed to the tariff of 1842, is but in reality the effect of throwing off a multitude of broken banks, and the restoration of the credit of the residue.

That this result, though simultaneous with the passage of the tariff, is quite independent of it. The revolution in New Orleans occurred, if our memory serves us, in the very month in which the tariff of 1843 was passed; and so powerful was its operation, that even these domestic articles to which "additional protection" was afforded by that tariff, fell in price; and they remained low in price, till the banks by the restoration of their credit in May, 1843, were able to increase the amount of circulating medium." But let us return to the article in the Lowell Advertiser.

From the Lowell Advertiser. HON. ABBOTT LAWRENCE'S STATEMENT AS TO THE PRICE OF LABOR IN THE LOWELL FACTORIES.

Mr. Lawrence has written two letters to Hon. Wm. C. Rives, of Virginia, upon the tariff, slavery, &c. The point in them is to satisfy Congress that a protective tariff is necessary to the prosperity of the labor of our country. The same old, often refuted arguments that have been used a thousand times over are again paraded before the people—that by fostering manufactures a home market is created, labor protected against the competition of the pauper labor of Europe &c.; but not a word is said in justification of the tariff system as it actually exists, giving manufacturers four or five times as great a per cent. on their capital as any other interest in the country can make or get, or tending to show that under a revenue tariff we should not have the same markets, a greater price for labor, the same every thing, except that manufacturers' dividends might be more than ten, instead of thirty per cent. per annum. But as we refer to those letters only on account of a single statement put forth as to the price paid for labor in this city, we will not dwell upon other parts of the letter.

Mr. Lawrence says: "I will give you an example of the rate of wages under low duties, and under the tariff of 1842. In 1841 and 1842, the depression in all kinds of business became so oppressive, that many of the manufacturing establishments in New England were closed, the operatives dismissed, the mechanical trades were still, and every resource for the laboring man seemed dried up."

"In the city of Lowell where there are more than thirty large cotton mills, from six to seven thousand spindles each, it was gravely considered by the proprietors whether the mills should be stopped. It was concluded to reduce the wages; this was done several times, until the reduction brought down the wages from about \$2 to \$1.50 per week, exclusive of board; this operation took place upon between 7,000 and 8,000 females; the mills run on; no sales were made of the goods; the South and West had neither money nor credit; and finally, it was determined to hold out till Congress should act upon the tariff. The bills passed, and of course the mills were kept running, which would not have been the case if the act had been rejected; and now the average wages paid at Lowell—taking the same number of females for the same service—is \$2 per week exclusive of board. Yet Mr. Walker says labor has fallen. Where are the wages for labor, I ask, lower than they were in 1842? Who is to be benefited by the adoption of a system that gives up every thing, and gives no reasonable promise of any thing?"

"The object of putting forth such a statement before Congress and the world is too apparent to be mentioned. That it wholly misrepresents the facts as they exist here, a few plain truths will settle beyond all question. As Mr. Lawrence's efforts are directed to the task of showing that it is the interests of labor he principally regards, a correct statement of the comparative prices paid for labor, in connexion with the fact that Mr. Lawrence is the greatest manufacturer in the Union, and that some of our manufacturing companies, besides making semi-annual dividends of ten per cent. are making the great additions, recently made, being made, and about to be made, increasing their entire works in some cases 50 per cent. from surplus profits, will be likely to set at rest the question whether he is anxious for the capitalist invested in manufactures or the labor employed by that capital. Mr. Lawrence says, "and now the average wages paid at Lowell—taking the same number of females for the same service—is two dollars per week, exclusive of board," whereas in 1841 and in 1842 they were brought down to \$1.50 per week, exclusive of board. In the first place, then, about one-half of the "between seven and eight thousand" girls employed here work by the week, and have received no addition whatever to their wages since 1841 and 1842. They get no more now than the lowest wages paid during those years. They never, since a yard of cloth was manufactured in Lowell, received less wages than at this time, though they are compelled to do all of one-third more work, and in

many cases double. In 1840 "weeks hands" received from 75 cents to \$2 per week, exclusive of board. They now receive from 65 cents to \$1.40—making 25 per cent. less wages now than in 1840, notwithstanding they do 33 per cent. more work. This is about the fair average—25 per cent. less wages, and 33 per cent. more work. In these few words, we dispose of Mr. Lawrence's statement as far as about one half of the girls in the factories here come into the account. The remaining portion of these seven or eight thousand girls are "piece" or "job hands." They receive for the same amount of work performed the smallest pay that has ever been paid—the lowest price paid in 1841 and 1842. For weaving the same coarse cottons, per piece, as they now get 9 cents, immediately preceding the time of their being cut down in 1841 and 1842, they received for weaving them 11 cents per piece. These are the rates upon one corporation; but the difference is still greater upon some of the others. On another corporation we are informed that for weaving the goods that in 1840 16 cents per piece was paid, but 11 cents are now paid. Different pieces are paid according to the fineness of the goods manufactured. The reduction will probably average from 25 to 33 per cent. It is true the "job hands" make more per week than they did a portion of the time in 1841 and 1842; but they are obliged to do much more work. They still make less than they did in 1840, though they, too, are obliged to do nearly as much more work than in 1840 as the week hands are. We may as well say here, that the average wages of the "between 7,000 and 8,000" factory girls here in the mills are less than \$1.50 per week, exclusive of board, for regular work. The average wages of the "between 7,000 and 8,000" factory girls here will not come up to three-fourths of Mr. Lawrence's statement of \$2 per week. The "job weavers" were made to do the additional work required of them at a reduced price, in this manner: during the years "1841 and 1842" (under the pretence that the times were such as to compel it) the wages were from time to time reduced; and after being got down to the lowest possible point a new system introduced—the speed was lowered, and each girl required to tend three looms instead of two as had always been the custom. The price, per piece, was reduced once more, we think, after the three loom system was commenced, or at the time; and they remained low in price, till the banks by the restoration of their credit in May, 1843, were able to increase the amount of circulating medium." But let us return to the article in the Lowell Advertiser.

Now, if the tariff of 1842 has been of advantage to any body but manufacturing capitalists, we can't see it. Instead of being content with reaping all the advantages it gave them, by increasing the prices of their goods, and giving the operatives the prices paid in 1840, before the hard times of 1841 and 1842 that Mr. Lawrence speaks of, when he says they were compelled to reduce the wages or stop the mills, they demand that at least 33 per cent. more of the sweat and blood of the factory labor of this city, than they demanded in 1840, shall be added to their profits.

THE UNITED STATES, brig Lawrence arrived at Pensacola on the evening of the 1st inst., at thirteen days from Vera Cruz, with dispatches for the Secretary of State from Mr. Slidell and Commodore Conner. Up to the time of the sailing of the Lawrence (about the 16th ultimo) Mr. Slidell had not been received by the authorities of Mexico, and the letter says that it is supposed he will return to the United States as soon as he receives answer to the dispatches which he has now forwarded. This letter also states that the citizens of Vera Cruz were looking out and hoping for the return of Santa Anna from Havana, whose arrival was expected to be the signal for the authorities of Vera Cruz to declare in his favor. No other news had transpired. The dispatches for the Secretary of State are said to be very voluminous. The sloops of war Falmouth, John Adams and St. Mary's and the brig Porpoise were all at Vera Cruz. The steamship Mississippi and brig Somers were at Pensacola, the latter to sail for Vera Cruz on the afternoon of the 2d inst.

The Washington Union has received a communication from Tallahassee, February 20, from "An American Citizen," who professes to have just arrived from a tour in Mexico. The Union says the object is to state, upon the information of a Mexican, in whom Santa Anna had reposed the utmost confidence for five years, the conclusion of a new treaty which, within the last three months, has been ratified between the British Government, Santa Anna and French King, which is intended to restore Santa Anna and make him the King of Mexico. The equipment to be made by him is to assist the allied powers in certain purposes they may have formed towards the United States.

We can not repose much confidence in these statements, unless our correspondent in Tallahassee shall enter into more definite specifications—names, means, designs, time of operation, &c., &c. We can not publish his communication until he has furnished us with some particulars, and some evidence of the truth of his developments."

DROWNED.—A DISTRESSING CASE.—On Wednesday last, the wife of George Straughen, of Upper Penn's Neck Township, New Jersey, in attempting to cross Salem Creek on the ice, broke through to her shoulders, in which situation she remained for a considerable length of time, when she finally sunk beneath the surface and was drowned. A young man and woman, daughter of Mr. Straughen, stood on the bank to meet her at the time she started to cross, and when she broke through the ice, used every effort to save her but without avail. By the assistance of a boat, rails, &c., they succeeded in recovering the body, but life was extinct. It appears that several children had previously crossed on the ice in safety, and therefore Mrs. Stronghappened no danger.

STATE PRINTING.—The bill abolishing the office of State printer has passed both branches of the New York Legislature. The printing henceforth will be given to the lowest bidder instead of a preferred person.

The Murderous Rencontre.

The Baltimore Sun, has the following account of the late murderous affray at Richmond. Compared with the recent savage rencontre at Richmond between Messrs. Pleasants and Ritchie, the duello, is a harmless and inoffensive code, if the statements that have been put forth relative thereto, bear any semblance to the reality. We annex two accounts, in the absence of any official statements, each purporting to contain the facts, though differing in a few particulars. The following is from the Portsmouth Chronicle, the editor of which paper was in Richmond at the time, and considers it to be the correct version. From this it will be seen that high partizan feeling and insulting personal language so constantly bandied between editors of partizan papers, most of which claim all the respectability and regard of the independent "penny press," with its peaceful, order loving, moral, and useful aims, as objects of scorn and derision. Arguments cast to the winds by many of them, and personal invective, falsehood and abuse resorted to as a means of inculcating political doctrines, and attaining party ends.

When Mr. Pleasants left the Whig editorial chair, in no pleasant mood, and announced his determination to establish the Richmond Globe, a writer for the Enquirer, who assumes the name of "Marion," stated it was to be an abolition affair, and coadjutor of Cassius M. Clay. This opened afresh the old wounds, and discursive reflections and recriminations have followed each other until passion was excited beyond control, and on Tuesday Mr. Pleasants was in waiting for Mr. Ritchie to "cut him down in the streets as soon as they met," as was the expression conveyed to Mr. Ritchie, who, we understood, replied that "for the decency of the thing, he would like it to take place somewhere else."

Mr. Pleasants caused Mr. Ritchie to be informed that he would be in Manchester on Wednesday morning, armed, for the purpose of attacking a deadly upon him there, if he met him. Mr. Ritchie, in company with two friends, Messrs. W. Greenhow, and R. Scott, Jr., repaired to the designated spot, and arrived first. Mr. Pleasants with his friends, Messrs. Duane and Archer, shortly after arrived. Mr. Pleasants was armed with two long rifle pistols and a sword cane—Mr. Ritchie with two patent revolving six barreled pistols and a Roman sword. Mr. Pleasants immediately advanced on Mr. Ritchie, who stood his ground, with his pistol levelled—when Mr. R. commenced discharging. Mr. P., although wounded, had not yet tired, but continued to advance; when quite near he discharged his pistol without effect; he then levelled the other pistol, and in the act of firing, a ball from Ritchie's pistol passed through his (P.'s) hand, which shook him so that the second discharge was also harmless; he then threw the pistol at his adversary, and attacked him with his sword.—Mr. Ritchie continued effectually to parry the efforts of Mr. Pleasants until the latter fell exhausted, after he had received a slight wound in the groin. Here the affray ended, and young Ritchie departed unharmed, immediately for Washington, and Pleasants, we learned from the departure of the Richmond boat, died at two o'clock. Such, we believe, are the simple facts, we give without comment or extension.

The Washington correspondent of the Patriot gives the following account of the affair, accompanied by a high tribute to the character and worth of the deceased, who has left a family of young children, with neither father and mother to protect them from the rude blasts of the world.

John Hampden Pleasants is dead! He died this morning at 2 o'clock, of the wounds inflicted upon his person by Thomas Ritchie, jr., in their recent rencontre.

I learn the facts to be substantially as follows: The quarrel had gone on in their newspapers to such an extent that Mr. Pleasants thought himself called upon to bring the matter to a crisis. He therefore sent a request to Mr. Ritchie to meet him at a specified place and hour across the river from Richmond, with side arms. Mr. Ritchie sent word back that he could not consent to settle the affair in that way. Mr. Pleasants then sent him word that the matter must be settled, in that way.

Mr. Ritchie then prepared himself with a revolver of six barrels, two duelling pistols, and a horse-man's short sword, and repaired to the place designated, at the time named.

Mr. Pleasants, who had not arrived, with two or four—there is doubt about this—common pistols and a sword cane. A friend of Mr. Pleasants approached Mr. Ritchie, and said to him, that he thought the difficulty might be settled if the latter would do one thing, and that was, to acknowledge that he believed Mr. Pleasants to be a brave man.—Mr. Ritchie replied that once he could have done this; but now Mr. Pleasants having called him there, and not appearing himself, he could not make such an acknowledgement. Mr. Pleasant's friend then informed him that he presumed he would have to fight. Mr. Ritchie replied, very well, he had come there to meet Mr. Pleasants. The friend of the latter left the spot and went to his principal, who was not far off. Soon after this, Mr. Pleasants appeared approaching Mr. Ritchie, considerably in advance of the two friends who had accompanied him to the spot. As he approached at a rapid pace, Mr. Ritchie fired successively his two duelling pistols, resting each on his left arm, drawn up in an angle for that purpose. He then presented his revolver and fired either four or five of its barrels. After he had fired first upon Mr. Pleasants, the latter drew and fired three without effect, all the time rushing up to Mr. Ritchie, and when near enough he struck him with his sword cane, when the scabbard flew off, and Mr. Ritchie struck up the blade or spear with his short sword—in doing which he received the point of Mr. Pleasants' sword, having received five wounds from the pistol shots of his antagonist, if not one from his short sword. One ball raked across the back of his left hand, carrying away all the muscles and tendons leading to the fingers—another passed through the fleshy part of his left arm, half way up from the elbow to the shoulder—another entered the left breast and ranged round under the arm—a fourth entered the left groin and proved mortal. The fifth wound was in the right thigh, either by a ball or a thrust from the short sword, above alluded. It is thought to have been from the latter.

WATER CURE.—The Water Cure Journal of Dr. Shew, of New York, in an article on using cold water on Consumption, gives this caution— "It is to be remembered that we cannot harden every person, and that we may kill many in the attempt!" This is comfortable to the patient.

ISTHMIUS OF PANAMA.—We take from a late European Journal the following summary of another report on the European projects of canalizing the isthmus which separates the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans:

Some time since Mr. Magreth received a commission from the French Government to proceed to Panama, for the purpose of inquiring upon the spot into which have been devised for cutting a ship-canal through the isthmus. The report of that gentleman on this subject has recently been published, and presents (says the "Debat") the results of the first scientific exploration that has been undertaken in regard to this celebrated passage. The direction fixed upon by M. Magreth as the most eligible for the proposed canal, is on the side of the Pacific Ocean, through the valley of the Caimito, so as to debouch upon the sea at the anchorage of Naco de Monte, lying about 18 or 20 kilometres (11 or 12 miles) to the west of Panama. On the side of the Atlantic Ocean the course should be along the valley of the river Chagres, but not to terminate at Port Chagres, which is inaccessible to ships of large burden, but at four miles distant in the Bay of Simon. From the Caimito, the canal is to be directed along the course of the Bernardino, a feeder of that river, whence it proceeds at a point where it is 455 feet above the level of the sea. Thence it falls into the valley of the river Pajer (otherwise Bonito, which it follows as far as Dos Hermanas, where it joins the Chagres, parallel with which river, and sometimes occupying its bed, the canal is to be carried as far as Gafon, where it diverges, to arrive at the Bay of Simon. The whole distance will be about 47 miles in length, of which 33 are between the Chagres and the Pacific; 7 between the Chagres and the Bay of Simon, and about six along the bed of the river itself. Canal is to be of the following dimensions: depth, 23 feet 9 inches; breadth at water surface, 146 feet 9 inches.—Ninety-four locks will be required in order to reach the summit level, each costing on the average 600,000 francs. M. Magreth, however, suggests the magnificent expedient of a tunnel through the mountain, which, besides the dimensions stated above for the canal itself, must be of height sufficient to permit the passage of vessels with their lower masts standing 120 feet at least, and will be three miles and one-third in length. The estimated cost of the tunnel is fifty millions of francs, but it will enable the canal to be constructed with a summit level of only 160 feet, and greatly enhance the future advantages of the undertaking, by dispensing with by far the greatest number of the locks. The total expense of the canal is estimated at 125 millions francs (five millions sterling.)

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT is from the two friends referred to, who accompanied Judge Woodward in his call on the President.

LOCK HAVEN, Pa., Feb. 23, 1846. HON. GEO. W. WOODWARD:

Dear Sir:—The attention of the undersigned has recently been called to a rumor in circulation, which if true, would certainly injure you in the estimation of all honest men. We refer to the charge of want of fidelity to Judge Jones, or in other words, charging you with publicly protesting friendship for Judge Jones, while secretly and with the President opposing him and urging your own promotion. As we were in Washington city at the time alluded to, and with you called upon the President, when you delivered him the papers, &c., entrusted to your care for Judge Jones, we deem it a duty to state that we know said charge to be unfounded. That the conversation between yourself and the President was not private; that we heard all the conversation between you at that time, and are satisfied it was the only interview you had with the President during your stay in the city. We can state positively, there was not the most distant allusion to yourself in connexion with the appointment during the whole conversation; but on the contrary you urged the nomination of Judge Jones with much warmth, and spoke in the highest terms of his scholarship, his legal ability, experience, and general qualifications to fill the station for which his friends were soliciting his appointment. You remarked that his appointment would meet with general approbation and be an honor to the administration. We left the Executive chamber fully satisfied, if you had influence with the President, Judge Jones would be appointed.

We believe the above rumor, uncontradicted, would receive but little favor with men acquainted with your character. But there are those destitute of every principle that constitutes a man, wishing to bring down moral worth to their own standard, who will encourage and give publicity to the falsehood.

You are at liberty to use this statement as you may think proper.

Yours, with respect, ALISON WHITE. R. S. BALLEE.

THE EXPLOITS OF THE MORMONS.—The Illinois State Register contains a letter from Major Warren, who is at Carthage, protecting the Mormons in their departure for the country beyond the Rocky Mountains. (The letter is addressed to Governor Ford, and is dated Feb. 12.)

I had an interview with Bigham Young; his wagons were loaded and on the eve of departure for the far West. The Twelve and they say four thousand will leave immediately. One hundred wagons I counted on the opposite side of the river in two encampments, and they have six ferry boats running constantly; they expect to get all over and take up the line of march about to-morrow morning. The police have been withdrawn from the city, and my detachment of four men were treated with the greatest respect, and an evident desire manifested to assist us and court our friendship. President Young expressed himself as under great obligations to you and the troops under my command, and desired me to say to you he declared that the indictments against him had been prepared by perjury, and that it was your action alone which permitted him and the Mormons to leave the country.

The temple took fire while I was over the river, and had it not been discovered, five minutes more and it could not have been saved; the fire was in the roof, a large portion of which was destroyed.

I think it quite likely that I shall be kept busily engaged for some time to prevent their, but shall have no collision of difficulty with the Mormons.

UNSKILFUL SURGERY.—At the Court of Common Pleas in Portsmouth, N. H., a man named Sleeper, last week obtained a verdict of \$250 damages for unskilful treatment in setting his collar bone, which had been broken. The bone united, but not in the proper place.