

# THE BRADFORD REPORTER.

VOLUME IX.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AT TOWANDA, BRADFORD COUNTY, PA., BY E. O'NEARA GOODRICH.

NO. 1011

## TOWANDA:

Wednesday Morning, August 9, 1848.

### Mr. Van Buren's Letter on the Public Lands.

New York, June 24th, 1848.

Hon. Martin Van Buren—Sir—The Industrial Congress at its late session in Philadelphia, authorized and instructed its National Executive Committee, there appointed, to propose to the several candidates which then were, or might be this year, before the people for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States, the accompanying pledge.

We would therefore, respectfully invite your attention to the subject of Land Reform, and (if consistent with your convictions of right and duty) your signature to the pledge, to be returned at an early day. And we solicit at your leisure, a full exposition of the views, to which you may have arrived on the entire question of man's relation to the soil.

ALVIN E. BOVAY,  
Chairman Nat. Exec. Com.

JOHN H. KEYSER, Secretary,  
The undersigned, candidate for the office of President of the United States, desirous of restoring to man his natural right to land, will, henceforth, use all my influence, whether in or out of office, to prevent all further traffic in the public lands of the United States, and to cause the same to be laid out in farms and lots, of limited quantities, for the free and exclusive use of actual settlers, not possessed of other lands; and you also request my views on the subject in general.

LINDENWALD, July 20th, 1848.

Sir: Your letter addressed to me, by you as the chairman of the Industrial Executive Committee of the Industrial Congress recently held at Philadelphia was duly received. It is accompanied by a pledge which I am asked to subscribe, as one of the candidates for the presidency, that I will henceforth use all my influence, whether in or out of office, to prevent all further traffic in the public lands of the United States, and to cause the same to be laid out into farms and lots of limited quantities for the free and exclusive use of actual settlers, not possessed of other lands; and you also request my views on the subject in general.

The nature of the reply which I design to make to the communication with which you have honored me, renders appropriate a reference to circumstances not immediately connected with the subject of your inquiry.

In the years 1832, 1836, and 1840 my name was placed before the country, with my own consent, as a candidate for offices in the federal government—on the three occasions first referred to for the election, and on the last for a nomination by a National Convention. On each occasion the right of an elector to interrogate a candidate who asks his suffrage for a public trust was exercised chiefly by political opponents, though occasionally by friends, to an extent not surpassed in this or any other country. A sincere friend to this right in its most enlarged sense, and to a liberal exercise of it, I prescribed no other condition to a compliance with the numerous requests of my interrogators, than that the inquiries should be made in good faith, and even that I overlooked in a great number of cases. These questions and replies embraced nearly if not quite every important point which had then arisen or which in the opinion of the interrogators might arise in the administration of the federal government, were extensively published, and are of course still before the country. Brought together they would make a volume respectable for its size, and the proof it would afford of my respect for the wishes of the people in this regard. I have in addition, occupied the office of President for four years of great political excitement, during which period executive responsibility was voluntarily assumed in regard to the most important of these questions whenever the public interest required, and was not unfrequently imposed in regard to others by political adversaries of great tact and ability, preparatory to the presidential campaign of 1840, when the importance of the information to the public service was not so apparent.

Had my name been presented to the country under circumstances similar to those which accompanied its presentation on either of the occasions alluded to, I should pursue the course now which I then felt it my duty to adopt.

But the circumstances of my present position are widely different, and are entitled, I think, to exercise a controlling influence over my obligations, and the rights in this regard, as well of the Industrial Congress as of the numerous individuals who have already made similar applications to me.

If I could have been weak enough, in the first instance, to believe that it would be in my power to render services to the country which could not be as well or better performed by others, I should not have felt myself at liberty to consult only my personal wishes and interests in deciding upon the application of my friends in regard to making me again a candidate for the Presidency; or if I could have supposed that such a use of my name by the Vice Convention was necessary, either to enable the democracy of this state to sustain themselves against the great injustice which had been done to them at Baltimore, or to the ultimate success of the great, if not the only apparent issue before the public, and upon the maintenance of which I believe the honor and future welfare of the whole country depend, I should not, for similar reasons, have declined to comply with the application made to me by the New York delegation. Not being able to appear in either assumption, I did all in my power, unnecessary as it may have been in regard to the Baltimore Convention, to prevent the use of my name, either there or at Utica, as a candidate for a place, which though the most honorable in the world, did not, in the absence of the motives to which I have adverted, possess for me a single attraction, and which it was my earnest desire to avoid.

The Utica Convention, chiefly composed of men

and the descendants of men who have been my political associates and fast friends from the commencement to the termination of my political career, believing that the use of my name as a candidate for the Presidency was essential to the proper support of their principles, and the maintenance of the independent position which they had been driven by the injustice of others to assume, exerted, and exercised the right of so employing it. That they could under existing circumstances, do this without exposing their fidelity to their old associates in politics to unjust imputation, no candid mind, well informed upon the subject will deny, and I understand them too well to question the good faith of their proceedings. I know very well that they would have respected my known wishes in this matter, if they had supposed they could do so with justice to themselves and to their cause. Placed as their fellow-citizen in the same situation, and bound to them by the strongest gratitude and respect, and holding the same opinions, for entertaining which they had been virtually expelled from all communion with their old associates in the political field, I could not hesitate in authorizing the declaration that I should not feel myself at liberty to interpose any further obstacle in their proceedings. I could not but anticipate that this decision might dissatisfy many sincere friends in all parts of the Union, who had enticed themselves to my respect and warmest gratitude, and who were naturally more intent upon triumphing over their adversary, than upon their doing as Baltimore. To the fullest extent of my opinion on the matter, I had neither the right nor the disposition to object. I have therefore received the remonstrances, however able, which were made with that respect for the right opinion in others, which honest hearts and pure minds seldom fail to exercise, with no other feelings than those of profound respect, that circumstances beyond my control had put it out of my power to conform to the conflicting wishes of friends for whom I felt equal respect and regard. Obligated to conform my action in this particular matter to the wishes of one or the other class of friends, whose difference among themselves was irreconcilable, it affords me satisfaction to reflect that I inclined to that portion of them who seemed to have the least at their disposal; and who were at the moment struggling for their political existence, against injustice and attempted degradation. Of the course pursued by those who manifest their displeasure by a resort to personal abuse, but little need be said. That delusion is only to be pained, which allows its victim to imagine that a man who, for more than forty years, whilst he possessed a strong personal interest in the result of political contests, had steadily pursued through floods of calumny what he believed to be the path of duty, can now, when his political aspirations are fully satisfied, and when the public taste in such matters has been so greatly improved, be deterred by personal invective from pursuing the same course.

My name having been brought before the people in the manner and under the circumstances I have described, (and I have made the description the more full, as I hope to have this communication as a reply also to many similar applications,) I cannot, I think, deceive myself in believing that I stand justified in declining, as I respectfully do, all further explanations of my political views and opinions. And exposure to the imputation of having changed my wishes in regard to a restoration to office, by thus seeming to make terms for political support, would as to the manner in which I should, if elected, discharge the duties of President of the U. S. But the unprecedented extent to which I have on former occasions replied to such interrogatories, and the indications of my official course in the very office in question, will, I am very sure, be regarded by candid and liberal minds as justifying my decision. So comprehensive have they been, that it would require not a little skill to shape any interrogatory into any political question, touching which my opinions may not, with reasonable certainty, be derived from them. The subject upon which you have addressed me will serve to illustrate the truth of this remark. In August, 1835, when first a candidate for the Presidency, I said in reply to the interrogatories of my political opponents, that I regarded "the public domain as a trust fund, belonging to all the states to be disposed of for their common benefit." That ample authority for that purpose had been conferred upon Congress. That in making such disposition, that body should act upon the principle that the people of the United States have a greater interest in an early settlement and substantial improvement of the public lands than in the amount of revenue which may be derived from them. That "to accomplish this object, the accumulation of large tracts of a few hands should be discontinued, and liberal facilities afforded for the acquisition of small portions by such of our citizens, wherever residing, as are in good faith desirous of possessing them as homes for themselves and their families." The substance of these views was repeated in my first annual message to Congress. To save large portions of the public lands from speculators in them, and to secure them to actual settlers, I was the first President who recommended the passage of a pre-emption law, thus in a degree adopting it as the system of the government; and gave my sanction to one of the most liberal acts upon that subject that had ever been passed by Congress. I went further. For the avowed purpose of bringing "the means of acquiring an independent home within the reach of many who are unable to purchase at present prices," I earnestly and perseveringly recommended to Congress to "cautiously value of the public lands in the old districts, which had been for a certain time in market, to be appraised and classed in two or more rates, below the present minimum price." The effect of which carried out in the spirit of the recommendation, would have been to bring large and valuable portions of the public lands within the reach of those who wanted them for a home at prices but little if anything beyond the expenses of surveying and locating them.

Every-day comforts and luxuries.—The variety of distant regions by which our every-day comforts and luxuries are supplied, is a geographical lesson familiar to our earliest infancy. The child knows that the tea in its drinking came from the estate of a mandarin, and has possibly traversed half the course of the Yan-see-kiang in its passage to this country. Its coffee was grown by swarthy Arabs within the sound of the muezzin's voice. The snowy crystals of sugar were extracted from a cane in Jamaica by Christian Africans, or on the banks of the Ganges by Pagan Hindoos. If the cream is the production of Middlesex, the butter not improbably was churned and kneaded by Dutch or Belgian frans. The material of the urn was perhaps found a quarter of a mile deep in Cornwall or Anglesia, but that of the tea-pot and the spoon was excavated by Indians from the heart of the Cordillera, and separated from the ore by means of Ilungarian quicksilver. The table was formed from a monarch of the woods which had seen a thousand years in the solitudes of Honduras, and attained its prime before Columbus was born. The blade of the knife came from the pine-clad hills of Sweden, but its haft was borne for half a century in the mouth of an elephant which probably never saw man. The table-cloth is a contribution from the Neva and the work of bearded serfs. The carpet is the work of Armenians in the dominion of the Sultan. The child's frock has passed through the hands of Virginia slaves, while the Italian subject of Austria, furnished its sash. Its coral came from an Australasian reef, its pearls from the bottom of the Persian Gulf. The lesson is endless. Almost any comfortable house in this metropolis has levied contributions on every people and clime. Countless tribes, names, conditions, manners, and religious rise up to the memory as we walk through the rooms and ask of each object in succession, "Where did this come from?"—[London Times.

AN HONEST BOY.—That "honesty is the best policy" was illustrated some years since, under the following circumstances, detailed by the Rochester Democrat. A lad was proceeding to an uncle's, to petition him for aid for a sick sister and her children, when he found a wallet containing fifty dollars. The aid was refused and the distressed family were pinched for want. The boy revealed the fortune to his mother, but expressed a doubt about using any portion of the money. His mother confirmed the good resolution—the pocket-book was advertised, and the owner found. Being a man of wealth, upon learning the history of the family, he presented the fifty dollars to the sick mother, and took the boy into his service, and he is now one of the most successful merchants in Ohio. Honesty always brings its reward to the mind, if not to the pocket.

A POET.—A calm, blue eyed, and self-composed young lady in a village "down east," received a long call the other day from a pining old epistolar who after prolonging her stay beyond even her own conception of the young lady's endurance, came to the main question, which had brought her thither: "I have been asked a good many times if you were engaged to Dr. C. Now if folks inquire again whether you be or not, what shall I tell 'em? Think 'em?" "Tell 'em," answered the young lady, fixing her calm blue eyes in unobscuring steadiness upon the inquisitive features of her interrogator, "tell 'em that you think you don't know, and that you are sure it is none of your business."

CURE FOR ILL TEMPER.—A sensible woman, the doctor's acquaintance, [the mother of a young family,] entered so far into his views upon this subject that she taught her children from their earliest childhood to consider ill humor as a disorder which was to be cured by physic. Accordingly, she had always small doses ready, and the little patients, whenever it was thought needful, took rubarb for the crookedness. No punishment was required. Peevishness or ill-temper and rubarb were associated in their minds always as cause and effect.

These and a hundred measures in which I may my pleasure to participate, had the same general object in view, which do so much honor to the persevering efforts of you and similar associations, to advance the welfare of the laborer of their hands as far forth as they can be done, especially with the constitution and the spirit of our institutions. It was also in furtherance of this great object, to afford to physical toil or less some opportunity for mental culture, that I directed that all persons employed in the public works whether laborers or mechanics, be required to work only the number of hours prescribed by the "ten hour system" and the order of March, 1838, to project the axles before the mast as far as depended upon the President, against the lash without the invention of a court, was a part of the same policy—a policy which I can conscientiously say has been with me a favorite one from the beginning to the end of my public life.

I have referred to these facts for the reason I have already assigned, to show my respect for the subject of your inquiry, and with no expectation that they will exercise the slightest influence on your course in the coming election. You and your associates have already publicly selected a philanthropic and highly gifted citizen, on whom you intend to bestow your votes, because you have reason to believe that he will more effectively carry out your views of the public interests. This is the principle upon which it is my earnest desire that the whole people of the United States should act, and of which I shall be the very last person to complain; for be assured that if these invaluable political institutions of ours are to be made perpetual, it can only be done by an honest and straight forward employment of the right of suffrage on the part of those who partake of their blessings—a right inestimable to freemen, and formidable to tyrants only.

I am, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
M. VAN BUREN.

To Mr. A. E. Bovay, Chairman Nat. Ex. Com.

ADVANTAGES OF THE DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE.—An intelligent class can scarce ever be, as a class, vicious; never, as a class, indolent.—The excited mental activity operates as a counterpoise to the stimulus of sense and appetite. The new world of ideas; the new views of the relations of things; the astonishing secrets of the physical properties and mechanical powers, disclosed to the well-informed mind, present attractions, which, unless the character is deeply sunk, are sufficient to counterbalance the taste for frivolous or corrupt pleasures; and thus, in the end, a standard of character is created in the community, which, through it does not invariably save each individual, protects the virtue of the mass.

A CHARACTER.—Don't you know, or haven't you seen precisely such a person as this, in the whole course of your life? We have.—He is acquainted with everybody, but knows nobody; he is always talking, but never says anything; is perpetually putting some sudden interrogation, and before it is possible for him to understand the answer, putting another. His brain is a kind of rag shop, receiving and returning nothing but rubbish.

OUR CHILDREN IN HEAVEN.—As the shepherd thought more of the sheep that was lost than of the ninety-nine that were safe; in the woman scarcely realized the value of pieces of silver that remained in her anxiety for the one that was missing; so it has ever seemed to the bereaved parent, that the flowers which heaven claims in the springtime of infancy are fairer and sweeter than any that survive the early blight, to blossom and bear fruit in the chilly atmosphere of time.

BACHELORS.—Dr. Johnson gives the philosophy of marriage in a few words: "A married man," says he, "has many cares; but a bachelor has no pleasures. Cutting himself off from life's purest and most exquisite enjoyments for fear of some trifling annoyance, he ennobles the sagacity of the wisest who amputated his leg to secure himself from corns."

RUB BOTTLE.—The devil's crucible, in which he melts all the fine gold of a man's nature.

## Miscellaneous.

TRAPPING.—On making for a hunt, the trapper fits himself out with the necessary equipment, either from the Indian trading store, or from some of that petty trader—conceals his den—who frequents the western country. This equipment consists usually of two or three horses or mules—one for saddle, the others for packs, and six traps, which are carried in a bag of leather called a trap sack. Ammunition, a few pounds of tobacco, dressed deer skin for moccasins, &c. are carried in a wallet of dressed buffalo skin, called a "posible," sick "his possible" and "trap sack" are generally carried on the saddle-mule when hunting, the others being packed with the fur. The "bosome of the trapper is a hunting shirt of dressed buckskin, ornamented with long fringes; pantaloons of the same material, and decorated with porcupine quills, and long fringes down the outside of the leg. A flexible felt hat and moccasins clothe his extremities. Over his left shoulder and under his right arm hang his powder-horn and bullet-pouch in which he carries his balls, flint and steel, and odds and ends of all kinds. Round the waist is a belt, in which is stuck a large butcher-knife in a sheath of buffalo hide, made fast to the belt by a chain or guard of steel; which also supports a little buckskin case containing a whetstone. A tomahawk is also often added; and, of course, a long heavy rifle is a part of his equipment. I had nearly forgotten the pipe-holder which hangs round his neck, and is generally a gage of honour, and a triumph of squaw workmanship in shape of a heart, garnished with beads and porcupine-quills. Thus provided, and having determined the locality of his trapping ground, he starts to the mountains, sometimes alone sometimes with three or four in company, as soon as the breaking up of the ice allows him to commence operations. Arrived on his hunting ground, he follows the creeks and streams, keeping a sharp look-out for "sign." If he sees a prostrate cotton-wood tree, he examines to discover if it be the work of food, or to dam the stream. The track of the beaver on the mud or sand under the bank is also examined; and if the "sign" be fresh, he sets his trap on the run of the animal, hiding it under water, and attaching it, by a stout chain to a picket driven in the bank, or to a bush or tree. A "float-stick" is made fast to the trap by a cord a few feet long, which, if the animal carry away the trap, floats on the water and points out its position. The trap is baited with the "medicine," an oily substance obtained from a gland in the scrotum of the beaver, but distinct from the testes. A stick is dipped into this, and planted over the trap, and the beaver attracted by the smell, and wishing a close inspection, very foolishly puts his leg into the trap, and is "a gone beaver." When a lodge is discovered, the trap is set at the edge of the dam, at the point where the animal passes from the deep to shallow water, and always under water. Early in the morning the hunter mounts his mule and examines the traps. The captured animals are skinned, and the tails, which are a great dainty, carefully packed into camp. The skin is then stretched over a hoop or framework of osier twigs, and is allowed to dry. The flesh and fatty substance being carefully scraped (grained.) When dry, it is folded into a square sheet, the fur turned inward, and the bundle containing about 10 to 20 skins, tightly pressed and corded, and is ready for transportation. During the hunt, regardless of Indian vicinity, the fearless trapper wanders far and near in search of "sign." His nerves must ever be in a state of tension, and his mind ever present at his call. His eagle eye sweeps round the country and in an instant detects any foreign appearance. A turned leaf, a blade of grass pressed down, the uneasiness of the wild animals, the flight of birds, are all paragraphs to written in nature's legible hand and plainest language.

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF PREMIUMS AT THE BINGHAMTON BOARDING SCHOOL, WHICH, ACCOMPANIED BY EXERCISES IN MUSIC, READING, COMPOSITIONS, &c., TOOK PLACE ON THE 20th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, IN PRESENCE OF A HIGHLY RESPECTABLE AND CROWDED AUDIENCE WHO ATTENDED THROUGHOUT WITH MANY MARKS OF INTEREST AND APPROBATION. THERE WERE, AS USUAL SOME YOUNG LADIES WHO WERE NOT EXAMINED FOR PREMIUMS, HAVING TO RECENTLY ENTERED THE INSTITUTION TO RECEIVE ANY. THEIR NAMES, AS WELL AS THE UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES ARE OMITTED.

Premiums were awarded as follows:  
Orthography—1st class; premium ex aequo, Misses Margaret Allen, Binghamton; Johanna Searle, Montrose, Pa., Eliza Wells, Pompey, Johanna Collins, Friendsville, Pa., Sophia Boyle, New Milford, Pa. Premium for improvement ex aequo, Misses Adeline Lohse, Blossburg, Pa., and Eleira Du Bois, Troy, Co.  
2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses Elizabeth Morehead, Bainbridge, Georgia, Maryann Handley, New York, and Frances Collier, Binghamton.

Definitions—1st premium ex aequo, Misses Margaret Cassery, New York, Maria Mason, Montrose, Pa., Frances Jackson, Binghamton, Eliza Wells, Sophia Boyle, Rosanna Sheridan, New York, and Helen Morgan, Binghamton.  
Reading—1st class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses Louisa Taine, Key West, Florida, and Helen Morgan, 2nd division; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses Kate Kearney, Rochester, Laura Ballard, Troy, Pa., Lizzie Wall, Key West, Florida, and R. Sheridan.  
2nd class; 1st premium, Miss Julia Doygan, Binghamton. 3d class; 1st premium, Miss Eleanor Richardson, New York.

Writing—1st class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses M. Allen, J. Collins, F. Jackson, and Elizabeth Rindon, Brooklyn. 1st premium for improvement, Miss Louisa Taine.  
2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses E. Du Bois, Mary E. Dunn, Binghamton and J. Searle.  
3d class; 1st premium, Miss Catherine Kelley, Housdale, Pa.

Arithmetic—1st class; premium ex aequo, Misses Laura Steele, Appalachian, Pa., and L. Boyle.—Premium for improvement Miss Elizabeth J. Lawlor, Auburn. 2nd division; 1st premium, ex aequo, Misses Johanna Searle and J. Collins. Premium for improvement ex aequo, Misses E. Wells, and M. Mason. 2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses M. Allen, M. Cassery, Mary Connelly, Owego, and Kate Kearney. 1st premium for improvement, Miss Adeline Lohse. 2nd division; 1st premium Miss E. Morehead. Premium for improvement, Miss E. Du Bois.

Book Keeping—1st premium ex aequo, Misses Ellen Searle, Montrose, Pa., and Laura Steele.—Premium for improvement, Miss Amanda Ballard, Troy, Pa.  
Algebra—1st class; Premium for excellence, Miss E. Searle. 2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses L. Steele and E. J. Lawlor.  
Geometry—1st premium, Miss Ellen Searle.  
English Grammar—1st class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses J. Collins, L. Steele, L. Boyle, M. Allen, and M. Mason. Premium for improvement ex aequo, Misses M. Cassery, and M. E. Dunn.—2nd class; 1st premium, Miss Ellen Kearney, Rochester. 2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses E. Richardson, and C. Kelly.  
4th class; Premium for improvement ex aequo, Misses Mary and Julia Whitney, Binghamton.

Rhetoric—1st premium ex aequo, Misses M. Mason, H. Morgan, and F. Jackson.  
Prose Composition—1st class; 1st premium, Miss Mary Alice Meacham, Owego. 2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses Louisa Taine, Laura Ballard, and Johanna Collins.  
3d class; 1st premium, Miss M. Connelly.  
Poetical Composition—1st premium ex aequo, Misses Laura W. Daniels, Union, and E. Rindon.  
Geography—1st class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses A. Lohse, M. Handley, J. Collins, and L. Ballard.  
2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses E. Morehead and H. Taine, Key West Florida.  
3d class; 1st premium, Miss Catherine Collier. 1st premium for improvement, Miss C. Kelly.

Ancient Geography—1st class; 1st premium, Miss L. Boyle.  
Astronomy—1st class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses E. M. Rindon, M. A. Allen, and L. Steele. 2nd class; 1st premium, Miss J. Collins.  
Tracing the constellations.—1st premium ex aequo, Misses M. Mason, L. Steele, R. Sheridan, and E. M. Rindon. 1st premium for improvement, Miss A. Ballard.

History—1st class; 1st premium for attention ex aequo, Misses H. Morgan, A. Ballard, L. Taine, and E. M. Rindon. 2nd class; 1st premium for attention ex aequo, Misses F. Collier, M. Handley and E. Du Bois.  
Natural Philosophy—1st class; 1st premium, Miss S. Boyle. 2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses M. E. Dunn, and J. Searle. 3d class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses M. Connelly, Ellen and Kate Kearney, and F. Collier.

Chemistry—2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses A. Ballard, and E. Wells. 2nd division; 1st premium, Miss L. Boyle.  
French—1st class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses A. Lohse and E. Rindon. Premium for improvement, Miss E. J. Lawlor.  
2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses M. Allen, L. Taine, E. Wells, J. Collins, M. Connelly and L. Ballard.  
3d class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses H. Morgan and M. Cassery.

Premium in the 1st class, French Translation, Miss M. A. Meacham. 1st premium in French composition, Miss L. W. Daniels.  
Latin—1st class; 1st premium, Miss M. A. Meacham.  
2nd class; premium, Miss F. Jackson.  
Spelling—1st class; premium, Miss M. A. Meacham.

## Report of the Annual Distribution of Premiums.

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Rhetoric—1st premium ex aequo, Misses M. Mason, H. Morgan, and F. Jackson.  
Prose Composition—1st class; 1st premium, Miss Mary Alice Meacham, Owego. 2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses Louisa Taine, Laura Ballard, and Johanna Collins.  
3d class; 1st premium, Miss M. Connelly.  
Poetical Composition—1st premium ex aequo, Misses Laura W. Daniels, Union, and E. Rindon.  
Geography—1st class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses A. Lohse, M. Handley, J. Collins, and L. Ballard.  
2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses E. Morehead and H. Taine, Key West Florida.  
3d class; 1st premium, Miss Catherine Collier. 1st premium for improvement, Miss C. Kelly.

Ancient Geography—1st class; 1st premium, Miss L. Boyle.  
Astronomy—1st class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses E. M. Rindon, M. A. Allen, and L. Steele. 2nd class; 1st premium, Miss J. Collins.  
Tracing the constellations.—1st premium ex aequo, Misses M. Mason, L. Steele, R. Sheridan, and E. M. Rindon. 1st premium for improvement, Miss A. Ballard.

History—1st class; 1st premium for attention ex aequo, Misses H. Morgan, A. Ballard, L. Taine, and E. M. Rindon. 2nd class; 1st premium for attention ex aequo, Misses F. Collier, M. Handley and E. Du Bois.  
Natural Philosophy—1st class; 1st premium, Miss S. Boyle. 2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses M. E. Dunn, and J. Searle. 3d class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses M. Connelly, Ellen and Kate Kearney, and F. Collier.

Chemistry—2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses A. Ballard, and E. Wells. 2nd division; 1st premium, Miss L. Boyle.  
French—1st class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses A. Lohse and E. Rindon. Premium for improvement, Miss E. J. Lawlor.  
2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses M. Allen, L. Taine, E. Wells, J. Collins, M. Connelly and L. Ballard.  
3d class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses H. Morgan and M. Cassery.

Premium in the 1st class, French Translation, Miss M. A. Meacham. 1st premium in French composition, Miss L. W. Daniels.  
Latin—1st class; 1st premium, Miss M. A. Meacham.  
2nd class; premium, Miss F. Jackson.  
Spelling—1st class; premium, Miss M. A. Meacham.

23d class; premium, Miss F. Jackson.  
Tragedy—Premium, Miss Maria Mason.  
Drawing in oil—1st class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses L. Taine, L. Wall, and A. Ballard. Premium for improvement Miss A. Lohse.  
2nd class; penicilling. 1st premium ex aequo, Misses L. Boyle, M. Mason and L. Ballard.  
3d class; premium for improvement ex aequo, Misses R. Sheridan and J. Searle.

Painting in Oil—1st class; 1st premium, Miss L. W. Daniels.  
2nd class; 1st premium for improvement ex aequo, Misses L. Wall and M. Mason.  
Painting in India-ink—1st class; 1st premium, Miss L. W. Daniels.  
Music—Theoretical.—1st class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses A. Ballard, E. Rindon, A. Lohse and M. Mason. Premium ex aequo, Misses E. J. Lawlor and F. Jackson. 2nd division; premium ex aequo, Misses L. Ballard and M. Handley.  
2nd class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses M. Connelly and J. Collins.  
3d class; 1st premium ex aequo, Misses E. Wells, E. Richardson, J. Searle, L. Steele and M. Cassery.

On the Piano—1st class; premium for excellence, Miss L. W. Daniels. 1st premium for improvement, Miss A. Lohse.  
2nd class; premium for improvement ex aequo, Misses L. Taine, L. Wall, E. M. Rindon, E. Kearney and K. Kearney.  
3d class; 1st premium for improvement ex aequo, Misses M. Connelly, J. Collins and M. Mason.—Premium for improvement ex aequo, Misses C. Kelly, Richardson, and Julia Eldridge, Binghamton.  
On the Guitar.—Premium for improvement, Miss L. W. Daniels.

Premium.—For amiable deportment and observance of school rules awarded by the votes of their school-mates; in the service class, to Miss Sophia Boyle, and in the junior, to Miss Mary E. Dunn.  
The next session of this establishment opens on the first Monday in September.  
Letters addressed to the Misses White and Griffin, Binghamton Broome Co. N. Y., will receive immediate attention.  
Binghamton, July 21st, 1848.

THE HERRING.—Certain fish lead an almost sedentary life, and remain always in the locality where they were produced; others are always wandering, and a great number of these animals periodically make journeys of greater or less length. At the time for spawning, they generally approach the coasts or enter the rivers; and in this manner they sometimes effect an extremely long passage. Every year, towards the same period large numbers of migrating fish arrive in the same places; and it is generally believed that several of these species regularly migrate from the north towards the south, and from the south towards the north, following a determined route; but perhaps it would be more true to believe, that when they disappear from the shores, they only retire into the greater depths of the sea. The herring is one of the most remarkable fishes in this respect, as well as the most celebrated on account of the importance of the fisheries of which it is the object. It inhabits the northern seas, and arrives every year in innumerable legions upon different parts of the coast of Europe, Asia, and America, but never descends below the 45th degree of north latitude. Some naturalists think that all these shoals of herrings, periodically retire beneath the ice of the polar seas, and set out from this common retreat in an immense column, which by subdividing itself, is spread out over nearly all the coasts situated above the parallel which we have mentioned. They have even gone so far as to trace upon the chart the journeyings of these shoals; but this long migration, and this common rendezvous in the arctic regions, are far from being demonstrated; and there is reason to believe that these events do not take place in this manner.

It is very near our coasts that the herrings deposit their eggs, and it is probable that the young very soon retire to the depth of the sea, and there direct themselves towards the north, where they meet in great abundances with the small Crustacea and Annelularia, which are fitted to serve them as food. In the spring, other wants bring them towards the shore, and cause them to seek shallower and warmer water. They collect themselves into immense shoals, and descend towards the south; but after having arrived in the Baltic upon the coast of Holland, and even as far as Brittany, we do not see them retake the route to the north, to pass the winter under the ice of the pole, and to recommence in the following spring their pretended periodical journey. However this may be, in the months of April and May, herrings begin to show themselves in the waters of the Isles of Shetland; and, towards the end of June and July, they arrive there in an incalculable number, forming large shoals, which sometimes cover the surface of the sea to an extent of several leagues, and which are several hundred feet in thickness. Soon afterwards, these fish are spread along the coasts of Scotland and England. During the months of September and October until the end of the year, they abound in the north coasts of France, principally from the Straits of Calais to the mouth of the Seine. In July and August, they generally remain in the open sea; but they then come into shallow water, and seek a convenient place for laying their eggs, where they remain until towards the month of February. The old herrings deposit their spawn the first, and the younger ones afterwards; but temperature and other circumstances also appear to have some influence on this phenomenon: for in particular localities, we find eggs during nearly the whole year. After this period they are thin and but little esteemed; fishermen then called them "shotten herrings." Their multiplication is prodigious; there have been found more than sixty thousand eggs in the abdomen of one single female of moderate size. We are told that their spawn sometimes covers the surface of the sea for a great extent, and at a distance appears very much as if saw-dust had been spread there. Very little is known of these fish at an early period.

On the Herring.—Certain fish lead an almost sedentary life, and remain always in the locality where they were produced; others are always wandering, and a great number of these animals periodically make journeys of greater or less length. At the time for spawning, they generally approach the coasts or enter the rivers; and in this manner they sometimes effect an extremely long passage. Every year, towards the same period large numbers of migrating fish arrive in the same places; and it is generally believed that several of these species regularly migrate from the north towards the south, and from the south towards the north, following a determined route; but perhaps it would be more true to believe, that when they disappear from the shores, they only retire into the greater depths of the sea. The herring is one of the most remarkable fishes in this respect, as well as the most celebrated on account of the importance of the fisheries of which it is the object. It inhabits the northern seas, and arrives every year in innumerable legions upon different parts of the coast