The Author of Lacon.
There, too, I was greeted with a sight of the pale visage and hard countenance of the Rev. Caleb Colton, author of Lacon. I had not for two years seen this learned, shrewd, avaricious, conceited man, one whose habits were as singular as his character was contradictory,

"Come to merrow," said he, "and take wine with me in the English fashion. Let us have some conversation—no de-

nial."
"Where do you reside in Paris?" "I have lodgings for a month or two at a wine merchant's near the Chamber of Deputies. I took them on the recommendation of an old priest, an excellent Greek scholar, who says they keep at that house the best Beaume wine in Paris. You will find this true; come and taste it."

·I dined next day at an early hour, and crossing the Tuileries, overtook the parson not at all mal apropos. We crossed the Seine, passed the hotel of the Legion of Honor, and at last reached a narrow, dingy street, at right angles with the river, a short way along which my conductor led into a passage and then up a flight of stairs that had not been cleaned since they were put up. We then entered a room on the first floor, looking into the street. As many French rooms are con-stituted, it was a sitting and a bed room combined, the red being in a recess, before which drew a faded green curtain so as to conceal the bed entirely when it was drawn. In the middle of the outer space there stood a table strewed with books, fragments of paper, pens worn to stumps; here a neck handkerchief, there a pair of gloves; a coffee pot and cup, and a candlestick of very lack lustre appearance, were also upon the table. A nest of drawers in another situation displayed each receptacle open. and linen, cleaned as well as soiled, hanging out of each in a confusion not very agreeable to the sight. A coat hung upon one chair, upon another a pair of French boots, exhibiting a remarkable want of polish. In this corner was a fishing rod, in that a double-barreled gun; in fact, the whole, to coin a word. was a perfect 'confusatory,' even to a Cantab. The floor of the room was in the same dirty plight as the stairs, or very little better, and both were of timber, a thing not so common then in Paris, nor half so cleanly as the red hexagonal tile, the floor was, no doubt, yet more neglected, because the frotteur could not remind the owner that the mystery of his art was hebdomadarily required to keep up the brick-red polish, so grateful to the sight and pleasant to the feeling in the July of a Parisian summer, and withal so clean too.

I began to wonder where I should find

a seat, seeing every piece of furniture in use for a legitimate or illegitimate purpose; but in a moment the things upon a couple of chairs were turned upon the floor, and the reverend gentleman produced a rickety table, not a yard square, placed it in the centre of the room, and rang the bell. In a few minutes wineglasses and a bottle of that expressive contour which indicates the nativity of Cote d' Or were placed upon the table; our chairs were $vis \cdot a \cdot vis$, when the parson said:

'Dear me, I have not dined!" "Not dined!" I rejoined! "Why did you not partake with me just now?" You dine too expensively for me. I care not what I eat; but I must have

good wine for sauce." The best proof in the world followed inis own laconic remark 'avarice is a passion full of paradox.'
He struck a light, lit a spirit-lamp, over
which in a few minutes he had half a pint of water and a couple of eggs boiling, and boiling, too, until they were as hard as brickbats. When taken out of the water they were eaten with a little salt, and pain a la discretion, as the French say, and the repast was over before I could finish a second glass of Beaume, for he had insisted on the wine tasting proceeding simultaneously with his cookery. He enjoyed a glass of wire and conversation, but he never drank when alone. Avaricious in most other things, he was profuse with his wine. He often cooked his solitary mutton chop himself, and finished it by the time a friend or two could drop in and take wine and talk with him; for as to the quantity of either he never grudged it, and would have both of the best quality too. Some of his habits were those of the college, of which when in the great world he could never divest

Many things were said of this singular man after his decease which were wholly untrue, especially of his keeping low company, which he never did. His besetting sin was a love of play; but he made no friend or companien of the gambler, for such society did not suit his taste. He played at public tables or dabbled in the funds, but in what he did he was isolated, and formed no low connections. His play was more to gratify an avaricious temper than for excitement, and the money he won he clutched fast. "Light come, light go," was not his temper. He would drive as hard a bargain about a horse as any Yorkshiremen, and rejoice over the extra guinea gained by his finesse as if he had com-passed some great feat. His propensity to play was well nigh cured by his loss in certain foreign bonds, in which he had speculated after dealing some time in wine, under the rose. He then started for America, returned to Europe by way of Havre, and commenced picture dealer in Paris with a very slight knowledge of the art, by which he must have lost money. We chatted over our wine about all sorts of things, but principally literature. We had a long talk, too, about ghosts. Col-ton was superstitious, made so by his belief in the Sampford ghost affair, in the matter of which he offered to give £200 to the poor of the parish, if the proceed ings were ever discovered to be effected by human agency. He was never called upon for the money. Sometimes he was sententious and sported his aphorisms. His Lacon was written ou covers of letters and scraps of paper of every species nearest at hand. He was never tired of quoting over his wine estrictly with the grammar-school drawl and emphasis, some quotations from a poem called Hypocracy, which he thought the best thint he had ever done But he had no genius. He was an arid writer in verse, Pope's Moral Essays being the model of his poetry without the inspiration.

"Now is not that a fine line?" repeat ing it. "Very fine, Colton; capital; worthy

of Pope?" Then came a linesomewhat analagous in sound from Pope, which he would close with the remark-

"Upon my word, I think mine is every

bit as good, as musical, as antitheticnearly as good as Pope, eh? Another glass of wine? Would you rather have Vol-

nay? Only say." The offer to change the wine showed the right string was touched. It can hardly be imagined that the didactic, philosophic, learned, acute, Baconian Lacon would thus exhibit in himself the fallacy of his own presumed doctrines-

would destroy the picture imagination had portrayed of him.

With a readiness of moral display belonging to few, he exhibited a shrewd cunning that ever spoke out of the wrinkled corners of his two twinkling. ordinary, but penetrating eyes, and spoke all was not, what it seemed with him; but his mealy, colorless visage was as much proof against emotion as that of Talleyrand himself. There is an idiosyncrasy of mind as well as body that sets all analogy and calculation at defiance, to borrow from himself, which was well illustrated in his own character. In argument he was wonderfully ready. One day when I was present, a celebrated Hebraist was inclined to ren-

der the passage where Balaam's ass had spoken, He was instantly put to si-lence by Colton's remark, "In that case the New Testament goes for no-thing."
"How so?" "Why I have the authority of the

Second Epistle of Peter against your interpretation, 'The dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbade the madness of the prophet."

Nothing could be a more complete re-futation than the reading of a Jewish Christian in explaining the meaning of the Old Testament. Colton got once into the pulpit and forgot his sermon. He was not disconcerted. He knew his residence was too distant to send for it, and he preached off a sermon extempore equal to any he ever wrote, and nobody discovered what had happened.

When outshooting one day, at a distance from any aid, in getting over a hedge with his gun cocked, he discharged a barrel through the middle of the upper part of his arm, half way between the shoulder and the elbow, tearing away the bone for a space equal to the diameter of the charge, which at that distance passed almost as compact as a ball. Despite the pain, he had an apprehension, not ill founded, that he should bleed to death. He lay down on his back, where he remained for an hour shouting as loud as he could before assistance came, pressing upon one of the main arteries, the situation of which he well knew, near the shoulder, to prevent the blood flowing towards the wounded part,—a remarkable instance of presence of mind. With all this he was not physically a brave man, and so full of fears about the supernatural, that when a cuate at Tiverton he could not cross the churchyard at night from a friend's house without an attendant, generally a girl of about twelve years old, with a lantern and candle to light him over the fearful precinct. Yet this same man committed suicide to avoid a painful

surgical operation! Such an enigma is human character. He was no respecter of persons, and very negligent in his dress. I went to hear him preach at Kew, being engaged to dine with him afterwards. The present King of Hanover was there with his then duchess. The congregation vas small. Not knowing the royal personages were at Kew, he mounted into the pulpit with grey trousers. This imthat what he said was correct, and that portant matter was commented on by his own laconic remark was true—that the duke and duchess; it was fearfully heterodox, to be sure. It came to his ears that the circumstance had been remarked. He was to dine with the great people a day or two afterwards.

"Well, Colton, did you get a rap on the knuckles for your want of regimentals?" "Oh, no!" said he, I hardly expected such a thing tomy face-it would hardly

be good manners,
"But if it had happened?" "I would have told the duke that the value of religious truth did not depend upon the color of a man's breeches?"

At that time he used to keep his cigars in the church, in a little dark place under the pulpit, because it had the exact degree of dampness they required, for which he said wrapping them in a cabbage leaf was but a bad substitute. His house looked over meadows to the Thames, in the windows facing which we often smoked and talked of the classics, or chopped metaphysics, until night closed the scene. I then used to walk down Kew Lane, and across the Green to the stage at the Star and Garter. No one was more surprised than myself at the vicar's sudden departure and break up, in which, it is said, he showed more apprehension of involve-

ment than he was justified in doing. Lacon was composed in all sorts of places and companies; much of it in his town lodging, as I have before said, a penurious second floor, upon a common deal'iskle with a transport of the second floor. deal table, with a stump of a pen. He would drink costly wines, write an aphorism, spout poetry or argue upon a future state. In his creed I believe him to have been a Materialist. Speaking of miracles one day, he said "Hume's argument. that it was more likely those who saw the miracles themselves should be deceived than that the miracles themselves should be true, had never been satisfactorily refuted:"

"Your opinions, I perceive, tend to materialism," I once remarked to him. "It is not always wise for a man to disclose his opinions," he replied, with one of his peculiar expressions of counte-

nance. I have no doubt he persuaded himself into the act that terminated his existence by long previous argument with himself. He must, on the one hand, have undergone a very painful operation of uncertain issue, or on the other, make the issue certain, and escape the bodily torture. It was precisely the temper of the man to choose the least evil in his own notion, laying aside any reflections save those arising from immediate evil.

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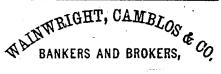
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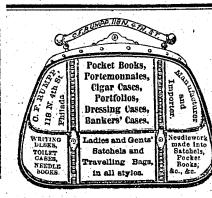
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This Line connects with all Northern and Eastern
Transportation Companies. Goods forwarded direct to
all points free of commission.

Freight received at lowest rates.

South Wharves, Philadelphia.

JAS. HAND, Agent.

in 148 HAND, Agent.

The SAVANNAR, GA.

mhis-H 117 Wall street. New York.

FOR SAVANNAH, GA.
The Philadelphia and Southern Mail
the Sprace Street.

The Steamship Company's Regular Lines, second what
below Sprace Street.

The steamship TONAWANDA. Capt. W. Jennings,
for SAVAENAH, will commence receiving fredent
on THURSDAY, December 22d, at 10 o'clock A. M., and every
alternate Saturday thereafter—vis. Japuary 19, do:
This steamer has the state Rooms and other accommodations for osssengers.
Cabin pasage 8. 50. Deck do., \$15.

Through tike is soid to the following points—Macon,
Ga., \$30; Columbus, Ga. \$40; Monigomery, Ala., \$45; Ka
tania, Ala. \$40; Mobile, Ala., "New Orleans, \$60.

Freight taken at low rates,
Through receipt given at through rates to Macon,
Augusta. Columbus, Atlanta, Ga.; Knoxville, Chatas,
nooga. Nashville. Memphis. Tenn. Canton, Miss.
No freight received or bills of lading signed on saffing day,
Agents at Savannah, Hunter & Gammell.

ng day.

Agents at Savannah, Hunter & Gammell.

For freight or passage, apply to

WM. L. JAMES. General Agent,

sel2

314 South Wharves.

WM. I. JAMES General Agent,
S14 South Wharves.

FOR NEW ORLEANS, DIRECT.
FRE PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTHFREN MAIL STEAMHIP COMPANY'S REGULAR
LINE.
The first-class Steamship
JUNI LATA.

1,200 tons register, P. F. Hoxle, Master,
Will commence receiving freight for the above port at
second wharf below bornce street, on MONDAY,
December 17th, and sail on SATURDAY, Dec, 222, at
12 o'clock M.
Returning, will leave NEW ORLEANS on SATURDAY, : and say; of the same of the commodations for passengers,
Cabin passage, 85; Deck do., \$23.
Freight taken at low rates.
No treight received or bills of lading signed on selling day,
Agents at New Orleans, Messra, Crevy, Nickerson &
Could be Galveston, Mobile, Vickeburg, and interior
points.
For freight or passage, apply to

points.
For freight or passage, apply to
WM. L. JAMES. General Agent,
214 South Wharves. FOR WILMINGTON, N. C.

FOR WILMINGTON, N. C.

THE PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTH
ERR MAIL STRAMSHIP COMPANY'S HEGGLAGE
LINE, from Second Wharf below SPRUCE Street.

The first-class steamship PIONEER. Captain J Benrett, for WILMINGTON, will commence receiving
freight on THURSDAY. December 18th, and sail on
the street of the stree

th, January izes, the January izes, the January izes, the Jassen, error will find superior sets attendance.

Cabin 1 assage, 1997, Deck do., \$10.

Freignt carried at low rates

No freight received or bills of lading signed on sall ing day.

Agents at Wilmington, WOETH & DANIEL, who will give especial attention to forwarding goods addressed to their care to and from the interior.

For freight or passage, apply to

WM. L. JAMES. General Agent,

314 Fouth Wharves

WM. I. JAMES. General Agent,
314-outh Wharves

FOR SOSION

ALLING FROM RACH PORT EVERY FIVE DATA
FROM PINEST. WHARR. PHILADELPHIA,
AND LONG WHARR. BOSTON.
The steamship ROM AN, Captain Baker. will said
on Philaselphia on Monday. Dec. 17, at 10 A. M.
The steamship ROMAN, Captain Crowell, will said
rool. Boston on Sauruay, Dec. 18th, at 3 P. M.
The line between Philadelphia and Boston is now
composed of the
MOMAN (new), Captain Baker, 1,488 tons burthen,
NORMAN (aptain Crowell, 1,202 tons burthen,
NORMAN, Captain Crowell, 1,202 tons burthen,
NORMAN, Captain Crowell, 1,202 tons burthen,
il hese substantial and well appointed steamships
fill sail punctually as advertised and freight will be
scelved every day, a steamer benn always on the
erth to receive cargo.
Shippers are requested to send Rills of Lading with
self goods.
For freight or phasage having superier accommodanons, apply to

328 South Delaware avenue
THROUGH AIR-LINE TO THE SOUTH

THROUGH AIR LINE TO THE SOUTH

STEAMSHIP COMPANY,

PHILADELPHIA, RICHMOND AND NORFOLE

STEAMSHIP COMPANY,

THROUGH RECEIPTS TO NEW SERN,

Also, to all points in NORTH and SOUTH CAROLINA. Via Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad, and the Carolina Company,

VIA NORFOLK, PETERSBURG AND SOUTHSIDE via NORFOLK, PETERBURG AND SOUTHSIDE RAILROAD.

The regularity, safety and shortness of this route, together with the moderate rates charged, commend to the public as the most desirable medium for carrying every description of freight.

No charge for commission, drayage, or any expense of transfer.

Steamships insure at lowest rates, and leave regu-

Steamships insure at lowest rates, and leave regu WM. P. CLYDE & CO., 14 North and 14 South Wharves. HAVANA STEAMERS. SEMI-MONTHLY LINE

The Steamahips HENDRICK HUDSON... TARS AND STRIPES

FOR NEWBERN, N. C. VIA NORFOLK VA. ELIZABETH CITY, EDENTON AND PLYMOUTH, N. C. VIA CANAL.
TO SAIL ON SATURDAY, DEC. 15TH, UNLESS.
SOONER FULL.
The steamer HANNAH SOPHIA, Test, master, is now rapidly loading for the above ports at WILLOW street wharf, and having : ear y all of her cargo engaged, will costitively sail as above.
For freight, apply to

BISHOP, SON & CO.

BISHOP, SON & OO., No. 105 arch street. des-dif No. 115 arch street.

UNION FYPRESS LINE TO BALTIDELAWARE CANAL
Philadelphia and Baltimore Union Express Steamboat Company will leave the second what below arch
street every Wednesday and Saturday at 2 P. M.
Freight taken at low rates.
For freight or passage, apply to
des-12t No. 116 North Delaware avenue. des-dtf

THE FAVORITE STEAMBOAT
THE FAVORITE STEAMBOAT
AND Bristol, Leaves Philadelphia, Chestnut atrees
wharf, at P. M. Returning leaves Bristol at 7.10 A.
M., stopping each way at Riverton, Torresdale, Andalusia and Beverly, Fare, 25 cents, Excursion, 65
cents. NOTICE—All persons are hereby cautioned against
I trusting any, of the crew of the Br brig OONQUERUR, arch'd Sterling master, from Bordeau, ag
debts of their contracting will not be paid by captain

or consignees.

del0-6tl ALPHONSE STEPHANI & CO.,
187 and 139 South Front street.
CHIP J. G. BICHARDSON, Hendall, master, is now
3 discharging under general order at South street
wharf. Consignees will please attend to the reception
of their goods. PETER WRIGHT & SONS, 115
Walnut street. Waint street.

OTEA MEHIP ROMAN, FROM BOSION.—OnLignees of merchandise per above steamer, will
please sent for their goods, now landing at Pine street
wharf. (dels's) HENBY WINSOR & OO.

Liquons. T. J. M. A.R.TIN, BREWER, 24, 26, 28 and 30 South Sixth St., Philad's. Fine Old Stock & But-Brown Ales, Fire Wid Stock & Dill-Brown Aid,

Pressly for Family and Medicinal USE.

HER MAJESTY CHAMPAGNE, J. F. DUNTON, 181 800TH FEORT ST., 30LH AGENT.

WINES.—The attention of the trade is solicited to the following very choice Wines, &c., for sale by JOSEPH F DUNTON, No. 151 South FRONT street. JOSEPH F DUNTON, NO. 151 SOULD FRONT STREET, above Walnut:

MADEIRAS—Old Island, 8 years old.

SHERRIES—Campbell & Co., single, double and triple Grape, E. Crusoe & Sons, Rudolph, Topaz, Rieg. Spanish, Crown and F. Vallette,

PORTS—Vallette, Vinho Velho Real, Danton and Rebello Valente & Co., Vintages 1836 to 1856.

CLARETS—Cruso Fils Freres and St. Estephe Chateau Luming. CLARE 12—Criss fils Fretes and St. Estephe Char-teau Luniny.
VI RMOUTH—G. Jourdan, Brive & Co.
MUSCAT—de Frontignan.
CHAMPAGNES—Briest Irrony, "Golden Star,"
de Venoge, Her Majesty and Boyal Cabinet and other favorite brands.

LOST OR MISLAID. LOST OR MISLAID.—Scrip issued by the PENN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF L MUTUAL LIFE INSUKANUE COMPAN the following years and numbers: 1852, No. 798. \$10 | 1854, No. 884. 1855, No. 913. 10 | 1856, No. 958. 1857, No. \$588. 20 | 1858, No. 954. 1859, No. 963. 20 | 1859, No. 963.