The Press.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1859.

Editorial Correspondence.

ALLENTOWN AGRICULTURAL FAIR.

MY DEAR MR. H——: The avocations of your office, as foreman of *The Press*, have allowed you small opportunities, I know, for travelling through this great State of Pennsylvania, and judging for yourself of its multitudinous resources, its wonderful variety of natural productions, its mechanical and agricultural ingenuity and industry, its "fair women and brave men," who are quietly, but surely, building up competence, if not wealth, for themselves and for their families. A fellow-worker, like yourself, I have been more fortunate, having occasionally visited various districts in the State, and thus been enabled to judge for myself, with my own ears, and through my own spectacles, of people and of things—of acquiring such information, by personal observation, as neither books nor newspapers, all-instructive as they are, can possibly communicate.

Let me inflict my tediousness upon you, respecting what came under my notice yesterday, when I was at the great Agricultural Fair at Allentown, the capital of Lehigh county, and, this day, through Berks county, and in Reading, its beautiful metropolis. I write this from Major Lauman's, in Reading, on this blessed Friday—for though I shall return this evening, I need scarcely tell you that the labor of looking through, and, on Captain Cuttle's principle, of "making a note of" even two days' arrears of newspaper correspondence, would render it impossible to write a line after returning to Philadelphia. True; I might follow contemporary example, and throw the subject over until our Monday's paper, but as *The Press* happens to be a live journal, I prefer disposing of it, thus and now, for to-morrow's publication. Of all abominable things, in the wide region of newspaperdom, old news is, to my mind, the most repulsive, annoying, and useless.

Colonel Forney and myself started from Philadelphia, yesterday morning at half past 9, and, borne on the irresistible wings of steam, were railwayed to the beautiful Lehigh river, opposite Bethlehem, a little after 11 A. M. A pleasant journey, with conversable *compagnons du voyage*, (we had a bright-eyed lady with us), made the time pass rapidly on, and, even without a spoken word, there was ample cause for reflection and admiration over the beautiful scenes through which we were rapidly whirled along. Fine weather, good company, and a lovely country, after a good breakfast—there are worse combinations on earth than this, I can tell you. But what is the use of inflicting this truism, *mon cher* H—, who have an enjoyable nature, and (if you only had time for it) would go in for all these things, or any of them, as well as any man in the world?

A change of cars in view of Bethlehem, which is on the opposite side of the Lehigh, and certainly a more decided incursion—no, an avalanche of people, chiefly of the softer sex, into the cars to Allentown, only a few miles distant, the rapid Lehigh at the right hand as you proceed. The quantity of femininity in those cars was extraordinary, and the conductor informed us that, from the earliest hour in the morning, there had been a constant stream of humanity flowing into the cars, and that it was expected this supply would continue uninterrupted all through the day. Whoever pleases, may say, with "glorious John Dryden,"

"Old as I am, for dalliance all unfit,
The power of Beauty I remember yet,"

and undoubtedly this power was in the ascendant, that morning. Such a galaxy of bright eyes and beaming faces, which the said eyes illumine, it has rarely been my fortune to encounter. You see lots of bright eyes in Paris, but the other features are not to match them. No, sir! But the French faces make up for it, by their wonderful expression—their speaking *mobilité*—for the want of beauty.

The compressibility of matter—an accident in natural philosophy upon which much difference of opinion has existed, from time immemorial—was destined to receive a curious illustration in those railway cars to Allentown. Take my word for it, as confidingly as Hamlet took the Ghost's word for a thousand pounds.

The exhibitions of crinoline are very great in Chestnut street, but they pale their ineffectual fires before the extensive and expansive hoopery by which the females in those cars were encompassed yesterday. In Chestnut street, the material constituents of a woman are about one-fourth of flesh and blood, and three-fourths of crinoline and cotton, (so I have been told, on good authority). But, in these cars, there was none at all of the actual crinoline. In lieu of it, there was any amount of real, stiff, resisting hoops, made of whalebone or of cane. They stood out, boldly, like the works encompassing a fortress. I got crushed in, as I stood, between two fair demoiselles, so arrayed, and it is a mercy that I was not cut in two by the rigidity of those hoops, so utterly unyielding were they.

Arrived at Allentown, we were met by Mr. Longeneecker, the now-almost-M. C. of this district, which includes Bucks and Lehigh, and, under his wing, went from the station to the charmingly-situated residence of Robert E. Wright, Esq., where we remained during our stay. Hospitably entertained there, we passed on, with little delay, to the grounds of the Lehigh Agricultural Association, on the verge of a large green area expressly laid out for and devoted to the purposes of the agricultural fair. There is on this plot a building one hundred feet long, in which, during the fair, is spread out all sorts of produce from Lehigh and adjacent counties. There were shown various descriptions of all things requisite for luxury and comfort—wearing apparel, mechanical adaptations, furniture, and so on: some curious things, too. A portrait of an old lady painted in England a couple of centuries ago. A wedding dress 107 years old, consisting of a *sacque* of crimson silk padousy, with an under petticoat of white satin, so elaborately quilted that curious ladies, hovering around it, said that it would take three months to work it. I suggested (to the prettiest of them) that Wheeler & Wilson's sewing-machine would do it in two days, and she endeavored to persuade me that nothing but human fingers could have accomplished such elaborate work as that. Perhaps she was right, but I have great faith in Wheeler & Wilson, nevertheless.

On the grounds were all kinds of tents for refreshment of the inner man, with roundabouts, and all such appliances of a Fair. There, also, might be seen, by more curious persons than myself, "for the small price of one shilling," a cow with only three legs, and a calf with five.

There was a fine exhibition of stock, among which I noticed a magnificent steer, white, and stalwart as that upon which (see Longfellow's "Courtship of Miles Standish") happy John Alden placed his blooming bride, to take her home, at which time Miles unexpectedly came back from the wars, and found himself *de trop*. There were some noble stallions, too, particularly a very fine one, black as coal, and with as beautiful eyes as we ever saw in an equine head. Fowl, of all species, were there, from the cooing pigeon to the snow-white goose, which the late Dr. Darwin, son of the poet, used to declare, be being a man with a good appetite, was "a foolish bird, being too much for one man to eat at one meal, and not enough for two." There were raccoons and kittens in one cage. There were Shanghaes to any extent, with smaller but more profitable domestic fowl; and there might be seen, also, a black turkey-cock, weighing forty pounds, accompanied by one of his harem, a dark-feathered turkeyoise, which weighed nineteen. Also, there was a peacock.

Neither, in this glance at the fair, must the agricultural machines be omitted. They abounded, in all shapes and sizes, for all uses and purposes. One youngster, a human biped, curiously testing the efficiency of a machine for cutting food for cattle, had the fingers of one hand cleanly shaven off, and raised a terrible outcry at the catastrophe.

Part of the fair grounds, which are about to be extended, is laid out as a running-course for horses, and the track is nearly a mile round. We saw several trials of speed. The whole fair-grounds are placed at the disposal of the Allentown community, as a public park, all the time they are not used for the fair exhibition.

At three o'clock, Colonel Forney presented himself on a platform under the western wing of the Exhibition. He had been invited to deliver an address on the occasion, and commenced by apologizing for the absence, on the ground of illness, of the Rev. Mr. Hutter, of Philadelphia, who was to have spoken to the multitude in German. Colonel Forney's address occupied an hour, and commented largely upon the advancement which Agriculture had received, but more particularly in this country, from Science and Mechanics. His language was plain, simple, and expressive—not pitched above the class whom he particularly addressed. He was cheered very much at the close, and his auditors' enthusiasm was greatly raised by some *extempore* remarks which he added, complimentary, but surely well-deserved, to the admirable display which had made this Fair one of the most successful ever held in the State.

In the evening, the Allentown brass band serenaded Colonel Forney, as he was being entertained by his friends at the American Hotel, and he addressed them, and a large assembly of auditors, in a neat speech which occupied less than a quarter of an hour. Great regret was expressed that he could not remain over to-day, when the fair, which commenced on Tuesday, was brought to a close by the auction-sale of a majority of the produce exhibited. I wonder who bought the five mammoth cabbages, so suggestive of future *soup crout*, the immense pumpkins—rivalling those raised by Bennett, on his "wife's" quarter-acre at Washington Heights—and the beautiful apples and pears which really would make a dying man's mouth water with desire! There was a fine show of honey, also, and it is a fact that the bees, deceived by the French flowers in Mrs. F.'s bonnet, clustered among them, and were with difficulty ejected. Were I poetical, I should say, of course, that they really were tempted by her lips. But I refrain, being matter-of-fact to-day. It is sufficient for a man to have been poetical in his youth—but the poetry of life, the poetry of hope and heart, is indestructible.

"Its holy flame for ever burneth,
From heaven it came, to heaven returneth."

After the serenade to Colonel Forney, and his speech, we proceeded to the court-house, in which Miss Caroline Richings, assisted by Mr. Peter Richings in the vocal, and Mr. Charles Jarvis in the instrumental department, delighted a crowded house for two hours. The gem of the evening, I think, was her recitation of the Wooing and Wedding Feast from "Hiawatha"—a most perfect musical recitation, ending with an Indian melody, composed by the fair *cantatrice* herself. Next to this were two comic scenes between Miss and Mr. Richings—one a duet from "The Daughter of the Regiment," and the other Florovantl's singing lesson. Two or three Scotch and one Irish ballads were also greatly applauded, as was "La Manola," Henrion's French chanzonette. But the finest piece, as far as execution went, was an Italian air, from Verdi's "Attila." Miss Richings, who was charmingly dressed, and looked extremely well, was repeatedly encored, and sang with good voice and in good spirits. She was to give a concert at Pottsville to-day, and Reading expects a similar favor from her to-morrow (i. e. Saturday) evening. Mr. Jarvis played very well on the piano, but somehow as if he was indifferent as to how he played.

Allentown, which has had the best Fair in the State, is a wonderfully thriving and improving place. Were some factories introduced, and there is plenty of water-power, it might become a great city. Its population is about eleven to twelve thousand. It has several newspapers, and the latest issue of these is called "*The Allentonian*, devoted to choice Literature, Romance, and the News." The first number, dated October 22d, was hurried out to be in time for the Fair. It is really a pleasant, readable, racy hebdomadal, and, I was assured, is actually got up by school-boys, not one of whom has turned his *eighth* year! If such be the *boys* of Lehigh county, what will its *men* be?

After the concert, a visit to Mr. King's, a vote ran politician, living next the Court-house—which visit I should not notice here, but because, during its occurrence, there was a Backgammon Tournament, in which, out of six rubbers, contested with terrible energy and great skill, somebody won *five*. Naturally modest, *I* do not mention the conqueror's name.

Off, a little after 9, from well-built, broad-streeted, handsome Allentown, to this fine, old-fashioned Reading. Here, at Major Lauman's, quite a gathering of visitors to Col. Forney, while I am writing this under pressure and against time. For, have not I, when it is done, to call and take a mint julep with Mr. De Bourbon, at the Mansion House, at the corner, and sip a bottle of German wine while I look at and through the books in Judge J. Pringle Jones's beautiful library; and thence to Mr. F. Lauer, to ascertain, personally, whether his tap of Buck beer be really as choice as Fame reports it?

Besides, and this is a particular secret—. But here is Major L.'s summons, what Byron calls

"That tocsin of the soul—the dinner bell,"

and may I be hanged if, with that hint to a hungered man, suggesting chickens and reed birds, Heidsick and *very* old Madeira, I shall write another line for *The Press* this blessed day.

Yes, one line to add that I am as ever, your sincere friend, R. S. M.

P. S.—There were fifteen thousand persons at Allentown fair on Thursday.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30, 1859.

Late despatches received from Gen. Harney state that there is no danger of a collision between the American and British forces at San Juan, and it was therefore altogether unnecessary to send the old veteran, Gen. Scott, to that distant region. Information has also been received, from those who have closely examined the Island, to the effect that it is of very little importance to either country. The American title to it, however, is considered indisputable. It is given out that the treaty under which the dispute has arisen was written at London, notwithstanding it is dated at Washington, and signed by Mr. Buchanan, as Secretary of State, and by Richard Pakenham, then British minister at Washington, and that Mr. McLane, then the American minister at London, wrote home at the time that in his discussions with the English Minister of Foreign Affairs in relation to it, it was clearly understood that the channel referred to was the Canal de Haro, as claimed by our Government at the present time.

The timely aid rendered by Commodore Tattnall to the British forces in the Peiho, after the terrible havoc caused by the Chinese batteries, will go far to mollify any ill-feelings that may have been engendered by the San Juan Island controversy, and it will now be an extremely difficult matter to create any symptoms of a war-fever in England against this country.

The *Constitution*, of this morning, gleefully parades the following paragraph:

DOUGLAS IN MISSISSIPPI.—The Oxford *Mercury* says the Democracy of Noxubee county recently passed this resolution:

"*Resolved*, That, while we have hitherto abided by democratic party of Mississippi, we deem it not improper to declare that, should the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas be the nominee of the Charleston Convention as a candidate for the Presidency, in view of his position upon the question of slavery in the Territories, we cannot and will not support him."

The same paper says a meeting was recently held in Oktibbeha, adopting resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That we repudiate with loathing and contempt the odious doctrine recently promulgated by Stephen A. Douglas—that a Southerner can be deprived of his property, in the Territories by the operation of unfriendly territorial legislation."

Similar expressions of sentiment are occasionally made in other quarters of the South, but they are nearly always promptly condemned by many Southern journals. The Presidential organ, however, which is remarkably ready to read out of the party all Northern Democrats who do not bow implicitly to the decrees of Administration conventions, has no word of censure for the threats of flagrant "disorganization" contained in such exhibitions of anti-Douglas feeling as we have quoted above. In fact, it admires and approves all disorganizing movements directed against the great popular feeling now prevailing throughout nearly of the whole country. As "Noxubee" and "Oktibbeha" counties are determined not to vote for Mr. Douglas, whether he is the nominee of the Charleston Convention or not, it may be of some importance to inquire whether their political aid is absolutely indispensable, and whether in case they secede from the Democratic party there would be a possibility of its continued existence. For myself, I am half inclined to entertain the heretical idea that the Northern Democracy have been frightened most too often and too fatally by a few wordy threats from such districts as Noxubee and Oktibbeha. If all the great States of the Northern tier, New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, with their teeming population of nearly twenty millions, their millions of Democratic voters, and their excellent prospects of regaining their political ascendancy if their wishes are respected, happen to prefer Judge Douglas as their Presidential nominee, I am scarcely prepared to admit that their preference should be surrendered in deference to the factious feelings of a few insignificant counties in Mississippi. Curious to see how many votes Mr. Douglas would lose by the refusal of Noxubee and Oktibbeha to support him, I referred to the election returns and found that the former, in 1857, polled 607 votes for Governor Foote, Union candidate for Governor, and 384 for Hon. Jefferson Davis, Southern extremist, and that, in the same contest, Oktibbeha cast 346 votes for Governor Foote and 493 for Hon. Jefferson Davis. Neither of these counties, therefore, contains as many Democratic voters as a good-sized Pennsylvania township, or some of the precincts of your city. Combined, they have less than 2,000 votes, of all political opinions, and when Governor Foote (who is now a warm advocate of the election of Senator Douglas to the Presidency) canvassed them against General Davis, the very Ajax of the extreme Southern movement, the latter was beaten by 66 majority.

The contest between the officials in your city, as to the proper method in which the party should be managed, is over. For a time it was doubtful on which side the President would cast his potential influence; but, being determined that harmony should prevail within his camp, he became at length so profoundly impressed with admiration of the superior political tact and efficiency of the Surveyor of your Port and the Collector, and of the ability of the family organ, under the editorial charge of his talented nephew, (the Collector's brother,) that he could not refrain from giving free and unembarrassed scope to the genius of this political triumvirate. The District Attorney, whose long acquaintance with the politics of your city, and whose long-continued and ardent efforts to promote the success of Mr. Buchanan induced him to suppose that he was entitled to the enjoyment of opinions of his own on grave questions of party policy, will shortly be notified, in the most unequivocal terms, that in future he must not dare to thwart the political movements of the Collector and the Surveyor. Judge Black is already looking forward hopefully to the resistance of the District Attorney to this tyrannical mandate, as it would afford him infinite pleasure to act as the political executioner of Mr. Vandyke, and thus to sweep from your leading Federal officers another active original friend of the President. OCCASIONAL.

PEREMPTORY SALE.—ELEGANT WALNUT-STREET RESIDENCE, OPPOSITE RITTENHOUSE SQUARE.—Messrs. Thomas & Sons' sale, 18th October, will be the largest and most attractive sale this season. Among other valuable properties then to be offered will be the spacious and elegant residence 1817 Walnut street. This fine office is constructed on the most approved plan, and is finished throughout with the utmost care and skill. It has all the appointments necessary to a comfortable and convenient dwelling, and its situation in the most fashionable quarter of the town, as well as the most desirable, gives it pre-eminent advantages.

FIRST PREMIUM PIANOS.—The celebrated Haven, Bacon, & Co. instruments have taken the first premium at the State Fair, just closed. Deposited by J. E. Gould, Seventh and Chestnut sts.

The Exhibition of the State Agricultural Society.

The exhibition of the Agricultural Society of Pennsylvania closed yesterday. As on previous days, an immense multitude was in attendance. Judged therefore, by the numbers who witnessed the exhibition, it was a grand success, and there was enough to be seen to secure the enjoyment of nearly all who entered the exhibition grounds in the crowd which thronged the whole enclosure, the fine display of agricultural implements, the flowers, fruits, fire-engines, the horses upon the track, the cattle, hogs, &c., in the stalls. And yet, if any of our citizens were asked to rest the agricultural and manufacturing reputation of Pennsylvania upon the evidence presented by the late fair, he would not think for a moment of consenting to such a proposition. There was a much stronger disposition to act the rôle of spectators than that of exhibitors among the farmers, manufacturers, and mechanics of our State, and, as a natural consequence, those who looked for an extensive display of the real elements of agricultural or manufacturing greatness were considerably disappointed. One cause of this, no doubt, is that farmers prefer to reserve for the exhibitions of their respective counties the articles in which they feel the greatest pride; and there may be other causes of which we are not aware; but it is certainly to be desired that the exhibitions of the agricultural society of a great agricultural State like this should contain numerous specimens of the choicest productions she can furnish.

The Episcopal Convention in New York.

IMPORTANT VOTE IN BISHOP ONDERDONK'S CASE.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.

A scene of great interest occurred in the Episcopal Diocesan Convention this afternoon, on a resolution requesting the House of Bishops to remove the sentence of suspension upon Bishop Onderdonk. After a debate of five hours, the following resolution, offered by Professor Davies, was adopted by a vote of 222 to 65:

Resolved, That the remission of the sentence of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Onderdonk would be acceptable to this Convention upon the condition that the restrictions upon the exercise of episcopal powers and offices within the diocese, set forth in his letter to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Potter, laid before this Convention, be annexed to the same, or such restrictions relative to the exercise of such powers as the House of Bishops may deem fit.

This resolution was supported by Dr. Hawks, Dr. Tyng, Dr. Cutler, and other eminent Low Churchmen. The Convention contains an unusual amount of intellect and talent. Among the lay delegates I noticed Luther Bradish, Gulian C. Verplanck, John A. Dix, Ex-Governor King, Gouverneur Morris, Hon. Wm. H. Ludlow, Hon. Murray Hoffman, Edwin Croswell, Professor Davies, Professor Mahan, Weir, the artist, Samuel B. Ruggles, Hon. N. S. Benton, and many other gentlemen of distinction.

WORCESTER'S DICTIONARY—ILLUSTRATED EDITION.—An agent of the publishers, (Hickling, Swan, & Brewer, of Boston,) who is now in this city, obtaining subscribers for the reconstructed and enlarged Dictionary of Dr. Worcester, has shown us some specimen pages, which look very well, the wood-engravings being very neatly worked. The literary execution, so far as we could judge by a rapid reference to a few words, is very careful and correct. The work has been largely subscribed for in New York as well as in Washington and the South. The library edition, got up in a superior manner, is sold only by subscription.

PEREMPTORY SALE.—Residence and furniture, this morning, at No. 1019 Clinton street, by order of the trustee of the late Judge Pettit. See Thomas & Sons' advertisement, auction head.

EXTENSIVE SALE OF STOCKS AND REAL ESTATE—Tuesday next, 4th inst., at 12 o'clock, noon, at the Exchange. Thirty properties. See Thomas & Sons' advertisements and pamphlet catalogues, issued to-day.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Later from Mexico.

ALVAREZ PREPARING TO MARCH ON THE CITY OF MEXICO—THE REPEAL OF THE ALLEGED LEON CONVENTION—SANTA ANNA'S ANTI-FOREIGNERS DECREE RE-ENTABLISHED.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 30.—Later advices from Mexico have been received.

Gen. Alvarez was preparing to march on the city of Mexico, with 5,000 well-armed troops, consisting of infantry, cavalry, and artillery.

The decree of the Liberals at Leon by General Woll has been confirmed. Woll's forces were dismanted by the conflict.

Miramon had re-established the decree of Santa Anna of 1853, forbidding foreigners from entering Mexico with arms and invading designs, under penalty of death.

From Washington

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—Mr. Lisboa, the new Brazilian minister, accompanied by his family, has arrived in Washington.

Advices down to the 15th have been received here, of the organization of the Liberal forces in Tuxpan and Maritoya Indians, under the act of Congress of February last, with a view to their entry into service of September. Between four and two thousand Indians were present. About 200 Indians were armed, one thousand pounds of lead, and other grain, for seed, and next, &c., besides several thousand yards of cloth, were adopted by a vote of 222 to 65:

Resolved, That the remission of the sentence of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Onderdonk would be acceptable to this Convention upon the condition that the restrictions upon the exercise of episcopal powers and offices within the diocese, set forth in his letter to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Potter, laid before this Convention, be annexed to the same, or such restrictions relative to the exercise of such powers as the House of Bishops may deem fit.

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Explosion of a Boiler in the Girard Hotel of New York.

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—A boiler in the Girard Hotel exploded this afternoon, killing two men.

From Kansas.

LEAVENWORTH, K. T., Sept. 30.—Hon. Anson Burlingame addressed the people here to-night. He will probably participate in the canvass for delegate to Congress.

Bishop Onderdonk's Restoration.

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—The Episcopal Convention this afternoon passed a resolution recommending the House of Bishops to restore Bishop Onderdonk, by a majority of the clergy of 157.

TOWN HALL.—There are several organizations in this city, composed of gentlemen whose pursuits are of a sedentary character, who engage in the active, healthful exercise afforded by the game of Town Ball. Prominent among these are the "Olympic Club," which has been in existence upwards of twenty years, and from the proficiency attained by them deserves high praise. The club has seen the rise and fall of many competitors, but still continues to flourish, and, from the social character of its members, may be expected to last for years to come. The "Athletic" is a younger club, but has already made a name for itself, and is now a formidable competitor for the laurels. The "Athletic" is a club of young men, who are fast arriving at the age when they will be able to take their places in the ranks of the "Olympic."