PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

MONDAY MORNING, NOV. 22, 1852.

Curious Experiments—What do they Mean?—A friend told us the other day of a very curious experiment, which led us to try others equally curious with the same success. His experiment was this: Take a gold ring and suspend it by a thread about half a yard long; then hold it by the thumb and finger of the right hand over the palm of the left hand, so that the ring may swing freely as a pendulum; it will oscillate to and from the direction of the arm, with an increasing force when let another person form a connection between the thumb and fore-finger of the operators left hand by his own thumb and finger; the motion of the ring will change from a straight line to a circle at once, and on the withdrawal of the connection, it will return to a straight line; and continuing the operator's left shoulder with the hand, the motion will cease, and the ring be at rest.

When we tried the experiment successfully, and found that it would succeed equally with a key instead of a ring or with any body of proper size, similarly suspended, whether of metal, or wood or glass. We found also, that if suspended over the knee, the pendulum would swing from knee to knee, and immediately began to revolve as soon as the feet were brought together. Suspended over the heart, the pendulum revolved of itself in a circle of considerable diameter; and over the forehead it revolved in an opposite direction from its course when held on the back of the head.

These experiments vary somewhat with different persons; yet, with greater or less force, they seem to follow the same law in nearly all cases; what does it mean? The force is not electrical, for it acts as well through non-conducting as through conducting bodies, and a silk instead of a cotton thread makes no difference in the result. It is not mere imagination, for there is too much uniformity in the result to favor that supposition. In some cases, the revolution is on a orbit a foot in diameter, if not more.

We have not read Richenbach's book on the Odic Force. Will any one kindly tell us if he recognizes the above facts in his researches into that mysterious attendant of life?

The foregoing experiment has been already tried in this city, as we are assured, and proved entirely successful.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PROPOSALS FOR GUN CARRIAGE TIMBER.

War Department,
ORDNANCE OFFICE, WASHINGTON, }
NOVEMBER 10, 1852.

PROPOSALS will be received until, and including the 15th of December next, for Five Hundred complete sets of White Oak Gun-Carriage Timber, to be delivered at the following places, viz:—

Two pieces, each 88 in. long,	17½ in. wide,	16½ in. thick.
Two do 40 do	20½ do	17½ do
Two do 42 do	20½ do	17½ do
One do 42 do	19½ do	17½ do
One do 42 do	18½ do	16½ do
One do 40 do	17½ do	15½ do
One do 40 do	16½ do	14½ do
One do 40 do	15½ do	13½ do
One do 40 do	14½ do	12½ do
One do 40 do	13½ do	11½ do
One do 40 do	12½ do	10½ do
One do 40 do	11½ do	9½ do
One do 40 do	10½ do	8½ do

The above mentioned timber must be delivered in the following proportions, viz: Several Arsenals here mentioned, 100 complete sets at the United States arsenal at Watervown, Massachusetts; 100 complete sets at the United States arsenal at West Point, New York; 60 complete sets at the United States arsenal at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; 40 complete sets at the United States arsenal at Washington, District of Columbia; 40 complete sets at the United States arsenal at Old Point Comfort, Virginia; the whole to be delivered on or before the 30th day of June next.

Proposals will be received for the delivery of the whole quantity, or for that required for each arsenal separately.

The timber must be delivered at such time in each year in the months of July, or between the first of December and the middle of March, and must be straight grained, free from sap wood and from splits, check, and cracks, or large knots, and must be hewed, except in pieces of large size, which cannot be procured free from it and it must all measure full to the dimensions above stated. It may be delivered from time to time, within the period above prescribed, when it will be duly inspected and measured by a Commanding officer of the nearest ordnance arsenal, at each arsenal; and, if approved and received, the quantities so approved and received, if in conformity to these proposals in every respect, will be paid for at the contract price, less ten per cent., which will be retained by the United States, and not paid until the contract is completed, when the amounts so retained will be paid to the contractor; but it will be forfeited to the United States, if the contractor fail to fulfil his contract. For failure to deliver in time or otherwise than as delivered and received by bidders, application may be made, by letter or in person, to the Commanding Officer of either of the arsenals.

No contract for the above mentioned timber will be allowed to be assigned or transferred by the contractor to any other person or persons, without special permission in writing, to be obtained from this office.

No advance on contracts will in any case be made; but payments will be made as above stated.

Proposals will be received in a sealed envelope, addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Proposals for Gun Carriage Timber."

JOSEPH G. TOTTEN,
Colonel of Ordnance.

To be inserted in the Intelligencer, Republic, and Union, Washington; Boston Courier, and Traveller, Boston; Philadelphia Inquirer and North American; Sentinel, Philadelphia; and Pittsburgh Gazette, three times daily for one week, and three times a week till 10th December, and send a copy of the above named papers which contains it to be sent to this office.

no15-2aw3t

Proposals for Carrying the Mails.

OF the United States in steam boats, from the 15th day of January next, to the 20th day of June, 1853, on the following route, will be received at the office of the Post Office Department, in the city of Washington, until 9 a.m. of the 8th day of December next, when they will be opened by the Postmaster General, and the words "Mail Proposals" will be considered as the title of the letter, and the bidder's name is to be required by or before the 8th day of December next, which will be the last day for receiving proposals at the following day.

From New Orleans by Pensacola, Apalachicola, St. Marks, Tampa, Key West, and Havana, to Key West.

Leave New Orleans on the third and seventeenth of each month.

Arrive at Key West on the tenth and twenty fourth days.

Leave Key West on the eleventh and twenty fifth of each month.

Arrive at New Orleans on the seventeenth and first of each month.

NOTES:

Proposals are invited for trips once in three weeks, leaving New Orleans on the 1st and 15th.

Articles of contract are to be executed by the successful bidder and his sureties, within thirty days from the 15th day of January, 1853. The contract is to provide, among other things, that he pay one hundred dollars for each and every trip he may perform, and not more than three times the sum of the trip when the trip is not run, and no sufficient cause for the delay be furnished, and due proportion of it when a grade of service is rendered inferior to that required in the contract; and that these may be imposed, unless the delinquency be satisfactorily explained in due season for the trip from the seller thereof, or his agent or not of sufficient amount to cover the whole, or any portion of said sum, and that the ship, or any part of it, be lost, injured, lost or destroyed; in conveying it in his place or another ship, during the period in question, he is to carry it on a ship of equal tonnage, after demand made, to convey it on a ship of equal tonnage, after demand made, to convey it on a ship of equal tonnage, after demand made, to convey