PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

PUBLISHED BY D. N. WHITE.

PITTSBURGH:

MONDAY MORNING, JULY 30, 1855.

☞To Advertisers.—Neither the Editorial Room or Printing Establishment of the *Daily Gazette*, are opened on Sunday. Advertisements who desire their notices to appear in the paper on Monday morning, will please hand them in before 5 o clock, on Saturday.

Advance Payments.—Hereafter no subscription will be taken for the Daily or Weekly Gazette, unless payment is made in advance. Whenever the time is up to which the subscription is paid, the paper will be invariably stopped, unless the subscription is renewed by advance payment. All transient advertising of every description, will be required to be paid in advance. The only exceptions will be where special monthly or yearly contracts are made. sept1-dtw

☞Pittsburgh Weekly Gazette.—The extensive circulation of our Weekly Gazette offers to our business men a most desirable medium of making their business known. Our circulation is between four and five thousand, reaching almost every merchant, manufacturer and shop-keeper in Western Pennsylvania, and Eastern Ohio.

Reading Matter on each page of this paper.

THE CASE OF PASSMORE WILLIAMSON.—The telegraph some time since gave us an account of a case in Philadelphia in which three slaves were liberated, partially through the instrumentality of Passmore Williamson, an agent of the Anti-Slavery Society, and of the consequent legal proceedings had thereon. The whole story is briefly this: Mr. Wheeler, on his way to New York to embark for Nicaragua, arrived lately in Philadelphia with a slave mother and two children. When the boat came alongside the wharf at Philadelphia, Mr. Williamson called to the slave mother and asked her if she knew that she was entitled to her freedom; and invited her ashore with her children. At first she seemed scarcely able to appreciate the truth proclaimed to her, and hesitated to avail herself of her right to liberty. She at length, however, got hold of the idea, that by being brought voluntarily into a free State by her master, she was entitled to her liberty unconditionally, and professed her anxiety to avail herself of her precious right. Her master here interposed, and asked the woman if she was willing to be separated from her children in Virginia. Her significant reply was—"*No, Massa; but I wants to be free.*" The woman and her children were then taken on shore—colored men being the principal agents in the work under the direction of Mr. Williamson—and driven off.

On the day following Mr. Wheeler applied to Judge Kane, of the U. S. Court, for a writ of *habeas corpus*, directed to Mr. Williamson, commanding him to produce before him the bodies of the three slaves. Mr. Williamson made return to this writ that the slaves therein named were not in his possession, had never been so, and that he was ignorant of their whereabouts. The Court thereupon held the matter under advisement, pending a motion made by the District Attorney to commit Mr. Williamson for contempt in making a false return. On Friday morning last Judge Kane rendered his decision, which was just such an one as every one had reason to expect who was at all aware of his antecedents. He is the most thoroughly pro-slavery man at present on the bench, either North or South, and embodies, besides, more fully than any other, that character which is peculiar to Northern men, and which consists in an anxiety to yield submission to every Southern demand.

After recapitulating the facts in the case, in his own way, and failing thereby to make out a substantial accusation against Mr. Williamson, he proceeds to sentence him to jail for contempt of court in making a false return, upon a quibble too paltry for the meanest pettifogger. He says:

"I allowed a writ of *Habeas Corpus* at the instance of Colonel Wheeler, and subsequently an *alias*; and to this last Mr. Williamson made return, that the persons named in the writ, "nor either of them, are not now, nor was at the time of issuing of the writ, or at any other time, in the custody, power, or possession of the Respondent, nor by him confined or restrained; wherefore he cannot have the bodies," etc.

"I cannot look upon this return otherwise than as illusory—in legal, phrase, evasive, if not false. It sets out that the alleged prisoners are not now, and have not been since the issue of the habeas corpus, in the custody, power or possession of the respondent; and in so far, it uses legally appropriate language for such a return.—But it goes further, and by added words, gives an interpretation to that language essentially variant from its legal import.

It denies that the prisoners were within his *power, custody or possession at any time whatever.*"

This is equivalent to saying that if Mr. Williamson had confined his return to the legal parlance, that the negroes were not then, nor at the time of issuing the writ, in his possession, he could not have been committed for contempt; but inasmuch as he added that they were not in his possession or under his control *at any time*, the return was false, because, in Judge Kane's opinion, the negroes *were* under Mr. Williamson's control before they were carried off from the wharf. To be sure, there was no evidence of this; Mr. Williamson himself expressly denied it: but Judge Kane is of opinion that that was the case, or rather assumes it as the fact, and so incontinently sends the man to jail for contempt! Never was an act of tyranny committed upon a paltrier pretext.

But the Judge found a deep still lower than this. He assumes that the negroes having been once under the control of Mr. Williamson, they are so still. He says:

"It is clear, then, as it seems to me, that in legal acceptance the parties whom this writ called on Mr. Williamson to produce, were at one time within his power and control; and his answer, so far as it relates to his power over them, makes no distinction between that time and the present. I cannot give a different interpretation to his language from that which he has practically given himself: and cannot regard him as denying his power over the prisoners now, when he does not aver that he has lost the power which he formerly had."

This is not only contemptible, but an outrage upon common sense. Mr. Williamson, in his testimony before the Court, expressly stated that the negroes were not in his custody, that he had not seen them since they were driven off in a carriage from the wharf; and that he had no earthly knowledge of where they had been taken to. And yet, says Judge Kane, "I cannot regard him as denying his power over the prisoners now." What, in the estimation of this judicial Theban, would amount to a denial?

Behind this question, however, there lurks a greater. The real issue is as to the fact whether the negroes in possession of Mr. Wheeler were slaves, or free by the act of, being brought into a free State. There can be no question, to our mind, (and in this we have the concurrence of the best legal minds of the country,) that a slave is entitled to liberty the moment he is brought by his master upon free soil. If Mr. Wheeler took his slaves to a free State, he took them thither at his peril. He knew, or ought to have known, that his act in effect emancipated them. That the moment he touched a non-slave-holding State with his slaves, all power and control over them ceased; except such as they voluntarily and of love, or fear, or ignorance yielded. If, therefore, on touching the wharf at Philadelphia, he saw the shackles fall from the limbs of his slaves and his power over them drop with them, he had no right to complain. He ventured into a free State with a full understanding of the hazard, he ran of losing his slave property, and he lost it. This is one of the necessary results of State sovereignty, which our Southern brethern will surely be the last to wish to break down; for only this doctrine of State sovereignty in regard to local affairs, now protects the "peculiar institution." And, if the sovereignty of the slave-holding States is to be recognized, and their local laws adapted to the slave institution are to be respected; then certainly the sovereignty of the free States, in making laws adapted to their free institutions, cannot be rightfully complained of.

It is urged, that, in this case the slave woman was scarcely left free to choose her own course; that she was in a measure coerced into freedom; and it seems, from the account, that there was something like violence employed in pulling her out of her bondage. But then, her own words addressed to her master on the deck of the steamer, seem to settle the question; she needed no urging, when once she understood her position, to accept of freedom: "Do you wish to leave your children in Virginia?" "No, massa; but I want to be free."

Prior to 1847, a shareholder had a right, under our State laws, to bring his slaves into the State and hold them here six months; but in that year that law was repealed, and the last vestige of slavery in this Commonwealth was obliterated. There is now no right in any one to bring a slave upon our soil; and, according to decisions made judicially in Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky and elsewhere in the slave States, and in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and elsewhere in the free States, the moment a slave gets beyond the jurisdiction of the laws that made him a slave, that moment he is free. This was the legal ground of the decision in the Lemmon case, in New York—a case very much like this one and involving precisely the same principle, and this is the ground taken by some of the highest legal authorities. Mr. Williamson, therefore, in the course taken towards Mr. Wheeler's negroes, was merely enunciating to them a broad legal principle and following it to its legitimate results. He made them acquainted with their legal rights, and others helped them to maintain them; and Judge Kane in undertaking to punish him for a strictly legal act, is not only compelled to quarter himself behind the puniest pretences, but betrays the rage of a circumvented tyrant in employing the only means of annoyance left to him.

Following this comes a still greater question—that of State Rights. Judge Kane—(a suggestive name, if spelled more consistently with the character its bearer betrays)—denies, not only all knowledge of Pennsylvania laws made in behalf of freedom, but the right of Pennsylvania to pass such laws. He says:

"I know of no statute of Pennsylvania, which affects to divest the rights of property of a citizen of North Carolina, acquired and asserted under the laws of that State, because he has found it needful or convenient to pass through the territory of Pennsylvania.

I am not aware that any such statute, if such a one were shown, could be recognized as valid in a Court of the United States."

It is a pity, then, that the judiciary of the United States should be disgraced by one so ignorant and so wilful. The statute book of Pennsylvania is not so hard of access that a Judge residing in Philadelphia and claiming to be a Pennsylvanian may not readily be made acquainted with its contents; and Pennsylvania is a commonwealth sufficiently large and important, and with reserved rights of sufficient magnitude to give validity to legislation that has never yet been successfully questioned. It may suit a pompous and self-important Judge of a petty U. S. District Court to affect to set a sovereign State aside as having no jurisdiction over her own territory; but he may live to find that the States, in this Confederation, are sovereign in all matters not delegated to the general government: and that, beyond the narrow circle of his duties, he is utterly impotent.

It might be supposed, too, that a Judge who derives a commission from the United States would be, if ignorant of Pennsylvania law, at least acquainted with the law as settled by the U. S. Supreme Court. He talks about "the rights of property of a citizen of North Carolina" held in slaves brought on to Pennsylvania soil, just the same as if the Supreme Court had not decided that the Constitution of the United States does not regard slaves as *property*, but as *persons*. This is the law, as settled by the highest legal tribunal in the land; and although the judges of that tribunal are not to be compared to Judge Kane for ability, and learning, and profundity, it happens, unfortunately for him, that he is bound to take the law as they interpret it. No citizen of North Carolina can hold property in man upon the soil of Pennsylvania by virtue of any provision in the Constitution of the United States.

We hope that the power of the State Courts will be tested in this case. It is too much that a citizen of the State should thus be deprived of his liberty for doing an act not contrary to law. Let the State assert her rights, in behalf of her citizen, and let the line of demarcation be strictly drawn between the State, as a sovereign, and the United States as a Federal Government. If this act of tyranny be permitted it will be more difficult to interrupt the next, and by-and-by a conflict will be inevitable.

The closing scenes before Judge Kane are, thus given in the *Bulletin*:

"After Judge Kane had concluded, District Attorney Vandyke moved that a commitment under the seal of the Court be issued, and that the defendant, Passmore Williamson, be placed in custody of the Marshal.

Mr. Gilpin said he desired to make a motion that the defendant be granted permission to amend his return to the writ of habeas corpus.

Mr. Vandyke objected.

Judge Kane said that Mr. Gilpin was too late with his motion. Mr. Vandyke's motion has already been granted, and the prisoner was in the custody of the Marshal.

Mr. Gilpin then commenced an argument on the truthfulness of the original return.

Judge Kane said that his decision would be on file, and he also understood that it would be reported in full in the newspapers of this afternoon. He thought it would be better for the counsel for the prisoner to examine the decision at their leisure, and then prepare any motion they might think proper to make.

Mr. Gilpin acquiesced and the Court adjourned.

After the adjournment of the Court Mr. Williamson's friends surrounded him and greeted him warmly. The defendant himself appeared perfectly cool and collected. Upon the other side of the Court Room Mr. Wheeler was the centre of a circle of sympathizers. The Wheeler party seemed in high spirits at the result.

An intense feeling was evident in the countenances of the persons who witnessed the proceedings. Little groups talked the matter over among themselves, and the scene afforded an excellent indication of the strength of feeling engendered by the vexed question of slavery whenever or wherever it arises.

Marshal Wynkoop subsequently lodged Mr. Williamson in Moyamensing Prison.

☞Saturday was a beautiful day with a drying westerly wind. This would give those who have wheat exposed an excellent opportunity to secure it, and no doubt the chance was actively embraced. The Toledo *Blade* says that wheat was growing badly in that region, and we fear the evil has been extensive in the northern part of Ohio. Near the Lake shore, however, there has not been so much rain, and the damage is not so great. East of the mountains in this State, the wheat is all saved. We fondly hope that the damage done to the wheat by wet weather has not been so great as our fears led us to anticipate, and that we shall now have sufficient dry weather to enable farmers to secure their hay and oats.

OUR BOOK TABLE.

THE ESCAPED NUN: *or Disclosures of Convent Life; and the Confessions of a Sister of Charity.* New York: De Witt & Davenport.

This is not Miss Bunkley's book, at least no name as author is affixed to it. It seems to be a work of fiction and a poor one at that. Convent life is undoubtedly attended with evils of great magnitude, and it has been developed in all its deformity to the loathing gaze of the world in works of authenticity. There needs nothing to convince American Protestants that convent life in America must be similar to that in Europe, modified by circumstances and localities. That it is always under all circumstances an evil, and is fraught with both misery and danger to the inmates, and that it affords opportunities by its secret and despotic government for the entrance of corruption and tyranny, needs not now to be proven. But such works as the above, instead of increasing the conviction in the public mind of the truth of the facts asserted of the evils of convents, only throw doubts over the whole subject. If this book was intended to relate facts, why were not names and dates, and places, given. As a mere fiction it is unworthy of its aim, and sinks below mediocrity.

It might be supposed, too, that a Judge who derives a commission from the United States would be, if ignorant of Pennsylvania law, at least acquainted with the law as settled by the U. S. Supreme Court. He talks about "the rights of property of a citizen of North Carolina" held in slaves brought on to Pennsylvania soil, just the same as if the Supreme Court had not decided that the Constitution of the United States does not regard slaves as *property*, but as *persons*. This is the law, as settled by the highest legal tribunal in the land; and although the judges of that tribunal are not to be compared to Judge Kane for ability, and learning, and profundity, it happens, unfortunately for him, that he is bound to take the law as they interpret it. No citizen of North Carolina can hold property in man upon the soil of Pennsylvania by virtue of any provision in the Constitution of the United States.

MARY LYNDON; *or Revelations of a Life. An Autobiography.* New York: Stringer & Townsend.

We have not read this work, but a glance over its pages has impressed us unfavorably with its morality. It is evidently a work of very considerable vigor and boldness. It is spoken of by some of the Eastern papers in terms of high praise, as a second Jane Eyre. The New York *Times* says that it "is the work of a woman, and it possesses most of the faults of its class. But its worth is so large, notwithstanding, its original features and individuality of character are so striking, that we expect to hear it laughed at and loved, admired and abused, more than any work published for many seasons. With some of the writer's opinions we have no sympathy. But even with these defects the book is not one which will be read to-day and forgotten to-morrow. It will do somewhat toward moulding the career of thinking men and women in the next generation. This is not slight, or, it is not undeserved praise."

☞The above works are for sale by R. T. G. Morgan, Wood street.

A TRAGEDY AT CONEY ISLAND.—*A Methodist Preacher and Daughter Drowned.*—A sad accident occurred on Wednesday, at Coney Island, N. Y., where a number of persons from Williamsburg were bathing. The *Herald* says:

All passed off pleasantly until a cry was raised, "the undertow!" "the undertow!" and on looking towards the ocean the company saw with dismay five of their party drifting out to sea. Great confusion immediately prevailed, and efforts were made to procure a boat, but none could be found for a mile either way along the beach. No other resource being left, the doors of the bathing houses were torn off and shoved out after the persons in the water, and two of them were saved thereby.

But the most melancholy part of this story remains to be told. It appears the difficulty originated by a young lady named Mary Ann Elliott getting beyond her depth, and feeling the undertow taking her out, she screamed out, "I am sinking, save me!" Her father, Rev. John Elliott, who was in the water, seeing the danger of his child, swam towards her; but before reaching the spot where she was, he was also taken with the current and drifted out to sea and soon sank. He rose once to the surface and threw his arms wildly in the air, then sank again and was seen no more.

The peril of Miss Elliott was also seen by a Mr. Thomas Gibbons, the affianced husband of the lady, who immediately waded and swam to where she was struggling in the water, and succeeded in holding her up for some time. The greatest excitement prevailed at the moment the tragedy was being enacted, and no one seemed able to offer any assistance. The couple were borne out rapidly and those on the shore gave them up for lost, when it was seen that Mr. Gibbons had secured a piece of timber, and had seized it for support, but it was not large enough to uphold both, and Mr. Gibbons disengaged himself from Miss Elliott and told her to grasp the suspenders of his bathing dress behind, while he held on to the wood. This she did for a time, but, with a true woman's devotion, seeing that her lover was sinking, and fearing that he would drown, she suppressed in that moment of peril, when the horrors of death were clustering around her, the selfish instinct of her nature for life, and let go her hold, though he begged her for God's and her own sake to never mind him, but herself. She soon sank and was seen no more. Mr. Gibbons was fortunately drifted towards a point on the island where he found a foothold, and was dragged ashore by means of ropes.

Two other persons, Mr. Henry Boyd, jr., and a Miss Eastman, were also brought in the same current, but fortunately managed to secure one of the boards floating about and were towed towards the shore. Miss Eastman had sunk once or twice, and was so overcome by terror and her injuries that it is feared she will not recover. She was taken to the Ocean House, and now lies there in a critical condition. Mr. Boyd escaped unhurt.

This melancholy affair caused deep feeling on the island, and the self-devotion exhibited by the unfortunate girl was the theme of many an admiring eulogy. She was quite young, and said to be of rare beauty of person and amiability of disposition. It will be a heavy blow to her relatives in Williamsburg. Her father, who was drowned, was a local preacher in the Methodist church, and was much respected for his many virtues.

To the Editor of the Gazette:

In your paper of Saturday a complaint is made that the news furnished the Pittsburgh press, by the New York Associated Press, is not received in time to appear consecutively with its publication in the New York papers, and that the foreign news brought by the Atlantic was not received in Pittsburgh until the day of its publication in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and *Cleveland*. How far the Reporters for the Associated Press, east of Pittsburgh, are obnoxious to your first charge, I am unable to say, as I have not the means of judging by daily comparisons with your Eastern exchanges; all I can say is, that the news for the Pittsburgh press is promptly written out by me as soon as received, and sent to the various newspaper offices with the least possible delay.

On the night of the Atlantic's arrival I made every effort in my power to obtain her news in time for publication in the morning papers of Thursday. The Eastern line was working so badly that the little news I got from that quarter had to be repeated at Harrisburg, there being no direct intercourse with Philadelphia; in a short time even this alternative failed me, as the line ceased to work entirely. I then made an effort to get the news via Cincinnati, having learned that it had been received there by the lakes, but had hardly commenced to receive when the Western line gave out and I was compelled to forego the pleasure of furnishing my Pittsburgh friends with the news. Let me assure the Pittsburgh press that I will spare no pains to have the contract carried out to the very letter; on the night in question, I did not cease my efforts until after midnight; but the elements are not to be controlled, and I was compelled to give up the battle. Yours, truly, JOB. SNOWDEN.

We think it exceedingly strange that "the elements" should be propitious everywhere but here. The press elsewhere have been served regularly; while here we have had nothing for several consecutive days. We cast no blame on Mr. Snowden; we only ask for satisfactory explanations.

GREAT EXCITEMENT IN THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE.—GOVERNOR REEDER REFUSES TO ACT WITH THE ASSEMBLY.—*Kansas, July 23d, 1855.*

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jul1-1mdh

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jan18-dtw

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SOLID BOX VICES, HAMMERED IRON AXLES, CROWBARS, SLEDGES, MATTOCKS, PICKS,
Timber, Mill, Tobacco & Cotton Screws,
Blacksmiths and Pitmen's Vises,
Car and Bridge Bolts, with Thread and Nuts complete,
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☞All work warranted. mh31-tf

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86 Fourth st. near Wood, Pittsburgh, Pa.,
MANUFACTURERS OF
Buggy, Carriage, Riding, Drovers' AND DRAY WHIPS;
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Keep constantly on hand, received direct from their Factory, in York Co., Pa., a full and varied assortment of Whips: Thongs, Switches, Coudon Wagon Whips, Drivers' Whips, Dray Whips, Plantation Whips, Loaded Whips, Carriage and Cab Whips, Stage Stocks and Lashes, &c.

☞New styles of Whips promptly furnished to order.

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Iron Railing, Iron Vaults, Vault Doors, Window Shutters, Window Guards, &c.,
Nos. 91 Second-st., & 86 Third-st.,
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Have on hand a variety of new patterns Fancy and Plain, suitable for all purposes. Particular attention paid to enclosing Grave Lots. Jobbing done at short notice. mh9-tf

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Chilson Furnaces, Wro't Iron Tubing AND FITTING GENERALLY,
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A. & W. will contract for Warming and Ventilating by Steam or Hot Water, Pipes or Chilson's Furnace, Churches, Schools, Hospitals, Factories, Green Houses, Court House Jail Blocks or Dwellings. No. 25 Market st., Pittsburg

PEARL STEAM MILL,

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Flour delivered to families in either of the Two cities.

Orders may be left at the Mill, or in our boxes at the stores of

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CHEESE, BUTTER, SEEDS, FISH,
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GEORGE B. RIDDLE, of the City of Allegheny, will be a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Allegheny County, at the coming election.

The Greatest Medical Discovery OF THE AGE.

Mr. Kennedy, of Roxbury, has discovered in one of our common pasture weeds a remedy that cure every kind of *Humor, from the worst Scrofula to a common Pimple.*

He has tried it in over eleven hundred cases, and never failed except in two cases (both thunder humor.) He has now in his possession over two hundred certificates of its value, all within twenty miles of Boston.

Two bottles are warranted to cure a nursing sore mouth

One to three bottles will cure the worst kind of pimples of the face.

Two to three bottles will clear the system of biles.

Two bottles are warranted to cure the worst canker in the mouth and stomach.

Three to five bottles are warranted to cure the worst case of erysipelas.

One to two bottles are warranted to cure all humor in the eyes.

Two bottles are warranted to cure running of the ears and blotches among the hair.

Four to six bottles are warranted to cure corrupt and running ulcers.

One bottle will cure scaly eruption of the skin.

Two to three bottles are warranted to cure the worst case of ringworm.

Two to three bottles are warranted to cure the most desperate case of rheumatism.

Three to four bottles are warranted to cure salt rheum

Five to eight bottles will cure the worst case of scrofula

A benefit is always experienced from the first bottle, and a perfect cure is warranted when the above quantity is taken.

Nothing looks so improbable to those who have in vain tried all the wonderful medicines of the day, as that a common weed growing in the pastures, and along old stone walls, should cure every humor in the system; yet it is now a fixed fact. If you have a humor it has to start There are no ifs nor ands, hums or ha's about it suiting some case and not yours. I peddled over a thousand bottles of it in the vicinity of Boston. I know its effects in every case. It has already done more good than any cure ever done in Massachusetts. I gave it to children a year old, to old people of sixty. I have seen poor, puny, worm looking children, whose flesh was soft and flabby, restored to a perfect state of health by one bottle.

To those who are subject to sick headache, one bottle will always cure it. It gives great relief to catarrh and dizziness. Some who have been afflicted with it for years, have taken and been regulated by it.

It work quite easy, but where there is any derangement of the functions of nature, it will cause very singular feelings, but you must not be alarmed—they always disappear in from four days to a week. There is never a bad result from it. On the contrary, when that feeling is gone you will feel yourself like a new person. I heard some of the most extravagant encomiums of it that man ever listened to. No change of diet is ever necessary—eat the best you can get. I have likewise an herb, which, when simmered in sweet oil, dissolves scrofulous swelling of the neck and under the ears. Price 50 cents. Price of the Medical Discovery $1 per bottle.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE.—Adult, one table-spoonful pe day. Children over eight years, dessert spoonful; children from five to eight years, tea-spoonful. As no directions can be made applicable to all constitutions, take enough to operate on the bowels once a day.

Mr. KENNEDY gives personal attendance in bad cases of scrofula.

Sold, wholesale and retail, at Dr. KENNEDY'S, 140 Wood treet, corner of Virgin alley. feddaw7

To Moth