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Correspondence of the Jeffersonian.

Philadelphia July 13, 1874.

To THE EDITOR OF THE JEFFERSONIAN.

Dear Sir:—The first copy of your valuable little paper reached me a week or two ago. After reading it myself, passed it over to that intended mother-in-law of mine, who immediately expired. Said she did not care to live any longer. I think every son-in-law should have a copy of the JEFFERSONIAN and be tranquilized. We congratulate the Editor upon publishing such a valuable and spicy little sheet and we feel confident his name is immortalized.

Now, Mr. Editor, I am a Telegraph Operator and take great pride in the profession. Every body has heard of the Telegraph and at the present day it seems to have become a sort of commonplace matter with all. But I don't very much wonder the majority of your readers know its discovery and have watched its rise and progress up to its present greatness; and in order to show them what it was twenty four hundred years ago, and what it now is, I have prepared a short article upon the subject.

In the early history of man's existence, his knowledge must have been restricted to a few simple facts, presented directly to his material or external senses.

The imperishable phenomena of nature could have, but a dim shadow over his obscured vision, and all exhibitions of the imperishable forces must have been attributed to marvellous interposition. No wonder then that the mysterious agent, electricity, the most subtle in nature should have remained concealed for so long a time. The earliest record of its existence dates no further back than twenty four hundred years.

Thales, a celebrated Grecian philosopher, is said to have been the first to discover this marvelous agent, his discovery simply demonstrated the existence of an unknown force or power. By rubbing his hand across a piece of amber it imparted to it a mysterious power capable of attracting to itself light contiguous bodies. This discovery, although simple, had treasured up in it volumes of mystery, and his simple announcement was sufficient to immortalize the name of Thales. This power derived its name from the substance with which it was first detected. Amber in the original Greek is called *electron*, from which the term Electricity is derived.

The terms Magnetism, Galvanism, Voltism, Faradism, &c., have no reference to different substances, but simply represent the names of individuals foremost in developing their versatile powers. Magnetism, instead of being excited by friction, exists inherently in a certain ore first discovered by Magnesia, in Asia Minor, from whose name the word Magnetism is derived. This ore is known by the familiar name of loadstone, and is now extensively found in various parts of the United States, and is frequently called Magnetic ore.

Filvo de Meli, a Neapolitan, in 1302, invented an instrument called the Mariner's Compass, which opened a new era in Navigation. Before this auspicious event the wary seaman cautiously hugged the shore, and dared not venture out upon the trackless Ocean, which was to him an impassable barrier. The compass opened to him a new world. With this unerring companion he could boldly spread his canvases to the breeze and pursue his onward course for weeks and even months, leaving far, far behind him every trace of land, knowing at all times his latitude and longitude. The phenomena of loadstone like that of amber, presents to the beholder a spectacle both grand and sublime, and the mind, unaided by higher perception, instinctively inquires what is it?

Although its discovery dates back over two thousand years, yet as a science, it is only contemporary with the nineteenth century.

In 1747, Benjamin Franklin entered upon a thorough investigation of the subject. In 1751, his investigations and experiments were embodied in a series of letters, afterwards published, causing at the time, great excitement both at home and abroad.

In these letters he promulgated his theory identifying machine electricity with the lightning of the storm-cloud, differing only in volume and degree. In accordance with his suggestions two Frenchmen, Dolibard and Dolore each erected an apparatus for extracting from the storm-cloud the dread Messenger, death. May 10th, 1752, Dolibard succeeded in bringing down the fiery Messenger. Eight days after this experiment, the rod erected by Dolore, also presented similar phenomena. The facts being unknown to Franklin, he too, was kindling for similar results, and on the 23d of June, following, succeeded in bringing out from the sullen brow of the dark storm-cloud the errand boy of the nineteenth century, the greatest success ever achieved by mortal man.

Franklin's apparatus consisted of a kite, protruding from the upper extremity was a metallic pointed rod, while the lower end was in contact with a hempen cord by which it was raised. At the lower extremity of the cord hung a key, to the ring of the key was fastened a silk ribbon by which the hand sustained the kite, thus insulating the attendant from the descending bolt. With this rude instrument at the approach of a storm, he went out timidly upon the commons of Philadelphia to solve a mighty problem. For fear of failure his little son was his only confidant and attendant. He elevated his kite among the angry clouds and eagerly watched for a response. Not a fibre moved upon the cord, he presented

his knuckle to the key, there was no response. Minutes seemed like ages flitting before him. Upon this experiment hung realization of failure or success. At length a slight tremor was detected in the fibres of the cord. A ray of gold gleamed upon him, on presenting his knuckle to the key he experienced a slight shock attended with a feeble spark increasing in power and brilliancy till caution forbade further experiments. Thus lightning itself was snatched from its swaddling robes and received from man its first lesson.

The discovery was complete and Franklin felt that he was immortalized. Although he was not the first to extract the fleet messenger from his sullen retreat; yet it was from his suggestion that the first success was achieved and to him is accorded the authorship of this grand achievement. Morse whose memory the lightnings celebrate, as far back as 1832, while steaming upon the broad Atlantic saw through his mind's eye the mysterious workings of the Electro-magnet Telegraph, and while investigating one of the grandest enterprises ever conceived by mortal man, his plegmatic companion around him, only laughed at his supposed lunacy.

Failing to procure pecuniary aid to utilize his theory, in 1837, an earnest appeal was made to Congress for the requisite funds, such however was the obtuseness of the honorable functionaries at Washington that the point was not seen or reached by them till 1843, when the required aid was appropriated. Thus struggled along for eleven years, for want of the paltry sum of thirty thousand dollars, one of the most important discoveries ever revealed to man.

Morse lived to realize the fulfillment of his most radical anticipations. Previous to the establishing of the first principal line between Washington and Baltimore, as a reliable means of transmitting intelligence by Electricity at any great distance seemed preposterous to all, except the few who had carefully investigated the subject, although from local experiments it had proved a success. Great minds never turn backward. They were encouraged on into the field of electrical research and through their combined efforts the destiny of future generations disclosed.

These twin brothers as cause and effect now march hand in hand bearing onward the flaming banner inscribed with the glorious achievements of the nineteenth century. As much more might be written upon this subject, and then only convey a slight idea of the discovery of this wonderful agent, but as space will not permit of any more at present, will close.

J. W. U.

Clothing of "Seventy-Six."

The people of those times were respectively clad. Their store of clothing was abundant, and the fashion of their dress was frequently very stately. Pantaloon were not yet in vogue, but instead there were breeches of leather, buckskin, worsted, hugging, stockinet, black and brown broadcloth, plush, and velvet for winter; and for summer of linen, cotton, nankeen, white dainty, and drilling. Dress-coats, saratons, and great-coats were made of bear-skin, buckskin, homespun, denim, wilton, broadcloth, velvet, and sagathy (a kind of serge); and cloaks of camel, broadcloth, and kersey. Their vests were of linen, twilled cotton, diaper, white dainty, serge, broadcloth, and velvet; their gloves of leather and yarn; their hats of felt, castor, and velvet; their shirts of linen, cotton, homespun, and tow; their stockings of woolen, cotton, and linen. For boots and shoes almost every household had in his house whole dressed calf-skins and sides of sole and other leather. Such were the materials of which the garments of the men of "Seventy-six" were made; and they bespeak comfort in every case, and dignified respectability in most.

The apparel of the ladies was still more varied, and exhibits their characteristic love of gay colors and delicate fabrics. The assortment presented in these old inventories is fairly bewildering. Judging by them, the ladies of those days must all have considered caps and aprons indispensable to their toilets, the humblest among them having been possessors of an indefinite number of each, the former having for the most part of cambric, taffeta, millinet, gauze, and linen, and the latter of lawn, holland-linen, taffeta, muslin, millinet, down, through the gamut to check, homespun, and tow. Their hats, bonnets, and hoods were of beaver, satin, and bright-colored silks and velvets; their cloaks of worsted, broadcloth, camel, grey-colored silks, white and black satin, purple and blue velvet, and especially of brilliant scarlet flannel or cloth. Their dresses were formed of an endless variety of materials. The common short gown, which seems to have been generally affected when they were not in full toilet, was of kersey, holland-linen, worsted, wilton, calumanco (a stuff resembling pruned), check, homespun, and linsy-woolsey. Their long gowns were of check, striped homespun, calico, "boughten" calico, muslin, chintz, outside chintz lined with calico, white holland, blue and striped holland, black and blue durant (the fabric known as "everlasting"), grosset, bombazine, blue and black russel (a species of linsy-woolsey), moreen, poplin, French tabby, velvet, and of lustring, white, crimson, and other colored silks and satins. For the hands they wore gloves of thread, knit stuffs, silk, and leather; their stockings were of thread, cotton, muslin, yarn, linen, worsted, and silk; and their shoes were of cloth, pruned, calumanco, leather, and

silk. Shawls were of cloth, cashmere, and taffeta; handkerchiefs abounded in their wardrobes, and were of linen, cambric, taffeta, muslin, gauze, and Barcelona and other thin silks. Of shirts and petticoats their supply was inexhaustible, some ladies recounting the loss of twelve, fifteen, and twenty of each, the former having been constructed of homespun and muslin, but chiefly of fine five and six hundred linen, and the latter of linsy, tow, flannel, kersey, dimity, bombazine, and calumanco.—*Harper's Magazine.*

Sitting Up With Her.

She was expecting him Sunday night; the parlor curtains were down; the old folks notified that it was healthy to go to bed at eight o'clock, and Johnny bribed with a cent to permit himself to be tucked away at sundown. He sneaked up the path, one eye on the dog and the other watching for the "old man," who didn't like him any too well, gave a faint knock at the door, and it was opened, and he was escorted to the parlor. He said he couldn't stay but a minute, though he didn't mean to go home for hours. She wanted to know how his mother was; if his father had returned from York State; if his brother Bill's rheumatism was any better; and he went over and sat down on the sofa as not to retain his voice. Then, conversation flagged and he played with his hat, and shibbled on the sofa tudy. He finally said it was a beautiful evening, and she replied that her father had predicted a snow storm. He said he guessed it wouldn't snow, as the moon was not crooked enough to hang a powder horn on the end, and she said she didn't believe it would either. This mutual understanding seemed to give them both courage, and then he wanted to know if she had seen Bill Jones lately. She hadn't, she said, and she didn't want to. Then they went on talking about the donation visit which was to be given before long to Elder Berry, and he carelessly dropped his right hand on hers—his right hand, while his left arm sneaked along the sofa and got behind her shoulders. She pretended not to notice it, and he looked down at his boots, and wanted to know if she thought mutton tallow rotted out boots faster than lard and lamp black. She couldn't say, but she had an idea that it did. He had just commenced to hook fingers with her, when she discovered that something ailed the lamp; she rose up and turned the light down a half, making the room look dim. It took him five minutes to get hold of her fingers again, and she pretended to want to draw her hand away all the time. After a long pause he lowered his voice to a whisper, and said he didn't see what made folks love each other. She bit her handkerchief and admitted her ignorance. He said he could name a dozen young men who were going to get married right away, and his left arm fell down and gave her a hug. Then he went over and looked out of the window, to make sure that it was or was not going to snow, and, coming back, he turned the light down a little more, and then sat down and wanted to know if she didn't want to rest herself by leaning her head on his shoulder.

Al, ma! We have all been there, and who of us cared a cent when the old clock struck twelve, and we five miles from home? The old man was fast asleep, the watchdog gone a visiting, and the handsome girl in the country didn't see why we need be in a hurry.

Perhaps I shouldn't have written of this, but as I was going by Saunders' the other day, thinking of the night I heard him whisper in her ear at spelling school, that he'd love her shadow as long as he lived, he raised the window and called to her, as she was picking up clips in the road: "Sue Saunders, come in here and I'll break every bone in your body."—*Danbury News.*

HOW THERMOMETERS ARE MADE.

A writer in the *Polytechnic Bulletin* gives the following description of the method of making thermometers at the manufacturing establishment in Chester, Pa.: "The glass tubes, as received, are about a yard long. A boy picks them with a hard steel knife, and breaks them into the lengths required. The bores, which are flat, are compared by means of a lens with those of ten standard sizes, and the tubes assorted accordingly. They are then passed to the blowpipe table. Each glass blower has a foot bellows, and uses an oil lamp. Melting the glass at one end of the tube, he blows it into a bulb by pressing the sides of a hollow india-rubber ball attached at the other, proportioning the size of his bulb to the bore of his tube, and ascertaining the size by using a pair of callipers. While the bulb is hot, the tube is inverted in mercury, which, as the bulb cools, partially fills it. The tube is then withdrawn and a short india rubber tube attached at its open end. Into this mercury is poured; that in the bulb is boiled to expel the air, which rises up through the mercury in the india rubber tube, and an atmosphere of the vapor of mercury now fills the glass tube and bulb. As this condenses, the mercury in the india-rubber tube takes its place, when this tube, with any mercury remaining in it, is removed. The tube is now warmed, and the open end of the glass tube hermetically sealed.

The bulb and a portion of the tube are immersed in melting ice, and the height of the mercury marked; they are then transferred to a bath at 62 degrees Fahrenheit, and the height marked; next to a bath at 92 degrees Fahrenheit, and the

height again marked. The lengths of the three spaces of 30 degrees each are now carefully measured. If they are exactly equal, the bore of the tube is assumed to be uniform, and the degrees laid off on the brass scale of the thermometer are all made of the same length. If the spaces of thirty degrees each are not found to be exactly equal, then, by means of a highly ingenious dividing engine, the degrees on the scale are made to increase in length as the caliber of the tube diminishes. When the plate has been divided, and the figures and letters punched, it is passed, laterally, between two rollers, to remove the burr left by the tools. Were it rolled lengthwise, the accuracy of the dividing would be impaired. The plate is then silvered and lacquered, the glass tube attached, and the whole slid into the well known japanned tin case.

INHABITED BY A SNAKE.

Something for Miss Thankful Taylor to be Thankful For.

A certain young lady in Tennessee has recently relieved herself of a snake twenty-three inches in length and a third of an inch in diameter. Her name is Thankful Taylor. The reptile is supposed to have inhabited her for the last four years, during which time she has suffered intense pain, and frequently so severe as to produce convulsions. She would lose her mind, and remain sometimes in a death-like state for twenty-four or thirty-six hours. At times her suffering was so great, her skin would split open, and the flesh upon her head split so much, it became necessary to cut her hair off very short, in which condition it is now, and the scars are perceptible to all.

On June 26, just after dark, as the family were seated about the door, she arose from her pallet on the floor, rushed out of the west door of the cabin, and in a strangling manner, ran some fifteen or twenty steps, and fell upon her knees. The family, supposing her in a spasm, ran after her, and her little brother, reaching her first, called back to his mother that "that thing was in sis's mouth." Her step-brother caught and held her from behind, she all the while making desperate efforts to get loose, and appeared strangling to death. Her mother finding "the thing" in her mouth, as though it had come up headforemost, and in going back the same way had doubled itself, made a loop, in which she put her finger, and held it until the Doctor came, who had been sent for instantly, and arrived in a few minutes from his home, some four hundred yards off. The mother, remembering the Doctor's injunctions, held fast, and as it tried to worm itself back into the stomach, she called upon her daughter to close her teeth upon it, which her daughter says she did; and there is certainly upon the snake, just where she would have taken hold, unmistakable signs of marks that might have been made by teeth. So soon as the Doctor arrived, he took hold of it and drew it out; it making efforts to get down, but coming up with the use of but little strength.

The physician who attended the young lady has made a sworn statement, substantiating the above account, and the reptile has been preserved in alcohol. This must satisfy science.

Hanging of Moody and Rosentina.

HARRISBURG, July 9.—Louis Rosentina and John Moody were hanged in the jail yard here to-day for the murder, in November, 1873, of Abram Behm, an old farmer of Dauphin county. About two hundred persons witnessed the execution. At eleven a. m. a lunch was served to the condemned men, of which they partook with a relish. Rosentina made the remark that it was their last meal on earth, and he hoped their next would be in Heaven. At 12:25 o'clock the prisoners were brought into the jail yard, accompanied by the Clergy and Moody's wife and father. Moody and Rosentina ascended the scaffold with very firm steps. A hymn was sung, the prisoners joining with great animation. At 12:40 p. m. the spiritual exercises being concluded, Rosentina made a short address. He hoped every man would forgive him as he knew God had forgiven him. He hoped to meet them all in Heaven. He said, "I bless all who pray for me. I hope to meet you all again. I thank God I can die now. I have done wrong and am sorry for it. I have no hard feelings against any one. I murdered Abram Behm. I bid you all good bye. May God have mercy on my soul. Amen." Moody then made a long speech, but it was very incoherent. The substance of it was that he was along with Rosentina and deserved to die. He hoped for forgiveness. He thanked his attendants for their kind treatment. He prayed God to bless all his friends. He hoped to meet his mother in Heaven. White bags being placed over their heads and their hands and feet pinioned, at 12:50 o'clock the drop fell with a loud thud. Rosentina died almost instantly, no movement being noticeable, with the exception of a slight heaving of the chest. Moody struggled considerably for three or four minutes. After hanging about thirty minutes life was pronounced extinct.

Titusville Pa. has got a young somnambulist, says the *Courier*, who was completely cured of the "disease" on Friday night last. He went into the room where the hired girl was sleeping, when she knocked him down with a chair! The moral is obvious.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The ladies of Schuylkill county indulge in foot races.

The Allentown *Chronicle* reports from shipments brisk at that place.

There was a death from genuine Asiatic cholera in Brooklyn Friday last.

A Newark N. J. drummer was arrested and fined in Reading for insulting two ladies.

A young Japanese has arrived in Easton with a view to become a student in Lafayette College.

The district of country in Minnesota devastated by grasshoppers is fifty by one hundred miles square.

The State Camp of the Patriotic Order, Sons of America, meets in Lancaster on the 11th of August.

The arrivals of produce at New York, thus far this year, are three times as much as those for the entire year 1873.

The imports of silk manufactures into New York during the month of June amounted to \$1,202,662, against \$735,358 same time last year.

A Lebanon county boy set fire to a hen's nest in a barn to kill some lice. He forgot to take the barn away and it fell a victim to his fertility of expedients.

Boston is the only town in the country where the Fourth has been celebrated every year, since the peace of 1783, under the auspices of the municipal authorities.

Cherries have been unusually free from blight and rot this season, and throughout the country the cultivated blackberry and raspberry bushes hang heavily laden with green fruit.

Wolves are so thick in some portions of Michigan that they come out of the woods and stare at people passing by with as much impudence as a sewing machine or lightning rod agent.

The Washington correspondent of the *Chicago Tribune* predicts Senator Tilden's nomination for President by the Democrats, and Speaker Blaine's nomination by the Republicans.

A Lancaster four-year old, viewing the comet for the first time, and with vivid remembrance of the Fourth of July fireworks, wanted to know if it was a rocket stuck fast in the sky.

It is proposed at Narristown to raise a body of horsemen, two hundred strong, to be mounted on white horses, and dressed in full Continental uniforms, to participate in the Centennial parade in Fairmount Park in 1876.

In Chester county two farmers aver that they have destroyed the potato beetle, which has appeared in large numbers in that county, by dusting them plentifully with air-slaked marble lime. Should this turn out to be really a remedy it will be an easy and a safe one, and show that this lime is good for something.—*Germanstown Telegraph.*

The Dallas (Texas) *Herald* records the story of two young men who, while out riding, saw a pocketbook lying in the street, and they both jumped from the buggy to get it. The hurry broke a finger of one of them, and dislocated the ankle of the other, and the pocket-book contained nothing.

A swindler has been successfully cheating people in some of the country towns in the interior. He offers for sale five pound packages of tea, telling his customers that it is better not to disturb the tea, but to use from the top of the package. On examining it is found that the packages contain about a pound of tea at the top, the rest being made up of wads of paper.

The Lancaster *Express* tells this cigar story: The Hon. A. Herr Smith, for John Stauffer, Esq. of Lancaster county, Pa. presented to the President of the United States, a cigar, the history of which is as follows: In 1802, Dr. Andrew Kauffman, of Lancaster county, bought a few cigars in Lancaster, and a short time before his death gave the last of the lot to his nephew, John Stauffer, Esq. of said county, with a request that he would give it to General Grant. This cigar is over seventy-two years old, and was destined for the hero of a hundred battles.

There is a prospect of considerable trouble with the Indians on the plains this summer. General Custer has been sent with his troops to regulate affairs on the Black Hills, where the Indians are very aggressive. In the Wind River Valley there has been a battle with the Sioux, who attempted to capture a party of soldiers, and the Indians were severely beaten. In Southwestern Kansas the Cheyennes, Comanches and Kiowas have begun depredations on the settlers, and the Sixth Cavalry has been ordered out to drive them back to their reservations. Fights with the Indians are of almost daily occurrence.

The last number of the *Shoe and Leather Reporter* gives some interesting statistics concerning the exports of hides and leather from the United States during the past six months; from which it appears that the total value of the hides exported from the ports of Philadelphia, New York and Boston amounted to \$1,213,764, which, at the low average of five dollars per hide, would give 242,752 hides exported from the United States during the past six months. The majority of these were domestic hides, very few dry hides being sent abroad. The total value of the shipments of leather for the same period amounted to \$2,168,674. This is a gratifying showing to those interested in the success of American leather abroad.