

MESSRS EDITORS:—What can be of more importance to your readers, especially the young men, than a few extracts pointing out a sure and safe way to success and respectability? What can be more necessary than the study of character to a young man?—In the outset of life, he is often cast upon the noisy billows of the world without a friendly adviser; no hand to point out the snares and allurements that lurk around his path. To such these extracts will prove particularly beneficial. Without intruding any longer upon your columns with my own preliminary observations, I submit the following extracts from the "Young Man's Own Book," and by your permission shall continue to send you one or more for each number of your paper.

AMICUS.

Bloomsburg, March 1st. 1838.

NECESSITY OF BEING WELL INFORMED.

The young are apt to disregard the value of knowledge, partly, we fear, from the pertinacious constancy with which teachers, parents, and guardians endeavor to impress them with its inestimable worth. "Knowledge is better than House and Lands," is the title of one of the first picture books presented to a child, and it is the substance of ten thousand precepts which are constantly dinned in his ears from infancy upwards; so that, at last, the truth becomes tiresome and almost detested.

Still it is a sober truth, of which every young man should feel the force—that, with the single exception of a good conscience, no possession can be so valuable as a good stock of information. Some portion of it is always coming into use; and there is hardly any kind of information which may not become useful in the course of an active life.

When we speak of information, we do not mean that merely which has direct reference to a man's trade, profession or business. To be skillful in these is a matter of absolute necessity; so much so, that we often see, for example, a merchant beginning the world with no other stock than a good character and a thorough knowledge of business, and speedily acquiring wealth and respectability, while another, who is not well informed in his business, begins with a fortune, fails in every thing he undertakes, causes loss and disgrace to all who are connected with him, and goes on blundering to the end of the chapter.

But a thorough knowledge of one's business or profession is not enough, of itself, to constitute what is properly called a well-informed man. On the contrary, one who possesses this kind of information only, is generally regarded as a mere machine, unfit for society or rational enjoyment. A man should possess a certain amount of liberal and scientific information, to which he should always be adding something as long as he lives, acquainted with his own political and legal rights.

"Keep a thing seven years and you will have use for it," is an old motto which will apply admirably well to almost any branch of knowledge. Learn almost any science, language or art, and in a few years you will find it of service to you. This truth is so important that I would add to it by way of commentary, "Employ that leisure, which which others waste in idle and corrupting pursuits, in the acquisition of those branches of knowledge which serve to amuse as well as instruct; natural history, for example, or chemistry, or astronomy, or drawing, or any of the numerous branches of study."

MEMORY.

A ready collection of our knowledge, at the moment when we have occasion for it, is a talent of the greatest importance. The man possessed of it seldom fails to distinguish himself in whatever sort of business he may be engaged. It is indeed evident that where the power of retention is weak, all attempts at eminence of knowledge must be vain: for memory is the primary and fundamental power, without which there could be no other intellectual operation.—Judgement and reasoning suppose something already known, and draw their decisions only from experience. Imagination selects ideas from the treasures of remembrance, and produces novelty only by varied combinations. We do not even form conjectures of distant, or anticipations of future events, but by concluding what is possible from what is past.

THE NEWS.

Fatal Duel at Washington.

Extract of a letter to the Harrisburg Reporter, dated

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 24, 1838.

"The moral sense of the community has been greatly shocked, by an honorable murder committed yesterday, by an honorable member of Congress upon another member of Congress, under the fashionable cognomen of 'duelling.' The circumstances as far as they can be collected from the numerous vague reports afloat, are said to be these:

Some ago, Mr. Cilley, a member from Maine, made some expression against Jas. Watson Webb, the editor of the New York Courier—similar to what I think I have seen in some of the public prints before—which was in amount that Webb's change in politics was induced by a bribe, in the shape of large accommodations from the Bank of the United States. A day or two since, Webb arrived in the city and sent a challenge to Mr. Cilley who refused to accept it, because he did not consider Webb a gentleman. Mr. Graves of Kentucky was the barer of the challenge, and on Mr. Cilley's refusal to accept it, asked him if he considered him (Graves) a gentleman. To which he replied he did of course. Graves then immediately challenged him, and the challenge was accepted. Mr. H. A. Wise was the second of Graves, and Mr. Duncan of Ohio, some say, and others say Mr. Jones, of Michigan, the second of Mr. Cilley.—

These gentlemen, of such high chivalric valour and physical courage, although they had no respect for the laws in the District of Columbia, had some fear of them, went clandestinely across the line, somewhere near Bladensburg, into Maryland to perpetrate murder in a highminded and honorable way. The weapons were rifles. After the first fire Wise enquired whether the matter could not then be adjusted, and by common consent the challenge was withdrawn to afford an opportunity to the parties to reconcile matters without being supposed to be under the influence of fear. Mr. Cilley then stated that he had no unkind feelings towards Mr. Graves, and considered him a gentleman and an honorable man. Wise asked him if he was willing to admit Mr. Webb to be a gentleman. Cilley indignantly replied "not not as long as I can hold a rifle in my hand." Wise then said there could be no reconciliation, and the challenge was renewed. Cilley said to himself, in an undertone, as he went to resume his station, "they thirst for my blood;" and on the fourth fire was shot through the body—and, as he fell exclaimed, "I am wounded." These were his last words, which were soon followed by his last breath. It is said there was some ten or dozen persons present who dispersed in different directions, as if they had been guilty of some dishonorable act. The corpse was brought back to the decedent's late lodgings, where it is now lying awaiting the orders of Congress respecting its interment. It is supposed that the conscientious part of both branches will resist the adoption of the resolution to go into mourning by wearing the usual badge on the left arm for thirty days—not out of any disrespect to the man, for all agree that he was (burying this one matter into which he was forced) a very worthy man—but for the purpose of showing their disapprobation of a practice which is likely to destroy the liberty of speech in the House of Congress. Mr. Cilley has left an amiable wife and four interesting children, who, I suppose, at this moment are unconscious of the fact that she has been made a widow and they orphans, to satiate a revengeful thirst for her husband's and their father's blood!"

SWINDLING DETECTED.

On Friday week two men, travelling in a one horse wagon, paid one of our citizens for mending his vehicle, two one dollar York Borough notes, which on further investigation proved to be counterfeit. They were pursued and arrested, and on searching their property, a small trunk which they had was found to contain 130 York Borough notes of the denomination of one dollar—25 three dollar notes on the corporation of Moyamensing, signed George Kirkpatrick as Treasurer—45 fifty cent notes on the Penn township Savings Institution—62 twenty-five cent notes on the corporation of Kensington, signed James Crissy assistant Treasurer—two one dollar notes on the corporation of Kensington, signed John Taylor, Treasurer—and one two dollar note on the Philadelphia Loan Company, all of which were counterfeits. The York notes are printed in black ink—having the representation of a Spanish dollar on the left hand side, and are signed by W. Wagner. They are a very close imitation of the genuine issue, but are said to be somewhat smaller than the latter, and are numbered at the top with very bright red ink, while the good notes are numbered with ink of a brownish color. Before the letter H in Hispan, on the dollar mark the counterfeiters have omitted to put a small, round, white dot which appears in the genuine notes. The signature of Mr. Wagner is very well imitated, though when closely examined, the forged writing is evidently stiff and constrained. The two individuals who own this lot of "the better currency," are provided with lodgings in jail to await the sessions of the April criminal court. It is not known whether any of these counterfeiters have got into circulation.—York Democrat.

FIRE AT WEST POINT.

The following information relative to the recent fire at West Point, is derived from letters received in this city.

About three o'clock this morning (19th February) we were alarmed by the cry of fire. On repairing to the scene of conflagration it was discovered to have originated in a room used for recitation and lecturing on Military and Civil Engineering. The building consist of six rooms, the three upper ones being used as the Adjutant's office, in which are preserved all the records, rools, reports, and papers of the institution; the library, small, but consisting almost entirely of rare and choice mathematical, scientific and military volumes, and a philosophical lecture room, containing one of the most perfect and valuable collections of philosophical apparatus in the United States. It was soon discovered that the whole building would be destroyed, and the utmost endeavors of the officers of the institution, most ably seconded by the corps of Cadets, were turned towards the preservation of the library and philosophical apparatus. The greater portion of the books were saved, somewhat damaged, however, by many being thrown from a second story widow, and falling in a bed of snow more than a foot deep. The philosophical apparatus, consisting, in a great measure, of large and delicate mechanical machines and models for experiments, being more difficult to transport, suffered in a greater degree than the library, but not so much as one would have reasonably expected. The instruments and models were generally carried out and placed in safety. The contents of the chemical lecture room, situated under that devoted to recitations in Natural Philosophy, were removed with greater ease and less destruction. The Adjutant's office, immediately over the engineering academy, where the fire originated, was completely destroyed with all its contents, consisting of the records of the institution since its foundation to the present time. The library in addition to the books, maps, &c. &c. was the repository of several valuable paintings, among which may be enumerated full-length portraits of Presidents Jefferson and Monroe, with highly finished and striking likenesses of the several commandants of the Engineer Corps since the organization of that distinguished body, all of which were fortunately preserved.

It is most deeply to be regretted that the building destined to contain such valuable collections of books, maps, philosophical and other apparatus, should not have originally been built proof against fire; their dangerous situation has frequently been pointed out and referred to by the several Boards of Visitors annually investigating this important branch of our army, and a fire-proof building recommended in the strongest terms. The necessity of such a building must be apparent to all, and it is to be hoped that measures will immediately be taken to place this valuable collection beyond the possibility hereafter of accident from fire.

A Hairless Horse.—There is a horse exhibiting at Tattersall's New-York, that has not a particle of hair on any part of his body and whose skin resembles that of an elephant. It is said that this dam was frightened at an elephant, and his owner was so much frightened at his appearance, that he gave him away to a neighbor who, after he was three years old, sold him for \$2,300.

SUPPOSED MURDER.

Considerable excitement has prevailed in our borough for a few days past, in consequence of a supposed Murder having been committed somewhere on Laurel Hill, on the main road leading from Robert Allen's to Tioga county. The circumstances are briefly these, "Two brothers by the name of Hoffman, Pedlars, separated at Blockhouse, Tioga county, with the understanding to meet at some house in Blooming Grove, Lycoming county, the following Saturday. Each took his particular route one having a horse and vehicle and the other a pack. The former arrived at the appointed house, and waited on his brother several days, without having any intelligence of him, and at length started in search. He was enabled to trace his lost brother to the house of Mr. Benj. Bastian, in Jackson township, Lycoming co. at which place he put up for the night—breakfasted and left early in the morning, and has not been seen or heard of since. Circumstances of a suspicious character led to the arrest of a young man, named WILLIAM MILLER, who has been living at Mr. Bastian's for some months previous, and was brought to this borough, on Monday last and underwent an examination before Justice LENHART, and committed to Jail to await his trial.

By the evidence given before the Justice it appears, that MILLER had taken his axe and went to the woods, a short time before Hoffman started—that he did not return for some four or five hours, being engaged as he alleged in cutting fire wood. That some days afterwards he exhibited a pocket pistol and a watch, corresponding exactly with the description of Mr. Hoffman with that of his lost brother. And also, had furnished for make, two vest patterns, which was likewise identified by Mr. Hoffman, as the goods of his brother. When asked by the Deputy Attorney, where he procured these patterns, he replied, that he had purchased one at York, Pa. and the other at Mr. Loyd's, Mr. Updegraff's or Mr. Grady's, when it appeared that neither of these gentlemen had the article. As many ru-

moirs and speculations are afloat, we forbear saying any thing in print, but what is substantiated by evidence. Every exertion will be made to discover the body, and obtain such facts as will satisfy the public mind as to the guilt or innocence of the Prisoner.—Lycoming Chronicle.

Since the above was in type we have learned that Miller has confessed the Murder, and pointed out the place where the body could be found, which was taken and interred at Williamsport.

Indian Affairs.

ANOTHER BATTLE.

Savannah slips under date of 7th inst., received by yesterday's Express mail, furnish the following account of another battle with the Seminole Indians, which was fought on the 24th ult., on the Lache Hatchee, (Loche Hatchee) in which the Indians were defeated, though with the loss on the part of our troops of NINE killed and THIRTY wounded.

Gen. Jesup is among the wounded, having received a severe flesh wound, said to have been in the face.

Nothing is said of the loss of the enemy, though supposed to have been great. Many cattle, ponies and hogs, with other property, were taken by our troops.

The Savannah Georgian, says we learn from Major M'Lean, that a report prevailed at Garey's Ferry, on the evening of the 2d inst., that an express arrived at Garey's Ferry, via Fort King, and it was reported there and believed that the express brought the information that runners had come in and informed the commanding officer that Alligator and Sam Jones had quarrelled, and had separated, and that Sam Jones with but 30 warriors, had left Alligator.

The runners stated that the Indians would be coming in at Fort Taylor in large numbers within three days.

The impression with many is that these accounts are founded in truth, as the Indians are generally scattered without leaders, some in small parties, having very recently been seen in the vicinity of Volusia.

Major M'Lean further states that he learned from the commanding officer at Garey's Ferry, that Gen. Jesup, on the 26th ult. [subsequent to the action of the 24th] was at the head of the San Lucia river, on a large fresh trail, with well founded hopes of overtaking the enemy,

A letter from an officer of the army, now in Florida, addressed to his friend, the Editor of the Political Arena, under date of January 25d gives some particulars of the last encounter with the Indians, which may be interesting to our readers, as follows:—

"The battle lasted only an hour or two, when we drove them in every direction. Our loss was only eight killed and thirty three wounded, (two since dead.) No officer wounded but Gen. Jesup, who received a slight wound under his left eye.

We made no prisoners, and found only two dead Indians on the battle ground, we have, however, captured several hundred head of cattle.

The Indians were posted in a thick hammock, with a deep stream running through it; they were stationed along the stream, behind trees and stumps, in which they had cut notches to rest their rifles in. It was extremely difficult for our men to penetrate the hammock, as the Indian rifle balls flew thick and fast and the stream was not fordable, but deep enough to swim both man and horse."

The same officer, in the following remarks, discloses a feeling, in regard to this war, which we believe is very prevalent among the officers as well of the Navy as of the Army:

"I fervently hope, this is the last war (Indian war at least) that it will ever be my fate to participate in. It is fatiguing, cheerless, and every way uncomfortable. There is seldom anything to animate or to enliven us, except such an affair as we had yesterday, which excited us a little; but the only pleasure it could give us would and did arise from the hope that it has a tendency to close the war, and allow us to return to our friends and families. It is no cause for triumph to beat and drive the poor miserable Indians who are desperately and obstinately contending for their natural rights and possessions, against most unequal forces."

COLONIZATION CONVENTION.

The Colonization Societies in Washington county, Pa. held a Convention in the Presbyterian Church, in the Borough of Washington, on the 26th of January last. The number of Colonization Societies in active operation in that County, is EIGHTEEN, whose zeal and devotion in this great work of benevolence, are worthy of all commendation.

Reports were made from 13 Societies, which contain together 636 members, from 12 of which the annual subscription was given, amounting to \$1065 31.

The whole number of Whaling vessels in the United States on the 1st of February, was 644, of which 365 were owned in Massachusetts.

The celebrated phrenologist, Geo. Combe, Esq. of Edinburgh, according to the Providence R. I. Journal, is, at the solicitation of numerous of his admirers, about to visit this country.

NATIONAL FOUNDRY.

A large and respectable meeting was held in the Court house last evening, in favor of establishing the contemplated National Foundry at Harrisburg. John C. Bucher, Esq. presided, assisted by Robert Harris, Judge Hummel, Senator Harper, and several other gentlemen, as vice presidents.—The resolutions were drawn with much ability. By invitation of the meeting Chas. B. Penrose and Ovid F. Johnson, Esquires, delivered very excellent and satisfactory addresses in behalf of the project. They set forth the claims and advantages of Harrisburg, in a very luminous and interesting manner, and sustained them by most cogent and unanswerable arguments.—Keystone.

A RASCAL NABBED.

We learn from the Brookville (Ind.) American, that a man by the name of John Phillips, was recently committed to jail in that place on the affidavit of his wife, that he was leaving her without any means of support, and running off with a young girl. He was pursued, and taken a short distance from Brookville wending his way towards the state line in company with his duicer.

The Mormons.—The Sciota Gazette states that the Mormons who dissolved their body, which had collected at Kiriland, in the state of Ohio, under Joe Smith and Sidney Rigdon. These leaders recently decamped, with their families, in the night.

Twenty-five families have arrived at Mount Carmel, Illinois, from Switzerland. The editor of the Cleveland Advertiser says they have brought with them upwards of two millions of dollars in specie. We think the story extremely doubtful.

Breadstuffs.—E. Miller, inspector of flour for the city of Albany, reports that he has inspected from Feb. 1, 1837, to Feb. 1, 1838, 84,652 barrels and half-barrels of flour, and 85 barrels and 97 half-barrels of buckwheat.

The quantity of Flour inspected at Albany the past year, is over 80,000 barrels.

Anecdote of Nelson.—On the morning of the 2d of April (the day after the battle of Copenhagen,) when it was scarcely light, Nelson repaired in his gig, his usual conveyance, on board the Elephant, which he supposed to be still aground. The cold and fatigue of a long row, at an early hour, in a northern sea, had not the effect of either causing this extraordinary man to indulge in rest, or to forget those whose fate he was concerned. His delight and praises on finding the ship afloat were unbounded. He took a hasty breakfast, and then rowed to such of the prizes as were not yet removed from the shore. Here he gave another proof of the eccentricity as well as boldness of his character. Learning that one of the Danish line-of-battle ships the Seeland, the last that struck, and which was under the immediate protection of the three Crows Battery, had refused to acknowledge herself to be captured, and made some quibble about the colors and not the pendant having been hauled down, he ordered one of our brigs to approach her, and proceeded in his gig to one of the enemy's ship which were within that battery, in order to communicate with Commodore Fischer, whose flag was flying on board the Elephant. He went on board, and claimed the Seeland. The Danish officers denied that she had struck. Nelson declared upon his honor that she had, adding that unless she were immediately given up, he would haul down the flag of truce. The Danes said that they wished to treat with Lord Nelson in person. "I am Lord Nelson," he cried; "see, here's my fin,"—at the same time throwing a side his green deadnought, showing the stump of his right arm, and exposing his three stars. The ship was given up without farther altercation.

PROFANE SWEARING.

We recommend the following moral and philosophical notice of an odious, wicked and most execrable vice, from the Philadelphia Public Ledger—to general perusal. It is calculated—"To mend the manners and improve the heart."

"Among all the numerous vices of the day, that of taking the name of God in vain, is most completely based upon folly, without an excuse to stand upon. The drunkard is prompted by a thirst for drink, originating from various causes; the thief, robber, burglar, forger and blackleg are influenced by avarice or want, usually originated in "hells;" the murderer is hurried on by revenge, instigated by the devil, and so on through the black catalogue of crimes; none of them excuse, it is true, that are founded in reason, common sense, or justice. But the profane swearer searches in vain for a shadow of an excuse, and renders himself ridiculous and disgusting, without a single redeeming agent. He surrenders himself a slave to habit, and is led captive by folly. He casts a dark shade over his better qualities, lessens himself in the estimation of good men, and unintentionally plants many a thorn in the more refined bosom of a friend. This habit vitiates the mind, blunts the finer feelings of the heart, creates irreverence for the great author of our existence. A little reflection by a man of sense, who is unfortunately addicted to this foolish, ungentlemanly habit, would produce reformation."