

# THE STAR OF THE NORTH.

R. W. Weaver, Proprietor.

Truth and Right—God and our Country.

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**THE MISNOMERS OF THE DAY.**  
Miss Fortune's no fortune at all,  
Miss Rich cannot master a guinea,  
Miss Little's a little too tall,  
Miss Wise is completely a ninny,  
Miss Black is as white as the snow,  
Miss Green is as red as a cherry,  
Miss Brown's rather greenish or so,  
Whilst Miss White is as brown as a berry.  
Miss Lohbald's fine head of hair,  
Miss Hare has got none on her noddle;  
Miss Young is old, wrinkled and spare,  
Miss Lightbody scarcely can waddle.  
Miss Heavy-side bounds like a roe,  
Miss Wild is grave, dull and uncheery;  
Miss Still is accounted the go,  
Miss Grave is excessively merry.  
Miss Sharp has got blunt as they say,  
Miss Dark is prodigiously bright;  
Miss Night has been turned into day,  
And Miss Day is to marry a knight.  
Then here is a health to them all,  
Good luck to them sleeping or waking;  
If his wrong a fair maid to Miss-cak,  
Yet there's surely no sin in Miss-taking.

**AN ALPHABET OF SELF-MADE MEN.**  
The following from Household Words give in a brief space the names and characteristics of eminent living characters who have raised themselves to distinction by their own exertions.

To begin with the letter A, and dash hastily and skippingly on through the alphabet—we find that Anderson, the popular Danish novelist, was the son of a robler, and educated at a charity school; and that he tried for years to gain a living by various handicraft trades, being frequently on the very brink of starvation. Beranger, the celebrated French lyric poet, neglected by his vagabond father, a poor tailor, and was a *gamin* on the streets of Paris till promoted for a time to the dignity of a pot boy. Elihu Buritt, as all know, was a blacksmith's apprentice. Carleton, the Irish novelist, who now enjoys a pension of £200 a year, is the son of a peasant and begged his way to knowledge. Rafael Carrera, President of the Republic of Guatemala, began life as a drummer-boy and a cattle-driver. Mr. Cobden is the son of a small farmer, and entering a warehouse in London when a boy, rose through his various grades of service. Sir William Cubitt was a working miller, then a joiner and then a millwright. Dumas, the French novelist and dramatist, is the illegitimate son of a player and a negress, and was in all but starvation in Paris, till he hit upon a way to distinction. Farada, the eminent chemist is the son of a poor blacksmith, and began his career as the apprentice of a bookbinder. Millard Fillmore, late President of the United States, was first a ploughboy, then tried the trade of a clothier, and was then apprenticed to a wood carver. The present Emperor of Hayti was born a slave. Herring, the animal painter, began the profession of art with sign-boards and coach panels. Jasmin, the Burns of the south of France, is the son of a tailor, and the grandson of a common beggar. Mr. Lindsay, M. P., the great shipowner, left his home in Ayr with 3s. 6d. in his pocket, to push his fortune, as a ship boy; he worked his passage to Liverpool by assisting in the coal-hole of a steamer; and for a part of the time after he arrived, begged during the day, and slept in the shade and street at night. Lough, the distinguished sculptor, began the world in the capacity as a plough-boy. Minie, the inventor of the well known rifle, was a private soldier. Robert Owen was a shop-boy in a grocer, and then a draper. Johanna Kongo, the leader of the German Catholic movement, tended sheep when a boy. Stanfield, the distinguished landscape painter, was a cabin boy, and the ship-master was his first patron. Their, the well known historian, and ex-minister of France, is the son of a poor blacksmith, and was educated gratuitously at the public school of Marseilles. Thomas Wright, the Manchester prison philanthropist, was a weekly worker in an iron-foundry for forty-seven years, till a large sum of money was raised by a subscription to enable him to essay on his philanthropical labors.

There is encouragement here, we fancy, for the poor, the down-hearted; and likewise rebuke for those who are continually harping on the wrongs of the indigent and impassable barriers between high and low.

**VOLTAIRE.**—One evening Voltaire and Piron, who were mortal enemies, met at the house of a mutual friend, and after the next morning Piron got up and wrote the word "villain" upon Voltaire's door. The latter noticed it, when he came from his room, and guessing who inscribed it, he sought Piron, and shaking him cordially by the hand, thanked him for showing him so much civility, as to leave his (Piron's) name at his door so early in the morning.

Intelligent conversation is the great charm of man, the finest source of intellectual labor, and the simplest yet most effective and delightful mode of at once resting and invigorating the mind, whether wearied by study or depressed by struggles with fortune.

**LETTER FROM WM. B. REED, ESQ.**  
ARGUMENTS FOR OLD LINE WHIGS.  
Below is the letter (read at the recent Democratic meeting at Wilkesburg) from that distinguished and able leader of the Old Whig party, Wm. B. Reed, Esq., of Philadelphia, in which he gives his reasons for supporting Buchanan and Breckinridge in preference to the liberal and sectional candidates of the opposition:

PHILADELPHIA, June 30, 1856.  
GENTLEMEN:—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 20th inst. I would, I assure you, give me great pleasure to have the opportunity of saying to my fellow-citizens of Allegheny county why I support the nomination of Buchanan, earnestly and actively. But engagements here entirely preclude it. I should have peculiar satisfaction in being among you now because my last visit to Pittsburgh was on a very different errand. I was there, two years ago, as a member of what was supposed to be the Whig State Committee, with an earnest anxiety on my part to save from insult and defeat your fellow citizen, George Darsie, a man of high character and unquestioned integrity, and who I thought, (and the event showed how truly,) was about to be sacrificed because his birth place and very early childhood happened to be abroad.

With what follows, I need not trouble you; but within the next year I found myself obliged by mere self-respect publicly to renounce all active connection with this Committee. My reasons are before my fellow-citizens—and I feel no little pride in the recollection that I did not wait for its moment of decay and discomfiture to express my indignation to that unconstitutional and anti-Republican party known as the Know-Nothing organization. When I said what I thought about it, it was in its full power of mischief. It is not necessary to speak of it now. Its honest adherents, (and there were not a few,) are leaving it. Its managers and designers and contrivers ought never to be forgiven for having disfigured the political history of the country by the tradition, as it has now become, of a party which proscribed a man's religion and drew distinctions between those whom the Constitution and laws make equal.

It destroyed the old Whig party utterly and completely; and when I am now asked to vote for Mr. Fillmore, as still a Whig, or for Mr. Douglas as a Democrat, I have a plain answer, that, as I understand it, each of these gentlemen became an adhering Know-Nothing or a technical "American," passed the several degrees of the order, and took its foolish and wicked oaths. If this be so—and it has been openly asserted and never denied—if Mr. Fillmore, an ex-President of the United States, ever took an oath or obligation to exclude or aid in excluding a man from public trust, simply on account of his religion or his birth—(in taking that obligation he had to purge himself from all sympathy or connection with Catholics or foreigners, however innocent and respectable, then I cannot as a gentleman or an American citizen vote for Mr. Fillmore. There has died in this city within the last two months, one of our most venerable citizens, a resident here for more than half a century, though born abroad and a Roman Catholic. I followed him to his grave. His whole heart was loyal to his adopted country, and true to the faith of his ancestors. Two of his sons, my personal and political friends, professing the same religious opinions with their father, for years represented this city in the Legislature of the State with honor to themselves and their constituency, and yet if they and he were alive now they would find themselves by this new ritual proscribed and disqualified. I refer to this as a most striking, and to my immediate fellow-citizens familiar illustration of the practical and inevitable fruits of this organization. Well may we be grateful that a party professing such principles has passed away! I beg your pardon for troubling you with this reference to it.

Those who were once Whigs, are, on the one hand, asked to vote for Fremont and Dayton, and on the other, as to what are called "Republicans," for it seems to be assumed, (and perhaps history justifies it,) that nothing is easier for a Whig than to change his name. If he does it in a certain direction, and calls himself a Know-Nothing, or a "Republican," it is all very well; but if he chooses, in the exercise of a manly discretion, stimulated by local pride, to act with the Democratic party, as I certainly mean to do, there is no end to the denunciation he receives. Mr. Fremont I do not know personally, and what I have read of him induces me to think he is a gentleman of entire personal respectability, of rambling, adventurous habits of life, and large speculative wealth. My gallant townsman, Dr. Kane, has done quite as much in the way of adventure, endured as much hardship, gained as large a scientific fame in the cause of human charity, and yet I am not aware that he has any immediate aspirations for the Presidency. He is not a rich man, and lives in Philadelphia. Mr. Dayton I do know, and have known him long and well, and among all the aspirants of politics, it is very pleasant to have the chance of bearing testimony, (valueless though it may be,) to his high social and intellectual position. He is worthy of any honor the nation can bestow on him, although this fine his fair ambition cannot be gratified. Mr. Dayton stands on the Republican platform; having within ten years, as a Senator, voted against extending the Missouri Compromise line to the Pacific ocean, and in favor of the Wilmot Proviso.

on the last question, if I mistake not, recording his vote against those of Daniel Webster and Henry Clay. Under these circumstances I see no especial claim this ticket has on Whig fidelity.

But let me in candor ask, how can any conservative or National man, especially any Pennsylvanian, vote for the Republican nominee. This is a question I should be glad to put and have answered in your hearing. The nomination was made in Philadelphia, and I had some opportunity of observing the influence under which it was made, and the manner in which it has been received. Had the Convention been left to merely disinterested impulses, it would have nominated John McLean, of Ohio, of whom it may at least be said, he is a tried public man. Still, though supported earnestly and heartily by Pennsylvania, and perhaps for that very reason, he had no chance, was first withdrawn, and then defeated. The managers and fanatics had determined on another nomination, and of course Pennsylvania was thrust aside, her delegates sullenly firing guns of dismal acquiescence over their buried candidate. Mr. Fremont was nominated, and was sustained, I fear, by the fiercest and most sectional fanaticism. I do not care to refer to individuals, but no one will question that the leading and most active men in that Convention were gentlemen who are proud to call themselves "Abolitionists." You know the opinion of the representatives from Western Pennsylvania. I can answer for those from the East. They are generally avowed and extreme, and in my opinion unconstitutional anti-slavery agitators. But the spirit that actuated the Convention was not disguised. It was very boldly avowed.—There now lies before me a copy of a Philadelphia newspaper, published at the time, and friendly to the Republican cause; which records that at the time of the nomination, a delegate, (Mr. Lovejoy, of Illinois) said "he proclaimed himself an Abolitionist—he thought that the party had the disease, and before the campaign was through, it would break out all over;" and then, at this outrageous prophecy, there was "tremendous cheering" in the Convention! Now, gentlemen, it is useless to disguise what sentiment predominated in this body, which now claims my allegiance and that of other conservative men. I must resolutely decline all such companionship. I am bound by no such duty. I never will vote for any man who is put forward as a mere sectional candidate.

It may not be interesting to you to know how this sectional nomination has been received here in Philadelphia, the metropolis of the State. Certainly not with enthusiasm, for it seems to me that the men of business here, let the severance of ancient party ties be as painful as it may, will be slow to sustain sectional candidates, to endorse by their votes extreme Abolition or anything which looks like Abolition—to put in jeopardy the great commercial interests they have been so long striving to create, and to run the risk of four years of turmoil and disturbances on this hateful question of slavery with all its adjuncts. Their sober second thought is telling them that Mr. Buchanan uttered a word to them congenial doctrine when, he said so truly, and yet so simply, "Most likely it will be for our country if this agitation were at an end. During its whole progress, it has produced no practical good to any human being whilst it has been the source of great and dangerous evils." This is exactly what I believe to be the prevalent sentiment in Philadelphia at this moment, and I shall be much disappointed if every day's reflection does not strengthen it. But conservative men have these other influences at work which are no where so repugnant to public feeling as here in Philadelphia. They think they see in the management of the Republican canvass already the use of means that are wholly illegitimate. I do not refer to the innocent attempt to revive the musical tactics of ancient days, though I can hardly repress a smile at the idea of some of my Republican friends hereabout becoming melodious. All this is innocent enough.—But worse agencies are at work. There is now before me a letter from Hon. Charles Sumner, endorsing the Fremont nomination, in which I find the following remarkable language:

"Our declaration (of principles) says Mr. Sumner, appeals to the foreign born, who rejecting in the principles of American citizenship will not hesitate to join in this holy endeavor to vindicate them against the aggressions of an oligarchy more than any tyrant from which they have fled. In this case there is every motive to Union, and also every motive to exertion. 'Now or never—now and for ever.' Such was the ancient war cry, which embroidered on the Irish flag, streamed from the castle of Dublin, and resounded through the whole land, arousing a generous people to a new struggle for their ancient rights, and this war cry may be fully inscribed upon our banner now. Arise now, or our inextinguishable slave driving tyranny, will be fastened upon you—arise now, and liberty will be secured forever!"

Now this may be considered proper Senatorial rhetoric, but I know no language strong enough to condemn such an appeal to one class of our population, or so disloyal a comparison of our Southern brethren with the butchers and tyrants of Europe. To appeal to any honor the nation can bestow on him, although this fine his fair ambition cannot be gratified. Mr. Dayton stands on the Republican platform; having within ten years, as a Senator, voted against extending the Missouri Compromise line to the Pacific ocean, and in favor of the Wilmot Proviso.

the American order, has accepted an American (the North American) nomination, and is on the ticket at this very time with your townsmen Governor Johnston as Vice President, whose fidelity to the strictest Americanism no one can question. But to sober minded and conservative men, the sorrow must be and is most sincere on seeing a cause such as that which Mr. Semmer and his party espouse thus promoted. No where will there be greater revolt than here in Philadelphia, where the class of citizens referred to have been often persecuted and to the top of their bent.

I have thus, gentlemen, written to you very much as I should have talked to you—plainly and unceremoniously—giving my reasons for refusing my support, or rather my vote to two of the candidates before the people. My individual opinions, are, I am quite aware, of no value—they can only seem to be entitled to consideration so far as they represent others who have heretofore acted with me. I believe there are thousands who think as I do.

Having thus defined my opinions, it is hardly necessary for me to say why I vote for Mr. Buchanan, and why I am willing to do anything in my power to promote his election. I look to him and Mr. Breckinridge as the candidates who, if elected, will give the country what it most needs, repose, and repress thoroughly and completely all sectional agitation on this distressing topic of domestic slavery. I find in Mr. Buchanan, and especially his recent public career, of our representative abroad, an assurance that he will secure with foreign nations honorable peace. I regard him as eminently a safe and conservative statesman. But I am proud to say that his being a son of Pennsylvania—(said from other considerations)—would have entitled him to my vote, for I think this great Commonwealth has waited long enough, and been postponed often enough, and that now when the choice is made of one of her most distinguished citizens for the Nation's honor, that Pennsylvanians at least should rally to his support. I have no doubt they will, and if there be any humble service that I can render to promote this result, my fellow citizens have a right to it. If the course I now feel it my duty to pursue be inconsistent with former political conduct and opinions, it is an inconsistency I am rather proud of—but if it be consistent, as I think it is, with feelings of State pride and local loyalty, which have been the controlling influences of my public life, I see no reason to regret that they continue to operate on me now that for the first time in seventy years we have a chance of doing something for Pennsylvania.

I have the honor to be with great regard, Respectfully and truly yours,  
WM. B. REED.

**The River and Harbor Bills.**  
The passage through both houses of Congress of the three river and harbor bills, by majorities which overruled the objections of the President, has already been announced in our columns. It was not in the power of President Pierce to find in the constitution the authority for the appropriations made by these bills, and in the conscientious discharge of his official duties he returned them to Congress with his objections. These bills were passed and sent to him for his sanction at a time and under circumstances well calculated to test his firmness of purpose. The result fully confirmed his claim to those high moral attributes which distinguish the truly great statesman. He looked not to his personal interests—he considered not his prospects of political promotion—he followed the convictions of his judgment, and left the consequences to the country. More than two-thirds of each House of Congress have arrived at different conclusions from him, and the bills are now laws of the land.

It is not to our purpose to revive the discussion as to the constitutional issue of involved in the disagreement between the President and Congress. No one has ever investigated this question who did not feel the embarrassments which lay in the way of a satisfactory conclusion. The ablest and purest of our statesmen, have arrived at different results, and the question is as far from a satisfactory solution now as it was thirty years ago. As the matter now stands, appropriations for works of internal improvement depend chiefly upon the discretion of members. In the midst of the difficulty of agreeing upon any constitutional rule for the determination of such appropriations, we have long thought that too little attention has been directed to the expediency of opening the federal treasury for objects of internal improvement.

We hope our fears may be unfounded; but we do not fear that the passage of the three bills referred to will form precedents, the force of which will involve the government in an amount of expenditures that will prove burdensome to the tax payers. When Gen. Jackson interposed his objections to the Mauryville road bill, and saved the country from an additional debt of two hundred millions of dollars, the devotion to duty which impelled him to this deed of moral heroism was not appreciated until the popular mind was brought to its "sober second thought." If some future Democratic President shall be constrained by a like sense of public duty to interpose in like manner, he will render with sustaining force to the noble precedents found in the acts of Jackson, Polk and Pierce.

**Washington Union.**  
Salvador Toribio, the son of the former Emperor of Mexico, was recently drowned at Tepic, Mexico, while bathing.

Science, Art and Discovery.  
**MANUFACTURE OF LETTER ENVELOPES.**—It is estimated that the number of envelopes made in the city of New York alone, in one week, is at least 4,000,000.  
The process of manufacture may be briefly described. A ream of paper, or about five hundred sheets, is placed under a knife of a shape corresponding with an envelope when entirely opened, which is forced down by a powerful screw-press, worked by a hand-lever. The pieces cut out, slightly adhering at the edges, from the action of the knife, resemble a solid block of wood until broken up. The flap is afterwards stamped by a similar process, a boy being able to prepare 50,000 per day in this manner, taking one, two or three envelopes at each movement of the hand. They are then taken by one hundred girls, seated at long tables, by whom they are folded and gummed. A single girl will apply the gum to 60,000 or 70,000 in a day, from 5000 to 7000 may be folded in the same time. In these processes, the girls acquire great celerity and skill, being stimulated by the wages offered, which vary from twelve to thirty cents for each 1000. The envelopes are next counted, banded and packed. Some varieties are embossed, or otherwise decorated, requiring additional labor. The establishment of which we are now speaking consumes not far from twelve tons of paper per month, in the single article of envelopes. This quantity of paper, at ten cents per pound would cost \$2,500. The machines employed to make envelopes are very curiously constructed.—Each piece of paper, upon being cut into the proper shape, is placed on a kind of artificial hand, which conveys it over an aperture of the size of an ordinary letter, when a plunger drives it through, gumming and folding it in the process. It then falls into a box, which by revolving at intervals, is gradually filled up with packages of twenty-five, ready for use. These machines average 20,000 envelopes per day, and are capable of turning out eighteen per minute. The business is in some danger of being overdone.—For some time past it has doubled almost every twelve months, until a very large capital is embarked in it, and competition has reduced the profits to a very low figure.

**FRENCH PATENTS.**—Among the French patents recently granted, is one to Mr. M. Gallet, of Paris, for the extraction of a substance for supplying the place of quinine; the invention consists in submitting the seeds of the plants called canine to processes similar to those employed to obtain quinine from cinchona bark, by which means a substance is obtained having properties similar to, and which may be used as a substitute for, quinine. A patent has also been granted to M. Le Gros, of Paris, for a mode of preserving all kinds of timber. A compound for this purpose is made by using a solution of hydrochlorate of manganese, resulting from the manufacture of chlorides of lime, and of the bleaching liquid called lye. This salt is neutralized by an admixture of a sufficient quantity of chalk, carbonate of chalk, or oxide of alumina; this solution is poured into a suitable vessel, and the wood put into the vessel, with its ends remaining out; a horizontal immersion does not produce the desired effect; it must remain forty-eight hours. This composition is said to preserve the wood well. Timber, and all kinds of wood, may be thus treated.

**A SCIENTIFIC TEST FOR COFFEE.**—At a recent meeting of the British Association of Science, Mr. Horsley called attention to the use of bichromate of potash, in analyzing adulterated samples of coffee. With diluted solutions of pure coffee, this salt produces an intense deep porter brown coloration, whilst upon decoctions of chicory no effect is produced. He advised the following procedure: Take equal parts of chicory and coffee, and decoct them in different quantities of water. Filter, bottle and label the liquids. Take a teaspoonful of the chicory, and dilute it till it is brown cherry color; boil it in a porcelain dish, with a fragment of crystallized bichromate. The color will be scarcely deepened. If a similarly diluted solution of coffee is thus treated, a deep brown tinge is obtained. By operating with mixed liquids a scale of colors may be obtained indicating the properties of the two substances. If a few grains of the sulphate of copper be added, both decoctions yield a precipitate; that from chicory being a clay yellow, and that from coffee a sepia brown. Mixed decoctions yield intermediate tints.

**HELIOGRAPHY ENGRAVING.**—This new process of engraving photographs, invented by M. Poitevin, rests upon the property which gelatine has, when dried, impregnated with a chromate, or bichromate, and subjected to the action of light, by which it loses its property of swelling in water. A layer of solution of gelatine, of more or less thickness, is laid on a plane surface, such as glass, is allowed to dry, and then placed in a solution of bichromate, whose base has no direct action on the gelatine. It is again dried, and then influenced through a photographic negative or positive picture, in the focus of a camera. After the impression is received, and which will vary according to the intensity of the light, the layer is put into water; then all parts which have not received the influence of the light, swell and form reliefs, while those that were affected by the light absorb no water and remain as depressions. This surface is then transposed upon metal plates, either by moulding in plates or by electrotyping.

**FACTS IN SPARTA HISTORY.**  
The education of the young ladies of Sparta was totally different from that in every other state. They were exclusively trained to become wives and mothers of warriors and heroes, and not to be mere housekeepers and nurses. In other Greek cities the spinning of wool, like the crochet in modern Britain, was the serious and constant occupation of the female mind. Lycurgus, however, justly considered that spinning and weaving were best left to the slaves. "How is it possible," he thought, for mothers brought up in such occupations to rear a healthy and a handsome progeny—the lofty mission and proud duty of every free daughter of Sparta? He therefore introduced bodily exercises for the Spartan maidens analogous to those of the Spartan youths; and the beauty of the women soon became the general theme of praise throughout Greece; and especially they were famous for fine shapes and masculine vigor. Thus were formed the heroines of Sparta; they would sooner see their sons dying at their feet than turning their backs on an enemy or falling in their duty to their country; they who said to their sons, when marching to battle, "Disgrace not yourselves by abandoning your shields; either to return with them, or else upon them!" When a foreign lady said, "the women of Sparta are the only women who rule the men;" the wife of Leonidas justly replied, "yes, and the women of Sparta are the only women who are mothers of men."

We at last come to the most interesting topic of all, namely, the Spartan marriages. Many of the laws of Lyncurgus in connection with this subject would undoubtedly contribute to the happiness of all the present bachelors of Britain. The time for marriage was fixed by statute; that of the men at about thirty or thirty-five years; that of the ladies at about twenty or a little younger. All men who continue unmarried after the appointed time were liable to a prosecution; and all old bachelors were prohibited from being present at the public exercises of the Spartan maidens, and horrors paid to aged. "Why should I give you place," cried a young man to an unmarried general, "when you have no child to give place to me when I am old?" No marriage portions were given with any of the maidens, so that neither poverty should prevent a gallant, nor riches tempt him to marry contrary to his inclinations. The parents of three children enjoy considerable immunities, and those with four paid no taxes whatever—a regulation which all married men with large families will readily admit to be wise and equitable.—Every marriage was preceded by a betrothal, as in Greek cities, but the marriage itself was performed by the young Spartan carrying off his bride by a pretended education and for some time afterward the wife continued to reside with her own family, and only met the husband on stolen occasions. This extraordinary way of spending the honeymoon was first introduced by Lyncurgus to prevent the husband from wasting too much of his time in his wife's society during the first years of their marriage; and in order to economize the bride's charms, it was customary for her bridesmaid to cut off all her hair on the wedding day, so that for some time at least her personal attractions should increase with her years.

**SHARP PRACTICE.**  
Some five years since, two well known Albanians left this city to seek their fortunes at Washington. We will call them Mr. A. and Mr. B. Mr. A. got a contract from the government, and made a snug little pile—some forty thousand dollars worth of real estate. While acquiring this property, Mr. A. contracted about \$7000 worth of debts, two thousand five hundred of which belonged to Mr. B. Mr. A. is not any more honest than the law allows. So he thought he would get rid of "those cursed debts," his creditors, by making over his property to his niece, a fine looking young lady, aged about eighteen. He accordingly went to a lawyer, made out the papers, and assigned the whole of his real estate to his niece, the intended young lady already spoken of. Having concluded his arrangements, he thought he would go south and look at the country.—This took place last summer. During his absence in pursuit of quietness and cotton fields, Mr. B. ascertains all about the assignment, and goes in for making things square. He commenced operations by counting the niece aforesaid, and finished up by marrying her. When Mr. A. returns from Georgia, he finds that he has been done—B. has not only got thirty-seven thousand, but five hundred dollars worth of real estate in addition. Mr. A. is now swearing in eight syllables, and insists that it is a conspiracy. He talks of writ, law and red tape, but as the statutes will not allow a man to take advantage of his own wrong, we fear he will have to "grin and bear it." It is not necessary for us to say that Mr. B. feels his rate over the achievement, while the niece cannot understand why her uncle should give her forty thousand dollars worth of real estate, and then fly into a passion just because she bestowed it on her husband. If we are not mistaken, this is the best piece of sharp practice that has turned up this season.

**City Officers Resigning.**—The municipal officers of Mobile, Ala., are all of the American party, but as the course of the Presidential canvass has rendered them unwillingly to support the party ticket for the Presidency, the Mayor and City Attorney have resigned. The City Council accepted the resignation of the latter, but requested the withdrawal of the former.

**Mr. Clay Speaks—Hear Him!**  
We find in the Lexington Observer and Reporter, a letter copied from the Kentucky Statesman, which we publish with great satisfaction. It is from James B. Clay, a son of Henry Clay, the great American Statesman, whom all men delight to honor. This letter is the best refutation that could be made of the stale slanders now attempted to be revived by a venal partisan press, relative to the unfounded charges against Mr. Buchanan—charges denied by Henry Clay himself, by his biographer, and now by the public generally. The high personal regard which those distinguished statesmen ever entertained for each other, also effectually disproves these malicious fabrications. Mr. Clay, in announcing his determination to vote for Mr. Buchanan, assumes a position which is alike honorable to himself and the powerful party of which his honored father was the acknowledged leader.  
From the Kentucky Statesman.  
MR. EDITOR:—I desire, through your courtesy, to correct a statement made in the Statesman of the 4th inst., which does great injustice to two of my friends, and political brothers, the Hon. Joshua F. Bell, of Boyle, and the Hon. Wm. B. Kinkead, of Kenton, and which moreover is untrue. The article to which I refer, states "that resolutions expressing the confidence of the Whigs of Kentucky in Mr. Fillmore, and saying he was worthy of their support as in 1848," were rejected by the votes of sixteen counties to one, in the State Convention held at Louisville, on the 3d inst., and that Mr. Bell and Kinkead advocated them. It is undeniably true that such resolutions were offered in the Convention by Col. Hopkins, of Henderson, and it is also true that they were laid upon the table by a vote of sixteen counties to one. But it is not true that either Mr. Bell or Mr. Kinkead voted for them; on the contrary both gentlemen opposed them, as I have reason to believe they would have done resolutions to endorse any one but a true old line Whig for the office of President. It was, also, at the express desire and request of Mr. Kinkead that Mr. Adams withdrew his motion, to the effect "that the Whigs of Kentucky have undiminished confidence in Millard Fillmore." It is, however, but candid to say, that every member of the Convention understood that Mr. Bell and Judge Kinkead preferred Mr. Fillmore to either Buchanan or Mr. Fremont; neither of them made any attempt to do so gross and unjust a thing, as to commit an old line Whig Convention to the endorsement of anybody but a Whig. There is also a statement copied into the Observer and Reporter of the 5th inst., "that I had been heard to say, that I was for Buchanan." I may have said that Mr. Buchanan was not my candidate, or was not my choice for the Presidency; but I have not said that I should not vote for him. I prefer Mr. Fillmore personally, and if he stood on the same principles he did in 1850 I would vote for him in preference to any man I know. But I expect to cast my vote for that candidate who in my opinion may have the best chance to defeat the candidate of the Black Republican party, and, at present advised, I think Mr. Buchanan has the best chance to do so. I wish it, nevertheless, to be distinctly understood, that if I shall think it my duty to vote for Mr. Buchanan I shall vote as an old line Whig, making a choice of what he believes to be evils, for the good of the country; and that whenever the Whig standard shall again be raised, adhering always to the principles which I have been instrumental in asserting at Lexington, and at Louisville, on the 3d of July, I shall be ready, fairly, honestly and fearlessly to battle against those principles and practices of the Democratic party which conflict with our own views. I feel sure, Mr. Editor, that your readers will not do me the injustice to attribute to me too great a desire to force myself before the notice, in venturing to correct misrepresentations affecting my friends and myself, however well I may know the little importance that may be attached to any opinions of mine. I hope the Observer and Reporter will also do me the favor, as well as justice, to copy this letter.  
I am, sir, respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
JAMES B. CLAY.  
ASHLAND, July 8, 1856.

**ATMOSPHERIC AIR** consists of about 78 per cent. of nitrogen or azotic gas, 21 per cent. of oxygen, and not quite 1 per cent. of carbonic acid or fixed air; and such is the constitution when taken into the lungs in the act of breathing. When it is expelled from them, however, its composition is found to be greatly altered. The quantity of nitrogen remains nearly the same, but eight or eight and a half per cent. of the oxygen or vital air have disappeared, and been replaced by an equal amount of carbonic acid. In addition to these changes, the expired air is loaded with moisture. Simultaneously with these occurrences, the blood collected from the veins, which enters the lungs of a dark color and unfit for the support of life, assumes a florid red hue, and acquires the power of supporting life.  
Thackeray, on his first visit to this country, was introduced in Charleston, S. C., to Mrs. C., one of the leaders of society there. Thinking to be witty, he said—"I am happy to meet you, Mrs. C.; I've heard Madam, that you were a fast woman."  
"Oh, Mr. Thackeray," she replied, "with one of her most fascinating smiles, "we must not believe all we hear. I never heard, sir, that you were a gentleman."  
The English wit admitted, afterwards, that he had the worst of it.