

THE STAR OF THE NORTH.

H. W. Weaver, Proprietor.

Truth and Right—God and our Country.

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 those who advertise by the year.

**MIDNIGHT IN THE HOUSE OF MUR-
 DER.**
 BY ELIZABETH OAKES SMITH.
 "There are more things in heaven and earth,
 Horatio,
 Than are dreamt of in your philosophy."
 [Shakespeare.]
 "Mr. Ullman—the hall was very dark—
 the gas turned off."
 "CORONER—Had it never been so before?"
 MR. ULLMAN—Oh, yes, but I seemed UN-
 SCALLY DARK.

[Coroner's Inq't on the Burdell Murder.]
 On the staircase—slowly—
 Walked the weary feet that night;
 How echoes answer lonely
 To the foot, however light.
 Up the staircase, to the broad stair,
 Turns he sharply to the right,
 There is anguish in the still air,
 There are shapes about the sight.

No, the eye was only teased,
 Diamond-like, a hidden ray;
 And by this, the darkness measured,
 Shows it darker ere the day.
 Was that sigh a human sighing?
 Was that groan from human heart?
 Was that sob from lips in dying?
 There's a whisper—"We depart."

Marky thick the blackness seemeth,
 As he gropes through the gloom,
 Like to one, who sleeping dreameth,
 That he wakes within a tomb.
 And the balustrade he holdeth
 Has a cold sepulchral damp,
 And the heavy air enfoldeth
 Gloom and gloom like dying lamp.

There's a vapor, foggy, stealing
 Over all the shuddering scene,
 Like a charnel house, revealing
 What we are, the spirit hence.
 So, the darkness is appalling—
 Deeper than all midnight gloom—
 Voices muffled, striking, calling,
 Such as fill a haunted room.

Treads the flesh beneath the fingers
 Of a dim and shadowy band,
 And a breathing faintly lingers—
 Now, a touch is on the hand,
 Now, a pressure slowly gliding,
 Up the stairs before his feet,
 Without foothold, stilly sliding,
 Making darkness more complete.

Sore, the way is very dark—
 Sure, the stiffness voice hath found—
 For through all the chambers lonesome,
 Comes a call as from the ground.
 Thus the stranger upward wending,
 Marked how deep the departed night,
 Never knowing the wild rending
 Of a soul upon its flight.

Unannealed, and prayerless, driven
 To the judgment seat on high—
 Unrepented sins on him,
 "God be merciful," the cry,
 Smothered ere it left the portal
 Of the terror-stricken brain—
 Oh! the cry, so more than mortal,
 May we never hear again.

For the blood of this, our brother,
 Cries from out the startled earth,
 And unwillingly our mother
 Takes up the monstrous birth;
 All her children, where they languish
 In her caves and cells profound,
 Answer back the cry of anguish—
 "Human blood is on the ground."

And it reached the deep pavilions
 Of God's everlasting throne,
 Calling forth his many millions,
 Starred at the anguish-tone.
 High archangels downward bending,
 From their crystal walls to know,
 What poor human heart is rending
 In its agonized woe.

Gentle spirits, grief-enfolding,
 Chant evan-gel-ic low and sweet,
 How God's love is ever holding,
 Mercy nearest to His feet.
 "God be pitiful," are chanting,
 From their dear, supernal spheres,
 With their white wings downward slanting,
 Where exhale poor human tears.

Not alone the dear God leaves us,
 But with cheering hand and voice—
 Thus assuaging all that grieves us,
 Doubling joy when we rejoice.
 We are needed each to other,
 In the battle-field of life—
 We are useful, friend and brother,
 Household links—the husband, wife.

We must walk with kind endeavor—
 Not alone, but linked in love,
 That God's angel-bands may never
 Fail to see us from above—
 And the cherubim all flaming,
 As of old at Eden's gate,
 In God's book our record naming,
 Round our paradise shall wait.

The Pavement in London.
 The pavement of London is one of the
 greatest marvels of our times. It covers
 nearly three thousand acres, two-thirds where-
 of consists of what may be called mosaic
 work, done in plain style, and the other two
 plans flagging. Such a series of works far
 transcends in quantity, as it excels in quality,
 the Appian Way, which was the wonder of
 ancient Rome, and which would cut but a
 poor figure as contrasted with one of our
 most important streets. The ancient consular
 way was but fifteen feet wide in the main,
 and was filled with blocks of all shapes and
 sizes, joined together and paved only on the
 surface; the length of its devious course,
 from north to south of Italy, was under three
 hundred miles. The paved streets of London
 number over 5000, and exceed 2000 miles
 in length.—*Building News.*

WILLIAM F. PACKER,
 THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE FOR GOVERNOR OF
 PENNSYLVANIA.
 William F. Packer is above the ordinary
 size; his robust frame, with rounded counte-
 nance, his fair complexion, tinged with the roses
 of a healthy and vigorous circulation; his
 capacious forehead, indicating great intellec-
 tual power; his intelligent countenance and
 agreeable manner, render his personal ap-
 pearance at once prepossessing and com-
 manding. In 1846 he was duly elected a
 member of the House of Representatives from
 the district composed of the counties of Ly-
 coming, Clinton and Potter; but by a mis-
 take in carrying out the returns of one of the
 townships in Clinton county, his opponent
 was returned as elected, and actually served
 during the whole of the session, before the
 mistake was discovered. In 1847, the peo-
 ple of his district appeared to be determined
 to manifest their views by a vote so decisive
 as not to be mistaken or defeated, and he
 was accordingly elected to the House of Rep-
 resentatives by a majority exceeding fifteen
 hundred over his competitor. Although this
 was his first appearance as a member of a leg-
 islative body, his knowledge of the public
 interests, his acquaintance with parliamenta-
 ry rules, and his business capacity were so
 universally known and acknowledged, that
 he was at once chosen by his fellow mem-
 bers to preside over their deliberations as
 Speaker of the House.

The selection of a new member to a post
 of such great responsibility, and requiring such
 varied and extensive abilities, may be regar-
 ded as a high honor, in which Gen. Packer
 stands as the sole recipient in his native State.
 Such a recognition of pre-eminence abilities,
 is of rare occurrence everywhere; and it is
 believed never occurred before in Pennsylva-
 nia. In 1848 he was re-elected to the
 House. The brilliant achievements of a
 brave and successful General, who was a can-
 didate for the Presidency had produced dis-
 astrous results to the Democratic party
 throughout the Union, and had given the
 Whigs a large majority in the Senate of Penn-
 sylvania, and reduced the Democratic mem-
 bers in the House to a bare equality in num-
 ber with their opponents. Notwithstanding
 this circumstance, and although every mem-
 ber was in attendance at the organization of
 the House, Gen. Packer was again elected
 Speaker of that body. Considering his known
 attachment to Democratic principles, his
 great influence and continual activity as a
 writer and as a public speaker in sustaining
 the principles and candidates of the Demo-
 cratic party, his second elevation to the
 Speaker's chair must be regarded as an hon-
 orable and magnanimous tribute to his talents
 and integrity, and to the impartiality and ab-
 ility with which he had discharged the high
 duties of the office of the previous session.

This compliment was in fact richly merited.
 General Packer possesses a mind well stored
 with useful knowledge. Although self taught
 his education has not been neglected. He is
 familiar with the current literature, and with
 the teachings of history and philosophy. Al-
 though not a member of the legal profession,
 he is a much better lawyer than many who
 belong to it. His thorough acquaintance with
 the legal principles, and with constitutional
 and parliamentary law, eminently qualify him
 for the duties of the chair. And so satisfac-
 tory were his decisions upon many difficult
 questions which arose during his two official
 terms as Speaker, that they have been in no
 instance reversed by the House. Indeed if
 we are not mistaken, an appeal was never
 taken from any decision pronounced by Gen.
 Packer as Speaker, except in one solitary
 case; and on that occasion, upon hearing his
 reasons and the authorities cited in support
 of his decision, the judgment of the chair was
 unanimously sustained; the gentleman who
 took the appeal, acknowledged his error and voted
 against his own appeal to sustain the decision
 of the chair. It is proper to add, in this place,
 that General Packer is one of the most pow-
 erful debaters which our country has pro-
 duced. In the primary assemblies of the peo-
 ple, and in their legislative halls, his eminent
 abilities in this respect have been frequently
 displayed and always acknowledged. In a
 government resting upon public opinion, the
 discussion, in public assemblies of the peo-
 ple, of the principles and measures to be ad-
 vanced for the public interest, is absolutely in-
 dispensable to success. The freedom of debate
 is emphatically the alimant of self-govern-
 ment, which goes hand in hand with free
 discussion in our public journals. The free-
 dom of speech and the liberty of the press are
 the palladiums of public liberty. But the
 temple would soon be overthrown by the
 strong arm of tyranny unless its columns were
 constantly supported by the power and patri-
 otism of her writers and orators. In this age
 of progress, the man who is unable to ex-
 press his views to his fellow-citizens, and to
 discuss the measures of government before
 the assemblies of the people, will be left so
 far behind in the political race as to be soon
 forgotten. General Packer's distinguished
 abilities as a writer and as an orator, take
 him out of this category and place him in
 the front rank of our most useful, influential,
 and promising citizens.

The subject of this sketch is thus before
 the reader, and we see what he is now. Let
 us look into his past history that we may un-
 derstand the means by which he has ac-
 quired his present eminence. He was born
 in Howard township, Centre county, on the 21
 of April, 1807. He is descended from a high-
 ly respectable family who belong to the So-
 ciety of Friends; but they were Whigs of
 the Revolutionary period, and were attached
 to the cause of the country in her struggle for
 liberty. His grand-father, James Parker, was

born in 1725, on a farm in New Jersey, where
 the town of Princeton now stands. His fa-
 ther also named James, was born in Chester
 county, Pa. On the maternal side he is con-
 nected with the Pettis, a large and influen-
 tial family in Pennsylvania. When Packer
 was but seven years old his father died leav-
 ing a widow and five small children. At this
 tender age he was under the necessity of
 contributing to his own support, and that of
 the family, by the most severe and exhaust-
 ing labor; and some years after at the age of
 twelve years, he traveled from Bellfonte to
 Sunbury, for the purpose of learning the prin-
 tings business with his cousin, Samuel J. Pack-
 er, formerly a distinguished Senator, and then
 editor of the *Frederick Register*, a paper which
 advocated with great ability the re-election
 of William Findlay for Governor, in 1820.—
 Some time after the defeat of Mr. Findlay,
 the *Register* was discontinued, and in 1823
 General Packer returned to Bellfonte to com-
 plete his knowledge of the printing busi-
 ness, in the office of the *Bellfonte Patriot*, then un-
 der the control of Henry Patinkin, Esq., who
 was subsequently distinguished as a Senator.
 General Packer completed his apprenticeship
 in May, 1825, and was employed as a jour-
 neyman at the profession of the great Frank-
 lin, on the public printing in Harrisburg, in
 the years 1825, 1826, and 1827. In the lat-
 ter year he purchased an interest in the *Ly-
 coming Gazette*, at Williamsport, Lycoming
 county; and in 1829, upon the decease of
 his partner, Mr. Brandon, became the sole
 owner of that time honored Democratic jour-
 nal. Its years already number more than
 half a century, and it still carries at its head
 the motto: "Be ye just and fear not." &c.,
 which was placed there nearly thirty years
 ago by the present Judge Lewis, of Lancas-
 ter, during his editorial control of that paper.
 It is still a flourishing and influential journal,
 and is at present conducted by C. D. Eldred,
 Esq., a gentleman of fine abilities and exal-
 ted judgment. While the *Gazette* was under
 the control of General Packer, which was
 about one year, it supported the election of
 Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, George
 Wolf, and other Democratic standard bearers
 of that period; and the cause of Democracy
 was greatly indebted, during those months,
 to the discreet counsel of General Packer,
 and to the power of his pen made known
 through the editorial columns of his paper.—
 In 1829, General Packer intermarried with
 the daughter of Peter Vanderbel, Esq., a re-
 spectable citizen of Williamsport, who had
 occupied various offices, and was a member
 of the public confidence of his fellow-citizens.
 Miss Vanderbel was the grand daughter of
 Michael Ross, Esq., a gentleman distinguish-
 ed for his energy of character, and strength
 of mind. He was at one time the owner of
 the land whereon the borough of Williams-
 port now stands; and his descendants contin-
 ue extensive proprietors of valuable lands ad-
 joining the town.

In 1832, shortly after the improvement sys-
 tem had commenced in Pennsylvania, and
 after the West Branch Canal had been adop-
 ed as a part of the system, through the vote
 and influence of the Philadelphia members,
 the West Branch Improvement was left out
 of the Improvement Bill, and thus threatened
 with abandonment. Had this decision been
 adhered to, the people of that section would
 have derived no benefit from the large ex-
 penditure of the public money for improve-
 ment purposes. Public meetings were im-
 mediately held, addresses were delivered,
 resolutions adopted, and, among other strong
 measures, a direct appeal was made to the
 people of Philadelphia City and County ag-
 ainst the suicidal policy of their own mem-
 bers. This last measure had the desired ef-
 fect; and the Philadelphia members, under
 the influence brought to bear upon them
 from their own immediate constituency, re-
 traced their steps, and voted for the West
 Branch Improvement, and it was thus saved!
 In all these proceedings, General Packer,
 although a very young man, bore a leading
 part. To his efforts, more than to any other
 individual, are the people of that section of
 the country indebted for the construction of
 their valuable canal. As the work progress-
 ed, the public voice very properly called for
 his appointment as Superintendent, which
 office he held until the spring of 1835. He
 discharged the duties of his station to the sat-
 isfaction of the people, and disbursed without
 a dollar's loss to the State, while he held the
 office, more than a million and a quarter of
 the public money! His accounts were all
 regularly and properly settled. In 1835, Gen.
 Packer was the warm friend of Gov. Wolf,
 and received the Democratic nomination for
 the Senate, but as the Democratic party was
 that year distracted by the unfortunate Wolf-
 national contest between the friends of Wolf
 and Muhlenberg, a portion of the friends of
 Muhlenberg coalesced with the Whigs in fa-
 vor of Alexander Irvine, then a Muhlenberg
 man, but since United States Marshal under
 General Taylor, and General Packer was de-
 feated. In 1836 he united with Messrs.
 Parke and Barret, in the publication of the
Harrisburg Keystone. The paper itself is the
 best evidence of the eminent abilities of these
 three gentlemen as editors. This connection
 continued until 1841. Mr. Parke is now en-
 gaged in the practice of the law, and Mr.
 Barret, after a season of retirement from public
 life, has again made his appearance in the
 editorial chair, and his abilities will, no doubt,
 insure him an appropriate reward. In 1838
 General Packer distinguished himself by his
 political tact and the power of his eloquence
 as a speaker at the public meetings of the
 people, in advocating the election of David
 R. Porter, then the Democratic candidate for
 Governor. In 1839 he was appointed Canal
 Commissioner, in connection with Hon. Jas.
 Clarke and Hon. E. B. Hubley, and continued

to discharge with unsurpassed ability the
 highly responsible and difficult duties of that
 office, until the month of February, 1842, a
 period of three years. In May, 1843, Gen.
 Packer received the appointment of Auditor
 General of the Commonwealth. He contin-
 ued to discharge the duties of this office until
 May, 1845, a period of two years. His office
 gave him a seat in the Cabinet of the Execu-
 tive, and thus called into action his knowl-
 edge, and thus called into action his knowl-
 edge of men, of measures, and of the diver-
 sified interests of the Commonwealth. Hold-
 ing jurisdiction over all the public accounts,
 the large expenditures of money for public
 improvement, and the numerous difficult
 questions and complicated cases which arose
 for adjudication, called for the exercise of
 the soundest judgment; and no mind, save
 one enlightened by an extensive acquaint-
 ance with common laws and equity princi-
 ples, as well as with the details of the Com-
 monwealth, could have discharged the duties
 of this exalted station. The settlement of the
 claims of the domestic creditors, with the
 other business of the office arising from the
 increased public expenditures for improve-
 ment and other purposes, rendered the duties
 of the Auditor General, far more burdensome
 than they have been since, or had ever been
 before, at any period in the history of the
 government. And the ability displayed by
 General Packer, his perfect mastery of every
 question which arose, and his impartiality in
 the discharge of his high duties, in the set-
 tlement of these questions, are acknowledged
 by men of all parties.

It may with great truth be said of General
 Packer that he is indebted to his own indus-
 try for the education and knowledge he has
 acquired, and to his own merits for the dis-
 tinction to which he has attained. He is
 thoroughly democratic in his principles, and
 is always ready to devote his talents and his
 means to the success of those principles.—
 He is no empty talker about names and forms,
 following the substance and not the shadow.
 Springing from the people, he is always ready
 to do battle for their rights. Looking to them
 as the legitimate source of all political au-
 thority, he is ready to treat them with every
 power consistent with representative govern-
 ment. Aware of the nature of the federal
 compact, and of the willingness of the
 early statesmen of democracy to trust the
 central government with any but a limited
 authority, he is ever ready to stand by the
 State sovereignty in confining the General
 Government strictly within those powers
 granted by the Federal Constitution. Man-
 y of eminence in the party to which General
 Packer belongs, may occasionally differ in
 the application of principles to particular
 cases, but all politicians of the genuine Demo-
 cratic school, subscribe to the great funda-
 mental doctrine of the party, that "the pow-
 ers not delegated to the United States by the
 Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States,
 are reserved to the States respectively, or to
 the people." Upon the steady support of
 this principle the permanency of the Union
 and the liberties of the people depend. Ev-
 ery extension of territory, and every increase
 of the great sisterhood of nations, of which
 our glorious confederation is composed, is
 but a new demand upon the patriot for a vigi-
 lant and energetic support of the ancient,
 safe and chief principles of the Democratic
 party, a strict construction of the Federal
 Constitution. So long as this principle of
 construction is adhered to by our public
 authorities, and by those who clothe them
 with power, the rights of the people and of the
 States, will be protected against the usurping
 tendencies of a great central government.—
 With this principle constantly before us, and
 with our public men able and willing to
 maintain it either in the legislative hall, or
 in the judicial forum, we can have no fears
 of nullification or consolidation; but our great
 and glorious Union, standing as an illustrious
 example of the capacity of the people for
 self government, shall not only secure its own
 greatness and perpetuity, but shall light
 the freedom of the earth in their onward march
 to freedom.

The Grapes in the East.
 The vineyards of Syria abound in the most
 luscious grapes imaginable, of which there
 are different kinds; one called the walnut,
 takes its name from its size, being as large
 as that fruit; another is the long grape, and
 another is small and round. There are other
 kinds besides, which it is necessary to
 mention. The English hot-house grape,
 good as it is, does not bear comparison with
 the Syrian grape. The quantity grown is
 enormous. Did the Syrians know how to
 make wine, Syria would soon become the
 wine mart of the whole world. What are
 not used as grapes, the natives dry into rais-
 ins, and the process is thus: The grapes are
 gathered in September, washed in a composi-
 tion of lye, water and oil, after which they
 are spread on a mat to dry, and there they
 remain for about fortnight in the open sun,
 sprinkled once or twice every few days
 with this composition; they are then gather-
 ed and put into sacks of hair-cloth, and sold
 as raisins. Some grapes are made into a
 sort of treacle, called *Dibs*, while the refuse
 thereof is made into wine and *arak*.

A PEACEABLE LIFE.—The more quietly and
 peaceably we all get on, the better—the bet-
 ter for ourselves, the better for our neighbors.
 In nine cases out of ten, the wisest course
 is, if a man cheat you, to quit dealing with
 him; if he be abusive, quit his company; if
 he slander you, to take care to live so that
 no body will believe him.

ESSAY ON LOAFERS.
 BY "HESIO NARO."
 The title of this may appear strange to
 many persons, but we are treating of a queer
 class of persons familiarly designated as a
 loafer, can be found, in the summer months,
 asking his "wearied" limbs on the soft side
 of a white pine board; and in the winter
 months lounging around the counters of
 stores, or nestling close to the stove, think-
 ing of the necessity but impossibility of his
 attendance in every place, at all times, while
 he thinks it is absolutely necessary that he
 should attend to everybody's business ex-
 cept his own. These idlers inhabit stores,
 and by their apparent idleness seem to
 be taken superficially as not to having the
 least idea of what is passing around them,
 but they are wide awake; they notice every
 gesture, every sale, every customer, and cal-
 culate the profits and advantages derived
 from the articles which are bartered away.
 Loafers are divided into two classes.

First Class.—The person belonging to this
 class you may think a great deal of; they may
 be particular friends; these are rather
 delicate to approach; still he is a "loafer,"
 and should be classified as one. But, say
 you, it would be very important for me to
 consult a chosen friend of mine, on my prop-
 erty; that would be preposterous. But he is
 a loafer and should be treated as such. His
 continued presence in your store prevents
 many lady customers from coming in to pur-
 chase. If he does observe such hints as
 these and comprehends them, it does not
 reform him; for in a few days he is found
 occupying the same old place, reclining in
 an arm-chair, enveloped in a cloud of smoke,
 gently rising from an immense "Havana,"
 which he carefully removes from his mouth
 to give a clear passage for a volume of to-
 bacco spit. While enjoying all these com-
 forts, he would take it as an unpardonable
 insult if you should ask him to retire. This
 may meet the eye of some one who will no
 doubt see that it applies to his case exact-
 ly.

The second class consists of professional
 loafers, who can bear all the reproach that
 could possibly be heaped upon them, with-
 out taking the least pain from your remarks.
 The members of this class can always be
 found inhabiting printing offices and grocery
 stores, sitting on the counters, or stretched
 at full length on boxes and barrels, prying
 into everything that does not concern
 them, and carefully avoiding those which do;
 dictating to the attendants as if they
 were the supreme ruler of the establishment.
 Of such loafers a good kicking out of doors
 would be the shortest and most efficacious
 method of getting rid of them; they deserve
 such treatment.

Kissing a Bachelor.
 A correspondent relates the following inci-
 dent:—"We have a friend—a bachelor friend
 —very fond of the society of the ladies, but
 extremely modest and diffident withal. A
 few evenings since he went to make a call
 upon an acquaintance, who had recently
 taken to herself a wife, young and beautiful,
 and as a matter of course, overflowing with
 affection for her husband. Now this lovely
 wife for a week, like all other wives, could
 scarcely survive the brief absence of her
 husband for the discharge of his business,
 and always upon his return met him upon
 the threshold, and smothered him with kiss-
 es. It so happened when our friend called,
 that the husband was absent, but was mo-
 mentarily expected by the fond and anxious
 wife. She heard his footfall upon the step,
 and supposing it to be her husband, rushed
 forth to meet him; and he had scarcely laid
 his hand on the bell-pull before the door flew
 open, and his neck was encircled by a pair
 of white arms, and burning kisses fell thick
 and fast upon his lips and cheeks—while a
 full and throbbing breast was strained to his
 bosom. There was a trying situation for a diffident
 man, and our friend came near fainting on
 the spot; but fortunately, the lady discovered
 her mistake in season to prevent such a mel-
 ancholy event, and he escaped from the
 house more dead than alive. The last we
 saw of him, he was leaning against a tree,
 fanning himself with his sombrero, in order
 to recover strength to regain his lodgings."

Unwritten Kisses.
 A sensible cotemporary says: "The wom-
 en ought to make a pledge not to kiss a man
 who uses tobacco."
 "So they had! but the deuce of it is, all the
 handsome men use it in some shape! And
 kissing is a little luxury not to be dispensed
 with! As to a female kiss, laugh there is
 no effervescence in it—it is as flat as unmixed
 soda powder! If I'm victimized that way, I
 always take an early application of soap and
 water! You will see women practice it some-
 times just to keep their hand in, (lips I mean)
 but is a miserable substitute—a sham article!
 done half the time to tantalize some of the
 male audience! I hope to be pardoned for
 turning "State's evidence," but I don't care a
 pin if I ain't. Now, kissing is a natural gift,
 not to be acquired by any bungler; when you
 meet a gifted brother, "take note of it," as
 Captain Cuttle says—"There's your universal
 kisser, who can't distinguish between your sis-
 ter and your grandmother's, laugh! There's
 your philosophical transcendental kisser, who
 goes through the motion in the air! There's
 oh! my senses! they say there's such a thing
 as "unwritten music," and "unwritten poetry."
 I have my private suspicions that these
 are "unwritten kisses."
 PERRY JONES.

TENDENCY OF TOBACCO.—Mr. Solly, an emi-
 nent writer on the brain, says, in a late
 clinical lecture on that frightful and formid-
 able malady, softening of the brain, "I would
 caution you, as students, from excesses in
 the use of tobacco and smoking, and I
 would advise you to disabuse your patients'
 minds of the idea that it is harmless. I
 have had a large experience of brain dis-
 ease, and I am satisfied now that smoking
 is a noxious habit. I know of no other
 cause or agent that tends so much to bring
 on functional disease, and through this, in
 the end, to lead to organic diseases of the
 brain, as excessive use of tobacco."—*Ed.*

One and Twenty.
 With youth no period is looked forward to
 with so much impatience as the hour that
 shall end our minority. With manhood none
 is looked back to with so much regret.
 Freedom appears to the young man as the
 brightest star of our existence, and is never
 lost sight of till the goal to which he has
 been so long traveling is reached. When
 the mind and the spirit are young, the sea-
 son of manhood is reflected with a bright-
 ness from the future, which nothing can dim
 but its own cold reality. The busy world is
 stretched out before our boyhood like the
 exhibition of mechanical automata. We
 behold the merchant accumulating wealth—
 the scholar planting his foot upon the sum-
 mit of the temple of fame—the warrior twin-
 ing his brow with the laurel wreath—and
 we yearn to struggle with them for supre-
 macy. In the distance we see nothing but
 the most prominent part of the picture, which
 is success—the anguish of disappointment
 and delay is hidden from our view. We
 see not the pale cheek of neglected merit or
 the broken spirit of unfortunate genius, or
 the sufferings of worth. But we gaze not
 long, for the season of youth passes away
 like the moon's beam from the still water, or
 like a dew drop from the rose in June, or
 an hour in the circle of friendship. Youth de-
 parts and we find ourselves in the midst of
 that great theatre in which in bidding, have
 upheld us, are broken, and we step into the
 crowd with no guide but our conscience, to
 carry us through the intricate windings of the
 path of human life. The beauties of the
 prospective have vanished. The merchant's
 wealth has furrowed his cheek. The acqui-
 rements of the scholar were purchased at
 the price of his health—and the garland
 of the conqueror is fastened upon his brow
 with a thorn, the rankling of which shall
 give him no rest on this side of the grave.—
 Disappointment damps the ardor of our
 first setting out, and misfortune follows close-
 ly on our path, to finish the work and close
 our career.

How often, amid the cares and troubles of
 manhood, do we look back to that sunny
 spot in our memory, the season of our youth;
 and how often a wish to recall it escapes
 fervently that it might pass away.
 From this feeling we do not believe that
 living man was ever exempt. It is twined
 around the very soul—it is incorporated in
 our very nature, and will cling to us even
 when parental entrancement is broken, and
 when the law acknowledges the intellect to
 be full grown, may, at the time, be consid-
 ered a wise suggestion was circulating awhile
 since, that all writing paper, whether for
 correspondence, commercial, or other book-
 ledgers, or that used by editors and authors
 generally, should have a blue tinge, because
 it would so much favor vision. It was a
 philosophical intimation, and were those
 who are constantly at work with the pen,
 careful to procure paper that is not a dead
 white, they would avoid the contingencies
 that await them by writing on a light, re-
 flecting surface.
 Even a slight shade of blue, which is the
 most agreeable to the eye, is a sufficient
 relief to be very perceptible. A clear white
 paper reflects all the rays, back upon the
 retina, which is in that way made irritable,
 —and the visual power is consequently di-
 minished. On the other hand, the introduc-
 tion of blue or green, or indeed any dark
 coloring material, modifies the surface, as
 certain rays are absorbed, instead of
 being sent, by reflection, into the interior
 of the organ.
 The eyes are too precious to be neglect-
 ed. If any one who happens to fall upon
 these observations, is suffering from any
 form of discomfiture as the result of over-
 taxing his visual apparatus, will take care
 hereafter to write on paper that is softened
 by a darkish shading, in the manufacture,
 the relief will be apparent.
 Were a long dissertation given upon the
 ways and wherefores very many have im-
 paired their vision. Beyond recovery, it
 would not be read; but as this statement
 embraces all that is necessary to be ob-
 served to preserve the eyes, we hope the
 hint may be observed.—*Med. World.*

OVER-WORKING THE BRAIN OF CHILDREN.—
 An exchange says that Dr. Robinson is the
 author of the accompanying remarks, on
 over-taxing the youthful brain. It is a
 misfortune not to know what Dr. Robinson,
 among the hundreds of that name, to ex-
 press our convictions of the value of his
 philosophy.
 The minds of children ought to be little,
 if at all, taxed till the brain's development is
 nearly completed, or until the age of six or
 seven years. And will those years be wast-
 ed; or will the future man be more likely
 to be deficient in mental power than one
 who is differently treated? Those years
 will not be wasted. The great book of na-
 ture is opened to the infant's and the child's
 prying investigation; and from nature's
 page may be learned more useful informa-
 tion than is contained in all the children's
 books that have ever been published. But
 even supposing those years to have been
 absolutely lost, which is anything but the
 case, will the child be eventually a loser
 thereby? We contend, with our author,
 that he will not. Task the mind during the
 earlier years, and you only expose the child
 to a greater risk of a disordered brain—not
 only, it may be, lay the foundation for a
 morbid excitability of brain, that may one
 day end in insanity—but you debilitate his
 bodily powers, and by so doing, to