

WATER AND WAR.

Ms. Editor:—Though I think it undaviable to open the columns of a secular paper to religious polemics; yet, you have certainly avowed an impartial spirit, in consenting to hear both sides, and, therefore, the disputants will, doubtless, make their bows to you for your courteousness and justice.

So far the Baptist has had the advantage in words, and seems determined to go over the whole ground on his side of the question. Be it so. But equal justice requires that the other side shall, also, be fully heard.

As the learned Jew of Sanbury threw down the glove, and the accomplished Jurist and Divine of Berwick—not upon Tweed, but in a veritable neighboring county—has taken it up, and engaged in the conflict, it would not be proper, for the present at least, for a third person to interfere with the theological heroes.

It might not, however, be amiss that each of them should be attended by his Squire, as in the days of chivalry, with the added duty, that if either of the noble champions should be wounded, or otherwise put *hors du combat*, his gallant friends may be ready with his assistance, or to supply his place in the deadly strife. But even this may not be necessary—for the Berwick Hero has been so much in the water lately, that his sword has got rusty, and his powder wet, if not his courage damped. I would advise him to burnish his sword, and dry his powder, and stir up his martial spirit, if he would prove conqueror. It appears to me that the learned Jew would be a match for him by borrowing another, but better, essay, and sanctioning it with the initials of his celebrated name. If the learned Jew does not, in a reasonable time, procure a satisfactory reply, I claim, on behalf of nine-tenths of the Christian world, the privilege of furnishing an answer. And on this wise I will answer: First, apply a little caustic to certain portions of Mr. Hall's communications, which will eat them up, sentiments, words, periods, commas, dots and all; secondly, quote some pure Greek as it is found in certain passages of the New Testament; thirdly, produce some arguments against his sophistries; fourthly, throw in, occasionally, a little humility for the purpose—the reader may guess what I mean.

So good readers of the American, if the learned Jew is not so fortunate as to obtain an apt reply to the smart Divine and Jurist of Berwick, you may expect one from an untitled gentile.

By the way, a suggestion occurs, which I would recommend to the learned Jew:—To write forthwith to Judge Lewis, who, from his particular acquaintance with Mr. Hall, would be able to frame an appropriate reply; and, I doubt not, that, by asking the favor, the Judge would be generous enough to permit him to sign it, L. D. L., or by a little transposition, L. L. D., or Doctor of Laws, A SCRIP TURAL BAPTIST.

SINBAD OUTDOONE.—A letter received here from the Pacific, contains an account of the following adventurous and almost miraculous preservation of a boat's crew of the ship *Russel*, of Dartmouth, in June last: When within a few days' sail of Tecamas, the boats of the ship were lowered for whales; one of them harpooned and fastened to a young monster, who, probably not being overpowered with the salutation, immediately made off at the top of his speed. The boat's crew, however, were not disposed to relinquish their only prize, and accordingly held fast the line attached to the harpoon, and their frail bark was thus conveyed with immense velocity through the deep to the distance of several leagues, when by a whisk of their submarine steed, their bark was overturned and partially shattered. One of their number was drowned, and the five survivors were thrown absolutely on their own resources, out of sight of the ship. A scanty stock of provisions remained to them, and in their perilous situation they clung to the keel of the boat during three days and nights, all of which time the wind blew a gale. On the fourth day, the wind having abated, they succeeded in rigging the boat, and bailing out the water, made for land, and arrived at Tecamas. Meantime the ship had unsuccessfully cruised for several days in search of the boat and crew, when they put away for Tecamas, which they reached a few days after the boats crew. Almost incredible as is the story, it appears well authenticated.

New-Bedford Mercury.

JOHNSON, "THE CANADIAN PATRIOT."—We lately published a notice of the lynching of this famed individual, which was afterwards pronounced a hoax. The *Dubuque Express*, of 10th inst., gives the particulars of the trial of Lynchers, they were four in number, and were convicted of burglary and sentenced to the Penitentiary, three of them pay a fine of \$100, and the other \$200. The ringleader and five whites and as many Indians, who were in company, escaped.

The *Express* says, Johnson is a very athletic man, evidently in the decline of life, and possessing that nerve and spirit that never cowered in danger or yielded in misfortune. His daughter "Kate," intelligent and interesting of manners, retiring and agreeable; the "worthy daughter of a gallant sire!"—*North Amer.*

IMPORTANT TO FEMALES.—The Astrologer's Horoscope by Hague for April contains the following important information to females regarding the month of April. "This month will be fraught with elopements, and love quarrels. The planet which affects Venus govern men with bushy beards—some black and some sandy. Marriage should be avoided by all females born during the first part of June, September, December and March. The sitting room will be a safer place than public promenades."

Phil. Gaz.



THE AMERICAN.

Saturday, April 8, 1843.

REMOVAL.

The Office of the "SUNBURY AMERICAN" has been removed to the white frame building, in Centre Alley, adjoining the New Store of H. B. Masser. Business or orders left at the Store, will be promptly attended to.

We have on hand sixty reams of printing paper, similar in size and quality to the sheet upon which this is printed. Also 36 reams of super Royal 21 by 28 inches, which will be sold at cost and carriage, for cash.

On our first page is the conclusion of the account of Mrs. Bulwer—an account of a Bull fight in South America, taken from Stephens' recent travel—also, an interesting article on comets, from the Baltimore American.

Professional engagements in Court have prevented us from giving the usual attention to our columns this week.

The weather for some days past has been fine and favorable. There is still, we understand, in the upper end of the county, snow three feet in depth. With us it has nearly all disappeared.

THE HARRISBURG ARGUS.—We have received several numbers of this paper. It advocates the election of Gen. Cass for the Presidency, and is now, we presume, the organ of the State administration. The paper is neatly printed, and ably edited.

The Governor's veto of the Canal Commissioners' bill, has been sustained in the House. It is said that another bill has passed both Houses, giving the election to the people. The bill to give the public printing to the lowest bidder, passed both Houses on Monday. The State Apportionment bill has also passed.

The *Keystone* at Harrisburg has made a turn that has caused no little surprise. It charges the Governor and his friends with Tyranny, and states that they received several articles direct from the Governor, in favor of Tyler. The *Harrisburg Argus*, a new paper just started, denies the whole charge, and states that the difficulty with the *Keystone* is on account of the public printing. The Governor being unwilling to lend his influence to elect Mr. Bratton, who represents the State Capitol Gazette, *Keystone* and Reporter, which papers it is said have entered into a combination, with an understanding to divide the spoils between them. We think the shortest and best way to settle the matter would be to give the public printing to the lowest and best bidder.

Money Matters.

The demand for notes of Country Banks are improving, excepting those of the Northampton Bank. The relief notes have also improved since our last. The following are the quotations from Bicknell of Tuesday:

Bank of Pennsylvania,	44 1/2
" Susquehanna county,	12 1/2
" Middletown,	2 1/2
Harrisburg Bank	3
Lebanon,	3
Miners'	4 1/2
Northumberland,	4
Northampton,	80
York,	2 1/2
City Broken Relief, and broken country,	7 1/2
Specie paying country,	6
Closed, no specie paying,	7 1/2

The Governor has vetoed the bill to elect a Board of Canal Commissioners by the present Legislature, and another board at the next election, by the people. He states that he would cheerfully sign a bill, giving the election at once to the people, but does not see the propriety of turning over the present board, who are certainly entitled to credit for the great retrenchments and reduction of expenses they have made in the management of the public works. The Governor has also constitutional objections, which would prevent him from sanctioning the bill. We have no room, for the veto message, but the following extract will show some of the reasons assigned:

GENTLEMEN: I herewith return to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, the bill entitled "An Act to reduce the expenses, and provide for the election of the Board of Canal Commissioners," without the executive sanction; and, in conformity to the requirement of the constitution, I proceed to assign, with brevity, the reasons which have induced me to adopt this course.

The object of this bill is to remove the present Board of Canal Commissioners, and to fill their places by a temporary board, to be elected by the Legislature, to serve until their places are supplied under the provisions of the first section of the act, at the next general election. If there were no constitutional barriers to any action on the subject whatever by the present Legislature, and this bill only provided for the election of a Board of Canal Commissioners by the people, it would afford me great pleasure to give it my approval; but as it seeks to vest in the Legislature the appointment of a Board for a period less than a year, I can see no reasons of policy for it, and abundant reasons grounded on principle to constrain me to withhold my assent, independent of my constitutional objections, which I shall give in conclusion. The members

of the present Board have discharged their duty with industry, fidelity and ability, and I have not yet discovered the least reason to believe that their places would be better supplied by the Legislature. If the members of the present Board have been faithless, incompetent, or corrupt, impeach them,—try them in the mode pointed out by the constitution; but it is unjust and unreasonable to punish them in any other way. No charge of mal-conduct or incompetency has been established against them, and as far as I am informed, and believe, they have proven themselves to have been governed by a proper sense of public duty. They have dispensed with unnecessary officers,—they have laid the ground-work of a system of economy in the public disbursements, which, if carried out, must render our improvements an impetus rather than a drawback to the industry of the people; and they have brought into the Treasury a larger amount of profit than has ever yet been derived from those improvements.

More Bribery.

It appears by the following proceedings of the legislature, which we copy from the *Keystone*, that another bribery story has been got up in that body.

Mr. HECKMAN submitted the following:

WHEREAS: It is alleged that certain members of the Board of Canal Commissioners of this Commonwealth, have held out inducements, or bribes to the members of the legislature to corrupt them, and thereby influence their votes on certain measures pending before the legislature; therefore

Resolved, That a select committee of three be appointed to examine said charges, and have authority to send for persons and papers.

Mr. HECKMAN said it had been alleged, and he thought it could be proved, that the Canal Commissioners had been endeavoring to use the influence of their office, by holding out inducements to members to vote against the expected veto of the Canal Commissioners' bill.

Mr. HILL then rose and made the following statement to the House: On day before yesterday, General McCulloch (a member of the House) while walking up to the Capitol, told me that I could get the situation of Collector at Freeport, if I wanted it. He said he had seen Mr. Reynolds, who was then sick; and as the Commissioners would make a change there, I could get the office, as he had it from the best authority. I talked about it some little and told him, as I had a family and lived on a farm, I did not think it would suit me. He then told me that I could get it for any friend that I desired to have appointed. I told him I would consider the matter. Afterwards, we had a conversation on the same subject, at the General's seat in this House, and I asked him what consideration it was expected I would give for this office. He said that he did not know exactly, but he supposed the Commissioners would expect me to sustain the veto of the Canal Commissioners bill, but that I should see the Commissioners in regard to this matter. Last evening, Mr. Kerr of Mercer, took hold of my arm as we were going down from the Capitol, and told me that he understood that I could get any friend appointed to the Collectorship at Freeport, as he thought the present incumbent was unpopular, and the Commissioners would make a change. I told him, also, that I would think about this matter. This morning after breakfast, I met Mr. Overfield, one of the Canal Commissioners, and had some conversation with him in regard to the existing state of affairs in the legislature, and amongst other things, the conversation of General McCulloch came up. I asked him if it was true as the General had stated, that I could get the office of collector for myself, or any friend I desired to have appointed. He said, that if I would help them a tight place just now, and that if I would help them out by sustaining the Governor's veto of the Canal Commissioners' bill, the office should be at my disposal. He said that all I had to do was to write two lines to them saying who I wanted appointed; and if I sustained the veto, it should be done. I told him I would study upon this matter, and left him.

Mr. McCULLOCH said that so far as this statement related to himself, part of it was correct, and a part was not, and he presumed the gentleman from Armstrong had not recollected a part of his conversation. While walking up to the Capitol the other day from Buehler's, I asked the gentleman from Armstrong whether he was not dissatisfied with the canal collector in his section of country. He said he was. I told him I was well aware that some of the Canal Commissioners were not pleased with that appointment when made, and they were not yet satisfied. I then told the gentleman that I thought he could get that situation. He asked me if I had any authority for saying so, and this is the part of the gentleman's statement which is not correct. I told him that I had no authority for saying so, but I was almost certain such was the fact. In regard to the condition spoken of by the gentleman, I know of none. I knew of no condition, although I said I had no doubt he could get the appointment.

Columbia Anthracite Furnace.

We are happy to announce this furnace is again in operation, under the management of the Messrs. Groves. These enterprising gentlemen have, since the suspension of operations at this furnace, been engaged during the interim in putting up a number of useful and excellent improvements in the smelting of iron of great importance in making this useful article, and we doubt not be of much importance not only to themselves but to all who may hereafter engage in this business. From the many benefits derived from their useful inventions, and as a matter of great economy, they will not be overlooked by others of the great iron interest and the business of the manufacture of iron in Pennsylvania,—especially the engine, which is upon the high pressure principle, and altogether one of the greatest pieces of machinery of the day, working without a fly-wheel or any gearing whatever. It has stood the test and works to their entire satisfaction. The cost of putting up an engine of this kind, we would suppose, would not be more than one-half of that of any other here attached to the furnaces. The hot blast is heated at the tunnel head and works with a self-regulator; this works on the most economical principle with regard to the saving of fuel and labor, and regarded as an essential improvement in the hot blast department. As regards the improvements attached to this furnace—their permanence of construction and the economy with which it is now driven—we believe these gentlemen have done much in the advancement of improvement in the making of iron, to enable us to compete with other countries and procure at a less cost this valuable article. Since the recent commencement, in blowing the furnace they have experienced an average of some 65 per centum less fuel per day, than was formerly used. Such a difference in the consumption of fuel is a great consideration where the constant use is necessary.

Denville Intelligence.

Mr. HILL, here interrupted—I, sir, asked the gentleman what was to be the condition, and he said he supposed they would want me to sustain the veto.

Mr. McCULLOCH.—No, sir, I don't recollect of saying anything about that. I did not know of any condition; but I heard one of the Canal Commissioners say that the appointment at Freeport was not satisfactory.

Mr. HILL.—The gentleman said so. I assert most positively that he did.

Mr. KERR of Mercer.—My conversation with the gentleman was this: I asked him the character of a certain individual. He said the individual was unpopular, and could not get twenty votes in his neighborhood. I told him that I had heard so, and that under these circumstances I did believe, if he would point out a good man, whether a friend of his own or not, that he could get the appointment. This I believed from the fact that the man was unpopular, and not because I had any authority from the Canal Commissioners to say any thing on this subject.

MISCELLANY.

Editorial, Condensed and Selected.
The wine crop of the United States for the year 1842, is estimated at 130,748 gallons.

A correct board is said to support and strengthen the chest of a lady. If so, it may be properly termed the "board of Health."

The entire aggregate of the wheat crop of the United States, the last year, was 102,312,540 bushels, being an increase of 10 per cent, or 10,674,693 bushels on the year previous.

A female in London who has an income of £4000 per annum, was recently held to bail under a charge of having stolen three pair of children's shoes.

Some European physician has discovered that the skin of smoked bacon rubbed on the breast every night and morning, cures the consumption. This will increase the demand for porkers.

About the middle of March 1725, snow fell to the depth of two feet in one night. On the 18th and 19th of April 1741, snow fell to the depth of three feet. In 1750, much snow fell during the spring months, and as late as the middle of May, snow fell on the earth. On the 28th of March 1765, snow fell to the depth of two feet.

136,883,386 bushels of potatoes were raised in the United States the past year.

An Indian squaw, out West, has lately produced four posposes at a birth.

The English Commissioners in their Sanitary Report, observe that "marriage improves the probability of life."

A Baltimore butcher was robbed of four five dollar notes, which he left in a cupboard. The perpetrator of this nefarious deed was one of the whitered and mustachioed class, namely, a rat.

Wesley, in the course of his itinerancy, is supposed to have travelled about 300,000 miles, and to have preached about 40,000 sermons.

A new coinage of counterfeit Mexican and Peruvian dollars are in circulation.

The Maine Senate has resolved, by a vote of 16 to 6, to tax railroads as real estate.

Flour is selling at \$2.50 in Cincinnati.

Graphic.—The Comet at St. Augustine, is described by the editors of the News, as seen by the naked eye, to be some two feet in width, and one hundred yards or more in length, with a star at one end of it!

There is a man named Crispin, in Highland county, Ohio, who weighs 396 pounds; his sister 376, and his four boys 952 pounds, making an aggregate of 1724 pounds for the six, averaging 287 1/3 pounds each.

Without frugality none can be rich; and with it few would be poor.

Some editor says, a member of Congress from the West, sent home a Durham cow under frank; the postmaster refused to deliver the package, as the member forgot to saw off the horns.

It is said that a little spirit of turpentine poured into holes and crevices, is an effective cure against crickets and cockroaches.

The provisions made by Captain Tyler, for his Guard, are *Wise and Profitable*. He has pushed *Forward* to Pittsburgh.

It is easier to bring up a dozen children right, than to reform one grown blockhead.

The Chinese lost in their late war, about fifteen thousand men, as many hundred pieces of cannon, and nearly their entire navy.

The Apprentices Library in New York, contains eleven thousand three hundred and fifty-four volumes.

The London Gazette says the helpless widow of a man, who in his lifetime published above a hundred respectable volumes, lies in goal for a debt of five pounds!

By felling trees that cover the tops and sides of mountains, says Humboldt, men in every clime prepare at once two calamities for future generations—want of fuel and scarcity of water.

Trial of Mercer.

This trial, now in progress, excites a great deal of attention. The testimony elicited is much more favorable to young Mercer than had been expected. The following condensed statement of the proceedings is from the N. Y. Tribune:

"The trial of Mercer for the murder of Heberton, at Woodbury, N. J., is fairly under way, and the grounds of defence were fully laid down by the counsel who opened in behalf of the prisoner. The prosecution rested after proving the fact of killing. Mr. Browne, in opening the defence, made a long address, in which he alluded first to the youth of Mercer, the weakness of his frame, his nervous temperament, and to the effect which an early disease had upon both his mind and body. His father is a retired Mechanic of Philadelphia. He has four sisters, three of whom are single. Sarah was represented as a mere child, modest and of yielding disposition, having never attended a theatre or a ball, and of the most unexceptionable character, until a short time since—Her associates were mostly with children like herself. Heberton was an abandoned libertine, his place of business a brothel, and his only pursuit seduction. Miss Mercer first encountered him while she was passing through the street with a friend to purchase some grapes for a sick relation. He had followed them from street to street, and she mistook him for Mr. Bastido, whom she had seen at the house of her brother-in-law. Heberton took advantage of her mistake, and on meeting her again in the street, a few days after—he having sought the meeting, which with her was purely accidental—spoke to her, and told her he would see her again. All this while he allowed her to suppose that this name was Bastido, and under that name he exacted a promise from her to meet him again. At the third interview he declared himself violently in love with her, and solicited an introduction to her family. She named several friends who would introduce him, but he knew none of them. He pretended, however, to know a Mr. Dinkler, of whom she spoke, and said he would call upon her family with him. He never did so, however. Up to this time his treatment of her had been gentlemanly and becoming.

Soon afterwards, however, while walking with her, he complained of the cold; he led her into Elizabeth-street, where she had never been before, and proposed to call at the house of a Mrs. Metore. She declined, but he assured her he was well acquainted there, at the same time ringing the bell. The servant came to the door, and he urged her in. They entered a room where there was a fire. She immediately became alarmed and refused to remain, but Heberton locked the door, put the key in his pocket, and, upon her screaming for assistance, drew a pistol and threatened her life if she did not yield to his desires. In this way he forced her, though screaming and struggling, into compliance with his wishes. This, the Counsel said, would be fully proved by Miss Mercer herself, by persons to whom she told the story, and by women who heard her screams.

After this Heberton endeavored to persuade her to silence, promised to marry her and go to New Orleans, declared that he could satisfactorily refute any story she might tell her parents to his disadvantage, threatened if she exposed him to prove that she invited him to go with her, and in various ways endeavored to procure her silence. During all this time he was boasting among his companions of his successful villainy, and on one occasion in an oyster cellar took a pistol from his pocket saying that that was for her brother, if he attempted to interfere. Being asked what he would do should any one thus wrong his sister, he declared that he would "blow his brains out like a dog."

The day on which Miss Mercer left her home she spent with her married sister. A servant told her that her father was very angry with her for something he had learned, and so frightened her that she ran away to a house where she had met Heberton. Her brother next day met Heberton, and took him to Mr. Mercer's House, where an angry interview took place. Young Mercer used his best endeavors to find his sister, but Heberton denied all knowledge of her. The woman with whom she was staying, however informed her parents that she was there, and she was at once sent for and brought home. She told the whole story to her mother, and the next day to her brother, who, from the moment he heard it, seemed hopelessly mad. He raved and assailed every one he met, and was only prevented from killing his sister by those around him. The interview at the Alderman's office rendered him still farther affected and every act he performed seemed evidence of insanity. Mr. Browne proceeded at great length to show the state of Mercer's mind at the time of committing the deed for which he is on trial, was such as to absolve him from all legal responsibility for the deed. He made a very long, ingenious, and elaborate argument, principally upon this point. Testimony will of course be submitted to prove the several points on which reliance is placed."

The Canal.—We have the pleasure to announce that the Canal is open, and that several boats, cleared from Columbia westward, have passed this place. We may soon expect a brisk business upon our improvements.—*Harrisburg Argus.*

A NEW DEFINITION.—The following extract from an unpublished dictionary was circulated in the House and created considerable amusement.—*Boston Courier.*

"Legislative Assembly.—A circus, where each of the performers rides his own hobby, and takes his turn at playing the clown."

The Boston Weekly Bee shows such industry as well becomes its title. He has you a Queen Bee in your hive, honey? *Rich. Star.*

"Ay, corporal; and the cell she most affects is our pocket," says the Bee.

A lady once asked a Jack tar why a vessel was called she.—"because," answered Jack, with a knowing leer, "the rigging costs more than the hull."

Evidence on the Trial of Mercer.

From the testimony delivered on the trial of Mercer, there can be no doubt that the young man was stark raving mad at the time he shot Heberton. The testimony of a number of witnesses proves this most conclusively. The general impression is, that he will be acquitted. The following is a part of the testimony delivered on his trial, describing the state of his mind:

Eliza Jane Quinn, sworn—I am the sister of Singleton Mercer; Mr. Bastido was at my house on the 17th of December; my brother had a small party of gentlemen there; it was his birthday; Sarah was there; she was in the front parlor; Mr. Bastido was in the back parlor; the folding doors were partly open, but the ladies were not in the room with the gentlemen; I have seen Mr. Heberton; he and Mr. Bastido might very easily be mistaken for each other; I was at the house spoken of; Singleton was in a very distracted state; when I went in, he put his arms round my neck and burst into tears; his head on my shoulder; after a few moments he began to rave; pushed me away; said if I did not leave the room he'd kick me out; I had said nothing; given him no cause; he became so very violent that I got the gentleman to take care of him; some one said they had better get Mr. Gozens, the police officer. Singleton asked me to send for my husband; I sent, but my husband had gone out town; he came in some time after, and without him saying anything Singleton ordered him out of the house; his features were completely changed; he behaved in a very rude manner after my father returned from the "squire's" office, I left the room shortly after that; (corroborates previous witnesses as to Singleton Mercer's other behaviour;) I do not believe he was sane; I have seen insane persons; and have seen two insane persons; one was a near and dear relative; I attended her until she died; it was my husband's mother, she died insane; his eyes had a much wilder appearance than either.

Jacob Bennet, sworn—I am one of the Captains of the City Watch; I saw Singleton Mercer about 11 o'clock on the night before the occurrence in an Oyster Cellar under the Adelphi Buildings, Fifth below Walnut; I went into the cellar in consequence of information from wath-man Davis; Singleton Mercer was sitting at a table; I looked at him a moment he got up in the act of folding a letter in a hurried manner; he came towards me and said you was with me last night at the corner of Sixth and Chestnut street; I replied "no, you are mistaken," he immediately turned round and called for a wafer and more paper; at the same time saying you shall be paid for all I have; set down again; commenced writing; looked at me again; got up and came towards me; repeated you was with me last night at Sixth and Chestnut street; a gentleman alongside of me who knew him introduced me to him; told him my name and office; he then went back to the table; he set down and again repeated that which he twice before said to me; the gentleman again told him who I was; he then asked me to retire to a distant part of cellar with him; and commenced telling me of the disgrace of his sister; the narration appeared very painful to him and I told him I was acquainted with the facts; he placed both hands upon my shoulders and said his sister, his father, his mother, were all crazy; my family is ruined; I am the only one left to redress their wrongs; that Heberton had done this thing; a prosecution had been brought against him and he was attempting to escape; his trunks are now on the opposite side of the street at a barber's shop; his manner became very wild; his countenance was haggard; there was something about him I cannot at all describe; I left him and went to the gentleman who had introduced him to me; said to him the man is not in his senses, you must try and get him home; the young man with him said they had been trying to get him home all day; that he had not been home since the morning previous; I said if you wish to get him home, I can soon do that for you; he said no, don't make use of any violence; if you do he will shoot us; I then asked he armed; if so, I will arrest him at any rate; the answer was, I don't know that he is; I then said I would try and persuade him to go hence; I did so; he said no, he would never go home till he knew where Heberton had gone to, that his home was destroyed; he said he knew he could go without his trunks and he was determined to watch them; about that time a black man came down; there was some little stir, and the conversation was stopped; I again asked him to go home; told him I would take his place, and watch the trunks; if they attempted to take the trunks away I would inform him; he said he lived too far off; I could not inform him in time; I found it was vain to attempt to get him to go home; something had been said about Bloodgood's, and I said go there, that is nearer; and I can send you the information; I think it was about that time he called me again apart, and again told me his history; I again told him to go to Bloodgood's, take a night's rest, and he would feel better in the morning—after a good deal of persuasion, he said if you will pledge me your word and honor as a gentleman that you will not permit those trunks to leave that barber's shop, I will go to Bloodgood's; I gave him that pledge; that relieved him very much, and he said in a livelier manner than he had shown before, "come boys, let's take a drink;" I declined drinking, and told he had better not drink himself; he insisted upon it; his manner again became violent and wild; I found the best way to calm him was to humor him in his request, he invited two others and the four of us went up to the bar; a bottle of ale was drawn for Mr. Mercer; he put the glass to his lips; he set down the glass of ale without tasting it, and said let us eat some oysters; I told him I would not; he insisted; he had not eaten anything since the morning before; three fried oysters were put on a plate for him, which he cut in several pieces; without touching either the oysters or the ale, he took me apart to tell me the story of his wrongs; I again told him about Bloodgood's; he seemed to have forgotten my pledge; I repeated it; he said,

From the testimony delivered on the trial of Mercer, there can be no doubt that the young man was stark raving mad at the time he shot Heberton. The testimony of a number of witnesses proves this most conclusively. The general impression is, that he will be acquitted. The following is a part of the testimony delivered on his trial, describing the state of his mind:

Eliza Jane Quinn, sworn—I am the sister of Singleton Mercer; Mr. Bastido was at my house on the 17th of December; my brother had a small party of gentlemen there; it was his birthday; Sarah was there; she was in the front parlor; Mr. Bastido was in the back parlor; the folding doors were partly open, but the ladies were not in the room with the gentlemen; I have seen Mr. Heberton; he and Mr. Bastido might very easily be mistaken for each other; I was at the house spoken of; Singleton was in a very distracted state; when I went in, he put his arms round my neck and burst into tears; his head on my shoulder; after a few moments he began to rave; pushed me away; said if I did not leave the room he'd kick me out; I had said nothing; given him no cause; he became so very violent that I got the gentleman to take care of him; some one said they had better get Mr. Gozens, the police officer. Singleton asked me to send for my husband; I sent, but my husband had gone out town; he came in some time after, and without him saying anything Singleton ordered him out of the house; his features were completely changed; he behaved in a very rude manner after my father returned from the "squire's" office, I left the room shortly after that; (corroborates previous witnesses as to Singleton Mercer's other behaviour;) I do not believe he was sane; I have seen insane persons; and have seen two insane persons; one was a near and dear relative; I attended her until she died; it was my husband's mother, she died insane; his eyes had a much wilder appearance than either.

Jacob Bennet, sworn—I am one of the Captains of the City Watch; I saw Singleton Mercer about 11 o'clock on the night before the occurrence in an Oyster Cellar under the Adelphi Buildings, Fifth below Walnut; I went into the cellar in consequence of information from wath-man Davis; Singleton Mercer was sitting at a table; I looked at him a moment he got up in the act of folding a letter in a hurried manner; he came towards me and said you was with me last night at the corner of Sixth and Chestnut street; I replied "no, you are mistaken," he immediately turned round and called for a wafer and more paper; at the same time saying you shall be paid for all I have; set down again; commenced writing; looked at me again; got up and came towards me; repeated you was with me last night at Sixth and Chestnut street; a gentleman alongside of me who knew him introduced me to him; told him my name and office; he then went back to the table; he set down and again repeated that which he twice before said to me; the gentleman again told him who I was; he then asked me to retire to a distant part of cellar with him; and commenced telling me of the disgrace of his sister; the narration appeared very painful to him and I told him I was acquainted with the facts; he placed both hands upon my shoulders and said his sister, his father, his mother, were all crazy; my family is ruined; I am the only one left to redress their wrongs; that Heberton had done this thing; a prosecution had been brought against him and he was attempting to escape; his trunks are now on the opposite side of the street at a barber's shop; his manner became very wild; his countenance was haggard; there was something about him I cannot at all describe; I left him and went to the gentleman who had introduced him to me; said to him the man is not in his senses, you must try and get him home; the young man with him said they had been trying to get him home all day; that he had not been home since the morning previous; I said if you wish to get him home, I can soon do that for you; he said no, don't make use of any violence; if you do he will shoot us; I then asked he armed; if so, I will arrest him at any rate; the answer was, I don't know that he is; I then said I would try and persuade him to go hence; I did so; he said no, he would never go home till he knew where Heberton had gone to, that his home was destroyed; he said he knew he could go without his trunks and he was determined to watch them; about that time a black man came down; there was some little stir, and the conversation was stopped; I again asked him to go home; told him I would take his place, and watch the trunks; if they attempted to take the trunks away I would inform him; he said he lived too far off; I could not inform him in time; I found it was vain to attempt to get him to go home; something had been said about Bloodgood's, and I said go there, that is nearer; and I can send you the information; I think it was