

From the N. Y. Mirror.

Homoeopathy, Allopathy and Young Physic.

Fifty years ago! word homoeopathy was the first time lapsed in an obscure town in Germany.

Fifty years ago, and to express a belief of the truth of this derided science, was to bring on the rash believer's head the anathemas of the schools.

At first, Contempt, silent and dignified; next, Ridicule, noisy and confident; at length, Envy and her offspring Falsehood, have sought, each in its turn, to crush the infant rebel against hoary-headed usage.

Fifty years have passed, and lo! the change! The houseless wanderer thrown upon the tender mercies of a selfish world, to battle with the pampered minion of twenty centuries, in the words of our author, "comes before us now, not in the garb of a suppliant, unknown and helpless, but as a conqueror, powerful, famous and triumphant."

One of the greatest stumbling-blocks in the way of the Allopathic non-believers is the doctrine of the infinitesimal doses. In the consideration of this part of his subject, Dr. Forbes descends from the elevated and dignified position of a reviewer, and has recourse to the *reductio ad absurdum* argument, by entering into an arithmetical calculation of the quantity of matter in the thirtieth delution.

From a very clever work on the subject of Homoeopathy, recently published in London, written by M. B. Sampson, under the superintendence of the English Homoeopathic Association, Lord Grosvenor President, we make the following extract.

The effects of malaria, in penetrating the system, and giving rise, in some instances, to rapidly fatal symptoms, are also well known; yet no one has ever been able to detect any specific matter of contagion, although many attempts have been made. It is said that an inveterate ague was produced by the canal at Versailles, though it was little larger than a fish-pond. It is the opinion of Dr. McCulloch and that of several Italian physicians, that a single inspiration of malaria may be quite sufficient to cause disease. Lancisi says, that as thirty ladies and gentlemen were making an excursion of pleasure up the Tiber, the wind suddenly shifted to the south, coming over the Pontine marshes, and twenty-nine were instantly taken ill, only one escaping. Indeed, so subtle is its influence, that in the case of vessels lying off an unhealthy shore, the difference of half a cable's length from the coast has caused vessels to suffer or escape."

How much matter is there in the atmosphere that thus deals disease and death on every hand! Again: a single grain of musk will diffuse its perfume for years in a room, the air of which may be renewed daily, and yet at the expiration of the time the perfume will be as strong as at first, and the grain of musk will still weigh a grain; now, as smelling is produced by the particles of the aromatic substance flying off and coming in contact with the olfactory nerve, what must be the size and number of decillions of decillions of particles, whose aggregate weight amounts (appreciably) to nothing at all? Why, compared with them, the atoms of the highest Homoeopathic attenuation are as mountains to the sands on the seashore. We think Dr. Forbes has here a fine field for the exercise of his arithmetical powers. Nay, still further, the very operations of the mind—hope, fear, joy and grief, have severally produced sudden effects, altogether beyond the power of the most 'heroic' allopathic drug. Instances are not rare, of persons being struck dumb by terror, and of others restored from that state by the same cause. Many persons have had their hair turned gray, in one night, nay, on the instant, from sudden fright. Where has been the *matier morbi* in all these instances? Away then with the childishness which seeks metrical causes for appreciable effects!

SNOW ADRIFT.—As two ladies were passing through one of the streets of Boston, a few days since, a large quantity of snow became detached from the roof of a house, and descended upon their "devoted heads," completely burying them beneath it. Some gentlemen who witnessed the accident, gallantly dug them out, and in a pitiless plight they were hurried to carriage and conveyed home.

THE FARE OF AVA, who died last week, left \$2000 in gold; but owned, we are informed, about \$20,000 worth of property, all of which will go to his wife in Cincinnati, whom he had abandoned, and not lived with for twenty years.

SUCCESS TO HEK.—The Hickman (Ky.) Standard says:—A lady residing within fifty miles of this place has recently given birth to four sons within an hour. They have been named Polk, Dallas, Texas and Oregon, and all in a thriving condition. The cry is still, "they come," not "still they come."

BAD PAY.—It is said that in Illinois the Circuit Judges are so poorly paid they are compelled, when on the circuit, to swap horses and gamble in order to support their families.

AN ITALIAN MORE wrote a life of St. Francis Xavier where he asserted that, by one sermon he converted ten thousand persons in a desert island.

hasty sketches, and some fragmentary views relating to the general subject which have long occupied our thoughts, and which are now, as it were, forced from us somewhat suddenly and prematurely by the perusal of Dr. Henderson's book."

"We have not been unaware of its claims to attention, nor regardless of its remarkable progress in every country of Europe, both as a system of medical doctrine, and a system of medical practice."

Of Hahnemann, the reviewer says:

"No careful observer of his actions, or candid reader of his writings, can hesitate for a moment to admit, that he was a very extraordinary man,—one whose name will descend to posterity as the exclusive excogitator and founder of an original system of medicine, as ingenious as many that preceded it, and destined, probably, to be the remote, if not the immediate cause of more important fundamental changes in the practice of the healing art, than have resulted from any promulgated since the days of Galen himself. Hahnemann was undoubtedly a man of genius and a scholar; a man of indefatigable industry, of undaunted energy. In the history of medicine his name will appear in the same list with those of the greatest systematists and theorists; unsurpassed by few in the originality and ingenuity of his views, superior to most in having substantiated and carried out his doctrines into actual and most extensive practice."

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THE AMERICAN. Saturday, March 21, 1846.

V. E. PALMER, Esq., at No. 24 and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, is authorized to act as Agent, for subscription or advertising.

Also at his Office No. 160 Nassau Street, New York.

And at the Corner of Baltimore and Calvert streets, Baltimore.

In another column will be found an account of the ravages of the flood at Harrisburg and the adjoining places. The loss of the Clark's Ferry bridge will be much felt by those employed on the public works. This bridge, which was rebuilt by the State in 1836, cost, if we recollect right, \$80,000. The amount of damages done to the canals cannot yet be estimated or known. We have had various contradictory rumors. One thing, however, is certain, that the damages are immense, though not as great as was expected.

It will be seen by the accounts of the flood along the Susquehanna, that we have suffered less than a number of other places. At Harrisburg the flood was higher than the pumpkin flood, in 1787. Here it was about a foot lower.

A few thousand dollars expended in the erection of embankments, would hereafter permanently secure us from the invasion of the most destructive flood. These things should be attended to. Had proper embankments been made a few years since, the county alone would have saved several thousand dollars.

The mails have been delayed in every direction by the flood. The Philadelphia and Harrisburg mails of Friday, due here on Saturday, did not reach us until Wednesday.

Our Washington letter did not come to hand as usual. The mails have been very irregular. Between Harrisburg and this place and Northumberland, they are carried on horse-back. Between this and Pottsville, by two horse wagons.

The rise of the river above low water level was just twenty one feet, as ascertained by Mr. Jacob Seasholtz, at his lime kilns, a few miles below town. He built his lime kilns twenty feet above low water mark, in order to be perfectly secure from high water, which, however, covered them about one foot.

THE WATER-CURE JOURNAL, published by Dr. Joel Shaw, of New York, is a highly interesting and valuable publication. It is published semi-monthly at \$1 per annum. We have extracted several interesting articles from the Journal, which will be found on our first page, and shall continue to make extracts hereafter.

A Steam Ferry.

Since the destruction of the Northumberland bridge, there has been some talk of establishing a steam ferry between this place and Northumberland, to touch also on the Union county side, opposite this place. That this would prove a profitable investment, we have never entertained a doubt, even before the bridges were destroyed. For running a steam boat, there is probably no finer basin in the Union, and as travelling is always increased in proportion to the facilities afforded, we have no doubt that it would be greatly increased in this instance. So far as foot passengers are concerned, they would be five fold greater than heretofore. The receipts of the ferry between Sunbury and the Union county side would be, we are confident, increased fourfold; and so far as profits are concerned, we would not give one share of ferry stock for three times the amount of bridge stock. We feel confident that such an investment would yield a dividend of from 15 to 20 per cent, a result which can readily be made apparent from facts and figures.

When once persons could step on board of a boat and for sixpence be landed either at Sunbury or Northumberland in a few minutes, how many hundreds would embrace the opportunity, who would otherwise never think of it.

The tolls of the Northumberland bridge, averaged of late years, we believe, about two thousand dollars per annum. This, together with the tolls of the Sunbury Ferry—the towing of between 300 and 400 boats for the coal trade—the towing of lumber, minerals, &c., would, no doubt, amount in all to about \$3000. But let us take the receipts that have actually been realized, and say \$2,500. From this amount, we must deduct the expenses, wear and tear, &c. Two hands, one an engineer, would be sufficient, and could be had at an expense of about \$2 per day. The consumption of coal would be about 1 of a ton per day, of fine coal at \$1 25, or about \$1 per day, for fuel. This, for 275 days in the year, would amount to \$825. As to this 10 per cent. for wear and tear and other contingencies, say on \$4,000 to be expended for a boat and wharfs, making \$400 more, or in all, \$1,225. But in order to cover all possible contingencies, we may allow \$275 more, making the whole of the expenditure \$1,500, there would be still a nett income of \$1600 per annum, or a dividend of 25 per cent. per annum. Even the most skeptical cannot doubt that the enterprise would be highly beneficial, as well as profitable.

A friend of some experience, makes the following bill of expenses, viz: Engineers, \$270; Captain, \$270; Boy, \$24; Coal, Oil, &c., \$405; Landings, \$200; wear and tear, \$200; making in all, \$1,399.

Great Flood and Loss of Life and Property.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND, DANVILLE, CATTAWISSA AND BERWICK BRIDGES DESTROYED.—ALSO THE HARRISBURG, CLARK'S FERRY AND OTHER BRIDGES SWEEPED OFF.

We have been visited with the most extraordinary freshet that has ever occurred in this section of country since the great pumpkin flood, about sixty years ago. The immense body of snow that had been accumulating during the winter, had been going off gradually for a week past, until Thursday and Friday nights of the 12th and 13th inst., when the whole mass went off very suddenly with a heavy rain. The small streams were soon bank full. The Susquehanna rose very rapidly, and, on Friday night, the ice started. On Saturday morning, it was evident that the water, rising at such a rapid rate, must soon be swollen beyond the limits of the banks of the river. The embankments, which have hitherto kept out ordinary freshets, were too low for the sudden and impetuous rush of the vast bodies of water, accumulating from every stream and rivulet. The river continued rising rapidly until about midnight, when a considerable portion of the town was inundated, many of the houses in low situations having water on the first floor. The old Northumberland bridge, east of the Island being previously in a tottering condition, was hourly expected to fall. About 4 o'clock P. M., several heavy masses of a bridge hove in sight which, however, proved to be the Danville bridge, which was swept away a few hours previous, raking the old Northumberland bridge considerably in passing through. A gentleman from this place, anxious to reach home, passed through but a few minutes previous to its fall. About 9 o'clock in the evening, several spans of the old Northumberland bridge fell with a tremendous crash and were swept down the stream. On Sunday morning, about 10 o'clock, one of the centre spans of the new Northumberland bridge, west of the Island, rebuilt about six years since, was carried away, resting on what appeared to us a portion of another bridge, probably part of the Cattawissa bridge, which was also swept away. On Monday morning another span of the new Northumberland bridge was carried away. The loss of this bridge was most probably caused by a portion of some other bridge which came in contact with it. The fact is, that this has been the highest, as well as the most destructive flood which has been witnessed in the valley of the Susquehanna. Every bridge from Harrisburg to Berwick, on the North Branch, has been carried away, the fall of the first bridge, in most cases, causing the destruction of those below it. That noble structure, the West Branch bridge, built by the State, which spans the river from Northumberland to the Blue-hill, stands as firm as ever. The Lewisburg and Milton bridges, on the West Branch, are also uninjured. The turnpike bridge at this place,—the county bridge on the lower road,—as well as the county bridge at the mouth of the Shamokin creek, have all been swept off by the torrent.

Near the mouth of Turtle creek, a few miles below Lewisburg, at the Union trading store, a most distressing accident occurred. Mr. Folmer, his son, and Mr. Gundy, who had charge of the store, were standing on a small bridge near the mill dam, looking at the ice dam that had formed, when it suddenly gave away, almost instantaneously burying the bridge and all on it beneath a mass of floating ice.

The extent of the damages of the canals are not yet known. They are, however, very great, and will, no doubt, delay the opening of the navigation for several months.

Several new aqueducts passed down the river, a part of one having been caught at this place. Several spans of the Danville bridge are lodged on McCarty's Island, about a mile below this place. Two spans of the same bridge are also high and dry above Grant's farm. The damages on the Schuylkill have also been considerable. The new works of the Schuylkill Navigation Company have not, however, suffered as much as was expected.

At Danville, the flood has been very destructive. A great number of houses around the iron works, were inundated. The Danville Furnace was near being drowned out, and the Rolling Mill was obliged to stop work. The new aqueduct has been swept off, as well as the bridge at the mouth of the Mahoning creek. Such an entire destruction of bridges has never before occurred, and most probably would never happen again, as most if not all, without an exception, have been constructed too low. The bridges swept off between Harrisburg and Berwick cannot be replaced at a cost less than \$200,000. Some of these will no doubt soon be rebuilt, others must bide their time.

There were rumors that the middle creek aqueduct below Selingsgrove had been carried away. We are gratified to learn, that the report is not true. The aqueduct over the Mahantango, near McKee's Half-Falls, has been swept off. The canal, it is said, has sustained pretty serious injury about the Junction. From thence to Harrisburg the damages are but trifling. The canal between this place and Selingsgrove has been washed and filled up considerably in several places, but the injury is nowhere as serious as was anticipated. The bridge at Clark's Ferry, has lost but one span, (we think there are eight or nine in all,) which can be repaired without any very heavy expense.

The Canal Commissioners have reports of the main line as far as Newport, and thus far there is no breach that will cost \$200 to repair. We trust the damages are nowhere so great as was supposed.

We have heard it said, that a handsome frame house passed Cattawissa, painted white, with the window curtains at the windows up stairs. We have, since writing the above, been informed, that but one span of the Cattawissa bridge was destroyed, and that the Berwick bridge was yet standing, but in a tottering condition.

About 500 feet of rail road between this place and Shamokin, has been washed away. This, however, will cause but little delay in its operations.

HOMOEOPATHY.—In another column, we have placed an interesting article on Homoeopathy, from the New York Mirror. This system of practice is rapidly extending itself, and is now being discussed on both sides by some of the most learned and distinguished men of the profession.

The late conversion of Professor Henderson, of the University of Edinburgh, one of the most distinguished medical schools in the world, to the principles of Homoeopathy, has brought out Dr. Forbes in a review against it, which forms the subject of the article in the Mirror. The New York Tribune also contains an able notice of the review, in favor of Homoeopathy. Dr. Forbes, it will be seen, makes so many admissions in favor of the new system, and so many against the old, that it is difficult sometimes to tell which side he intends to condemn. We shall publish the conclusion and best portion of the article next week.

Mr. Sawyer, a member of Congress from Ohio, has acquired no little notoriety in consequence of the expulsion of the Reporters of the New York Tribune from their places, because one of the Reporters who signs himself "Persimmon," gave a sketch of the personal habits of Mr. Sawyer. We do not approve of personalities, but if members of Congress so far forget what is due to the dignity of their station, as to take their meals in the Halls of Congress, when receiving eight dollars per day, it is no more than just that the world should know it. The press in such a case acts as a public censor, for the good of the public. The statement of Persimmon was, "MR. SAWYER, of Ohio, feeds about 2 o'clock every day—that he has his food rolled up in a piece of paper—that after eating he throws the paper from the window—that he wipes his hands upon his coat sleeves, his head, &c."

Mr. Sawyer admitted that in substance the remarks were correct. Persimmon further remarks:—"I am informed by a gentleman who was in the ladies' gallery a few days since that he saw a Member tother day walking up and down the floor, washing his mouth with a tooth brush and squirting the rinsings over the carpet."

The Washington Times, which charged Mr. Calcutt and other Senators with plotting with the British Minister for the surrender of Oregon, has been convicted of falsehood by the Committee.

Mr. Benton, from the Select Committee, read the report relative to the charges in the Washington Times. The report shows that every specification made in that paper, about collusion between Senators and the United States, was utterly false. The report says that "the charge, in all its bearings, is a contemptible falsehood," and recommends that the publisher, editor and reporters of the Times be excluded from the Reporters' gallery.

Several important bills have been reported in the Legislature, by the committee of Ways and Means. One is to consolidate the public debt.

The other bill is yet more important; it is entitled "an act to provide for the reduction of public debt," and fixes new objects of taxation; by it, ships, brigs, schooners, and all other sailing vessels, all steamboats, stages, hacks, cabs, and other passenger vehicles, canal boats, locomotive engines and railroad cars, owned, used, or possessed by this Commonwealth, shall pay a tax of three mills upon every dollar of their value, anthracite coal shall pay ten cents per ton.

Every person, corporation, or firm, is required to answer upon oath, the assessor's inquiries as to his moneys at interest, &c., and if he does not furnish such a statement, the assessor shall assess him at his highest amount, and to that the commissioners add one-third more, or 33 per cent. Moneys, &c., owned by any person out of the State, are to be in like manner taxed, and the debtor or other person having the custody shall pay the tax, and be allowed for it; all loans and stocks, guaranteed by the Commonwealth, shall pay a half mill for each dollar, on which one per cent is payable and so on in proportion; one per cent is to be paid on all taxes, professions, &c., taking off the limit of \$200, making all taxable; all dealers in goods, wares and merchandise, the growth, product, and manufacture of the United States, and every store, warehouse for selling them, where such persons manufacture them, shall be taxed as the foreign merchandise is taxed, and there shall be in every county appraisers of mercantile taxes, as now exists here.

ARREST OF THE MURDERER OF THE VAN NEESE FAMILY.—The murderer of the Van Neese family, in Cayuga, New York, has been arrested. He is a black man, named William Freeman, about 23 years old. The negro has made no formal confession, but does not deny that he did the deed. He carries his arm in a sling on account of a deep gash in his right hand, which he acknowledges was made by the knife breaking against the breast-bone of Van Ansdale. The piece of the blade, about three inches in length, was found in the house, and the rest of the dirk outside of the door. Freeman has served five years' imprisonment in the State Prison at Auburn, and was sent there by Mr. Van Neese for stealing a horse. He now says that "he was imprisoned wrongfully, and he ought to have pay for his time. There was no redress, and he was determined to have vengeance." Mrs. Wyckoff, the only victim of this demon murderer who was not instantly killed, is dead. It appears that George W. Hyatt made a knife a year or so since, which was identified as the one used by Freeman in the murder. It was obtained by Freeman last Monday of Hyatt.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph. Great Flood in the Susquehanna.—The Destruction of the Harrisburg Bridges.—The Bridge at Clark's Ferry over the Susquehanna, and the Bridge over Sherman's Creek, below Duncannon.—Stoppage of the Anthracite Furnace.—Probable Destruction of the Public Works, &c. &c.

The rise of the water in the Susquehanna, which commenced on Friday last, has been the most destructive flood that has ever been witnessed since the first settlement of the country on its borders. Harrisburg, at the time of writing, is approachable on the East, South and West only by water communication, and, standing on an elevated place, it presents the appearance of a town sinking into the sea—the houses in the lower part of it being submerged in water, in some instances, nearly up to the second story. The grounds above it, lower than the main part of the town, are covered with water, generally so deep as to obliterate all traces of fences, bridges and streets.

Paxton creek is entirely lost in the mighty congregation of waters, and the Susquehanna from shore to shore, covering entirely the large island which lay in its centre, which connected the two divisions of the old Harrisburg bridge, presents a current of fierce turbulent waters, bearing on its bosom an indescribable and innumerable mass of flood wood, timber, &c., that has been torn from its resting places, as trophies of its irresistible power.

Between 10 and 11 o'clock on Saturday evening, the piers of the old Harrisburg bridge, (that celebrated structure, the first built over the Susquehanna—built by Burr, on the arch principle, at a cost of \$195,000, commenced in 1813 and completed in 1817,) which have buffeted many a raging flood, began to give way on this side of the island and to yield to the mighty current and its battering ram of ice, and, on Sunday morning, between three and four o'clock, two of the middle span of arches fell and were swept down the stream; these were soon followed by two others, leaving but a single span, next to Harrisburg, which also fell about two o'clock and floated majestically away.

The West part of the Harrisburg Bridge, extending from the Island to the Cumberland shore is still standing—but whether it has sustained injury is yet unknown.

Of the new Railroad Bridge, which was being constructed by Mr. Kirkbridge, all the piers were finished and four spans of the frame work was erected on them: Two spans of this went just before the Harrisburg Bridge, and the two other spans were swept off by the Duncan's Island Bridge floating against it in its descent. Thus the Harrisburg side of the river is entirely stripped of all bridges, or vestige of them, the piers being mostly washed away, and their places being only discernible by the whirl of the water as it passes over where they were.

Two spans of the eastern end of the bridge at Duncan's Island, erected in 1837—one of the finest structures in our country—have also been carried away. Also, the bridge over the mouth of the Juniata, from Duncan's Island to the Perry County shore; and the bridge over Sherman's creek in the village of Duncannon. The dam across the same stream with the extensive nail factory and rolling mill, at the same place, has also been carried away, and the works of Fish & Co. are reported as having suffered greatly in the destruction of buildings, machinery, &c. The nail factory is said to be entirely destroyed. The loss at this place can scarcely be estimated.

From the high water of the Juniata, as well as the Susquehanna, and a knowledge of its effect in former floods, it is feared that the entire Mail Line of the Canal will be rendered unavigable for a great part, if not the whole of the open season; and if the destruction by the flood has extended up the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna, the Canal may be so damaged as to be irreparable for the present year. It is a sad prospect for the hopes of Pennsylvania, and one that we fear may be felt by those who have placed dependence on her ability to do justice to all.

All communication between Harrisburg and the West side of the Susquehanna is entirely cut off, and must remain so until the waters subside and a ferry is opened. The train of the Cumberland Valley Railroad arrived yesterday morning and afternoon, on the West side, and their whistles, but after finding that all communication was cut off, they moved West again with their load of passengers.

The casting house of the Anthracite furnace Ex Gov Porter, was covered with water, which rose as high as the hearth, and into the furnace of the boilers. The furnace was stopped; it is supposed that the blast will be resumed tomorrow.

Parts of buildings, water wheels, canal boats, lumber, logs, &c., have passed down on bosom of the flood. One canal boat was brot to shore a short distance below town, in which were upwards of one hundred barrels of fl. The loss to individuals as well as to the State and to companies, will in many instances be severe; and it is not unlikely that hundreds have been toiling for months in preparing lumber for market, have been stripped and left destitute. At present the losses can only be conjectured and we hope that they will not equal the pre expectations of our community.

It is feared that great damage has also been done to the Wiconisco Canal—but nothing true known.

A great portion of the town of Portsmouth, miles below Harrisburg, on the Susquehanna the junction of the Swatara is said to be a water, and the houses secured from floating away by cables.

The following is a statement of the rise of Susquehanna at Harrisburg which contained more water than the terrible ice flood in the winter of 1785, or the memorable pumpkin flood of 1787. At 3 o'clock, P. M., on Friday, the 12th instant