THE COMPILER.

A DEMOCRATIC AND FAMILY JOURNAL.

By H. J. STABLE. "TRUTH IS MIGHTY, AND WILL PREVAIL." TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.

39TH YEAR. GETTYSBURG, PENN'A., MONDAY, MAY 25, 1857. NO. 35.

TERMS OF THIS PAPER.

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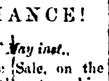
☞ Advertisements inserted at the usual rates. Job Printing done, neatly, cheaply, and with dispatch.

☞ Office in South Baltimore street, directly opposite Wampler's Tinning Establishment, one and a half squares from the Court-House, "COMPILER" on the sign.

SALE OF VALUABLE CHESNUT AND LOCUST

TIMBER LOTS.

THE LAST CHANCE!



On Saturday, the 30th of May inst., WILL be sold at Public Sale, on the premises in Hamiltonban township, FIVE OR SIX VALUABLE TIMBER LOTS, lying on the road leading from Marshall's to the Cold Springs, and adjoining lands of Daniel Musselman, Abraham Scott, Elijah Seabrooks, and others. Also, FIVE OR SIX other TIMBER LOTS, lying on the road from Myers' Mill, by Smith's Saw Mill, to the Cold Springs, adjoining lands of Jacob Boller, Wm. Culp, and others. These Lots average from FIVE to TEN ACRES each, and are covered with prime young Locust and Chesnut Timber, equal to any in the Mountain. Persons wishing good Timber Lots will do well to avail themselves of this opportunity to secure them.

☞ The sale will commence at 12 o'clock, M., on the Lots lying on the road from Marshall's to the Cold Springs, near the late residence of Elijah Seabrooks—at which point the undersigned will attend two days previous to the sale, to shew the Lots to any persons wishing to examine the same.

J. D. PAXTON.

May 18, 1857. ts

TO BRIDGE BUILDERS.

SEALED Proposals will be received at the office of the Commissioners of Adams county, until *Tuesday the 26th inst.*, for building a WOODEN BRIDGE, (without a roof) across "Muddy Run," on the road leading from Gettysburg to Fairfield, near John Gelbaugh's. The bridge is to be one span, 33 feet in length. Plans and specifications for the bridge can be seen on the day of letting or by application to the Clerk of the Commissioners.

GEORGE MYERS.
H. A. PICKING.
JOSIAH BENNER,
Commrs.

Attest—J. M. WALKER, *Clerk.*

May 11, 1857. td

TWO DAILY LINES

TO HANOVER.

EXTRA ACCOMMODATIONS.—The undersigned returns his thanks to the public for the encouragement heretofore extended to him; and takes pleasure in announcing that he has completed arrangements by which TWO DAILY LINES of Coaches will run between Gettysburg and Hanover, to connect with the trains to and from Baltimore, York, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, &c. Persons desiring tickets or information will call on the undersigned, or on CHARLES TATE, Ticket Agent, at the Eagle Hotel, in Chambersburg street.

☞ Special attention given to all packages, &c., or other business entrusted to the undersigned between Gettysburg and Hanover, which will be promptly and carefully attended to.

☞ The undersigned has also effected arrangements by which he will be able to supply Coaches, Stages, &c., for Funerals and other occasions, at moderate charges.

NICHOLAS WEAVER.

Gettysburg, April 13, 1857.

RAILROAD NOTICE.

Pay Up!

BY a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Littlestown Railroad Company, notice is hereby given to the Stockholders that the FIRST INSTALMENT on each share of stock will be required to be paid in to EPHRAIM MYERS, Treasurer of the Company, *on or before the 28th day of May*, and that hereafter on said date of each month the regular instalments will be due and payable.—Payments can also be made to any of the Directors.

E. F. SHORB, *Sec'y.*

May 11, 1857. 3t

Dividend.

BANK OF GETTYSBURG,
May 5, 1857.

THE President and Directors of this Institution have this day declared a Dividend of FOUR PER CENT., payable on or after the 11th inst. J. B. McPHERSON, *Cashier.*

May 11, 1857. 3t

Bonnets! Bonnets!

MISS McCREARY has just returned from the city with a new and beautiful assortment of

BONNETS & FANCY GOODS,

of the most fashionable styles, which she invites the ladies to call and examine, confident that they will be pleased with her selections.

Miss McCreary will carry on the MILLINERY business, in all its branches, and hopes by her superior work and reasonable prices, to merit the patronage of her friends.

Gettysburg, April 20, 1857. 3m

Bringman & Aughinbaugh,

STILL AHEAD!

WE are just receiving a new lot of **Hats, Caps, Boots & Shoes,** of the very latest Spring styles, and intend selling at small profits. Call and see them before purchasing elsewhere. Remember the place, Paxton's old stand, Chambersburg street.

March 23.

Spouting!

GEORGE and Henry Wampler will make Tinning, Spouting and put up the same low, for cash or country produce. Farmers and all others wishing their houses, barns, &c., spouted, would do well to give them a call.

G. & H. WAMPLER.

April 18, 1853. tf

J. Palmer & Co.,

No. 20 SOUTH WHARF, PHILADELPHIA,

Dealers in Fish and Provisions,

HAVE constantly on hand an assortment of Mackerel, Shad, Herrings, Codfish, Pork, Lard, Shoulders, Hams, Sides, Cords, Flour &c.

May 25, 1857. 3m

GLASS WARE, Cedar-ware and endless variety of household articles, to be had cheap at FAHNESTOCK BROTHERS.

The Muse.

☞ The following curious specimen of alliteration evinces more ingenuity than anything else of the kind with which we are acquainted:

The Siege of Belgrade.

An Austrian army, awfully arrayed,
Boldly, by battery, besieged Belgrade;
Cossack commanders cannonading come,
Dealing destruction's devastating doom;
Every endeavor engineers essay,
For fame, for fortune fighting—furious fray!
Generals 'gainst generals grapple—gracious God!
How honors heaven heroic hardihood!
Inferiase, indiscriminate, in ill,
Kinsmen kill kindred, kindred kinsmen kill!
Labor low levels longest loftiest lines;
Men march 'mid mounds, 'mid noise, 'mid murd'rous mines;
No, noisy noxious numbers notice naught
Of outward obstacles opposing ought!
Poor patriots, partly purchased, partly pressed,
Quit quaking, quickly "quarter, quarter" quest;
Reason returns, religious right redounds,
Suwarrow stops such sanguinary sounds:
Truce to the, Turkey! triumph to thy train!
Unjust, unwise, unmerciful Ukraine!
Vanish vain victory! vanish victory vain!
Wherefore wish we warfare! Wherefore welcome where
Xerxes, Ximenes, Xanthus, Xavier?
Yield, yield, ye youths! ye yeomen yield your yell!
Zeno's, Zarparter's, Zoroaster's zeal;
Attracting all arms against acts appeal.

Miscellaneous.

A Ruined City.

Petra, the excavated city, the long-lost capital of Edom, in the Scriptures and profane writings, in every language in which its name occurs, signifies a rock, and through the shadows of its early history we learn that its inhabitants lived in natural clefts or excavations made in the solid rock. Desolate as it is, we have reason to believe that it goes back to the time of Esau, the "father of Edom;" that princes and dukes, eight successive kings, and again a long line of dukes dwelt there before any king "reigned over Israel;" and we recognize it from the earliest ages as the central point to which came the inhabitants of Arabia, Persia, and India, laden with all the precious commodities of the East, and from which these commodities were distributed through Egypt, Palestine, and Syria; and all the countries bordering on the Mediterranean, even Tyre and Sidon, deriving their purple and dyes from Petra. Eight hundred years before Christ, Amaziah, the King of Judea, "slew of Edom, in the valley of Salt, ten thousand, and took Selah (the Hebrew name of Petra) by war." Three hundred years after the last of the prophets, and nearly a century before the Christian era, the "King of Arabia" issued from his palace at Petra, *at the head of fifty thousand men*, horse and foot, entered Jerusalem, and, uniting with the Jews, pressed the siege of the temple, which was only raised by the advance of the Romans; and in the beginning of the second century, though its independence was lost, Petra was still the capital of a Roman province. After that time it rapidly declined; its history became more obscure. For more than a thousand years it was completely lost to the civilized world; and until its discovery by Burckhead in 1812, except to the wandering Bedouins, its very site was unknown.

And this was the city at whose door I stood. In a few words, this ancient and extraordinary city is situated within a natural amphitheatre of two or three miles in circumference, encompassed on all sides by rugged mountains five or six hundred feet in height. The whole of this area is now a waste of ruins—dwelling houses, palaces, temples, and triumphal arches, all prostrate together in undistinguishable confusion. The sides of the mountains are cut smooth, in a perpendicular direction, and filled with long and continued ranges of dwelling houses, temples, and tombs, excavated with vast labor out of the solid rock; and while their summits present nature in her wildest and most savage form, their bases are adorned with all the beauty of architecture and art, with columns, and porticos, and pediments, and ranges of corridors, enduring as the mountains out of which they are hewn, and fresh as if the work of a generation that had scarcely yet gone by.

In front of the great temple, the pride and beauty of Petra—of which more hereafter—I saw a narrow opening in the rocks exactly corresponding with my conception of the object which I was seeking. A full stream of water was gushing through it, and filling up the whole mouth of the passage. Mounted on the shoulders of one of my Bedouins, I got him to carry me through the swollen stream at the mouth of the opening, and set me down on a dry place a little above, where I began to pick my way, occasionally taking to the shoulders of my followers, and continued to advance more than a mile. I was, beyond all peradventure, in the great entrance I was seeking. There could not be two such, and I should have gone on to the extreme end of the ravine, but my Bedouin suddenly refused me the further use of his shoulders.—He had been some time objecting and begging me to return, and now positively refused to go any further, and, in fact, turned about himself. I was anxious to proceed, but I did not like wading up to my knees in water, nor did I feel very resolute to go where I might expose myself to danger, as he seemed to intimate.

While I was hesitating another of my men came running up the ravine, and shortly after him Paul and the shiek, breathless with haste, and crying in low gutturals, "El Arab! El Arab!" The Arabs! the Arabs! the Arabs!—This was enough for me. I had heard so much of El Arab that I had become nervous. It was like the cry of Delilah in the ears of the sleeping Samson: "The Philistines are upon thee." At the other end of the ravine was an encampment of the El Aloums; and the shiek, having due regard to my communication about money matters, had shunned this entrance to avoid bringing me the horde of tribute gatherers for a participation in the spoils. Without any disposition to explore farther, I turned towards the city; and it was now that I began to feel the powerful and indelible impression that must be produced on entering through this mountainous passage, the excavated city of Petra.

For about two miles it lies between high and precipitous ranges of rocks, from five hundred to a thousand feet in height, standing as if torn asunder by some great convulsion, and barely wide enough for two horsemen to pass abreast. A swelling stream rushes between them; the summits are wild and broken; in some places overhanging the opposite sides, casting the darkness of night upon the narrow defile, then receding and forming an opening above, through which a strong ray of light is thrown down, and illuminates with the blaze of day the frightful chasm below.

Wild fig-trees, oleanders, and ivy were growing out of the rocky sides of cliffs hundreds of feet above our heads; the eagle was screaming above us; all along were the doors open of tombs, forming the great Necropolis of the city; and at the extreme end was a large open space, with a powerful body of light thrown down upon it, and exhibiting, in one full view, the facade of a beautiful temple hewn out of the rock, with rows of Corinthian columns and ornaments standing out fresh and clear, as if but yesterday from the hands of the sculptor. Though coming directly from the banks of the Nile, where the preservation of the temples excites the admiration and astonishment of every traveller, we were roused and excited by the extraordinary beauty and excellent condition of the temple at Petra.

Even in coming upon it as we did, at disadvantage, I remember that Paul, who was a passionate admirer of the arts, when he first obtained a glimpse of it, involuntarily cried out, and, moving on to the front with a vivacity I never saw him exhibit before or afterwards, clapped his hands and shouted in ecstacy. To the last day of our being together he was in the habit of referring to his extraordinary fit of enthusiasm when he first came upon that temple; and I can well imagine that, entering by this narrow defile, with the feelings roused by its extraordinary and romantic wildness and beauty, the first view of that superb facade must produce an effect which could never pass away. Even now that I have returned to the pursuits and thought-engrossing incidents of a life in the busiest city in the world, often in my dreams as widely different as night from darkness, I see before me the facade of that temple. Neither the Colosseum at Rome, grand and interesting as it is, nor the ruins of the Acropolis at Athens, nor the Pyramids, nor the mighty temples of the Nile, are so often present to my memory.

Leaving the temple and the open area on which it fronts, and following the stream, we entered another defile much broader than the first, on each side of which were ranges of tombs, with sculptured doors and columns; and on the left, in the bosom of the mountains, hewn out of the solid rocks, is a large theatre, circular in form, the pillars in front falling, and containing thirty-three rows of seats, capable of containing more than three thousand persons.—Above the corridor was a range of doors opening to chambers in the rock, the seats of the princes and wealthiest inhabitants of Petra, and not unlike a row of private boxes in a modern theatre.

The whole theatre is at this day in such a state of preservation, that if the tenants of the tombs could once more rise into life they might take their places on its seats and listen to the declamation of their favorite players. To me the stillness of a ruined city is no where so impressive as when sitting on the steps of its theatre, once thronged with the gay and pleasure-seeking, but now given up to solitude and desolation. Day after day these seats had been filled, and the now silent rocks had echoed to the applauding shouts of thousands; and little could an ancient Edomite imagine that a stranger from a then unknown world would one day be wandering among the ruins of the proud and wonderful city, meditating upon the fate of a race that has for ages passed away. Where are ye, inhabitants of this desolate city? ye who once sat on the seats of this theatre—the young, the high-born, the beautiful, and the brave—who once rejoiced in your riches and power, and lived as if there was no grave? where are ye now? Even the very tombs, whose open doors are stretched away in long ranges before the eyes of the wandering traveler, cannot reveal the mystery of your doom; your dry bones are gone, the robbers have invaded your graves, and your very ashes have been swept away to make room for the wandering Arab of the desert.

But we need not stop at the days when a gay population crowded this theatre. In earliest periods of recorded time, long before this theatre was built, and long before the tragic muse was known, a great city stood here; when Esau, having sold his birth-right for a mess of pottage, came to this portion among the mountains of Teir, and Edom, growing in power and strength, became presumptuous and haughty, until, in her pride, when Israel prayed a passage through her country, Edom said unto Israel, "thou shalt not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword."

Amid all the terrible denunciations against the land of Edom—"her cities and the inhabitants thereof," this proud city among the rocks, doubtless for its extraordinary sins, was always marked as a subject of extraordinary vengeance. "I have sworn by myself," saith the Lord, "that Bozrah (the strong or fortified city) shall become a desolation, a reproach, and a waste, and a curse, and all the cities thereof shall be a perpetual waste. Lo, I will make thee small among the heathen and despised among men. Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, and the pride of thy heart, oh thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rocks, that holdest the height of the hill, though thou shouldst make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the Lord. They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all her princes shall be nothing, and thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof, and it shall be a habitation for dragons and a court for owls."

I would that the skeptic could stand, as I did, among the ruins of this city among the rocks, and there open the sacred book and read the words of inspired penuman, written [illegible] place was one of the [illegible] in the world. I see the [illegible] his cheek pale, his lip quiv[illegible] his heart quaking with fear [illegible] ed city cries out to him in a [illegible] and powerful as that of the ris[illegible] the dead. Though he would not believe Moses and the Prophets, he believes the hand-writing of God himself in the desolation and eternal ruin around him.—*Stevens's Travels.*

Proofs of Marriage Contract.

A case of breach of promise of marriage has recently been tried at Rochester, New York, in which the following is given as the substance of the Judge's charge to the jury:—The Judge charged that it was not necessary to maintain the existence of a promise of marriage to prove that defendant in express words or terms made a promise to plaintiff. Any circumstances which usually accompany parties while holding the relation of an engagement of marriage might properly be laid before a jury, and it sufficient to warrant the opinion that such an engagement existed it was all the law required. *It is not necessary that there shall be a promise of marriage in direct phraseology—nor formal promise is required.* Frequent visits of the parties—retiring from the society of others—seeking to be apart by themselves—expressions of attachment—presents—going together to places of amusement—walks and occasional remarks in hearing of others, are circumstances usually relied upon to prove that a marriage engagement exists, and *if such are strong enough to convict upon the mind*, they are all that is necessary to answer the law.

Death of Miss Calhoun.—The *Daily Carolinian* announces the death, on the 2d inst., of Miss M. C. Calhoun, the youngest daughter of the late John C. Calhoun. Miss Calhoun was a lady of the most marked and estimable character—of much intelligence with singular amiability and kindness of disposition. She was a communicant of the Episcopal Church.

The Chinese Sugar Cane.—About 250 bushels of the seed of this cane have been distributed by the Patent Office this season. It is thought by many that this cane is destined to be cultivated as extensively in the United States as Indian corn, yielding, as it does at the same time, sugar for man, and provender and grain for beast.

Owl Spectacles.—The latest optical novelty is the night spectacles, made on the principle of owl's eyes, by which the dial on a steeple a mile distant can be seen when it is so dark that one can see only a few feet with the naked eye. The instrument is too large to be an ornamental appendage to a man's face, but it will be useful in certain cases.

A Child's Thought.—It may have been in print before, but it will bear repeating now: "Mother," said little Nelly, looking up to the starry skies one bright evening, "what a delightful place heaven must be, when its wrong side is so beautiful."

☞ Somebody has remarked, and we endorse its truth, that an editor's duties even in a case comparatively unimportant, are onerous and unthankful. Those he praises "love him less than their dinner;" and those he finds fault with, "hate him worse than the devil."

Convenient Blindness.—A blind man, led by a dog, while wandering in the streets of Paris, had his dog seized by some one passing; instantly opening his eyes, he gave chase, and overtaking the thief, compelled him severely, after which he closed his eyes and fell to begging again.

☞ Dr. William Elder, of Philadelphia, is now engaged in writing a memoir of the late Dr. Elisha Kent Kane.—It can scarcely fail to prove not only a striking and picturesque narrative of the career of the intrepid adventurer, but also an intelligent delineation of his character.

A Funny Resurrection.

A Startled Congregation.—At Cleves, Hamilton county, Ohio, April 15th, (according to a letter in the Philadelphia *Bulletin*,) Wat. Eckman, a wealthy citizen of that place, was taken violently ill in the morning, and by having the prompt services of two doctors, received his "quietus" about five o'clock same day. Next morning the defunct Eckman was stowed away in his coffin, and jolted in a market wagon to the Berea Church, a distance of two miles, where a funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Wm. Lee. The solemn services about concluded, the last hymn was read, and the choir was about to "strike up," when they were suddenly annoyed by discordant and very unmusical sounds and kicks, which it seemed obvious were going on inside the coffin. You may possibly imagine there was some consternation in that meeting house for a few minutes. At least half of the congregation broke for the door, and the balance were about to "follow suit," when the Rev. Mr. Lee descended from the pulpit, and in a loud voice ordered the coffin to be speedily opened, which was done, when it was found that Wat. was not only alive and kicking, but was struggling manfully to free himself from his—to him—mysterious confinement. The blood was flowing freely from his mouth and nose, but in a very few minutes he was able to speak. He was carried to the house of Abram Patterson, Esq., about two hundred yards from the church, en la physician sent for, who remained with him until the next morning, when he was able to walk about the room.

☞ The Dubuque Express relates that a woman recently came to the Minnesota House in Dunleith, with a young child, and after stopping a day or two, suddenly left, minus the baby, and did not return. The landlord happened to be over in Dubuque, and mentioning the circumstance to a couple of friends, married but childless, one of them proposed to adopt the little one as his own. The other immediately made the same proposition, when a quarrel arose as to which of the would-be "parents" should have the infantile waif. Finally an appeal was made to the dice box. Quite a number of people gathered around the table, interested spectators of the singular contest, and the winner, named Kesler, was greeted with a shout of applause. The child is a pretty little girl three weeks old, and its new-found parents are brimming over with happiness.

A Female Religious Duel.—The correspondence of Havas has the following account of a female religious duel:

The Swiss Protestants are absorbed by a serio-comic topic. It is a feminine duel which has just taken place, apropos to the unsolved question between the disciples of Luther and Calvin. Two young women, teachers of Berne, made fanatical by their reading, and the individual interpretation which is suggested, could not agree upon a point of doctrine, and finally agreed to resort to force to settle the question. The place of meeting was the most obscure part of the neighboring wood, the hour fixed was two o'clock—seconds had procured the steel weapons, for the duel was to be fought with swords. After several lively thrusts, one of the fair combatants received a severe wound in the knee, and fell upon the grass fainting. The combat ceased, but our two casuists in petticoats have already pulled a good number of adherents. It is a new element of discord with the Bernese. It has almost eclipsed the Neufchatel question.

Advice to Ladies.—A Vermont editor gives the following advice to ladies: "When you have got a man to the sticking point—that is, when he proposes—don't turn away your head, or affect a blush, or refer him to pa, or ask for more time; all those tricks are understood now; but just look him right in the face, give him a 'bass,' and tell him to go and order—a *cradle*."

☞ This the way they go to law in Turkey. It's primitive and brief. Only two witnesses are allowed to testify. If they cannot establish the case, the judge orders it out of court. No lawyers are allowed to open their mouths. The sentence is made known at the time by the Cadi. The costs are paid by the party that gains the suit. If that was the way we did things here,—wouldn't things go on about as smoothly as they do now? We only ask for information, you know.

Doubly-Safe Matches.—A Frenchman has invented a match that children may play with or eat without danger of being burnt or poisoned. The match is tipped with chloride of potassh, which has no poisonous qualities and will not ignite by friction. But it ignites upon being rubbed on a coat containing phosphorus rouge, an article which is neither poisonous nor capable by itself of ignition. There can therefore be no accidental fires from the use of these matches.

Raising Carrots.—George W. Coffin details in the Albany Cultivator an experiment which he has made in raising carrots upon sward land. Last year, he ploughed his sod on the 10th of May, and planted about the 20th. The patch had no manure, and was not hoed, cultivated, nor ploughed, after planting. What few weeds came up were pulled out, one man clearing half an acre a day. His care and labor were very light, and his yield comparatively so, or 400 bushels per acre. Even this was twice as great as it would have yielded of potatoes. The whole expense, interest on land included, was only $16, or four cents a bushel.

Singular Qualities of the Sperm Whale.

Sperm whales are of the polygamous class, and are not mated, or go in pairs, as is the case with the right whale. They are of a chocolate color, and when undisturbed, are found in large "schools," which are generally cow whales protected on the outskirts, about two miles off, by two or three enormous male whales, called "old sogers." These sail in among the school alternately, at railroad speed, and sometimes meet with queer receptions from harpoons lying in wait for them. It is said there are some of these old sogers which are a dread to all whalemen, and which are shunned on the least suspicion. The tonnage of a grown whale is enormous. When a carcass of one is disposed to sink, no cable of iron or rope has ever been known to sustain it. When harpooned and not badly hurt, they settle down generally about one thousand fathoms before they move off or rise to the surface, hence all the lines of the boat are required for paying out. The head of a large sperm whale will weigh about 85 tons, and 45 barrels of pure spermaceti have been taken from his *case*, which is a mere vein in his head compared with the remaining part, which consists of four-fifths of the head, and is called "white horse"—a sinewy gristle, which is impenetrable to a sharp axe. Large copper bolts have been found imbedded in the heads of some of them, caused by their attacks and destruction of vessels on the bottom of the sea.

Light and Life.—A curious experiment, performed by the physiologist Edwards, demonstrates the influence of light on a certain form of animal development. He procured two perforated boxes of equal size, one made of transparent materials, the other of perforated tin plate. Into each of these boxes he put an equal number of tadpoles, and this done he immersed the two boxes in the water of the Seine. The conditions to which the little things were exposed will be seen to be identical, except in the particular of light—one set of tadpoles enjoyed the rays of the sun, the other set remained in darkness. All the tadpoles on which the sun shone passed in due time to that higher state of existence which ambitious tadpoles look forward to—they became frogs. A less enviable fate awaited the benighted tadpoles; only two out of every dozen of the latter succeeded in passing into the existence of frogs. The result of this experiment demonstrates how powerful is the influence of light on one form of animal development, and suggests further examination concerning the effects of light and darkness on the higher orders of animal life.

Poisoned Liquors.—Dr. Hiram Cox, chemical inspector of alcoholic liquors in Cincinnati, says that during two years he has made 249 inspections of various kinds of liquors, and has found more than nine-tenths of them imitations, and a great portion of them poisonous concoctions. Of brandy he does not believe there is one gallon of pure in a hundred gallons, the imitations having corn whiskey for a basis, and various poisonous acids for the condiments. Of wines, not a gallon in a thousand, purporting to be sherry, port, or sweet Malaga, is pure, but they are made of water, sulphuric acid, alum, Guinea pepper, horse-radish, and many of them without a single drop of alcoholic spirits. Dr. Cox warrants there are not ten gallons of genuine port wine in Cincinnati. In his inspections of whiskey, he has found only from 17 to 20 per cent. of alcoholic spirit, when it should have from 45 to 50, and some of it contains sulphuric acid enough in a quart to eat a hole through a man's stomach. As whiskey is now the favorite beverage, these facts are worth consideration. If about fifty of these adulterators could be caught and hung, it would be a blessing to the community.

☞ A fellow in North Carolina, having been put in jail for marrying thirteen wives, recently made his escape. A gentleman afterwards recognized him and anxious to secure the reward for his apprehension, invited him to dinner and then slyly slipped out in pursuit of a constable; but great was his horror on his return to find that the culprit had absconded with his own wife!

☞ Miss Sally Martin, daughter of the late Dr. Martin, who is worth $70,000 in her own right, and had been brought up by two old maid aunts in seclusion from "the world," eloped last month from Xenia, Ohio, with a bad fellow named Boyd, with whom she had been acquainted but two or three weeks, by means of stolen interviews.

A Mammoth Tennessee Dinner.—The dinner table at the late railroad festival in Memphis was nearly three quarters of a mile long, and had on it 8,000 plates and dishes, 2,500 lbs. beef and mutton, 75 hams, 60 pigs, 125 turkeys, 300 chickens; 180 beef tongues, 10 barrels of potatoes, 18 baskets salad, 12 barrels ice water, 500 lbs. cake, besides raisins, almonds, oranges, &c. Some 15,000 or 20,000 persons partook of the dinner.

☞ In Andover, last year, $5 premium were offered to the boy who would destroy the largest number of caterpillar's nests. The consequence was 26,000 nests were destroyed. This year $15 are offered in similar premiums.—This is a good plan.

☞ A skirt has been made for a lady in Philadelphia, which contains 34 yards. It is rather hard "getting round" that story.

☞ "This is a *grate* prospect," as the prisoner said when he peeped out of his iron window.

Letter from the West.

KEOKUK, IOWA, April 28, 1857.

FRIEND STABLE:—Having a little leisure time, I will take advantage of it by writing these lines for your paper, for the benefit of you and your readers, in regard to our country, weather, markets, &c.

This is a very backward season, and rather cold yet to do much, especially as regards out door labor.

There will be this season 45 brick yards in operation, most of them on a large scale. We had 26 yards last year, and had only a few brick left (1,000,000) to commence on this season, not one quarter enough to supply our demand, and sold at 6 and 7 dollars per thousand. There were 1200 buildings erected last year, 200 more than we anticipated; and there is no doubt that there will be at least 2000 put up this year. There will have to be more than that number erected, in order to secure the titles to the lots; but of course some of them will have to back out for want of building material.

We have a population, according to our last census, which was taken in June last, of 14,000 people, and the place is supposed to contain at present about 18,000 inhabitants. Our houses are filled from garret to cellar with people. Rents are high; you cannot rent a room 12×14 feet for less than $5,00 per month in advance.

People are leaving here by hundreds for want of houses. Go out when you please and the inquiry is, "where can I get a room or two?" The fact is, we cannot build enough houses. We have about 200 business houses here; about 100 of them are doing a wholesale business, ranging from $50,000 to $800,000. Keokuk does more wholesale business than any other town in the state of Iowa, it being the nearest point in the State to the Eastern and Southern markets. Common sense will teach any man that freight can be shipped by water cheaper than by railroad. Here we are at the foot of the rapids, and head of good navigation, which can be boated at all times, except a few months of ice. The Southern market must come here—New Orleans being below, will teach us that much. Our railroads are progressing finely. The Keokuk, Fort Demoines and Minnesota road is progressing rapidly. The road is finished 20 miles, cars are running on it now, and there will be 38 miles of it finished by the 4th of July—to Benton's Fort. The Keokuk, Mount Pleasant and Muscatine road is progressing finely. We have a charter for an eastern outlet, which is partly, I believe, under contract. There is also another road in contemplation, from Keokuk to Kansas City, Mo., opposite to Kansas Territory.

Speculation runs high here. Lots have increased at the rate of 100 per cent. since last year, and there is still the greatest opening here for speculation in the world, I presume. Lots are 50 by 140 feet, and are sold on Main street as high as $500 per foot, and every lot sells in proportion to location.

I presume we have about as good a market as there is in the United States. For instance, white beans, which farmers can raise in abundance here, sell for only $3,00 per bushel; Potatoes, $1,75a and $1,80 per bushel; Flour $7,50 to $8,00 per bbl.; Butter, the last lb. I paid 40 cents for, and sells mostly at 35 cents per lb.; Onions $3,00 per bushel; Lard 15 cents per lb; and everything else in proportion. Wood $4,50 per cord; Coal 40 cents per bushel.—Brick-layers get from $2,50 to $3,00 per day, carpenters and joiners $2,00 and $2,50 per day, laborers $1,25 and $1,50 per day. The streets are being improved rapidly. The location is very much broken, but it is also the making of this place. It retains a great many people, and gives employment to hundreds.

I have a good word to some of your farmers. They are very much needed here. The farming community are too scarce. Farmers are making fortunes here. They get almost any price they wish to ask. Also gardeners—we need 3 or 400 of them, on a large scale. Vegetables were very high all the time last year. The first cabbage sold in market at 50 cents per head, and 25 cents the lowest. The beauty of farming in our prairie country is, that it don't take a man's life time to make a farm. He can make a good farm in one year, when it takes 10 years on timber land to do the same amount of getting out a farm.

I'll close, Mr. Stable, for this time. Perhaps I will write again, if you think this letter fit for a place in your columns. You may rely on these being facts.

Yours, most respectfully,

H. E. L.

Prepare! Prepare!!—In the event of the world coming to an end on the 13th of next June, the Mt. Vernon Banner offers the following consolation "to all whom it may concern:"

"But if the world *should* come to an end, there is one class of people we pity from the bottom of our heart—*newspaper delinquents!* Awful, terrible, fearful will be their doom! In vain will they attempt to hide themselves in caves and coal cellars! It will be of no use—there is no escape for them! The only hope for redemption is to square off with the printer by the 12th of June, and send a receipt, so that St. Peter will admit them within the gates of the Celestial City on A hint to the wise is sufficient."

☞ Lawrenceburg, Ind., is a "[illegible]ed spot." They go without [illegible] The city government [illegible] to [illegible] taxes this year. Rather [illegible] for the money!