

THE SPY & COLUMBIAN.

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 7, 1847.

AGENCIES.

V. B. PALMER, North West corner of Third and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia...

Fire.—About one o'clock on Wednesday morning, a fire broke out on the premises of James Crow...

Not Intentional.—The Lancaster Union and Tribune is assured that the omission on our part to reciprocate an exchange, was entirely accidental.

Thomas B. Florence, Esq., proprietor of the Philadelphia Times and Keystone, proposes publishing a weekly paper during coming political campaign...

Rumored Reverse to Gen. Scott.—The National—Washington—Whig of Wednesday evening has the following:

Important Rumor.—It is rumored that the Executive received a despatch from Richmond this morning, giving intelligence of a severe reverse which Gen. Scott's column met with on his march to the City of Mexico...

No Chance at All.—The whigs of Georgia offer a reward of \$5,000 to any one who will prove that James K. Polk or James Buchanan, have either sons or sons-in-law in our army in Mexico.

Fall of the Leaning Tower of Pisa.—This ancient superstructure, which has stood the siege of time since 1174, has, it is said, fallen to the ground, and become almost a total ruin.

Light Water.—The Columbia Spy contains a police report for the week, in which the names of 18 offenders appear, charged with various misdemeanors.

What say the Scriptures.—And when ye hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled, for such things must needs be.

Improvement in the Steam Engine.—A new steam boiler has been invented and patented by James Montgomery, of Memphis Tennessee.

The Disease among Cattle in Salem county, N. J., noticed several weeks since, appears to be mostly confined to the neighborhoods in which it originated.

New Application of Vapour of Ether.—Dr. Casenova, head surgeon of the lunatic asylum at Pau, has tried the use of vapour of ether on a mad girl.

POLICE AFFAIRS.

Before Justice Spear.

The Turnpike again.—On complaint of Abraham Schock and others, John Orndorff, keeper of gate No. 9, on the Marietta, Bainbridge, Falmouth and Portsmouth Turnpike road...

Allen Dunssey, charged with the larceny of a coat, the property of Wm. Johnson—gave bail to appear at court to answer.

Eliza Winebrenner, threatening to take the life of Elizabeth Davis. Defence made, and proceedings stayed for the present.

Thomas Krating.—Complaint made of Lewis Bailey (Constable) that defendant threatened to take his life. Gave bail for his appearance at court to answer.

David Woods, assault and battery on the body of Abel Clinton. Committed in default of bail.

John Moore, charged with the larceny of a gun, the property of James Smith. Gave bail for his appearance at court to answer.

John Andrews, charged with obtaining goods from Michael Strohm, under false pretences, with a fraudulent intent. Defendant paid amount and proceedings were stayed.

David Rau, charged with obtaining goods under false pretences, from John H. Gunter, with a fraudulent intent. After a full hearing, the complaint was dismissed and judgment entered for the sum due.

Joshua Waters, noisy in the street and disturbing the peace. Refusing to give any account of his residence or occupation, he was committed as a vagrant for 20 days.

Discovery of a New Cave.—A few weeks since, while some laborers were working in the lime quarry of Mr. Samuel Anna, of Fishkill, Dutchess county, they discovered a crevice which was soon widened and an entrance effected; whereupon quite a large cave (about 50 feet in length), exhibiting marks of former occupancy, was disclosed to their astonished eyes.

There is a spring of water in it five or six feet deep, which is evidence that the cave is natural; and it is a singular fact, that just at the mouth of this cave is a stately elm tree, the only one in the neighborhood, suggesting the idea that it was planted there by the former discoverers, as a landmark to guide them to their treasure.

A writer in the Boston Chronotype, describing a visit to the "Tombs," in the city of New York says:—

We called in at the "Tombs" this forenoon, where our old friend, and the friend of the drunkard, Colonel Larkin Snow, figures as Clerk of the Police Court. We were kindly conducted by him through the various departments of the prison.

Last Sunday, said he, I was passing Tammany Hall, and saw, sitting upon the stoop, a man with his head buried in his hands, and covered all over with flies.—The poor fellow was almost naked, said the Col.; I shook him and asked him who he was.

Nothing touching our case, as we can see, in this very short patent sermon. Every body knows that the Mexicans are not a nation, for it has been rung in our ears by the advocates of the war, from the first.

What say the Scriptures.—And when ye hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled, for such things must needs be.

A WONDERFUL BOOK.

"THE PRINCIPLES OF NATURE, HER DIVINE REVELATIONS, AND ADVICE TO MANKIND."

This is the extraordinary title of a large volume of 782 pages just published in New York, and purporting to be a full and distinct revelation of the great secrets of nature, as made by one Andrew Jackson Davis...

"He distinguishes four general degrees of the magnetic state. Each of these degrees has its own peculiar manifestations, which are clearly described. In the first no particular phenomena are displayed, and the subject has possession of his mental and physical powers, though disinclined to muscular action."

The reader can believe as much of this statement, as well as the rest of Mr. Davis' developments as he pleases, but they are curious, to say the least.

"The Second Part, which treats of 'Nature's Divine Revelations,' we are told in the preliminary Address to the Word, is the soul or basis of the whole structure."

It commences with the affirmation, that 'in the beginning the Univerculum, (Universal Heaven, Universe), existed as a boundless, indefinable and unimaginable ocean of liquid fire,' in which was resident the creative power whereby it was subsequently organized into systems and worlds.

"He first asserts that our sun is merely a planet of another large system, with our planets for its satellites and asteroids. This assertion, as it is said in a footnote, was delivered months before the discovery of Madler, with reference to this very point, and while the Clairvoyant in his normal state, and his associates, had no knowledge on the subject."

"The men of this planet are also described as much superior to those existing on the Earth. So are those of Jupiter, to which planet several pages are devoted. The men of this planet are described much in accordance with the account of them given by Swedenborg in his little work on the 'Earths in the Universe,' but as we have not the account at hand we cannot say that there is a complete agreement."

"In the whole of the part relating to the formation of the Earth, and familiar with the scientific writings of Swedenborg cannot but be impressed with the agreement between his cosmogony and that here set forth. It is not an agreement in words, as if one were taken from the other, but an agreement in ideas of the most profound and abstruse character."

"The gradual formation of the different strata of the Earth is then described, and the agents that acted and yet act upon it are spoken of, such as water, gasses, electricity, &c. The chemical combinations of matter in minerals is dwelt upon, the author seeming, through the whole, to be guided by the law of progressive development, and of forms ascending in a regular series, before described."

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"He then goes through sixty pages to speak of the progress of the Earth up to the time when it was nearly prepared for the appearance of Man upon its surface, dwelling minutely on all that different phenomena, using the scientific terminology of writers on the subject, differing from them in many particulars, and enunciating views which have not before come under our notice."

"Certain distinct types of Mankind appeared, all of which subsequently disappeared. As the process went on, higher and higher forms were successively produced until at last beings like the lower orders of Jafols and Mandingoes (tribes of African Negroes) appeared."

"The most perfect species of the human race dwell in Asia; the peculiarities of their formation are described at length. They were, it is said, social rather than intellectual. For many ages, they communicated their ideas by the expressions of the countenance and by signs only; they did not possess perfect vocal powers, and it was long before they learned to use words."

"Many pages are now employed in continuing the narrative of the earth and human inhabitants. The flood is spoken of: America is said to have been peopled at that time, not only by its aboriginal inhabitants but by a nation from Asia, which lived in Yucatan, and was advanced in the arts and sciences beyond all other existing men."

"The Clairvoyant then takes up the subject of Language as introductory to what he has to say concerning Hagiography, Theology, Archeology and other similar subjects. In this connection he speaks of the science of Correspondence. As to theology, he says that many men have written upon the subject, but in vain, &c. &c."

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SCIENTIFIC.

ELECTRIC INCANDESCENCE OF CHARCOAL POINTS.—The most splendid phenomenon of this kind is not the combustion of charcoal points.—Pointed pieces from gas retorts answer best. If two such points are put in immediate contact with the wires of a galvanic battery and brought together, they will begin to burn with a dazzling white light.

Microscopic Wonders.—Upon examining the edge of a very sharp lancet with a microscope, it will appear as broad as the back of a knife; rough, uneven, full of notches and furrows. An exceedingly small needle resembles a rough iron bar. But the sting of a bee, seen through the same instrument, exhibits every where a most beautiful polish, without the least flaw, blemish or inequality, and it ends in a point too fine to be discerned.

The Sun.—The centre of our system, that glorious orb 'kindled by God on the morn of creation to cheer the dark abyss and to pour his radiance on surrounding worlds,' is 886,000 miles in diameter, and five hundred times larger than the aggregate of all other parts of the system, and moves in space with a velocity of 28,000 miles an hour.

Now if we look at that sublime law, by which the two forces that appertain to these worlds are exactly balanced, and find them all moving on in harmony in their orbits and still sustained, together with their sustaining center, as the whole solar system moves on in its vast orbit around some far distant central sun, yet as a part only of myriad systems forming one great whole, to us inconceivably vast; if we find all controlled by immutable law, and still more, if we cannot believe these worlds to be barren wastes, but inhabited by immortal beings, and that this grand whole is pre-arranged by moral affinity, this subject has sublimity which no seraph can measure.

Wonders of Nature.—Sir John Herschel, in an Essay on the Power of the Telescope to penetrate into space, 'a quality distinct from the magnifying power, informs us that there are stars so infinitely remote as to be situated at the distance of twelve millions of millions of millions of miles from our earth; so that light, which travels with a velocity of twelve millions of miles in a minute, would require two millions of years for its transit from those distant orbs to our own; while the astronomer who should record the aspect of mutations of such a star, would be relating, not its history at the present day, but that which took place two millions of years gone by.

Carbonic Gas.—The volume or bulk of carbonic acid gas expired by a healthy adult in twenty-four hours, it is said to amount to 15,000 cubic inches, containing about six ounces of solid carbon. This is at the rate of 137 pounds avoirdupois per annum; and taking the total population of the globe at seven hundred and sixty million, the amount of solid carbon or charcoal every year produced by the human race, exceeds 46,453,143 tons!

THE UTOPIAS,

A DIALOGUE. Translated from the "Democratic Pacific" by the Editor of the Chromotype.

Hiero.—You have come in good time, dreamer. I was beginning to get tired of myself; you come along with your Utopias and that will restore my gaiety.

Archimedes.—I have no Utopias, Sir, I predict the future, not after the manner of divines, by inspiration which often deceives, but by calculation which never lies.

H.—I do not deny your science to things present, my Prometheus, and I know how to appreciate your worth; but your scientific dreams and distractions are very amusing nevertheless.

A.—When you were inquiring the quantity of gold which a jeweller had abstracted from your crown, you hardly suspected that the solution of the problem was in a bath.

H.—(laughing).—By Apollo and Mercury? you call to my mind one of your most amusing absences. I seem to see you still running stark naked through the palace crying Eureka! Eureka! It was so droll, a nude philosopher, that I had not strength to forbid the merriment of my slaves, though they are the worst race that lives beneath the sun.

A.—They are bad because they are slaves.—They are lazy because they have no motive labor. This, too, is one of the things which will disappear.

H.—Not so fast. Society without slaves is just as impossible as orators without voice, cars without horses, vessels without air sails, and lamps without oil or grease. Before we can get along without slaves, man will come to fly in the air, without getting drowned, as Icarus did.

A.—You are quite right, Sir, that all those impossibilities are of the same order. If twenty centuries hence, your conversation could be recalled, one would laugh at your having set down as impossibilities things so elementary. You speak of orators without voice. I am sure the day will come when the simple language of the fingers and gestures of a dumb mute will excite as much enthusiasm as Demosthenes did among the Athenians.

H.—That deaf mutes may come to understand one another, I admit; but to believe that they will ever arrive at eloquence is a foolish Utopia. You might as well say that cloth will some day be woven out of stones, or that a limb will be amputated without giving its owner any pain.

A.—You may laugh, but the day will come when, thanks to fire, paving stones will be transformed into silken fabrics; when, thanks to some unknown fluid, surgical operations will be performed, to the laughter of the subjects.

H.—(Laughing).—Ha! ha! you abuse the permission of serving me with stories. You soon will be telling me that from my palace in Syracuse I can hear all that is said in that of the tyrant of Agrigentum, and converse with him.

A.—I should only speak the truth if I did. Not only will people be able to converse from Syracuse to Agrigentum, but to Rome, Athens, to Babylon, to the ends of the world. It will take less time to converse at such distances than to write the same words upon our tables.

H.—By Pollux.—(laughing immoderately)—do you reckon then upon the lightning for your messenger?

A.—Precisely so. The lightning will one day become the carrier of letters. You have heard of Salomon, who once imitated the thunder, in contempt of Jupiter? Well, men will do more; they will disarm Jupiter simply by bristling their houses with points. They will confine thunder in a tube and launch it at pleasure; the length of this tube will not exceed half that of your sword. To produce this thunder, which will follow with the voice of Ætna, it will only be necessary for the fireworks of a plant or an old linen rag to imbibe a certain liquid, or it may be done by combining charcoal, sulphur and saltpetre.

H.—You are crazy, my poor philosopher, and I am sorry for it, for you have more science in your simple head than all the sages who speak our Greek language.

A.—The day will come, your Majesty, when these copyists, who take several days to copy sixty-four pages of writing, will give place to a machine that will do it in less than one second; the day when one will only have to sit down before one of our metallic mirrors to leave his portrait impressed upon it; what do I say, a portrait? nay, the whole panorama which the eye can embrace at once will remain impressed upon the mirrors. Carriages will pass through space without horses, with the speed of the north wind; vessels, of iron or wood, at pleasure will brave the most tempestuous waves without either sails or rowers; and people will pass through the air with more ease than they now cross the Straits of Sicily.

A.—I must stop you, my dear Archimedes, for fear some indiscreet person should overhear you and write down your conversation for the great amusement and of the rabble. All those Utopias will be realized when neighbor shall not be jealous of neighbor, nor potter of potter, as Hesiod says.

A.—And that day, I beg your pardon, will come. A philosopher will be born in Gaul, in the district of Sequania, who will teach men the laws of social harmony. He also, will be treated as a Utopian; but, like me, the future will avenge him.

RELIGIOUS FESTIVITIES ON BOARD THE JUNK.—This being one of the Chinese festival days—an occasion of great importance to them—a curious and interesting ceremony took place this morning on board the Junk. That mate states that he was awoke this morning about half-past three, by an infernal (celestial?) clangor of gongs, and wonderful jabbering of Chinese lingo. On rising to investigate the disturbance, a curious spectacle was presented. On the open space before the god "Johb," seated high up in the stern of the vessel, mats were spread, entirely covering the floor. The Tikong, or boatswain, was standing on the right, at a respectful distance, vigorously beating an immense gong, which was responded to by the natives with smaller gongs on the left.

Between these gong beaters, and in front of the "Johb," the devout natives were kneeling on the mats, each bearing in his hand a piece of Josph paper gilt in the centre, and containing a list of their sins and peccadilloes, which was afterwards consumed. Meantime their prayers to "Johb" were loud and