Star & Republican Banner.

At $3 per annum, half-yearly in advance.

GETTYSBURGH, PENN.

MONDAY MORNING NOV. 21, 1836

An Apprentice wanted.

A smart, intelligent lad, of about 14, 15, or 16 years of age, will be taken to learn the printing business, if application is made soon.

A word in season.

We earnestly request those indebted for subscription, advertising and job printing, to come forward and discharge a part if not the whole of what they owe us. Now approaching Court, is an opportunity does not sooner occur, will be a convenient time for calling or sending. Our friends may rest assured that *necessity* alone compels us to DUN them, and trust that they will not let us ask in vain.

Those who expect to pay their subscriptions in WOOD, are informed that *now* is the time for them to do so.

November 7, 1836.

Another Interesting Letter.

We lay before our readers this week another highly interesting letter from Mr. GEORGE CATLIN, an eminent American Artist. It will be perceived that this letter was written upon the very remarkable ridge of rocks described in the one published in our last.

Letter from Mr. Catlin.

RED PIPE STONE, }
On the Coteau du Prairie, Sept. 18th, 1836. }

Since the date of my letter, (which was written in this very strange place, and on the very rock where the "Great Spirit stood when he created the first red man," and where he also *vowed*, many centuries afterwards, and consecrated the *pipe of peace* by taking it from the rock and smoking it to the congregated nations that were assembled about him,) I have been languishing and suffering in my body on buffalo meat, and my *mind* on the rich legends of this hallowed ground. Lifted up into the Heavens on this stately mound, whose top is fanned with air as light to breath as nitrous oxide gas—and bivouacked on its very ridge, (where nought on earth is seen in distance save the thousand *treeless, barbless, treeless* hills of grass and vivid green which all around me vanish into an infinity of blue and azure,) have I dwelt, and here *dwell* I. Stretched on our bearskins, my fellow traveller and myself have been lain and contemplated the splendid scenery of the heavens, with *mad delight*, that shook me in the end with terror, have I watched the swollen sun *shooting down* (too fast for time) upon the mystic horizon; where I have thus was lost except as it was marked in blue across his blood red disk.

Thus have we lain night after night, (two congenial spirits who could draw pictures from sublime contemplation,) and descanted on our own insignificance; we have closely drawn our buffalo robes about—talking of the ills of life—of the friends we had loved—of those that had fallen—of the painful steps we had to retrace to reach our own dear native land again; we have sighed in the melancholy of twilight when the busy winds were breathing their last; the chill of cedar nights was hovering around us, and nought of noise was heard but the silvery tones of the howling wolf, and the subterraneous whistle of the busy gophirs who were ploughing and vaulting the earth beneath us. Thus have we seen wheeled down in the West, the glories of day, and in the next moment, in the East, beheld her silver mate rising up slowly from the horizon, with glory in her face that seemed again to fill the world with joy and gladness.

We have seen here, too, in all its sublimity,the blackening thunder storm—the lightning's glare, and stood amidst the jarring thunder bolts, that tore and broke in awful rage about us, as they rolled over the smooth surface, with nought but empty air to vent their vengeance on. There is a sublime grandeur in these scenes as they are presented here, which must be seen and felt to be understood. There is a majesty in the very ground that we tread upon, that inspires with awe and reverence, and he must have the soul of a brute, who could gallop his horse for a whole day over swells and terraces of green, that are continually rising and tantalize (where hills peep o'er hills and Alps on Alps arise) without feeling his bosom swell with awe and admiration, and himself, as well as his thoughts, lifted up in sublimity; when he rises the last terrace and sweeps his eye over the wide spread, blue and pictured infinity that lies around and beneath him.

Man feels here, and startles at the thrilling sensation, the forces of illimitable freedom—his body and his mind both seem to have entered a new element—the former as free as the very winds it inhales, and the other as expansive and infinite as the boundless imagery that is spread in distance around him. Such is (and it is feebly told) the *Coteau du Prairie*. I sit here the other day, under the shade of my robe, adding rapidly to the bulk of my manuscripts,which I already begin to fear the world will say are spun out too long, and with too much of poetry about them! I said to my former letter that the Indian muse dwelt here, and I have learned since that there is poetry in the very air of this place. So there are song, pairings, and eloquence, and the soul that is susceptible cannot avoid the inspiration. One thinks and writes here as he dreams—quick as lightning, and the very atmosphere is charged with subjective life and novel, almost to explosion. The very rock on which I sit to write, is the summit of a precipice 20 feet high, extending two miles in length, and polished as if a liquid glazing had been poured over its surface. By my side, in the solid rock are the deep impressed footsteps of the "Great Spirit," (15 inches in length, in the form of the track of a large bird) where he formerly stood when the ∘blood of the buffalo that he was devouring ran into the rocks and turned them red!

At a few yards from me loups a beautiful stream, from the top of the precipice, into a bottomless basin below. Here, amid rocks of the loveliest hues but wildest contour, is seen the poor Indian performing ablutions, and a little distance beyond, on the plain at the base of three huge granite boulders, he is humbly propitiating the guardian spirits of the place, by sacrifices of tobacco, entreating for permission to take away a small piece of red clay for a pipe. Farther along, and over an extended plain, are seen like gophirhills, their excavations, anciently and recent, where the thousand slates and rocks that strew the surface have been their countless sculptured hieroglyphics—their wacons, totems and medicine—subjects endless for the antiquary or the artist. Still further, graves, mounds, and ancient fortifications also that lie in sight—as well as *woman's limits*—the pyramid or leaping-rock and its legends, together with traditions, novel and numerous, and a description, graphical and geological, of this strange place,have all been subjects that have passed rapidly through my contemplation. All these things I have long since penned off and sent to you, and I have since been dipping, my pen deeper into the arcana of their medicine or mysteries, and mythology which will be forthcoming anon.

If the epistles above alluded to (and there was a pretty large package of them) have never arrived to your hands, which I think is probably the case, they have most assuredly been stopped and pilfered by the ironsred pirates who occupy the plains between this and St. Peters. If such would prove to be the case, I will try to save the world from the loss by transcribing my notes again as soon as possible, and send them to you. I have grounds for apprehension that such has been the fate of my package, for I have just been told by Indians arriving, that a conspiracy was maturing among the Sioux between this place and the falls of St. Anthony, for the purpose of making us feel their vengeance on our return, for having dared to make sacrilegious trespass on this *hallowed* ground—(Hereby hangs a tale, and it may as well be told now as ever, perhaps.) I'll touch upon it lightly, however, and if nine epistles (in which it was fully detailed, and in which all the incidents of our journey were put down) dot come to light, I shall write it over again, with all the minutiæ, for they are all worth knowing.

On our way to this place we were stopped and imprisoned by a rascally band of the Sioux, and held in *durance vile* for having dared to approach the *sacred fountain of the pipe!* While we had halted at the trading hut of "Le Blanc," at a place called *Traverse des Sioux*, on the St. Peter's River, and about 150 miles from the Red Pike, a murky cloud of dark visaged warriors and braves commenced gathering around the house, closing and cramming all its avenues, when one began his agitated and insulting harangue to us, announcing to us in the presumption that we were prisoners and could not go ahead. About a dozen of them spoke in turn, and we were doomed to sit nearly the whole afternoon, without being allowed to speak in our own behalf until they had all got through. We were compelled to keep our seats like culprits, and hold our tongues till all had breathed their fears of us, and their wrath and the threats and invective which could flow from Indian malice, grounded on the presumption that we had come to trespass on their dearest privileges, their religion.

There was some allowance to be made, and some excuse, surely, for the rashness of these poor fellows, and we felt disposed to pity rather than condemn the change which our presence in fact excited us almost to desperation. Their superstition was sensibly touched, for we were persisting in the most peremptory terms, in the determination to visit this, their great medicine (pipe) place: where, it seems, they had often resolved in national council no white man should ever be allowed to go. They took us to the "officers area" (a square in the centre of which the pipe was worth," &c. "As this red stone was a part of their flesh, it would be sacrilegious for white men to touch or take it away—a hole would be made in their skin and the blood could never be made to stop running." My English companion and myself were here in a fix, one that demanded the use of every energy we had about us; astonished at so unexpected a rebuff, and more than ever excited to go ahead and see what was to be seen at this strange place; in this emergency we mutually agreed to go ahead, and see what the most insurmountable host of our lives, and never to retreat one foot until we had reached the spot. We agreed to *hinge* our lives on the event. It therefore gave us good opportunity of hearing and making speeches—of hearing threats and making them—of drawing out, in a manner that we could not otherwise have done it, all the traditionary superstitions and mysteries of this strangest of all places, and of learning much at the same time of the true feelings and impulses which actuate the savage heart.

The speeches made *pro-*necessaries libertatis, and *con.* will be given at large in a few days, and the manner in which we released ourselves from them, and carried our points on our course to the very mountain! In short, we astonished and at last, (or rather assumed it,) by going ahead, and defying all threats, and entreating them to put them into execution, and after passing several villages in whom they had sent runners ahead of us, with orders to arrest us, we at length reached the place of our destination in safety, which has more than answered here, in interest and picturesque beauty, all of our sanguine expectations, and richly repays us for a toilsome and expensive summer campaign.

At the date of this letter we are about to withdraw ourselves from this truly romantic and classic ground and wend our way back again, which will be long and tedious, and perhaps subject us to many difficulties with the wrongful and ill-disposed whose power alone is able to reduce the spirit of nature to suitable silence and submission.

(Signed) WILLIAM CANDY.

8 month 29th, 1813.

Copy of Thomas Jefferson's Letter in reply.

We have duly received your favor of August 29th, and am sensible of the kind feelings from which it flows, and truly thankful for them, the more so, as they could only be the result of a favourable estimate of my public course, during a long life, as much devoted to study as a faithful transaction of the trust committed to me would permit.

No object has occupied more of my consideration, than our relation with all the beings around us; our duties to them, and our future prospects. After hearing and reading every thing, which probably can be suggested concerning these, I have formed the best judgment I could, as to the course they prescribe, and in due observance of that course, I have no recollection which gives me uneasiness.

An eloquent preacher of your society, Richard Mott, in a discourse of much unction and pathos, which he was ordained aloud to his congregation, that he did not believe there was a quaker, presbyterian, methodist, or baptist in heaven; having paused to give his audience time to state and to wonder, he added, that in heaven, God knew no distinction, but considered all good men as his children, and as brethren of the same family. I believe with the quaker preacher, that he who strictly observes those moral precepts in which all religions concur,will never be question'd at the gates of heaven as to the dogmas in which all differ—that on *entering* there, all these are left behind us, and the Aristides' and Catos, the Penns and Tillotsons, presbyterians and papists will find themselves united in all principles which are in concert with the reason of the Supreme Mind. Of all the systems of morality, ancient or modern, which have come under my observation, none appears to me so pure as that of Jesus—he who follows it faithfully must be safe, I think, be saved, though he cannot comprehend the subtilities and mysteries erected on his doctrines, by those who, calling themselves his especial followers and fellows, have forged for him a system of which he only snares for all understandings but theirs. Their metaphysical heads usurping the judgment-seat of God, denounce all his enemies who cannot perceive the strange chain of logical deduction in demonstrations of St. Athanasius; that three are one, and one is three, and yet the three is not one, nor the one three.

In all essential points, you and I are of the same religion; and I am too old to go into enquiries and charges, as to the unessential. Repeating, therefore, my thankfulness for the kind concern you have been so good as to express, I salute you with friendship and brotherly love.

(Signed) THOMAS JEFFERSON.

Monticello, Sept. 18th, 1813.

Lyceums.

We ask attention to the following communication. The subject is worthy of it. We believe of vast importance, and trust that our citizens *will* take immediate measures to form Borough, township and county Lyceums. We shall be glad to hear from "Plato" again.

FOR THE GETTYSBURGH STAR AND BANNER.

MR. EDITOR—Men can in no way more effectually serve his fellow man, than by raising him out of Ignorance to walk in the light of Knowledge—thus fitting him for enjoyments that can be had from no other source. And there is no higher renown than to have been a benefactor of our race.

At the present day, an effort is almost every where making to raise Man to the condition his nature and destiny has given him to occupy, and provided for the young of every degree ; the children of the rich man and the poor man meet together on the level of equality. Poverty is no longer an inseparable bar to the education of the children of the indigent. Wise and benevolent Legislators have introduced a System into our State,and incorporated it with our ine itutions, by which the blessings of Knowledge are offered to all, "without money and without price" This system promises not only to elevate the individual, but also to advance the social and political condition of our citizens, and secure the permanency of our present form of government.

But while these provisions are made for the young ; while the rising and future generations are to reap the advantages of knowledge, the actual possessors should not be benefactor of the others, who have been soon for its blessings. But that generation which has done so much for the ages that are to come, should do something for itself. It is true, that it cannot drink of the bap of years and time has pressed upon it; age and ripe manhood cannot strip themselves of their appropriate garments, and clothe themselves in the habiliments of youth; but age and manhood may make use of the means which is left. This, in very many places, they are doing by the erection of SOCIETIES and LYCEUMS, where past deficiencies are supplied by present diligence.

The object of this communication is to incite the Citizens of this Borough and County to emulate the example that has been set them in other places—to establish a Lyceum or other Society for the diffusion of useful knowledge. At this time, branches of Science, which, until within a few years, were mere speculative theories, have been reduced to perfect system, and promise to be of immense practical benefit. South was Geology, until very recently. For ages Geology was one of the catalogue of Sciences, but it was made subservient to no better purpose than that of scepticism and infidelity ; but in later years, it has been made use of to point out to the inhabitants the great mineral riches of the earth.

Geology is not one of those branches which the ordinary understanding cannot comprehend without the previous preparation and acquaintance with other sciences. It is true, that it presents to our contemplation many astonishing phenomena, but these are not explained by mathematical calculation and demonstration as are astronomical phenomena,but are understood by observation.

Such limits as I have defined for myself in this communication, will not permit me to speak of the wonders disclosed by Geological science,or of the advantages which it promises to every part of the country; nor have I time to explain all the benefits that might result from a society having for its object the diffusion of useful knowledge. I shall only add, that such a society would open the way to many improvements and advantages—and suggest the call of a County or Town meeting, to form a Society for such a purpose.

PLATO.

SOMETHING NEW!—The Olive Branch states that a proposition has been made for a "Congress of Churches," made up of representatives from all the different sects in the United States, which shall hold a session in some central place, for the purpose of adopting measures for the consolidation of all sects into one.

Which one shall it be?

IMPORTANT TO PENSIONERS.

The annexed circular from the Treasury Department is published for the information of all pensioners.

CIRCULAR.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, }
Second Comptroller's Office, }
September 29th, 1836. }

The agent for paying pensions at Philadelphia:

SIR—In order to guard more effectually against a repetition of frauds, as heretofore practised by the production of forged papers, the first three following additional rules will be observed by the accounting officer of the Treasury.

1—In every case where the pensioner employs an attorney to receive his pension, the execution of the power must be in the presence of at least one witness, other than the magistrate before whom it is acknowledged. No payment to an attorney will be allowed unless supported by a voucher thus executed.

2—In all cases where the signature of the pensioner or his attorney is required, such pensioner or attorney will write his name at length. Capable of so doing otherwise his signature may be by mark or cross, in which case the execution must be in the presence of at least one competent witness other than the justice or notary who acts officially in the case.

3—No payment will in future be made to any pensioner, either in person or by attorney, who cannot produce the original certificate of his pension to the Commissioner of Pensions, and a special direction authorising the payment has been given.

4—In cases where a certificate has been issued by the Commissioner of Pensions to the widow or children of an officer or soldier under the act of June 7, 1832, or under the act of May 15, 1828, no proof of the relationship of the applicant to the deceased officer or soldier is to be required by the pension agent, that proof having been necessarily filed in the office of the Commissioner of Pensions prior to the issuing of such certificate.

Respectfully, sir, your ob't serv't,

ALBION K. PARRIS.

Comptroller.

Anti-Masonry rising from its ashes!

We have received the two first Nos. of an Anti-Masonic paper, entitled the *"Butler Intelligencer,"* published by Mr. WILLIAM STEWART. We make the following extract from the Editor's address:—

"As to our political opinions, they are known, and shall always be made known, whenever they can, in our opinion, subserve any good purpose. We have erected no battery for the temporary purpose of assailing any man or party; for the paltry one of gratifying malevolence; we possess no such feeling towards any individual. But we unfurl the banner of TRUTH, and go for *Free Discussion*. Take this right away, and the press is powerless—the people are slaves. It is this which makes tyrants tremble, bigots hide their scowling visage. Before its resistless march the principles of vice will crumble into dust, ignorance will be compelled to yield up her prey, error will no longer be dangerous to man, and virtue, freed from the tyrant's sway, will shine forth in her pure and beauty, "fair as the moon, and clear as the sun."

And more of it!

The first No. of the *"Commonwealth,"* which takes the place of the late "Philadelphia Sun," has been received. It goes for the "Supremacy of the Laws" and against "self-elected Associations where the mind of man is bound by *any* tie calculated to operate partially and to the benefit of the few." The "Commonwealth" also says—"Down with the Sun—Sun down," like the Phœnix, it has sent forth from its ashes a bird of=bright plumage and of rarer song!"

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

By the arrival of the ship Westminster, Capt. Moore, from London, we have received London papers to the 15th Oct. inclusive.

Considerable apprehensions are beginning to be felt in Ireland, for the state of the crops. Very gloomy accounts have been received from the north and north west. The western coast, the islands, and the highlands of Scotland, are in a very precarious state.

The Belgian government has applied to that of England, for leave to disinter the body of Madame Mailbran, and remove it to Brussells. The English government of course referred the matter to the ecclesiastical and municipal authorities, of whom, cheaper, have been refused. It was supposed that M. de Beriot would have to come over in person.

The French papers say that Prince Polignac, and his companions, are to be removed from Ham to private houses, where they will still be kept in confinement, but in more comfortable and pleasant circumstances than at present. The prince had consented to petition the King for mercy, but his motives are not explained by mathematical calculation and demonstration as are astronomical phenomena,but are understood by observation.

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French Violation of Our Flag.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Aug. 2.

A circumstance has occurred at Smyrna which may disturb a little the renewed harmony between France and America. On the 14th the American brig Bainan, loaded with Turkish produce for Boston, set sail, and got beyond the Castle, when she was forcibly boarded by a French man of-war's boat. An officer and several men, armed, said they were in search of two deserters, whom they suspected to be on board, and, notwithstanding that Captain Ingles assured them on his word of honor that there were no such men on board his ship, the French commenced a strict search, and not succeeding in finding the deserters, the officer ordered the American Captain to return to Smyrna. On this the American hauled down his flag, abandoned his vessel, and the French brought her to an anchor between the Castle and the town. Captain Ingles then went on shore and made his protest. Thus the affair remained when the last accounts left Smyrna. Mr. Offley, the United States Consul, is a man who will do his duty, from which he would not flinch a hair's breadth, even were his consulate rattled about his ears. He is another Lord Ponsonby, with this difference, that he certainly is not the over-promptly supported by his own Government. People cannot insult the stripes and stars with impunity.

A gallant engagement with Pirates.

A letter received from Canton, bearing date the 19th May, contains an account of a gallant action with a large fleet of pirates, on the 16th of May.

The chief officer opposed to these savages was Lieut. Elliot, who holds rank in the Spanish Colonial Marine. The gallantry of this engagement, we should say, was never surpassed in the annals of naval warfare.

He was cruising in a government *Falura*, (a large open boat,) with a crew of 43, all told: armed with one large brass gun in the bow, (an 18 or 24 pounder,) four swivels on the stern, and small arms. The boat pulled twenty-six oars.

Passing round a point of land between Cape Capones, and Corregidore, he suddenly found himself almost in the midst of seventy six double-banked Malay Pirate Proas, each containing about forty men—The moment Elliot saw the enemy, he, with great courage and coolness, gave the word "ready for action," and the crew promptly obeyed by his *Tagalese* crew.

The long gun was quickly double-shotted with grape, without stopping the boat's way, and when within hail, the pirate chief, (a renagado,) who led the van—or rather the horn of a crescent, (for they were moving to surround the gallant boat,) hailed Elliot, and asked "if he was a brave man he would fight:" doubting what Elliot would do.

"Then the gallant Elliot flash'd
To action—and his boat the fleeter rush'd
O'er the waves—and his cannon roar'd
And when almost in contact fired his bow gun; the aim was so good and the effect so deadly, that the pirate chief's boat, with her crew, immediately sank. Without losing way, on went Elliot over the wave, which bubbled over the sunken proa,towards the second chief's proa, and when with boarding distance, the Long Gun was fired.

"It was but one moment of stir and commotion,
Then down she went, like a bird of the ocean."

The remaining twenty-four Proas, seeing the sudden and unexpected destruction of their chiefs, fled. They rather out pulling him, but not so fast as to escape about sixty-two rounds of shot, mostly grape. Twenty-four of them sunk with single banks only, it is probable the havoc amongst them had been great. When Elliot's shot could no longer reach them, he repaired to a creek, and there refitted, and then returned to Corregidore; but although he passed over the waters where the battle had been fought,

No vestige of the strife was there.

The fight continued about three hours. The Falwa had two men killed, and twelve wounded, two since dead.

In the early part of the action, the four swivels rebounded from their pivots and were lost.

When the particulars of the action were reported to the Governor, he immediately made Elliot a Capt., and gave him a cross of honor. The petty officers and crew have been rewarded, and the families of the killed will be provided for by the Manilla government.

The disparity of force in this action is amazing; one boat and forty three men, opposed to twenty six boats and upwards of a thousand men—and these all Malays, Negroes, Renegadoes, and Pirates!—a race and kind of men whose ferocity and desperate determination are unequalled. This is an instance of valor, which, in modern times, we can do; for all the credit of fighting the action is due to Elliot: and although the gallant Tagalese bravely seconded him, had he fallen, can there be a doubt of a different result?

VERY LATE FROM SPAIN.—Capt. Brown, of barque Ganges, arrived at Boston, from Malaga, October 10, informs Messrs. Top liff, that 6000 men of the Carlist army were within one day's march of Malaga when he sailed, and great consternation prevailed in the city. The shipping in harbor was crowded with men, women and children, for protection. As the progress of the Carlists had been marked by scenes of cess, and as they wreaked their vengeance more particularly upon those places which had proclaimed the constitution or were in favor of it, the inhabitants of Malaga had every reason to fear the worst consequences, should the Carlists enter the city. Every preparation was making to defend the place. About 5000 militia were enrolled, but had no leaders in whom they had confidence; consequently, great alarm existed and business was at a stand.

The U. S. ship Potomac was in port, also a British and a French frigate.

CAPTURE OF A SLAVER.—Arrived at Havana, Oct. 25th, Spanish brig Empres-as prize to H. B. M. ship Vestal, of 26 guns, commanded by Capt. Jones. The brig was taken near the Island of Grenada, and had on board 434 slaves. The Vestal has also taken three other slave vessels under Portuguese colors, which were sent to Sierra Leone, Africa.

DEADFUL SHIPWRECK.—The ship Clarendon, Capt. Walker, from St. Kitts, bound for London, was wrecked at Chale bay, Isle of Wight, on the 11th October. The vessel was laden with a valuable cargo of West India produce. Her officers and crew consisted of sixteen, and a number of passengers left the island in her; among whom were Lieutenant Shaw, an officer of the army, his lady and four daughters, a gentleman named Pemberton, a planter, who was returning to Europe for the benefit of his health, and Miss Pemberton his daughter, twelve years of age. Miss Gawler of Portsmouth, Wm. Shepherd, of Exeter, and others, names not ascertained. She struck between the breakers at daylight, and [illegible] that an entrance there, all those on board [illegible] and the Aristides' and Catos, the Penns and Tillotsons, presbyterians and papists will find themselves united in all principles which are in concert with the reason of the Supreme Mind. Of all the systems of morality, ancient or modern, which have come under my observation, none appears to me so pure as that of Jesus—he who follows it faithfully must be safe, I think, be saved, though he cannot comprehend the subtilities and mysteries erected on his doctrines, by those who, calling themselves his especial followers and fellows, have forged for him a system of which he only snares for all understandings but theirs. Their metaphysical heads usurping the judgment-seat of God, denounce all his enemies who cannot perceive the strange chain of logical deduction in demonstrations of St. Athanasius; that three are one, and one is three, and yet the three is not one, nor the one three.

In all essential points, you and I are of the same religion; and I am too old to go into enquiries and charges, as to the unessential. Repeating, therefore, my thankfulness for the kind concern you have been so good as to express, I salute you with friendship and brotherly love.

(Signed) THOMAS JEFFERSON.

Monticello, Sept. 18th, 1813.

Lyceums.

We ask attention to the following communication. The subject is worthy of it. We believe of vast importance, and trust that our citizens *will* take immediate measures to form Borough, township and county Lyceums. We shall be glad to hear from "Plato" again.

FOR THE GETTYSBURGH STAR AND BANNER.

MR. EDITOR—Men can in no way more effectually serve his fellow man, than by raising him out of Ignorance to walk in the light of Knowledge—thus fitting him for enjoyments that can be had from no other source. And there is no higher renown than to have been a benefactor of our race.

At the present day, an effort is almost every where making to raise Man to the condition his nature and destiny has given him to occupy, and provided for the young of every degree ; the children of the rich man and the poor man meet together on the level of equality. Poverty is no longer an inseparable bar to the education of the children of the indigent. Wise and benevolent Legislators have introduced a System into our State,and incorporated it with our ine itutions, by which the blessings of Knowledge are offered to all, "without money and without price" This system promises not only to elevate the individual, but also to advance the social and political condition of our citizens, and secure the permanency of our present form of government.

But while these provisions are made for the young ; while the rising and future generations are to reap the advantages of knowledge, the actual possessors should not be benefactor of the others, who have been soon for its blessings. But that generation which has done so much for the ages that are to come, should do something for itself. It is true, that it cannot drink of the bap of years and time has pressed upon it; age and ripe manhood cannot strip themselves of their appropriate garments, and clothe themselves in the habiliments of youth; but age and manhood may make use of the means which is left. This, in very many places, they are doing by the erection of SOCIETIES and LYCEUMS, where past deficiencies are supplied by present diligence.

The object of this communication is to incite the Citizens of this Borough and County to emulate the example that has been set them in other places—to establish a Lyceum or other Society for the diffusion of useful knowledge. At this time, branches of Science, which, until within a few years, were mere speculative theories, have been reduced to perfect system, and promise to be of immense practical benefit. South was Geology, until very recently. For ages Geology was one of the catalogue of Sciences, but it was made subservient to no better purpose than that of scepticism and infidelity ; but in later years, it has been made use of to point out to the inhabitants the great mineral riches of the earth.

Geology is not one of those branches which the ordinary understanding cannot comprehend without the previous preparation and acquaintance with other sciences. It is true, that it presents to our contemplation many astonishing phenomena, but these are not explained by mathematical calculation and demonstration as are astronomical phenomena,but are understood by observation.

Such limits as I have defined for myself in this communication, will not permit me to speak of the wonders disclosed by Geological science,or of the advantages which it promises to every part of the country; nor have I time to explain all the benefits that might result from a society having for its object the diffusion of useful knowledge. I shall only add, that such a society would open the way to many improvements and advantages—and suggest the call of a County or Town meeting, to form a Society for such a purpose.

PLATO.

SOMETHING NEW!—The Olive Branch states that a proposition has been made for a "Congress

and obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the rules and articles of war.

YORK, Nov. 16.

A STORM.—On Friday night last this region was visited by a tremendous storm of wind and rain—thunder and lightning.—Through the early part of the week the weather had been clear, warm and delightful. On Friday morning it began to rain, the atmosphere being very sultry. Towards 10 o'clock at night it became very dark, and when the mi'night watches came on, the demons of the storm revelled in all their fury. The winds blew—the rain descended in torrents—the lightnings flashed with blinding vividness, and the thunder rolled long, deep and terrific over the vaulted arch of the sky. Dwellings were rocked to their foundations, and "Nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep," fled from the anxious eye and the affrighted heart.

"The boldest held his breath
For a time."

We have heard of a serious loss occasioned by the storm. Margaretta Furnace, in Windsor township, owned and occupied by Messrs. H. Y. Slaymaker & Co. was struck by the lightning and the casting and bridge house were burned to the ground. A heavy shower which followed saved the Wood-house and the numerous other buildings, dwelling houses, &c. which throng the busy area around the furnace. We sincerely deplore the accident and sympathize in the losses sustained by the worthy and public-spirited owners.—*Republican.*

CENSUS OF WISCONSIN.—The Milwaukie Advertiser gives the following as the official returns of the census lately taken of Wisconsin Territory:

Crawford	2707
Des Moines	854
Du Buque	6257
Iowa	4274
Milwaukie	2892
Total,	22,228

It is worthy of remark, that the two counties lying west of the Mississippi, (Des Moines and Du Buque,) contain nearly one half of the population of the whole territory. Those two counties comprise what is called the Black Hawk Purchase, and their population has been almost wholly made up within the last two years. A division of the Territory by the Mississippi will soon be called for.

A LADY THIEF.—Mrs. Abigal McEntire, was lately arrested and committed in Boston, for stealing a piece of silk from the store of W. P. Tenny, while the clerk was putting up a piece of merino for her. She is a married lady, has taught, it is said, her daughter to steal, and has sold privately much stolen goods at one eighth of their value. She was fined $10 a year ago for stealing.—*Ibid.*

From the Pittsburg Advocate, Nov. 5.

SHOOTING STARS.

Most persons will remember to have seen or heard of the splened phenomenon of those brilliant meteors on the morning of the 13th of November, 1833. Various and discordant theories have been framed and published, to account for these *shooting stars*, as they are commonly denominated. One of these theories makes them Asteroids, and connected by the laws of gravitation in their governmental concerns, we are induced to believe that they enter upon their new and untried career, with as much of the precision and honest sincerity of purpose, as any people ever did, and with sufficient to enable them to take their independent stand among the sovereignties of the earth.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Departure of the Mexican Envoy.

Signor GOROSTIZA has embarked for Mexico, with all the members of his Legation. Previous to his departure he addressed to our government an exposition of his reasons for taking this step, from which the following is an extract:

"Although a result has not been what the undersigned expected. The note of Mr. Dickens has left him no hope. The explanations, moreover, which have been given in the course of the debate, have shown how little can be looked for, by Mexico, from the United States, since her most sacred rights, her most important interests, are thus sacrificed to the shadow of an imaginary danger. Mexico is wronged and insulted as a measure of precaution.

"Under such painful circumstances, the undersigned would be remiss in his duties as the representative of Mexico, if he did not avail himself of the [illegible] to manifest to [illegible] the sensibility, [illegible] sion from the [illegible]

Governor [illegible] New York, has appointed the 15th [illegible] as a day of thanksgiving in that State.

The United States Mint is about to issue fifty cent pieces of a new and beautiful coinage.

Gen. GAINES in a late letter accepting an invitation to a public dinner in Mobile, says—

If in my humble efforts to preserve the south-western frontier from the heart-rending scenes of savage war and desolation, such as have covered Florida with deep mourning—and such as must penetrate the heart and awaken the sensibilities and sympathies of every patriot of the country, I have incurred the censure of a high public functionary placed over me, I have the satisfaction to know that I have acted in strict obedience to the law of the land prescribing the oath which I have taken, and in obedience to which I have probably seen as much hard service as any man in the United States now living—an oath which requires me to bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, and to serve them honestly and faithfully against their enimies or opposers whomsoever, and to observe

LATEST FROM TEXAS.

The New Orleans Bulletin of the 29th ult. says:—By the arrival of the schr. Pennsylvania, yesterday, from Texas, we have an easy possession of dates from that country to the 12th. So little dread of an enemy prevails in the country at present, that the inhabitants were quietly attending to business and attending it would seem theatrical performances. Some Thespian corps have opened the temple, and made a debut at Columbia, under the auspices of Thespis. The army remains stationary, and somewhat impatient to be engaged in more active duty, in which, notwithstanding threats of formidable preparations on the part of the enemy, we suspect they will be disappointed, as time will disclose. We a long time since prophecied that not another hostile gun would be fired in Texas, but we have seen no faith in our prophetic gift as to this particular.

The papers containing the particulars of their newly organized congress, furnish no new matter of interest. Their members as yet being engaged in regulating the minutiæ of matters of order and etiquette, prior to entering upon their more serious deliberations. Texas is still in confinement, which is rumored to be not so rigid as of late, there being on foot some measures preparatory to his release. Should he not be released, Texas should require something in the way of a ransom, to enable her to discharge some of the heavy liabilities incurred by her belligerent operations.

The vacancy as Commander in Chief, occasioned by the election of General Houston to the Senate, has been filled in a spirited by one of the three candidates, Generals Thomas Rusk, Green or Felix Houston.

From all that we can hear and read of the military operations of the Texians in their governmental concerns, we are induced to believe that they enter upon their new and untried career, with as much of the precision and honest sincerity of purpose, as any people ever did, and with sufficient to enable them to take their independent stand among the sovereignties of the earth.

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