

Communications.

For the Potter Journal. Letters on Phonetics.—No. 9. Objections to the charge—from its strangeness.

We are often told that our phonetic orthography looks so oddly, the characters are so uncouth, and the spelling is so simple and silly, that those who are high-minded and educated will not stoop to so flat and foolish a thing, as to use it.

We are not surprised at such objections. Those who have been accustomed to read and write much, or who have by a painful and laborious process become passable readers and spellers, find such a strong attachment existing for the dear system, and the old familiar words, that they cannot feel like parting with such old friends.

The new alphabet they look upon as ludicrous; as ridiculous as the first umbrella, a thing to be laughed at and not tried. Similar objections were raised against the ponderous locomotive, as it thundered along its iron track, with its shrill scream and fire-spitting mouth. But we have lived to find the railway train, a fruitful theme of poetry. Every new fashion which is introduced among us at first looks very strange, and many avow themselves opponents and say they will be the last ones to don the ridiculous costume. But how is it? Look at one item of a ladies wardrobe—hoops—a lady without hoops—you could find one about as soon as you could a white crow.

That which was once so odious and so much sport made about, is now absolutely essential to the comfort and respectable appearance of the fair ones. The objection of "strangeness" is no objection, because it will soon wear away, and the new letters will look as beautiful and symmetrical as the old ones.

The Conservative Objection.

The principle of this objection is this: not merely or simply the unwillingness to change a custom, but a belief that the inconveniences of the change will more than counterbalance the advantages claimed for it.

The inconveniences presumed to be first, that every one will be obliged to go to school again in order to learn the new style. Secondly, that all our old books and libraries will become useless, as it will require an especial study to understand them; with regard to the first, it is merely necessary to say, that any person who is a fluent or easy reader of the old style, can in a few hours learn to read the phonetic.

The second objection sounds quite formidable at first, but it is really no objection at all. Because, as I have proved before, this system will make more and better readers of the books now printed in the Romanic spelling. The present system of spelling is called the Romanic to distinguish it from the Phonetic. It is a fact which I have already adverted to that the best method of acquiring a knowledge of Romanic orthography is to commence by studying the Phonetic.

If any of our readers wish to see a specimen of phonetic printing, they can, by sending \$1.00 to Longley & Brothers, Cincinnati, O., and get a large Semi-Monthly paper published in Phonetics, called The Type of the Times; or send 75 cts. to R. P. Prosser, and get The Phonetic Journal, a monthly magazine, or send 10 cts. and get a specimen number. The above firms have published several books in phonetic spelling which are well worth possessing.

More anon. PHONO.

For the Potter Journal.

"A Man's a Man for a' that." Mr. Editor.—We must call attention to the fact, that, it is not the degree (either moral or physical) of manhood that is the subject of discussion in the proposition.

Resolved, That the man who drinks intoxicating liquor is not a man.

but it is whether he is a man or not a man. We think that we proved him to be a man notwithstanding he may have been drunk. A sinful man, indeed, but still a man. Were it not so, very much of what is done in this world would be a mere farce. The Apostle Paul was engaged in a very fruitless work when knowing the terms of the Lord he was "persuading men, and all the others when in obedience to their Master's command, were preaching the gospel to every creature." The Bible meets men as sinful men. It allows to them no other standing. The Saviour said he "came to call not the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

"But now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." But if to be a man, one must have done nothing wrong, we ask of what were they to repent? They are plainly called men although they had sinned. But, says "B," if a man sins he is not a man, but I can only say the Scriptures are against him, for they call them men. Nor does the degree of estimation in which a man is held by his fellows, determine, always, his real character. The Lord judgeth not as man, for man looketh on the appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. It is not to the purpose to discuss how much better a man would have been by not drinking, or doing any other wrong thing. This seems to us to admit our side because it implies that he is simply not as good a man as he would have been had he not drunk; but mind you, there is no gradation between a sinful man and no man. Infidelity lies between the points.

We are at a loss to guess what it was that we said to give grounds for "B" to think we were of the overt act theory.

We never held to this. J. B. Gough is a sample of restoration of the drunkard to public confidence, and the evidence of this is, the multitudinous statements in the christian papers during the last year to this effect, as well as to the fact that the Temperance men of Scotland employ him in their cause as a public lecturer, at the enormous sum (if I mistake not) of £10,000 per annum. The "reclaiming" is dangerous doctrine. But the Saviour came to save men's lives, not destroy them, and He commissioned 12 men to go and proclaim salvation to sinners and conferred upon them miraculous powers in order to convince them to accept of the offers of pardon and peace. All this is very dangerous doctrine in "B's" estimation. This is the "sale of indulgences," and the preaching of it determines a "low state of society." Well I cannot help it. God has seen fit to make it his method of dealing with men, and I have no disposition to change it. I confess the state of society is as low as it ought to be; but there is no tendency to elevate it in the conduct of those who say "Stand thou there, for I am holier than thou."

The cotton part of the article is beyond my limited comprehension. The confession about Pope Cotter would have been better without the attempt at its justification. Its right or wrong is not determined merely by my opinion of it.

A FRIEND TO MAN.

The Potter Journal.

COUDERSPORT, PA., Thursday Morning, March 3, 1859. T. S. CHASE, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

The Issue Clearly Stated.

We copy elsewhere in this issue an article from the N. Y. Evening Post, which draws a very striking parallel between two very important measures now claiming the attention of Congress. The two measures afford ample ground for discussing in the fullest manner the issues which are to define the basis of our country's welfare; and we coincide with the Post that the true issue now before the people of this country for discussion and consideration is, "Shall slave labor or free labor animate the spirit and control the destinies of this country?" This, in our opinion, is the issue upon which the campaign of 1860 should be based, and this we believe should be the animus of all Congressional debates wherein this principle is not irrelevant to the subject matter of discussion.

We hold that upon this issue, (independent of all other questions of mere expediency, inasmuch as we think it embraces all other issues which may come before the people in 1860.)—the Republican party must, to be consistent, go before the people. It has assumed the championship of free labor and free speech; it stands out before the country and the world as the avowed enemy of the extension of slavery; it dates back to the days of the Revolution, the adoption of the articles of confederation of 1778, and the constitution and ordinance of 1787—measures which, in their day, when southern statesmen were men, had more friends at the south than at the north; it embraces the best principles of all the old parties, and new ones for the exigencies of the present condition of the country; and in view of all this can well afford to rest its success or failure upon the issue it has adopted.

And, moreover, the issue is not one which admits of but one construction, or one line of interpretation. It is a broad issue, bearing upon all the social, moral and commercial relations of our people, and aiming at the redemption of our common country from the vortex of ruin to which a few years of political and social corruption has so nearly brought it. If we sustain slave labor we must destroy free labor—on the other must give way. If we destroy free labor, we may as well make up our mind to live, ere many years, under a monarchy. If we sustain free labor, the grandeur and influence of our country and government is illimitable and inconceivable, and its power for good is invincible.

A Little Incident in Life at the Federal Capital.

Another of those charming characteristic episodes of Capital life, indicative alike of the moral and political miasma which composes the air of that legislative city, took place in Washington last Sunday. The Hon. Daniel E. Sickles, member of Congress from the III District, New York, has, or had, a charming wife of twenty-two years, (her husband is 40), whom he married when she was sixteen—Italian blood enough to desire a lover independent of a husband, and Yankee enough to have just what she wanted, even though covertly, her father being Antonio Baglioli, a celebrated Italian music teacher in New York, who married an American lady. Mrs. Sickles's lover was Philip Barton Key, a son of the author of the "Star Spangled Banner," and U. S. Attorney

for the District of Columbia. He was a widower, with four children, and was 42 years old. He had rented a house of a negro in Fifteenth street which he used for assignations with Mrs. Sickles, and to which—from a Club-house which he frequented opposite the residence of the Mr. Sickles,—he was in the habit of signaling her with a wave of his white handkerchief. Mr. Sickles was informed of the intimacy of his wife with Key, doubted its truth at first, but received ocular proof finally, as well as the confession of Mrs. Sickles, believed, and determined on dire revenge. On Sunday he saw Key walk past his house two or three times, and give the criminal signal to Mrs. S., and on seeing this, requested his particular friend, S. F. Butterworth, Esq., to follow Key, engage him in conversation and detain him until he could go up stairs and arm himself, which he did with a five-bore six inch revolver and two single barrel Derringer pistols, went out of his house and walked down past the President's, and met Mr. Key. The latter greeted the former, and was about offering him his hand, when Mr. Sickles, refusing to take Mr. Key's hand, said, "Sir, you have dishonored me; prepare to die!" Mr. Key started back a few feet, exclaiming, "What for? What for? Don't! don't!" and made a movement as if seeking for a weapon in his left breast, but which proved to be an opera-glass, which he threw at Sickles.

Mr. Sickles then drew one of his Derringers and shot Mr. Key, who staggered some; Mr. Sickles shot at Mr. Key again, with his second Dorringer, which sent him reeling against a tree; he cried out "murder," when Mr. Sickles fired a third time, from his revolver, and Mr. Key fell. Mr. Sickles, believing him dying, desisted, and did not fire again.

Mr. Key was carried to the club-house, where he died soon after. He was a nephew of Chief Justice Taney, and was a much esteemed citizen.

With impetuous sang froid, as soon as his "job" was done, Mr. Sickles went to the office of United States Attorney General Black. He expressed a desire to surrender himself, and accordingly sent for the Mayor, the Marshal of the District being absent, and, in company with that magistrate, rode in his carriage to the District Jail, where he has been visited by a large number of his friends, from different sections of the country, all of whom expressed great sympathy for Mr. Sickles, of course. There is very little danger of Mr. Sickles having justice done him, as the Administration is on his side, and will be uturing in its efforts to secure the acquittal of one of its most servile tools. The vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Key will of course be filled at once by an appointment of the President, and with a view to favor the perpetrator of the "latest" Congressional homicide. The crime of Mr. Key was nearly equal, in point of moral force, to that of Mr. Sickles, and we would not excuse the former one jot, while at the same time that of Mr. Sickles is, and should be punished as, a first-class crime. The following editorial remarks of the N. Y. Eve. Post, in relation to the position of the murderer, meet our hearty approval:

"The provocation which Sickles alleges, was the criminal intimacy of Key with his wife. The friends of Key, it is said, deny the charge; but the accounts from Washington affirm that Mrs. Sickles has fully acknowledged her guilt. We should not wonder if this were true. Mrs. Sickles was married to her husband at a time when she was not yet out of her girlhood, and she is even now but twenty-two years of age. The character of the husband too often corrupts that of the wife, particularly at the impressive period of early youth. 'Curses,' it is said in the old proverb, 'come home to roost'; and so it may be said with equal truth, do adulteries. Sickles was excluded from decent society in this city long ago; and it would be almost a miracle if, in the school to which he took his young wife, with her character yet unformed, she should have preserved her innocence.

"We do not mean to extenuate the injury done by Key to the man who so coolly took his life; it is one of the greatest that one man can commit against another. But there are states of social existence in which mutual toleration is the rule of conduct, and Sickles, in acquiring so perfectly the morals, should also have acquired the philosophy of the class to which he belongs. It ill became him, who is so careless of his own conduct, to set on foot investigations into the morals of others, and to avenge a false step with death. No matter how nearly the offence touched him, he should have treated it as he treated criminal intrigues of the same nature in which his own wife was not concerned, as a trifling matter, as a pleasant jest, as a thing to be passed off with a sly allusion and a knowing look, in short, as something which the adulterous intriguer was welcome to chronicle among his triumphs.

Temperance Items.

THE Rev. John Long delivered a lecture on "Lager-Bier," at Lynchburg, Va., not long since. He denounced the popular beverage, and affirmed that its excessive use had contributed in a great degree to the intellectual decay of the German race.

VIOLENT POISONS.—\* \* \* Think a minute, ye who complain of nervousness, neuralgia; ye young men who see visions and dream dreams! And when you next are merry around the sky rocket and rifle brands, let one of your number sing in full cups the following, from the Autocrat: "Come! fill a fresh bumper, for why should we go. While the logwood still reddens our cups as they flow? Pour out the dejection still bright with the sun, Till o'er the brimmed crystal the dye-stuff shall run.

"The half-ripened apples their life-dews have shed; How sweet is the taste of the sugar of lead! For summer's rank poison lies hid in the wheel! That were garnered by stable-boys smoking long-pipes.

"Then a scowl, and a howl, and a scoff, and a sneer, For sturbing and whiskey, and ratsbane and beer? In cellar, in pantry, in attic, in hall, Down, down with the tyrant that masters us all!

And there is more truth than poetry in these verses. Every year makes them truer and truer. There have been sneers at those whose poverty, though not their will, consented to make them "drink beer and sing of wine," but what shall we say of those who sing of wine and drink ratsbane?—Philadelphia Bulletin.

BAND OF HOPE.—A meeting of the little boys and girls of our town will be held in the English Lutheran church next Saturday afternoon, for the purpose of organizing a temperance society under the title of the "Band of Hope." Rev. Charles A. Hay, who is at the head of this movement, deserves great credit for his activity and zeal in the present temperance reformation. Other ministers of the gospel in town would do well to imitate his example.—Harrisburg Telegraph.

This is an excellent idea, and we trust it will be generally adopted. Get the children and the women of our country fully interested in the cause of Temperance, and we will guarantee a decrease of drunkenness and crime. Whiskey is the foundation of all crime, directly or indirectly, and if our Legislatures, instead of making laws to punish crime would enact laws which would enable well-disposed citizens to prevent it, they would do themselves honor and vastly add to the moral weight of that body. The influence of the Legislature will ever be against Temperance until the people take the matter in hand—and, therefore, we hail the movement in Harrisburg as a good hope that the people will ere long (at least, when these children grow up) take the matter in hand. God help to form "Bands of Hope" in every village and hamlet in the country—and may the children of the present age be the "good angels" who shall hover around the pathway of all future generations to protect them from the fell destroyer of man's true nobility.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

The Cuba Annexation Bill Withdrawn.

Special Despatch to the N. Y. Evening Post. WASHINGTON, February 26.—The firmness of the Republicans on a test of endurance until one o'clock this morning against the thirty million scheme, has compelled Silldell to withdraw his measure from the arena, acknowledging to-day that it cannot be passed. The Committee of Ways and Means have agreed to report Phillips's, Morrill's and Phelps's tariff bills to-day. Cobb democrats will try to substitute Phelps's bill, which is the tariff of 1846, for Phillips's bill, which sacrifices almost every other interest. The Republicans will vote against Phillips's bill and concentrate upon Morrill's bill, which treats all the great interests with more fairness. It is thought that the Pennsylvania democrats will vote for the latter if they cannot get Phillips's.

Significance of the Question Before the Senate.

The Senate at Washington has been up all night engaged in debate: not of ordinary political topics, although they seem so; but of the most fundamental question of our American civilization. The Homestead bill, on one side, and the Cuban Annexation bill, on the other, are both representative measures, in which the spirit and tendencies of the two distinctive societies of this country are well expressed. We refer to the free society, which occupies the greater number of the states, and the slave society, which occupies the rest. What is the Homestead bill, which has already passed the House, and lingers alone in the Senate? It is a proposal to cut off one great source of political profanity and corruption—Congressional trading in the public lands—and to establish a great political good—free access to the unsettled soil of the West for all classes of the population. For many years this has been a favorite scheme with the restless and public-spirited working-men of the country; they saw how the rich lands of the nation were gradually falling into the hands of forestallers and speculators; they saw how they were dwindling away under the reckless prodigality of

Congress; they saw what an admirable outlet and asylum they might prove for the impoverished and over-crowded populations of the cities; and they interposed, from time to time, to save this valuable inheritance from being absorbed by a rich landed aristocracy, or from being squandered by not over-scrupulous legislators. At length they have so far aroused the attention of the nation, and persuaded its opinions, as to procure the passage of a most unobjectionable and judicious act through the House of Representatives. But the way of it is stopped in the Senate by another scheme of very different scope and character.

And what is this Cuban annexation bill? In our estimation it is a bill devised by a few political leaders to empower the President of the United States to scatter thirty millions of dollars in bribery and corruption among the people. But, considering it in the light in which the movers choose to put it forward, as a measure preliminary to the acquisition of Cuba, and it is not greatly improved in feature. It then becomes a scheme, ostensibly to purchase, but in reality to seize, by violence, additional slave territory from an unwilling neighbor and friend. Mr. Silldell, in his report, and other senators in their speeches, it is true, are prompt to assign a dozen motives for this aggressive proposition—commercial, social and political—but the one controlling motive, as it is well known, is to increase the political power of slavery. If it were not supposed that it would have that effect, it would find but few advocates in Washington.

Here, then, we see the Senate absorbed in the discussions of two strongly contrasted measures; the one a peaceful and benevolent scheme for the settlement of the wild lands of the West with a free, hardy and thrifty population of farmers and mechanics, and the other a warlike scheme for wresting away the property of a friendly power, in order to swell an already excessive and dangerous servile class, and to strengthen the power of its masters—and how are parties divided on these schemes? The democrats—the friends of the people, as they call themselves—are, with few exceptions, arrayed on the side of the slave society, and the republicans, with no exceptions, on the side of the free society. This difference of position indicates the essential difference in their wishes and aims, and it ought to have the effect of opening the eyes of the honest laboring masses of the country—such as remain to be opened—to the real character of the present political contest.

It is not a strife for mere party ascendancy, although that may be involved in the result; it is not a vapid dispute about words or trivial and transient matters of opinion; but, as we remarked at the outset, supposing both sides to be earnest in their objects, a serious conflict between two diverse and irreconcilable elements of our civilization. Shall slave labor or free labor animate the spirit and control the destinies of this country?—that is the issue.—N. Y. Eve. Post, 26th.

Causes of Divorce in the Several States.

More than thirty causes of divorce are recognized by the statutes of the different states. In South Carolina not one has ever been obtained. In Virginia there are three causes, namely: natural and incurable impotency at the time of marriage, idioy and bigamy. In Alabama, adultery, or two years abandonment. In Rhode Island, impotency, adultery, extreme cruelty, wilful desertion for the space of five years, continued drunkenness, neglect of the husband to provide necessaries for the subsistence of the wife, gross misbehavior and wickedness repugnant to the marriage contract. In New Jersey divorce is granted for prior existing marriage, adultery, and wilful absence for five years. In Vermont for non-age, mental incapacity, impotency, force or fraud, adultery, confinement in the State Prison for three years or more, intolerable severity, absence for seven years unaccounted for, and where the husband, being of ability, grossly and wantonly neglects to provide for his wife. In Maine for adultery, impotency, desertion for five years, joining the Shakers for five years, confinement in the State Prison of any of the United States for five years, fraud in obtaining the consent of the other party, habitual drunkenness for three years; a marriage with an Indian or mulatto is void; and imprisonment for felony in the state, works a divorce without any judicial proceeding. In Kentucky for habitual drunkenness, condemnation for felony, cruelty of the husband, and for several other causes which we forbear to mention. In Illinois, for impotency, adultery, wilful desertion for two years, extreme cruelty, habitual drunkenness for two years. In Missouri, for adultery, wilful desertion for two years, conviction for an infamous crime, habitual drunkenness for two years, cruel treatment endangering life, intolerable indignities, vagrancy of the husband. In Iowa the same causes exist as in Missouri, to which is superadded, "when the parties cannot live in peace and happiness, and their welfare requires a separation." The law of Arkansas is the same as in Missouri, except that one year's absence is sufficient to free the abandoned party from the bonds of marriage. In Tennessee and Mississippi the law is nearly similar; while in Florida, to like enactments are added habitual indulgence of violent and ungovernable temper for one year, or drunkenness or desertion for one year. In North Carolina, impotency, adultery, abandonment, turning the wife out of doors, cruelty or indignity on the part of the husband, or any other just cause. In Texas, impotency, excess, or cruel treat-

ment, or outrages, or desertion for three years; the husband may have a divorce for the adultery of the wife, and the wife when the husband abandons her and lives in adultery. In Maryland the law is the same as in New York, except that abandonment and three years' absence from the state is a cause of divorce. In Georgia, the old English ecclesiastical law general laws to those of Vermont prevail. Extreme cruelty and absence for three years are causes for divorce in Delaware, to which Pennsylvania has added intolerable indignities. Congress has never conferred the power to grant divorces upon the courts in the district of Columbia.—Tribune, February 23.

"A WEARY WAY."—John Smith was seen going along Smithfield street, Saturday, drawing a willow wagon with an infant in it, and several satchels suspended on the tongue. He looked weary with travel, and attracted attention. He was induced to go to the Mayor's office, where he and the child were properly cared for. His story is a sad one. His wife died in Cincinnati, and being desirous to place their little one under his sister's care in N. Y., he resolved—being without means to do otherwise—to start on his journey afoot. He bought the wagon, placed his child with his few worldly effects in it, and left the city with out fifteen cents in his pocket. People along the way who heard his story, gave him and his little one food and shelter, though not always, and he suffered dreadfully at times from cold, and hunger, and anxiety for his change. Near Wheeling, he stopped at a stone tavern, and offered a woman ten cents—all he had—for shelter over night; he did not ask for food. She demurred at first, but finally consented. During the night the landlord came home, learned the facts, and with curses drove him out. He put his little charge in the wagon, and in the night, under a pitiless and rainy sky, pushed forward. He grew numb with cold, and attempted to build a fire to warm himself alongside the track of the Hempfield Road. The watchman saw him and forbade; but learning his sad story, took him to his house. Reated and refreshed he came on to the city. Bless him for his kindness to the little one! He deserves a better reward than he is likely to get in this world. We are glad to know that a fund is being raised to send him and his charge to New York by railroad.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

A BRIDE BURNED TO DEATH.—By passengers from Lebanon we learn of a most distressing affair which occurred near that place yesterday. Miss Susan Shuck, daughter of John Shuck, Esq., was to have been married to Mr. John Thomas at 12 o'clock. But a few minutes prior to the time the ceremony was to be performed her dress accidentally caught on fire, and the wedding dress, which was of a thin material, was instantly in a blaze, and the young lady was fatally burned. Her sister, Mrs. Burr Harrison, in her efforts to save her, fired her own dress, and was, perhaps, even more severely burned. There is but little hope of her recovery if it is feared. Mr. Shuck and other members of the family, who also tried to relieve the young lady from her perilous situation, were burned, but not seriously. The scene was terrifying beyond the expression of language. The bride was badly burnt from the waist up, and the hair burned from her head. After her wounds were dressed, and while she lay upon her couch, suffering the intensest agony, the marriage ceremony was performed. Rooms had been prepared at the National Hotel, in this city, for the bridal party, and they were to leave by the evening train.—Louisville Courier, 2d.

THE STATE OF OREGON.—The following are the officers of the new State of Oregon: Governor—John Whitaker; Secretary of State—Lucien Heath; Treasurer—John D. Boon; State Printer—Asahel Bush. The Governor is to hold office for four years, with a salary of \$1,500 per annum. He is also to be made superintendent of public instruction, and with the Secretary of State and Treasurer to constitute a board of trustees in charge of the school fund. The other State officers will hold office for two years. The Senate consists of sixteen and the House of Representatives of thirty-four members, who will receive three dollars per day for forty days.

SAYS the Washington correspondent of The Evening Post: "Mr. J. Q. A. Ward, a young artist of this city, has just completed a bust, in plaster, of Hon. Joshua R. Giddings. It is pronounced by all the friends of the latter to be a most admirable likeness. While this is true, it also evinces much promise for the future of the gifted young artist. Mr. Ward was born in Ohio, but studied for several years with H. K. Brown, the artist, of New York."

MRS. FRANCES D. GAGE ("Anti-Faunty"), of St. Louis, is about to embark for New Orleans for Hayti, via Cuba. Her husband's brother will accompany her. The results of her observations in that country and during her journey thither will doubtless find their way to the public in due time. We are encouraged to expect from her an occasional communication.—Anti-Slavery Standard.

In the front row of seats in the Maine Assembly sits the world-renowned Ned Dow. He has already distinguished himself as a ready debater. This is a very smooth way of saying very harsh things, and his general smile plays round his face, even when retorting in his most cutting and sarcastic manner.