THE CHESTERTOWN TRANSCRIPT.

VOL. X. CHESTERTOWN, SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 30, 1872. NO. 45.

TIME TABLE



KENT COUNTY RAILROAD.

Spring Schedule.

The Kent County Railroad having been completed to Chestertown, trains will run daily, (Sundays excepted,) for freight and passengers, between Chestertown and Townsend where close connection will be made with trains of the Delaware Rail Road, and run as follows, until further notice.

GOING EAST.	A. M.	P. M.	
Leave			
" Chestertown	6:30		
" Worton	6:45		
" Lynch's,	6:55		
" Still Pond,	7:05		
" Kennedyville,	7:20		
" Black's,	7:35		
" Lambson's,	7:50		Q.A.R.R.train
" Massey's,	8:05	1:25	
" Morris',	8:15	1.40	
" Vandyke's,	8:22	1:55	
Arrive Townsend,	8:35	2:10	
GOING WEST.	A. M.	P. M.	
Leave Townsend,	11:40	8:00	
" Vandyke's,	11:55	8:15	
" Morris',	12:05	P.M. 8:25	
" Massey's,	12:20	8:35	
" Lambson's,	12:30		
" Black's,	12:40		
" Kennedyville,	1:00		
" Still Pond,	1:10		
" Lynch's,	1:15		
" Worton,	1:25		
Arrive at Chestertown	1:45		

☞ Passengers from Chestertown and all Stations on the Kent County Railroad, will reach Wilmington at 10:15, A. M.; Philadelphia at 11:45, A.M., and Baltimore at 1:05, P. M.

Passengers for the Kent County Railroad, will leave Baltimore (President street depot) at 7:25, A. M.; Philadelphia (depot corner Broad street and Washington Avenue,) at 8:30, A. M., and Wilmington at 10:10, A. M.

JENNINGS HOOD,
March 2, 1872. Superintendent.

Attention

THE most elegant mode of *perfuming* clothing is by placing them in contact with odoriferous substances. This end can be attained by purchasing at the Drug Store of T. W. WICKES the most popular and prevailing perfumes now used. You can also find at his store a most elegant assortment of Combs, Brushes, Soaps, and Fancy Articles, all of the finest quality, and at city retail prices. The Bachelor Hair Dye, which is used so extensively in Europe and this country, and which has been satisfactorily proven by men of science and taste to be the best Hair Dye in the world, is sold by T. W. Wickes. Natural Mineral Waters for the debilitated, such as Vichy, Kissengen, Saratoga, and other waters. Spices, Ginger, Cloves, Cinnamon, Allspice, Mustard, Mace, Black and Red Pepper, Nutmegs, and *ground* Sage. Extracts for flavoring, of all varieties. Fine Cigars and Chewing and Smoking Tobacco. Jan. 7, 1871.

STOVES! STOVES!! STOVES!!!



Excelsior Hot Blast Cook, Superb Cook, Ironside, Columbia Cook, Niagara, Continental, All Right Cook, Farmer, Champion Complete Improved, Victor Range, Reliance Range, Novelty parlor Cook.

THE IMPROVED MORNING GLORY,

Token Gas Burning Base, Token with Reflector, Parlor Light Base Burner, Magic Light Base Burner, Comet Air-tight Radiator, Myrtle Illuminating Base, Casket Air-tight, for wood or coal, Vulcan Egg, Tuscan Open Front, for wood, Union Air Tight, Woodland, Flame, Nine Plate Stove, &c. &c.

BIBB AND SEXTON'S HEATERS

put up to heat one, two or three rooms, at city prices, and repaired at moderate rates.

Call and examine our large stock of Stoves, and be convinced that we are selling them as low as in the city.

Store opposite the Court House.

J. K. ALDRIDGE.
Chestertown, Oct. 21, 1871.

New Firm in the Lumber Business!



Having purchased the entire stock of Mr. Wm. Vannort in the Lumber Business, we intend to keep at his old stand a full and complete assortment of

BUILDING MATERIAL;

AND A LARGE STOCK OF LUMBER, to which we invite the attention of consumers, comprised in part of Select Cullings, 4-4, 6-4 and 8-4 White Pine, 5-8 Siding. Yellow Pine Dressed Flooring,
White Pine Scantling and Bill Stuff,
Hemlock Joist, Scantling & Bill Stuff,
White Pine and Hemlock Fencing,
White Pine and Cypress Shingles,
Laths, Pales, Window Sash glazed, and Window Shutters.

We hope, by attention to our business, to merit a full share of public patronage.

We will also continue the

CARPENTERING
AND
Undertaking

business with unabated vigor.

JOHN T. DODD & SON.
July 15, 1871—tf.



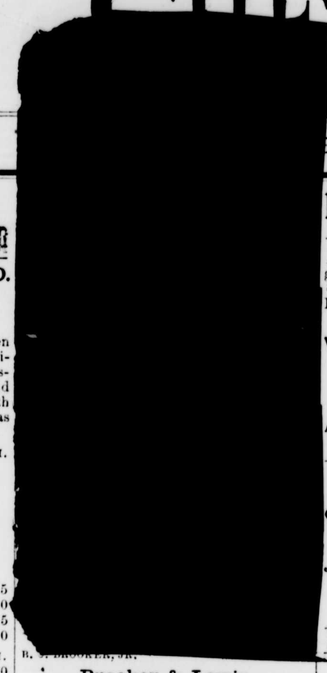
For Rent.

A desirable Dwelling on Queen street in Chestertown, with a large Garden in front. The building is a two story Brick, and was recently occupied by B. B. Perkins.

The premises are also for sale.

Apply to E. F. PERKINS,
Dec. 9, 1871. Chestertown, Md.

CIDER VINEGAR,
RELIABLE FOR PICKLING,
on hand and for sale by
THOMAS S. WICKES.
Chestertown August 19, 1871.



B. B. BROOKER, JR.

Brooker & Lewis,

AUCTIONEERS

AND

COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

No. 236 W. Baltimore street,
NEAR CHARLES,
BALTIMORE, MD.

☞ Sales of Household Furniture, Carpets, &c., every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 10 o'clock A. M. Dry Goods, Boots, Shoes and Notions every Monday at 10 o'clock A. M.

Consignments respectfully solicited.

Out-door Sales of every description taken at lowest rates.

Cash advances made if required.

Baltimore, August 26, 1871—y

Special Notice.



THE subscriber Manufacturer and Dealer in all kinds of *AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS*, Farm and Plantation Machinery—he also makes a speciality of PLOWS of all the various varieties for the Southern Trade. Having established himself in

Warehouse No. 40 and 42,
Light street, Baltimore,

respectfully invites all his old customers and others interested in such Wares to give him a call and examine his stock, which will be as

COMPLETE AND WELL MADE AND SOLD AT AS MODERATE RATES

as any other like establishment in the country. Address

JOHN MAYHER,
40 and 42 Light street,
Oct. 7, 1871—y. BALTIMORE.

COAL HODS, Shovels, Pokers, Seives, Stove Brushes and Blacking, on hand and will be sold at a very small advance on cost. A large assortment of HARDWARE, TINWARE, AND HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS, for sale cheap.

Give me a call and get a good Cook Stove or a very small sum of money.

Store opposite the Court House.
Oct. 21. J. K. ALDRIDGE.

TAKE NOTICE!

THE subscriber is making up a Club for the "American Agriculturist" and "Hearth and Home," Orange Judd's two great papers.

JOHN W. HINES,
Nov. 11, 1871—tf. Chestertown, Md.

FOOD FOR THE SICK.

CORN STARCH,
FARINA,
RICE FLOUR,
TAPIOCA,
SAGO,
SEA MOSS FARINA.
For sale at *WICKES' DRUG STORE*

NOTICE.

OWING to the pressure of the times, the undersigned will be compelled to do a STRICTLY CASH BUSINESS on and after *the first day of February*, 1872.

All persons indebted must make immediate settlement.

G. W. SUTTON.
Galena, Jan. 13, 1872—4t.

GALENA SEMINARY.

A Home School for Young Ladies,

Near Lambson's Station, Kent Co. R. R.

THIS INSTITUTION offers special inducements to those desiring for their daughters careful training, thorough instruction in all the branches of an English and Classical education, and every advantage of a Home School.

Studies in English, French, German, Music, Drawing and Painting, conducted by *experienced* Teachers.

The Fourth Half-Yearly Term will begin on *Tuesday, the 6th of February*

Address E. L. BENNY,
Feb. 3, 1872—6w. Principal.

EDWARD HAYES,
Iron Commission Merchant,
BALTIMORE,

Buys and sells Scrap Iron and old Metals of every description. Feb. 10—y.

NOTICE.

ALL ACCOUNTS *MUST* be settled on or before March 1st, either in Cash or by Negotiable Note.

C. F. STAM & BRO.
January 27, 1872.

Money Saved! Money Saved!!

BY ENCLOSING **ONE DOLLAR** (1.00) a three cent stamp and sample of goods, and getting in return ONE PAIR of *OUR OWN KID GLOVES*, in all the Fall shades and colors.

The only place to get them is at

W. H. RINGGOLD'S,
95 N. Charles Street,
3 doors South of Mulberry.

ONLY ONE DOLLAR PER PAIR, AND EVERY PAIR *GUARANTEED.*
Balt., Sept. 16, 1871.

WILLIAM HARRIS,
Gun & Pistol

MANUFACTURER,
No. 116 West Pratt street,
(One Door East of South,)
BALTIMORE,

KEEPS constantly on hand a complete assortment of

DUCK AND BIRD GUNS,
REPEATING PISTOLS,

SMITH & WESSON'S CARTRIDGE PISTOLS, COLT'S REPEATING PISTOLS, and every description of Pistol now in use.

Also, a Variety of Sporting Articles,

Such as Powder Flasks, Shot Pouches, Water Proof Caps, Wads, &c.

Wholesale and Retail.

GUNS neatly Stocked and repeaired at short notice.

Baltimore, Oct. 7, 1871—y.

GROCERIES,
WINES AND LIQUORS

NOTICE.

TO ALL LOVERS OF GOOD BRANDIES, WINES, TEAS AND GROCERIES.

I AM PREPARED TO OFFER GREAT inducements to customers, wholesale and retail. Keep constantly on hand a large and well selected Stock of Goods, consisting in part of

Green and Black Teas, of choice chops; Coffees—Java, Laguyra, Rio, &c.

English and American Pickles, Capers and Condiments, Olives, Italian Maccaroni and Vermecilla. Frehs Canned Fruits of all kinds; Canned Meats and Fish; Foreign and Domestic Preserves and Jellies. I have on hand a fine stock of

Old Brandies, Wines, Whiskeys, Gin,

which I offer to Hotel keepers at the VERY LOWEST PRICES, and ask a call.

THOMAS M. GREEN.
88 *W. Baltimore Street, near Holiday.*
Sept. 25, 1869—y.

JOHN R. HARE,

THE ENGLISH



Watchmaker and Jeweller,

Has removed to his New Store,
63 FAYETTE STREEET,
OPPOSITE BARNUM'S HOTEL.

N. B.—*Fine Watch Repairs*, at Trade prices, a speciality.

☞ The cheapest Stock in the City.
Baltimore, Nov. 25, 1871—1y.

Collin F. Stam. Louis K. Stam.

C. F. STAM & BRO.,

APOTHECARIES,

Booksellers and Stationers,

Corner High and Court Streets,

CHESTERTOWN, MD.

WE tender thanks to our patrons of the year 1871, for the liberality extended to us, and beg a continuance of the same.

Having a large and well selected stock of *FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CHEMICALS*, we are prepared to compound prescriptions, with accuracy and neatness, at all hours. Jan. 27, 1872.

CALL AND GET ONE OF *C. F. STAM & BRO'S. ALMANACS.* They are more correct than any other now in use. *We give them away.*

Chestertown, Dec. 16, 1871.

WOOL WANTED.—People's Popular Store, will pay cash for Wool, or exchange for merchandise, and have no objection to receive it on account. We are selling the cheapest Dry Goods in this market.

Respectfully, WM. A. VICKERS.

ATTENTION.

THURSTON'S
PEARL TOOTH POWDER

Whitens the teeth, strengthens the gums, purifies the breath, and is the most perfect Tooth Powder made. For sale at

Jan. 7. *WICKES' DRUG STORE*

CARD.

E. F. PERKINS,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,

WILL give prompt attention to all business entrusted to him. Particular attention given to the collection of claims and the sale of Real Estate.

☞ Office in the New Building in Court Street. May 23, 1863.

Something Wonderful.

READ'S Sore Throat and Catarrh Powder is the most wonderful article I ever heard of, for sore throat almost vanishes at its touch.—Rev. J. Foley, Balt For sale at

Jan. 7. *WICKES' DRUG STORE.*

BLACK LEAD and Blacking Brushe for sale by J. K. ALDRIDGE.

Selected Poetry.

The Ministry of Flowers.

BY A. T. J.

One evening, as I lay upon my couch, in pain,
The door-bell rang, I turned my head and closed my eyes again;
But, idly listening, as one will in weariness, I heard—
"May I go up?"—in quiet tone, like softest warble of a bird.

Permission given, the small, light feet came tripping up the stair;
I knew, before she reached the door, it was my darling—Clare;
Her bright face beamed with love and smiles but not a word she said
Till, pulling up a chair by me, she climbed upon the bed;

Then, leaning over, laid her cheek so soft and warm on mine,
Saying scarce other than the words, *"I love you all the time!"*
"And I love you, dear child," I said; "but, O what have you there?"
For I saw she held a basket filled with flowers fresh and fair.

"Oh, these are *ministers*," she cried; "my mamma says they preach
Sweet sermons to all those who hear and care for what they teach:
So, Auntie dearest, Fred and I gathered all these for you,
That you may have some ministers to help your Sunday through."

And then she chattered on till some moments passed away,
When, kissing me again, she said, "I cannot longer stay,
For mamma said that I must come and play with little Fred,
While she undresses baby Rose and puts her snug to bed."

So went away my darling Clare, leaving me deep in thought
Concerning the sweet "ministry" of the flowers she had brought;
I gently raised them one by one, and soon began to see,
So simply were the sermons writ, *and all seemed writ for* ME.

O! blessed ministry of flowers! Surely, the Saviour knew
What their influence on man should be, when to his favored few
He held a lily up, and said, in loving gentleness—
"Consider this; naught can compare with it in glorious dress."

And ever since that summer eve, though many months have flown
And I have been but once to church, I've never felt alone;
For every Sabbath I have had sweet flowers full in view,
Sweet flowers that are "my ministers, to help my Sunday through."

From the Easton Journal.

Benjamin Banneker, the Negro Astronomer.

In a recent number of the Easton Journal, there was published an extract from an article of Scribner's Monthly Magazine of March, that has for its subject this peninsula on which we live. A short time ago there appeared in our county papers extracts from another article, which was published in Harper's Magazine, upon the same subject. It would appear that *litterateurs* have suddenly discovered that this region is a singularly interesting one—picturesque in its physical features and curious in its social organization. Both of these articles are written in a kindly spirit, and though they mark some of our peculiarities, they are not derisive. Indeed they could hardly be anything else but good humored, for they were written by two men who may be said almost to belong to us. Bayard Taylor hardly escaped being born upon the peninsula, being a native of Chester county, just above us, in Pennsylvania; and George Alfred Townsend being, as it is said, a Delawarean by birth. But the object now is not to comment upon those two sprightly Magazine articles, which every Eastern Shoreman ought to read, if, for no worthier reason, than to learn what other people, who have seen the outer world, think of us: the present purpose is to present to the readers of the Journal a curious document which lately fell into the hands of the writer, written by a man who, Mr. George Alfred Townsend claims, in the first mentioned of these articles, was born upon the Eastern Shore. If he be correct in his declaration that Benjamin Banneker was a native of the Chesapeake Peninsula, this region has given birth to a very remarkable man. It is thought, however, that Mr. T. has fallen into an error, in this instance, as he has in several others. The writer has before him three short biographical sketches of Banneker, two of which do not give the place of his birth, and the third, which seems to have been drawn from authentic and original sources, states that he was born in the year 1732, in Baltimore county, near Ellicott's Mills, where his father bought property, and where Banneker continued to live until his death in 1804. The Maryland Historical Society has published two other sketches of his life, but they are not accessible, to settle the point of his nativity.

Benjamin Banneker, by one authority, is represented to have had an infusion of white blood in his veins; but another and apparently more authentic story of his life, asserts that he was a pure black, and it will be seen in the subjoined letter that he himself states, "I freely and cheerfully acknowledge that I am of the African race, and in that color which is natural to them of the deepest dye." It is very certain, therefore, that those abilities which he possessed could not be traced to any very large proportion, if any, of the European element in his constitution. There is no opportunity here to give an account of the life of this remarkable man, who was an honor to his race, and whose single example has done more to convince the world of the natural capacity of the colored man to receive the benefits of higher culture, than all the arguments of the humanitarians—whether philosophical, sentimental, or political: and on the other hand, whose single example is the great stumbling block, the rock of offence, to that school of ethnologists, statesmen and philanthropists which denies the equality of the races in natural aptitude and intellectual power. Of this school, that there may be no misapprehension, the writer of this begs leave to say, that he long since adopted the teachings, and as he yet sees no cause to reject them. Banneker, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Alexander Dumas, Frederick Douglas, *Senator* Revells and Bishop Wayman notwithstanding. Banneker's early education was very inadequate, and living literally in the woods, remote from intercourse with men of culture, and compelled to labor in the field for his daily bread, he, if any man can be said to be, was self-taught. His natural inclination was towards mathematical studies, and so diligently did he pursue these that he became an accomplished geometrician and astronomer; able not only to understand and appreciate the results of the labors of others, but to correct their errors, and to extend their discoveries. He had actually commenced the formation of logarithmic tables, before he had ever seen any such aids to the mathematician. As an evidence of the appreciation in which his abilities and attainments were held, it is mentioned that he was invested by the Commissioners, appointed after the adoption of the Federal Constitution in 1789 to run the lines of the District of Columbia, to be present, and to render his assistance in the survey; and he was treated in all respects by these gentleman as an equal. It is said they even invited him to take a seat at their table, but he, by declining their invitation, showed that he possessed the sentiment that is the foundation of all true politeness, a regard for the feelings of others, and requested a separate table, that he might not violate those prejudices of race and society, which he was sure these gentlemen possessed, notwithstanding the courtesy they had felt it incumbent to show to one whose abilities and character were so respectable.

In the year 1791 he began to turn his astronomical acquisitions to practical account, in almost the only way they could be used at that time, namely, in the computation and formation of Almanacs. The preparation of these useful annuals, which at one time were the luxury of the rich only, but which are now the necessary conveniences of every one, was once a very different task from what it is now. Most persons are aware that the calculations which they see in the numerous almanacs now issued, are taken wholly from those great almanacs that are published by authority of the principal commercial nations of the world, such as the English *Nautical Almanac*, the American *Ephemeris*, or other like French and German works. These are calculated for several years in advance of the current year, so that they may get into the hands of navigators bound upon long voyages From these great Almanacs it is very easy to abstract what is adapted to any given position upon the earth's surface. Although some of these national Ephemerides had begun to be calculated and published in Banneker's day they were not widely circulated and it is doubtful whether they ever reached him in his poverty and seclusion. At all events Banneker, out in the wilderness of Baltimore county, not content to take his calculations second hand, proceeded to make his own computations, for an almanac. These were the more difficult to him from the absence of those formula or rules and those tables that are now regarded as so necessary, or at least convenient, in astronomical reckoning. In the year 1792, the first almanac of Banneker was published in Baltimore, by Messrs. Goddart & Angell, and he continued to issue them until the year 1802, deriving from their sale a portion of the means of his support. The writer has before him a copy of "*Banneker's, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, Kentucky, and North Carolina Almanac and Ephemeris, for the year* 1796." It differs little from the almanacs of its class, of that day and this. The following is extracted from the Preface, which can hardly have been written by Banneker himself, being too laudatory for his modest pen, but is nevertheless interesting.

"But there is one dish we invite you, Gentle Reader, to partake of, and we are prouder of it than of all the rest put together; and to whom do you think we are indebted for this part of our entertainment? Why to a BLACK MAN! Strange! Is a black capable of composing an almanac? Indeed it is no less strange than true; and a clever, wise, long-headed black he is. It would be telling (*sic*) some whites if they had made as much of their *great school learning* as this sage philosopher has made of the little teaching he has got. The labors of the justly celebrated Banneker will likewise furnish you with a very important lesson, cautious reader, which you will not find in any other almanac, namely that the Maker of the Universe is no respecter of colors; that the color of the skin is in no ways connected with strength of mind or intellectual powers; that although the God of nature has marked the face of the African with a darker shade than his brethren, he has given him a soul equally capable of refinement. To the untutored Blacks the following elegant lines of Gray may be applied.

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear;
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its fragrance on the desert air."

"Nor you ye proud, impute to these the blame
If Afric's sons to genius are unknown,
For Banneker has proved they may acquire a name
As bright, as lasting as your own."

It will be noticed that Banneker sent a manuscript copy of his Almanac to the Hon. THOMAS JEFFERSON, at that time Secretary of State, under General Washington, and the foremost advocate in America of universal emancipation and political equality. This copy Mr Jefferson appears to have transmitted to the celebrated CONDORCET, savant, statesmen, and philanthropist, who at that time was President of the National Assembly of France. No man was better able, none apter to appreciate the labors of Banneker, for he was a great mathematician and capable of estimating their difficulty and worth; he was a friend of America, whose partiality would render him a generous critic of the intellectual products of the mind of this country; and he was a philosophic statesman and friend of man who, engaged as he was at that moment in pleading the cause of universal liberty and equality, would welcome this little book as the best reply to the hitherto inexpugnable arguments of his opponents who denied to the negro the possession, because he had never shown any of the fruits of superior intellectual capacity.

Coming across, the following letter of Benjamin Banneker, in the old Maryland Herald of 1793, immediately after reading the interesting article in Scribner, where Banneker is claimed as an Eastern Shoreman, and the answer of Thos. Jefferson thereto, the writer thought they would be interesting to the readers of the JOURNAL, and therefore has requested their republication.

CYPRIAN.

Baltimore County, (Maryland) near Ellicotts Mills. Aug. 19*th* 1791

To THOMAS JFFERSON, Esq. SECRETARY OF STATE.

SIR:

I am fully sensible of the greatness of that freedom which I take with you on the present occasion, a liberty which seemed to me scarcely allowable, when I reflected on that distinguished and dignified station in which you stand, and the almost general prejudice and prepossession which is so prevalent in the world against those of my complexion.

I suppose it is a truth too well attested to you, to need a proof here, that we are a race of beings who have labored under the abuse and censure of the world, that we have long been considered rather as brutal that human, and scarcely capable of mental endowments.

Sir, I hope I may safely admit, in consequence of that report which hath reached me, that you are a man far less inflexible in sentiments of this nature, than many others, that you are measureably friendly and well disposed toward us, and that you are willing and ready to lend your aid and assistance to our relief from those many distresses and numerous calamities to which we are reduced.

Now, Sir, if this is founded in truth, I apprehend you will readily embrace every opportunity, to eradicate that train of absurd and false ideas and opinions which so generally prevail with respect to us, and that your sentiments are concurrent with mine, which are that one universal Father hath given being to us all, and that he hath not only made us all of one flesh, but that he hath also without partiality afforded us all the same sensations and endued us all with the same faults, and that however variable we may be in society, or religion, however diversified in situation or color, we are all of the same family, and stand in the same relation to him.

Sir, if these are sentiments of which you are fully persuaded, I hope you cannot but acknowledge, that it is the indispensable duty of those who maintain for themselves the rights of human nature and profess the obligations of Christianity, to extend their power and influence to the relief of every part of the human race, from whatever burthen or oppression they may unjustly labor under, and I apprehend a full conviction of the truth and obligation of these principles should load all to like efforts.

Sir, I have long been convinced, that if your love for yourselves and for these inestimable laws which preserve to you the rights of human nature, was founded on sincerety, you could not but be solicitons that every individual of whatever rank or distinction, might with you enjoy the blessings thereof, neither could you rest satisfied, short of the most active diffusion of your exertions in order to their promotions from any state of degradation, which the unjustifiable cruelty and barbarism of men may have reduced them.

Sir, I freely and cheerfully acknowledge that I am of the African race, and in that color which is natural to them of the deepest dye, and it is under a sense of the most profound gratitude to the supreme Ruler of the universe that I confess to you, that I am not under that state of tyrannical thraldom, and inhuman captivity, to which too many of my brethren are doomed; but that I have abundently tasted of the fruition of those blessings, which proceeded from the free and unequaled liberty with which you are favored, and which I hope you will willingly allow you have received from the immediate hand of that being, from whom proceedeth every good and perfect gift.

Sir, suffer me to recall to your mind that time, in which the arms and tyranny of the British Crown were exerted in every powerful effort in order to reduce you to a state of servitude; look back I entreat you on the variety of dangers to which you were exposed, reflect on that time in which every human aid appeared unavailable, and in which even hope and fortitude wore the aspect of inability to the conflict; and you cannot but be led to a serious and grateful sense of your miraculous and providential preservation; you cannot but acknowledge, that the present freedom and tranquility, which you enjoy, you have mercifully received, and that it is the peculiar blessing of Heaven.

This Sir, was a time in which you clearly saw into the injustice of a state of slavery, and in which you had just apprehensions of the horror of its condition; it was now, sir, that your abhorrence thereof was so excited, that you publicly held forth this true and invaluable doctrine, which is worthy to be recorded and remembered in all succeeding ages.

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, and they are endowed by their Creator by certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Here, Sir, was a time in which your tender feelings for yourselves had engaged you thus to declare, you were then impressed with proper ideas of the great valuation of liberty, and the free possession of those blessings to which you were entitled by nature. But pitiable is it to reflect that although you were so fully convinced of the benevolence of the Father of mankind, and of his equal and impartial distributions of those rights and privileges which he had conferred upon them, that you should at the same time counteract his mercies, in detaining by fraud and violence so numerous a part of my brethren under groaning captivity and cruel oppression, that should at the same time be found guilty of that most criminal act which you professedly detested in others, with respect to yourselves.

Sir, I suppose that your knowledge of the situation of my brethren is too extensive to need a recital here; neither shall I presume to prescribe methods by which they may be relieved, otherwise than by recommending to you and all others, to wean yourselves from those narrow prejudices which you have imbibed with respect to them; and as Job proposed to his friends, "put your soul in their souls stead;" thus shall your hearts be enlarged with kindness towards them, and thus shall need neither the direction of myself or others in which manner to proceed herein.

And now, although my sympathy and affection for my brethren hath caused my enlargement thus far, I ardently hope that your candor and generosity will plead with you in my behalf, when I make known to you, that it was not originally my design; but having taken up my pen in order to direct to you as a present, a copy of an almanac which I have calculated for the succeeding year, I was unexpectedly and unavoidably led thereto.

This calculation is the production of my arduous study in this my advanced stage of life, for having long had unbounded desires to become acquainted with the secrets of nature, I had to gratify my curiosity therein through my own assiduous application to astronomical study, in which I need not to recount to you, the many difficulties and disadvantages I have had to encounter.

And, although I had almost declined to make my calculation for the ensuing year, in consequence of that time which I had allotted therefor being taken up at Federal Territories, by the request of Mr. Andrew Elliott, yet finding myself under several engagements to printers of this state to whom I had communicated my design, on my return to my place of residence, I industriously applied myself thereto, which I hope I have acomplished with correctness and accuracy, a copy of which I have taken the liberty to direct to you, and which I humbly request you will favorably receive, and although you may have the opportunity of perusing it after its publication, yet I choose to send it to you in manuscript previous thereto, that thereby you migh not only have an earlier inspection, but that you might view it in my own hand writing.

Now, sir, I shall conclude,
and subscribe myself,
with the most profound respect,
your most obedient humble servant,
B. BANNEKER.

Philadelphia, Aug. 30, 1791

Sir:

I thank you sincerely for your letter, of the 19th instant, and for the ALMANAC it contained.—No body wishes more than I do to see such proofs as you exhibit, that Nature has giveth my black Brethren, talents equal to those of the other color of men, and that the appearance of a want of them is owing merely to the degraded condition of their existence, both in Africa and America. I can add with truth, that nobody wishes more ardently to see a good system commenced for raising the condition both of their body and mind to what it ought to be, as fast as the imbecility of their present existence, and other circumstances, which cannot be neglected, will admit I have taken the liberty of sending your ALMANAC to M. DE CONDORCET, Secretary of the ACADEMY of SCIENCES at PARIS, and Member of the PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY, because I considered it as a document to which your whole color had a right for their justification against the doubts which had been entertained of them.

I am, with great esteem, sir,
your most obedient humble servant,
THOMAS JEFFERSON.

Benjamin Banneker,
near Ellicott's lower mills, Balto. Co.

☞ A western editor speaks of his rival as "mean enough to steal swill from a blind hog!" The rival retorts by saying: "He knows he lies; We never stole his swill."

☞ An independent old lady, speaking of Adam naming all the animals, said she didn't think he deserved any credit for naming the pig—any one would know what to call him.

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