[BY REQUEST]

From the Thomsonian Recorder.

The following extract is from a letter dated Liberty Hall, Kershaw District, S. Carolina, Feb. 2, 1832. It is from the pen of the talented patriotic statesman and physician, Dr. Robt. D. Montgomery. It was originally addressed to the Rev. Wm. Carlisle. The contents of the letter have been forwarded to us by R. Ferris, Esq. of Winsborough, enclosed in a communication bearing date Oct. 19, 1832.

Mr. Carlisle prefaces the letter by the following remarks. "The circumstances that gave rise to the publication of the following letters, were these: Doctor Montgomery applied to me for a Thomsonian Family Right—he pledged himself to report his opinion of the system as soon as he should have opportunity of fairly testing it. A request being sent him by the Thomsonians for that purpose—the following letter is his reply; after an interesting detail of his patriotism and public services, in conclusion he adds, suffice it to say that Dr. Montgomery's opinion of any system is of far more importance than the opinion of a thousand self interested physicians whose object is is to keep the people in ignorance of the nature of the disease and consequently of the mode and manner of performing cures.'

The following is the letter referred to.

Gentlemen—I have received your letter of the 10th ult. and on the evening it came to hand was severely attacked with the Cholera Morbus, which prevented a more early answer. You request my opinion of the Thomsonian practice of medicine, and inquire something concerning my medical studies, previous to adopting the botanic practice. I will with pleasure endeavor to satisfy your inquiries. It will perhaps be the most satisfactory course to give a short history of my medical life, then my reasons for adopting the new practice may appear in a more convincing light. After I had finished my collegate education in the years 1794, 5 and 6, I proceeded to the study of medicine in Columbia, S. Carolina, under the tuition of Drs. Montgomery and Hendricks, both students of the Rushean school. After this, I attended the medical lectures in Philadelphia, given by Drs. Shepperd, Rush, Woodhouse, and Barton. Having attended the regular course of lectures under these professors, they adjudged me entitled to a diploma, for my medical knowledge, yet it was contrary to the rules of the institution to give me one unless I went through another course; my finances would not admit of it at that time, and I never obtained a diploma. After my return from Philadelphia, I fell immediately into practice, but quickly found that the *theory*, however beautiful it might appear, would by no means agree with practice. I entered the practice with all the ardor that it is possible for any young physician to possess. Every leisure moment was employed in perfecting my knowledge of the science of medicine, and I flattering myself that I was as successful in my practice, as my cotemporaries; my prospect was flattering and my practice lucrative for fourteen years. I then became wearied of the practice, and during the latter part of my time, have given it over, unless constrained by entreaties of a friend. I could do no better than to pity their distress. You would here inquire, what it was that could induce me to relinquish a gainful practice and adopt such a system of yesterday—and leave the old beaten track for one newly opened? I answer, the marks to point the way to proceed, in the old practice, were fallacious and not to be depended on when life was at stake. Here I would candidly ask the candid physician, if he has not been deceived in the symptoms of disease; when flattering himself with the prospect of the speedy recovery of his patient, when he left him perhaps last evening—the next visit perhaps the next morning, found him breath, his last? You beheld him surrounded by weeping friends, because they viewed him depositing to his long home. In such circumstances humanity sickens and anxiously inquires, "is there no relief from disease and premature death?" The answer is to be found in the botanic practice. But is this practice infallible? Does it never fail? Yes, it may fail, has failed, and will fail, in a number of cases. It has and will fail, of course, when the vital spark is nearly extinct, when the powers of life are destroyed by disease, or when the condition of the patient is such that there is not any thing remaining for the medicine to act upon. Medicines cannot act upon a dead body though it be ever so active.

At such a crisis, this practice, as every other will most assuredly fail; yet, in the midst of all these failures, the new practice will have a decided superiority over every other mode of cure yet known by man. I find by experience in my family, and among my friends who have used the medicines as directed, that in fever, it generally relieves the patient in 24 hours, and often in less time. A number of cases in my own family that have been as violent as any under the old practice, which required three or four weeks, before they were able to leave their bed, yet by the Thomsonian practice, these have been relieved in the short time already stated. This practice, under my direction has triumphed over an ascites, or dropsy of the abdomen, in which the old practice had laboured in vain. The bite of a Rattle snake on one of the family, accompanied with violent pain, was freed from all pain in less than ten minutes, and the swelling of the foot and leg was trifling. In myself, a violent attack of Rheumatism and Cholera Morbus, both yielded to the botanic applications. Another fact is worthy of notice; your patient does not suffer the great debility by a course of the new practice, that commonly takes place in the old. Their natural functions are soon restored to their former vigor. The patient forgets that he is sick. Do you wish me to account for this? It is easily done. There is not that prostration of strength by depleting remedies in the new as in the old practice.—Another reason why the same degree of debility is not induced, is that the medicine is in harmony with the powers of life; hence it is, that, after the operation of the Thomsonian remedies, the patient feels invigorated and cheerful. One other fact, which gives the new a decided advantage over the old practice is that as the remedies are the same in all cases that can possibly occur, the object is uniform, viz:—The restoration of the natural heat as it is a primitive vital property, hence the practising physician, acting with any tolerable degree of common discretion, cannot err materially in administering the remedies. He is not liable to do any irreparable injury to his patient. This is not the case with the old practice. How often have we witnessed with grief, the baneful effects of medicine on the constitution of the patient? Where is the physician that will not acknowledge that his medicine has often operated in a different manner than he has expected, and his patient was worse from the use thereof.

A Brown, a Rush, and others have declared firm belief in the unity of diseases, and the unity of cure; Doctor Thompson joins them in the belief, and practises on that principle. Away, then, with your thousand diseases, and your thousand remedies, and adopt that system of practice that is both safe and salutary to man.

In conclusion I would add another reason which makes the Thomsonian practice valuable, and that is its simplicity or its plain natural adaption to the illiterate untutored part of the human family. The poor and illiterate require the attention of the humane and benevolent in all countries, and such are the most numerous class in society. To such, the Thomsonian practice holds out the helping hand, to snatch them from pain and death, and such he invites to a participation of its benefits.

These are some of the considerations which have determined my judgement to the botanic practice of medicine. I am fully confident that whoever will give it a fair trial will rejoice at the success.

I am respectfully yours, &c.

ROBERT D. MONTGOMERY.

We copy the following article from the Richmond Whig. It is addressed particularly to the cultivators of the Vine in Virginia, but as it may with equal propriety be applied to this State, we are induced to give it an insertion in the hope that attention may be called to it in this quarter. There are thousands of unproductive acres in Maryland that might be made to yield a rich return by the application of a moderate share of enterprise and perseverance in the cultivation of the vine.

THE NORTON GRAPE.

We invite particular attention to the article below. This is unquestionably the most delicious grape we have ever eaten, and it is matter of surprise that it has attracted no more attention in Virginia, while its qualities are already well known and duly estimated at a distance. The enterprising discoverer, Dr. Norton, whose vineyard is a short distance from this city, has sunk money by his attempts to introduce the culture of the grape into this State. It is but fair that he should be remunerated. An opinion is very prevalent that the climate of Virginia is not adapted to the culture of the grape. This is all nonsense. The resemblance between it and that of the countries where it most flourishes, and the profusion of wild vines throughout the country, prove the contrary. The fact is, the efforts of most vintners have hitherto been directed to the culture of the foreign grape, which can never succeed here like the native. And yet some of our native grapes, when properly cultivated, are surpassed by none in the world, and never fail (as is often the case with the foreign) in yielding a crop. The grape under consideration we understand is as certain as Indian corn or potatoes. The proprietor has some cuttings which he is willing to dispose of, and which we hope to see distributed throughout the State.—Virginia is naturally a grape growing country, and to that she must arrive at last.

From the Whig.

TO CULTIVATORS OF THE VINE.

A NEW AND VALUABLE VARIETY.

NORTON'S VIRGINIA SEEDLING.

Vitis Nortoni, see Prince's Cat. 393, and his book on the Vine, page 186, for the following description of this fine fruit:

"This very distinct variety owes its origin to Dr. D. N. Norton, of Virginia. It was raised from the seed of the Bland, which fructified in the vicinity of the Meunier or Miller's Burgundy; there exists consequently, some probability, that it is a hybrid between the two. In appearence, the vine much resembles the form of the two, to which it closely assimulates in its foliage. The shoots are strong and vigorous, and of a red colour. *The vine resists the cold of the most severe winters, never failing to produce fruit, and that most profusely, thriving even without pruning, and requiring at most, but a partial use of the pruning instrument* and almost equalling the Isabella in its rapid extension—like that vine it is also well calculated for arbors, bowers, large aspaliers, &c. The fruit is of the darkest purple or black color, and ripens in September, but will remain on the vine with a great increase of saccharine principle (as is the case with the finest wine grapes of France) until the end of October, in this latitude, (New York,) and the last week of November in Virginia. The bunches are usually 8 or 9 inches long on the old and strong vines, and weigh about a quarter of a pound each; the berries begin to form a conical bunch on the stem at a distance of several inches from the place of its attachment to the wood; they are round, and a little flattened at the end, and about the size of the Meunier; the juice which they yield is of the richest quality; the skin is replete with a violet coloured matter, which imparts to the wine a shade equal to the Tinto Madeira, which last it resembles as well in taste as appearance. For the purpose of making wine, this is hardly to be excelled by any foreign variety."

This vine thrives in any soil, but the richer the finer will be the fruit; it bears culture with the plough or hoe, as well as the Indian corn, and we may as confidently look for a return to our labour as from that article; it is not at all subject to mildew, rot or any other casualty of the season, and the possession of this variety does away the necessity of farther experiment, as relates to foreign vines, combining all the excellencies, we require, as well for the table as the press. I am confident that even *the climate of England would yield the fruit in great perfection, and that the French cultivators would most willingly introduce it into their vineyards* to the exclusion of many others they now possess. It is no doubt to *become a national benefit*, and will at no distant day, clothe with rich clusters, many of our fields, which for years past have remained barren and worthless.—During the present unfavourable season, it maintains its character, and holds out to the farmer, a certainty that his fields would be far more productive to him in wine than in any other culture to which he can subject them. The originator of the vine, I understand, is willing to part with some thousands of the cuttings the approaching season, and I would recommend all who wish to venture in the culture of the grape, to possess themselves of so valuable a prize.

From Lee's Memoirs.

Singular Stratagem.—While the allied army was engaged before Savannah, Colonel John White, of the Georgia line, conceived and executed an extraordinary enterprise.—Captain French, with a small party of the British regulars, was stationed on the Ogeechee river, about twenty five miles from Savannah. At the same place lay five British vessels, of which four were armed, the largest mounting fourteen guns. White having with him only Captain Etholm and three soldiers, kindled many fires, the illumination of which was discernable at the British station, exhibiting by the manner of ranging them, the plan of a camp. To this stratagem he added another; he and four comrades, imitating the manner of the staff, rode with haste in various directions, giving orders in a loud voice.—French became satisfied that a large body of the enemy were upon him; and on being summoned by White, he surrendered (1st of October) his detachment, the crews of the five vessels, forty in number, with the vessels, and one hundred and thirty stand of arms.

Colonel White having succeeded, pretended that he must keep back his troops, lest the animosity, already stifled by his great exertions would break out, and indiscriminate slaughter take place in defiance of his authority; and that therefore he would commit his prisoners to three guides who would conduct them safely in good quarters. This humane attention on the part of White was thankfully received. He immediately ordered three of his attendants to proceed with the prisoners, who moved off with celerity, anxious to get away lest the fury of White's corps, believed to be near at hand, might break out, much disposed as he himself was to restrain it.

White, with the soldier retained by him, repaired as he announced to his guides to the prisoners, to his troops, for the purpose of proceeding in their rear.

He now employed himself in collecting the neighborhood militia, with whom he overtook his guides, their charge safe and happy in the good treatment experienced.

The extraordinary address of White was contrasted with the extraordinary folly of French, and both were necessary to produce the wonderful issue. The affair approaches too near the marvellous to have been admitted into these memoirs, had it not been uniformly accredited, and never contradicted.

DUTIES OF AN EDITOR.

Of the multitude of persons who are regaled every morning or evening with an ample sheet filled with literature, politics, entertainment, advice, morals and news, how few have any conception of the labor of hands and brain which the preparation of it has cost. The whole time of several individuals has been devoted to afford the amusement of an hour or two. He must know every thing, hear every thing, read every thing, and give an opinion on every thing. He must accommodate himself to an infinite variety of tastes—to the young and the old, the grave and the gay, the sentimentalists, and the man of business, the country man and the cit. He must be all things to all men—he must offend no man—he must instruct, amuse and inform. He must never loose his temper, happen what will. And yet, with the best intentions in the world, he is constantly liable to give offence. A subscriber writes a communication which is neither sense nor grammar, rhyme nor reason—it is rejected, the writer comes up foaming at the mouth, to take off his name from the subscription list, and is our enemy forever after. And then an editor has a regiment of kind friends, who drop in upon him every day, to read his papers and give him advice.—Some tell him that his paper is too light and trifling, others that it is too heavy and dull; some that it is too sentimental, others, that it is too business like—some complain that we are luke warm in the cause of temperance, others, that we are harping upon this string till all moderate people are disgusted with it—and to all this we must not only be resigned, but grateful.

The toils of an editor knows neither end nor intermission. The lexicographer comes at last to the end of his alphabet—the galley slave reaches his harbor—but his labor is renewed with the rising sun of every day. In vain Nahant woos him with his cool breezes—in vain Niagara thunders and decks itself with rainbows—in vain Kaatski displays its shady bowers. An iron hand grasps him and keeps him at home. He must pace the hot side walk the whole summer long, and breathe the lazy city air. In the fiery dog-days he must rack his brains—already as dry as a sucked orange—for something to tickle the maw of that insatiable monster, the public.—He must always be on his post. And for all this he must be often content with nothing but the approbation of his conscience—a noble reward, truly, but unfortunately, a thing too ethereal to be coined into bread and butter.—*Boston Journal.*

The *Education Bill* which passed the French Chambers at their late session, has been promptly followed by a circular issued by the Government for the regulation of the *normal* schools. We find an abstract of some of its directions, in the London Examiner of August 4th, copied from the *Journal of Education.*

The government recommends that these schools,—for the instruction of teachers in the National Schools established by the same bill,—should be placed in towns of the middling rank, in preference to large towns or cities, with a view of connecting with the other studies practical instruction in gardening, the cultivation of plants, &c. and other branches of knowledge important to the agricultural classes. Such a situation is also further recommended as conducive to the simple and grave habits proper for teachers in country districts.

The course of instruction laid down in these normal schools embraces moral and religious studies, reading, writing, grammar, geography, linear design, mensuration, the elements of natural history and natural philosophy, chemistry, the elements of general history, and particularly of native history. During the hours of play, the pupils are to be instructed in the military exercise. The best four pupils at every closing examination are allowed to remain an additional year as assistant teachers, for the purpose of further improvement in their profession.

From the Richmond Whig.

GOOCHLAND, 31st August, 1836.

On the night of 20th ult., the dwelling house of Wm. Simms of this county, was consumed by fire. He and his wife were aroused from sleep by the smoke and heat—the adjoining room was in flames—he escaped through the door, taking his coat and pantaloons in his hand. Mrs. S. jumped out at the window with her infant in her arms. Three of his children by a former marriage were asleep up stairs—the stairway in flames—Simms fired his gun in hopes to arouse them but in vain—he then got an old ladder from an adjacent house on which he ascended—burst in the window, and got the two oldest children down without difficulty—he returned for the third, a little boy about six years old—he was running about the room in search of the door; some moments elapsed before S. could get hold of him, at that instant the flames burst into the room—burnt his (Simms) eye brows and hair, and scorched his face—almost suffocated, he reached the window and got down with the child. The house with the *whole of its remaining contents* (except a counterpane which was within reach of the window, and which for the night was Mrs. S's only clothing) was soon a heap of ashes.

The family is a very respectable one—tho' in moderate circumstances—no one supposed they had an enemy, yet some fiend had well nigh succeeded in an attempt to destroy the whole Family! The House was certainly set on fire, as none had been in the room in which it originated for some time.

Their neighbours have been kind and generous in contributing both clothes and money to alleviate their distress.

Attached to a coach recently built by Messrs. Stockton and Stokes, is a machine which shows to the passengers the number of miles passed over by the vehicle. The miles are represented on a handsome plate within the coach. It is designed to run between Baltimore and Washington.

From the Frankfort (Ky) Commonwealth.

The Extraordinary Natural Production.—We have now, in our office, (where our citizens and farmers are requested to call and see) a most singular species of corn. The history of this rare freak of nature is substantially as follows: About three years ago, a Mr. Ferrico, living in Gallatin county, Kentucky, planted some of the common land which was sown over with a thick strong grass resembling *sedge* grass. In the fall of the year when he was gathering his corn, he was surprised to find that ears of corn were growing and ripening upon the *grass*, and that on the blades of the grass separate grains were growing. Struck by the singularity of the circumstance, he carefully preserved the grains and planted them in the next spring. The result was extraordinary, producing a growth partaking of the qualities both of the grass and of corn, and superior to both as forming a food article very advantageous to stock farming.

The stalks in our office present most remarkable appearances. The *tassel* does not bear any resemblance to the *corn tassel* but it is more like the heads of coarse grass—the blades are long and very slender, resembling more the blades of oats than of corn. Upon the extremities of those blades separate grains of corn enclosed in a husk presenting the appearance of hazle nut burs, are found, and to the bodies of the stalks more perfect ears of corn are attached. The stalks themselves are long and slender and not unlike the wild rye of the country, only stronger and more substantial. We believe that this grain is at least a thing new under the sun, and unlike most novelties, it promises to be useful.

SURGICAL OPERATION.

Children have often lost their lives from *obstruction in the windpipe*, merely in consequence of neglect on the part of their parents to procure surgical assistance. Even after the act of respiration has altogether ceased, and the sufferer is apparently lifeless, a simple surgical operation, if not too long delayed, will almost every instance restore life. A case occurred in this town on Saturday last, which had nearly proved fatal, and the particulars of which ought to be generally known.

A child of Dr. E. A. Ward, while eating an apple, swallowed a piece the wrong way, as it is familiarly termed; that is, a piece of the apple lodged in the upper part of the windpipe, and so completely prevented the ingress of air, that the child almost instantly *ceased to breathe!* Physicians were called but when they arrived the child had every appearance of being dead—pulsation at the heart had ceased—the extremities were cold—the operation of *Treacheotomy*, (opening the windpipe) was recommended, and successfully performed by Dr. E. Huntingdon and Dr. W. Graves. So soon as an incision was made into the windpipe, it was apparent that the air slowly pressed into, and out of the lungs through the orifice, and respiration was in this way carried on, until with a curved pin he passed upwards, the obstruction was removed, and in a short time the breathing became perfectly natural. This operation was commenced until the child had remained apparently *lifeless* nearly *twenty minutes!* The child is now doing well, and will undoubtly recover.—*Lowell Journal.*

The London Morning Chronicle of the fifth has the following remarks in relation to the future of Lisbon by Don Pedro:

"It is impossible to overrate the importance of these events in Portugal. The war may be said to be completely at an end. The Portuguese did not await the entrance of auxiliaries into Lisbon to declare themselves, but the very moment the pressure of Miguel's force was removed, they rose in favor of Donna Maria, thereby manifesting in the most unequivocal manner that Miguel's sway was one merely of compulsion. What force Miguel had was rapidly deserting him, and Miguel himself has, it seems, fled to Spain.

"We deem the chance of Miguel's adherents holding out in the Northern provinces, to be very slight. And, with regard to any operations by Bourmont against Oporto, the intelligence of the success at Lisbon must have taught that General that the task is utterly hopeless. The soldiers of Bourmont's Army, would, of course, share the general feeling. We think all fear of serious injury from that quarter may be safely dismissed.—But an arduous task still remains for Don Pedro—namely, the best wing on Portugal institutions under which the people may be secured in the enjoyment of Constitutional rights. May he be influenced by wise counsellors at this eventful crisis!

"As we have already observed, the benefit of this conquest of freedom over tyranny, is not confined to Portugal. The constitutional cause in Europe has gained a kingdom, and despotism has lost one; but every where the Constitutionalists will be emboldened by the success of the Portuguese to struggle against oppression. The victory on the Tagus will therefore be felt in the remote north, as the success of Miguel would have, for a time, dampened the exertions of the good."

Interesting to Physicians.—We find the following in the New York Evening Post.—

By an accidental discharge of a musket, the side of a young man was so much torn as to perforate the abdomen; and by the skill of an army surgeon, assisted by the efforts of nature, it was nevertheless so healed as to leave the patient in perfect health, with the opening remaining, as if for the express purpose of affording medical knowledge, and teaching men the art of preserving health by due regulation and just choice of food.

We are happy in having it in power to inform our readers, that the skillful surgeon alluded to, Doctor William Beaumont, is now preparing for the press an account of this very unique case, with the result of a continued series of experiments upon the healthful subject whose body has been thus laid open and its internal operations exposed as if for the benefit of the human race.

Doctor Beaumont, after being the instrument of restoring this subject to perfect health and strength, has at great expense maintained him for years, solely with a view to such experiments as should prove the existence of the gastric juice, (by some denied) show its power in and out of the stomach, test the digestibility of every kind of food, and the effect of various medical substances, and has thus collected a mass of information which could by no other person, and by no other means, have been obtained.

This important work will be printed under the author's inspection, at Plattsburg, in this state, where Doctor Beaumont is now stationed, and we doubt not that the self-interest, if not the gratitude of mankind will amply repay him for the skill he has shown in his profession, and the zeal he has evinced in the cause of science and humanity.

Dr AYLETT HAWES, of Virginia, has bequeathed freedom to about one hundred slaves, and twenty dollars for each, to assist the Colonization Society in conveying them to Liberia.

IMPRUDENCE.—A merchant, in the city of Philadelphia, by advices from France, was assured that he could make something handsome by a shipment. He therefore despatched a young man in his counting house to New York, with directions early the next morning to make a purchase of the article required, for transportation. The young gentleman reached New York that night, took tea and soon after retired to bed at an hotel. A party of youngsters returning from the theatre, called for supper, and were disposed for fun, so made whiskey punch, which had the property of making them rather noisy—one of the party went to the bar, and looking over the list of new arrivals, saw the name of a Philadelphia friend, and immediately returned to his companions, and proposed they should visit him in his chamber, and bring him down:—"it would be such glorious fun."—No sooner was it proposed, than it was executed—they awoke the traveller from his sleep, made him dress himself and go down stairs with them. The mirth and gaiety of the party of friends, whom he thus unexpectedly met, threw him off his guard, and he drank deep—in fact, such was the effect of the libation, that he forgot the importance of his errand, sat up carousing until day light, and was put to bed by a servant, in a state of intoxication, from which he did not recover until noon—then dressing himself, he went out to complete the object of his journey, but it was too late—an hour before, the article had been purchased by a gentleman from Philadelphia, who had come to N. York that morning; thus by an act of indiscretion and imprudence, this young man forfeited the confidence of his employers, and unfortunately, it still remains, a heavy clog on his advancement to Independence. May this be a salutary caution to young persons in similar situations—Journal of Humanity.

Item from an English Paper.

Exeter.—A young lady, about 14 years of age, the only child of highly respectable parents, a few days ago placed her life in jeopardy by incautiously eating camphor, not knowing the consequences of it. Having taken an excursion to Budleigh Salterton, she partook of some salad with which an onion had been mixed, and for the purpose of destroying the unpleasant smell occasioned by the latter vegetable, she purchased at a druggist's shop a pennyworth of camphor, being a lump about the size of a walnut, the whole of which she ate. She then went to the beach for a walk, but was soon after seized with the most violent symptoms of illness, and was conveyed to the inn in a state of insensibility. Mr. Hunter was immediately sent for, and but for the prompt and judicious treatment of the patient by that gentleman, she would most probably have died.

Perilous Rescue.—A correspondent of the Boston Mercantile Journal, writing from Old Town, a village on an island in Penobscot River, Maine, and the residence of about 300 of the Penobscot tribe of Indians, says:—"It is not long since two of their small boys in attempting to cross the river near a fall of ten or twelve feet depth, were carried down by the current nearly to its brink, when an old Indian named Sabbatis started in his bark canoe to rescue them. He reached the verge just in time to seize one of the lads by the hair, when he found himself rapidly borne down by the current. There was but an instant to save himself, for if his boat was swept down sidewise he was sure of his fate. He grappled his paddle with the energy of desperation—set the boat in the proper direction by a *single stroke*—and descended the rapids in safety. The canoe was dashed into a hundred pieces before he reached the shore, but he succeeded in saving his own life and that of the child in his hand. The other was lost. Very few white men could have accomplished such a feat.—Two Boston gentlemen undertook the other day, to cross the little interval between Old Town and the Indian Island in a birch, and were both turned out neck and heels into the water, almost as soon as they had stepped in."

A correspondence was published in yesterdays Globe, bearing upon a subject of much interest to natural science, and of great practical utility. The principal letter is dated at Point Coupee, signed by Charles Morgan, and addressed to James Russell, at New Orleans. It represents that the writer, after thirty years of experiment, has succeeded in discovering a means by which wood can be converted into a substance resembling stone, as in the case of petrifactions. He says he is now in possession of some beautiful specimens of wood of different kinds prepared by his process, and adds, that by the same agent rot in wood of every kind, whether it be fresh cut or seasoned, is entirely prevented "for a length of time, not beyond credibility perhaps, but certainly for a very considerable period longer than the wood would otherwise remain entire in any situation in which it might be placed." The ligneous acid is destroyed at once, and the insterstices of the wood are filled with a substance which, while it counteracts any tendency to a reproduction of the acid, or any other means of decomposition, does not interfere with the cohesiveness or elasticity of the fibre. The agent employed is the hydrate of lime, and a patent has been taken out for the mode of application.

The letter of Dr. Russell in reply, is longer than Mr. Morgan's, but is confined to a speculation upon the value of the discovery, which will readily occur to our readers. We mention the substance of the correspondence, as it deserves the attention of the scientific.

[*Balt. American.*

[Extract of a letter from Paris, dated July 27.]

The print shops are now full of the Emperor, with superb engravings of many passages in his life, and representations of his death, and hawkers offer every where his history.—He is seen on clocks, buttons, pipes, snuff boxes and canes—for such is glory. The King is now willing to excite the enthusiasm of the French, by reviving their memory of Napoleon, and many of the observances of the Three Days have this tendency. A year ago it was otherwise; for the son of the mighty man then lived, and with a spark of his father's fire he might have been on his father's throne. He might have been hailed throughout France, as Napoleon was hailed on his return from Elba; for the French act boldly and unanimously on sudden impulses, and reflect afterwards; though we cool republicans deliberate and debate a great while, before we act at all.

The trial of Prudence Crandell for instructing black girls contrary to the laws of Connecticut, came on week before last before the Windham County Court. Her counsel defended her on the ground that the law is unconstitutional. The Court instructed the jury that the act of the Legislature was a constitutional one; but as they are the judges of the *law* as well as the *facts* in criminal cases, in that State, they were unable to agree on a verdict, and the case therefore stands for another trial next December.—*Worc. Yeoman.*

THE MAGNITUDE OF THE UNIVERSE.

If we suppose the earth to be represented by a globe a foot in diamter, the distance of the sun from the earth will be about two miles; the diamter of the sun, on the same supposition, will be about one hundred feet, and, consequently, his bulk such as might be made of two hemispheres, each about the size of the dome of St. Paul's. The moon will be thirty feet from us, and her diameter three inches, about that of a cricket ball. Thus the sun would much more than occupy all the space within the moon's orbit. On the same scale, Jupiter would be above ten miles from the sun, and Uranus forty. We see then how thinly scattered through space are the heavenly bodies. The fixed stars would be unknown to distance, but probably, if all distances were thus diminished, no star would be greater to such a one foot of earth than the moon now is to us. On such a terrestial globe the highest mountains would be about 1.8th of an inch, and consequently, only just distinguished.—We may imagine, therefore, how unperceptible would be the largest animals. The whole organized covering of such a globe would be quite undiscoverable by the eye, except, perhaps, by color like the bloom on a plum. In order to restore this earth and its inhabitants to their true dimensions, we must magnify them forty millions of times; and to preserve the proportions we must increase equally the distances of the sun, and stars from us. They seem thus to pass off into infinity; yet each of them thus removed has its system of mechanical and, perhaps, of organic processes going on upon its surface. But the arrangements of organic life which we can see with the naked eye are few, compared with those which the microscope detects. We know that we may magnify objects thousands of times, and still discover fresh complexities of structure; if we suppose, therefore, that we increase every particle of matter in our universe in such a proportion, in length, breath, and thickness, we may conceive that we tend thus to bring before our apprehension a true estimate of the quantity of organized adaptations, which are really to testify the extent of the creator's power.—*Whewell's Treatises.*

Docking of the North Carolina Ship of the Line at Gosport.—We had not the pleasure of being present ourselves on this occasion, but a friend has furnished us with the following interesting paragraph in relation to it:

"Yesterday morning, at twelve o'clock, this splendid 74, built in Philadelphia, and for six years past laid up in ordinary at Gosport, was placed in the dry dock at dead low water.—She drew 19 feet some inches, and there was at that moment, exactly 22 feet water in the dock. She had less than a foot to settle on her blocks, in the drawing off of the water.—At a quarter after 12 the screws were fixed—three on a side—to regulate her position,—an invention for which the naval world is indebted to our ingenious and estimable Naval Architect of the station, Francis Grice, Esq. late of Kensington, near Philadelphia. The steam engine was then set in motion, acting upon 8 well and 8 chain pumps, and in 15 minutes more she was settled firmly on her bed, and was shored."—*Norfolk Herald.*

Every Body has Bubbly Jock.—The following anecdote of the late Sir Walter Scott has a genuine appearance, and we do not recollect of ever seeing it published. A gentleman, in conversing with the illustrious author remarked that he believed that it was possible that perfect happiness might be the lot of somebody or other. Sir Walter dissented. "Well," said the gentleman, "there is an idiot, who, I'm certain will confirm my opinion; he seems the very *beau ideal* of animal contentment." The deaf individual was snooving along, humming to himself, when Sir Walter Scott addressed him. Weel Jamie, hoo are ye today?" "Brawley, ou brawley," answered he. "Now, Jamie, have you plenty to eat and drink?" "Ou, ay." "And keep you warm?" "Ou, ay." "There," said the poet's antagonist, crowing, "is a perfectly happy creature!" "Not so fast, continued Sir Walter. "Is there naething, Jamie, that bothers ye at a?" "Ou, ay," said the idiot, changing his merry look, "there's a muckle Bubbly Jock that follows me wherever I gang."—"Now," said Sir Walter, "you see by this, that the very simplest of mankind are haunted by an evil one of some kind or other; in short, every one has his Bubbly Jock."—[*Edinburg Evening Post.*

Quantum Suffecit.—The Russelville, Ky. paper of the 20 inst. states that Wm. B. Holloway, a worthy citizen of that county, supposing himself suddenly attacked with Cholera, took in the course of a few minutes, 150 grains of calomel, four tea cups full of strong red pepper tea, one tea cup full of tincture of camphor, a table spoonful spirits turpentine, one quart of whiskey, and two table spoonfuls of a highly concentrated stimulus, composed of myrrh, camphor, opium, oil of peppermint and alcohol. He *miraculously* recovered. It is probable Mr. Hollaway had no symptoms of cholera.

Unwarrantable liberties are not unfrequently taken with editors of Newspapers—and liberties are *sometimes* taken of a different kind. We received a letter through the post office, from a gentleman, for whom we entertain the highest respect, apologising for *taking the liberty* of enclosing $2—for our "very interesting and useful paper." We not only from our hearts forgive the gentleman, but earnestly beg, and pray on our "bended knees," that some others of our numerous subscribers who are in arrears, would follow his example, and *take liberties* with us likewise.

[*Lowell Journal.*

FORGERY.—Yesterday a person presented at the Bank of Philadelphia, a check for about $5,500 purporting to be from a respectable broker of this City. Nothing appeared on the face of the check or in the conduct of the person presenting it to excite suspicion and it was paid.

Another check being in the same name, and for the sum of $3,500, was presented at the Farmers and Mechanics' Bank, under similar circumstances and was similarly honored.—After Bank hours it was ascertained that both checks were forgeries, and from certain circumstances, it is feared that other Banks have also suffered by the same depredator. We do not know that suspicions have fallen upon any individual, but the police have been made acquainted with the circumstances, and will probably ferret out the offenders.

[*Philad. U. S. Gaz.*

We understand (says the Cherokee Intelligencer of the 24th) that the enrolling agents are actively employed, and that they make daily enrolments. It is presumed that between two and three thousand of the natives will be ready to move to Arkansas by the commencement of the fall; it is supposed that twice that number will go in the spring, should not a treaty be effected, of which there is scarcely a doubt during next winter.

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