# The Western Democrat.

OFFICE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF TRADE STREET

CHARACTER IS AS IMPORTANT TO STATES AS IT IS TO INDIVIDUALS, AND THE GLORY OF THE ONE IS THE COMMON PROPERTY OF THE OTHER

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CHARLOTTE, N. C.

ANOTHER LARGE LUMP OF GOLD.—We are gratified to learn that another large lump of gold has been obtained at one of the gold mines of Messrs. P. C. Carlton & Co., in this State, weighing 6½ pounds. Lumps weighing less are obtained daily, of various sizes.—*Statesville American.*

DEATH ON WOLVES AND SNAKES.—On the 25th ult., our fellow-citizens, Wm. M. Porter and son, Robt. W. Porter, and B I Burgin, killed *five wolves* and one *rattlesnake* on the mountains between Cane Creek and Swannanoa. Another wolf was wounded but not caught.—*Asheville News.*

MAN SHOT BY THUNDER!—We are informed that a young man in the lower portion of this county was shot in the leg by a peal of thunder, one night last week, lodging eight or ten large shot in the limb. He heard the report, and instantly felt a smarting in his leg, and upon examination, most marvelous to relate, found that instead of a single bolt of electrity, he had been struck by veritable leaden shot, which were extracted by a surgeon of this place, who is entitled to implicit confidence. We have heard of meteoric stones, falling stars, showers of electricity, but never before had heard that the clouds might be surcharged with "shot."—Surely, the world must be near its ending!

What renders this mysterious affair more peculiar and significant of something, to finite minds incomprehensible, is that the wounded man was shot while in a water-melon patch!—*Statesville American.*

EARLY COTTON.—The Bainbridge Georgian of the 25th ult, mentions samples of Cotton of this year's growth. This, we presume, is several weeks in advance of the great bulk of the cotton in Southern Georgia.

PROPORTIONS OF THE HUMAN FIGURE.—The proportions of the human figure are strictly mathematical. The whole figure is six times the length of the foot. Whether the form be slender or plump, this rule holds good. Any deviation from it is a departure from the highest beauty of proportion. The Greeks make all their statues according to this rule. The face from the highest point of the forehead, where the hair begins, to the end of the chin, is one-tenth of the whole statue. The hand, from the wrist to the end of the middle finger, is the same. The chest is a fourth, and from the nipple to the top of the head, is the same. From the top of the chest to the highest point of the forehead is the seventh. If the length of the face from the roots of the hair to the chin be divided into three equal parts, the first division determines where the eyebrows meet, and the second the place of the nostrils. The navel is the central point of the human body, and if a man should lie on his back with his arms extended, the periphery of the circle which might be described around him, would touch the extremity of his hands and feet. The height from the feet to the top of the head is the same as the distance from one extremity to the other when the arms are fully extended. These are the general measures of the man species.

NATURE'S BAROMETERS.—A venerable gentleman with whom we recently conversed, assured us that spiders were the best barometers yet produced. The barometer invented by the scientific, he affirmed, only indicated the kind of weather we are to have immediately; while spiders unerringly told the character of the weather for several days in advance. For instance, if the weather is likely to become rainy, windy, or in any other respects disagreeable, the spiders make very short and firm the terminating filaments on which their webs are suspended. If, on the contrary, they make the terminating filaments or fastenings uncommonly long, the weather will continue serene from ten to a dozen days.

Spiders usually make alterations in their webs once in 24 hours. If they are totally indolent, and do not even watch for flies, rain will speedily ensue. If the spiders stay out upon their nets during a shower, and seem actively engaged in putting affairs in good condition, it is certain proof that the rain will be of short duration, and that it will be clear weather for some time. If, during the stormy weather, the spiders are seen fixing their damaged nets in the evening, it certainly indicates that the night will be pleasant and that the rain is over for the present. Our informant has often witnessed this result when the sky looked most threatening, and he has never known the sign to fail.

MARRIAGES IN SPAIN.—The marriage ceremony in Spain is conducted differently from our own. Among the higher classes, it takes place at night, at the bride's house; and if, from any special circumstances, it be deferred till the morning, it is fixed for a very early hour, and, in neither case, is there any display, though wedding feasts are provided. The guests are confined to the family or immediate friends, and are all, including the bride, dressed in black (!) which does not prevent them being often very costly attired. Second marriages are looked upon *torvo vultu*, and discouraged in every way. Popular feeling is so opposed to them that a second-hand bride and bride-groom are considered legitimate objects of practical jokes and most annoying petty persecutions. It is all done in a good humored way, but so is the ceremony performed by sailors on an unfortunate land-lubber when crossing the line for the first time; and, as in the one case, Father Neptune exacts a rigorous tribute, so, in the other, must a handsome fine be paid to Hymen or his self-constituted representatives. On the other hand, facilities exist for those who desire to marry neither once nor twice, in the three-and-twenty convents which Madrid contains, belonging to various orders, active as well as contemplative.

Every employee should always be careful to strictly obey the orders of his employer.

## DESTRUCTION BY FIRES.

The present year has been remarkable in many respects, but in nothing more than the number and magnitude of its fires. Although the year has not yet expired, and even confining our observations to the area formerly comprised in the old Union and its territories, we find that up to this time the loss by fire nearly *doubles* the exhibit rendered for the *whole* of last year. The total number of great fires for the year 1865 was *one hundred and fifty-one*, and the losses resulting from these fires were estimated at $17,528,000. Up to the first day of July of the current year, the number of fires is given at *two hundred and eighty-nine*, and the aggregate of the property destroyed is valued at $32,976,000. When it is considered that this estimate embraces only half of the present, it will be seen how vastly this year will excell all others in these terrible statistics of fiery desolation.

There can be no doubt that the universal advance of this most destructive and at the same time most useful element of nature, is due to that reckless spirit engendered by the war which riots in violence and rejoices in crime. It is true that the most considerable fire of recent date is that of Portland, which was caused by a pop-cracker exploded by a careless boy. But it is no less true that the great majority of our conflagrations are to be traced to bad men who thus revenge themselves for fancied wrongs, or apply the torch in order that they may rob and pillage with more security during the confusion of a general panic.

As long as the peace and morals of a people are unhinged by war and fierce political excitements, of the character existing in this country, it may be expected that wicked men will invoke the destructive agencies of nature in the furtherance of their fell designs. Until our people cease to war upon one another they will be plagued by fires, and epidemics and social and political diseases worse than either.—*Richmond Times.*

## ABOUT TIN.

Tin is a short word, but full of meaning. If a poor fellow's pockets are empty, he is said to be "out of tin." If Mr. and Mrs. Smith celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary, it is called a *tin* wedding. Then what a gathering of friends! each with a present of *tin* ware.—But it is all a mistake. The ware called "tin" is only a wash of tin over sheet-iron. As well might we speak of plated ware as being silver.

I learned something novel recently about tin while looking in at a metal store, in Burling Slip, near Pearl-street, and listening to the courteous salesman. I learned that, while our extensive country produces nearly all metals, from gold to lead, including spelter—which has only been found within the past ten years—there has never yet been discovered a tin mine. Should one be found, "may I be there to see," and take a few shares in it.

While the Lead Barons of the West have become very wealthy, with prices from three to eight cents per pound, what must be the profits of a mine of tin, when the metal brings from thirty to fifty cents. Tin is used for various purposes other than for "Britannia Ware."—The fine black cloths we get from France are colored by a solution of tin. The most beautiful red colors in carpets are made by a chemical process which requires pure tin in the composition. The best and most reliable tin is imported from the Dutch East India Island of Banca. It is taken from Banca to Rotterdam, and there sold, by auction, at semi-annual sales; and from there sent to all parts of the civilized world.—Next in quality is Malacca or Straits tin, so named because it reaches us through the Straits of Malacca. A small quantity comes from China, but the Celestials have so many ways of cheating that their tin is very unpopular. Our English neighbors send us great quantities of their Cornwall tin, and they consider it superior to all other; but while it is pure, it is not so soft as Banca, and Brother Jonathan prefers the latter, for which he is willing to pay a high price. From South America we have small supplies; but it is an inferior quality, and very drossy.—*New York Journal.*

ORIGIN OF THE NEW ORLEANS RIOT.—A Washington correspondent says:

"It is perfectly well understood here that the recent riot in New Orleans was got up and instigated by the Radicals here and at other points in the North, and that secret instructions were sent by them to the leaders of the movement in New Orleans, in pursuance of which the attempt was made to galvanize into life the defunct radical and negro suffrage Convention of 1864; an attempt which has resulted in such deplorable consequences. The Convention of 1864 is a dead and gone concern. It has no legal existence in 1866, and so President Johnson has informed General Sheridan. It was convoked in 1864, for a single purpose: to form a State Constitution; and when it adjourned, after having formed that Constitution, its President was directed to call it together again, in the event of the failure of the people of Louisiana to ratify the Constitution. That event never took place. The Constitution was ratified and has been in force two years, and the President of the Convention has himself decided that it no longer has any legal existence. Mr Howell, who assumed the power to reconvoke the defunct Convention, simply usurped the power to do so, without having any legal authority whatever.

The fact is, there is a plot between the Radical leaders at the North and their co-laborers in Louisiana, by which they hope to overthrow the present Legislature of the State, to turn out all the State officers elected by the people, to alter the State Constitution so as to disfranchise a majority of the people of the State, to impose a new and hateful government on a people thus disfranchised, and to elect a new Radical Legislature, which will ratify the proposed Constitutional Amendment. Gov. Wells of Louisiana, and this Mr Howell, have simply lent themselves to be the tools of the conspirators engaged in this nefarious business."

During the riot about 150 persons were wounded and 50 killed.

## SUMMER EATING AND DRINKING.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

Marvelous is the capacity of the human stomach for receiving and retaining such a quantity and variety of substances to gratify, in the first place, hunger and thirst, and, afterward, the palate, made capricious and exacting by long indulgence. A history of the dietetic usages of the different races and tribes now spread over the face of the world would almost deter us from laying down rules for selecting the kinds of food best adapted to the attainment of health and bodily vigor. Passing over as decidedly exceptional the cases of those of the poor wretches who, with a stomach equal to that of an ostrich, have swallowed and partially digested jack knives, rusty nails, and the like, we come to the people of the extreme north, such as the Greenlanders and Esquimaux, who luxuriate on the grossest animal food—blubber, bear's flesh, etc.—and contrast them with the inhabitants of the extreme south, such as the Hindoos and people of Central Africa and islands of the Pacific, whose food is almost entirely vegetable.

The aborigines of Australia are mainly carniverous; they enjoy very much as relishes, grubs and ants, with their eggs. We must go beyond the animal and vegetable kingdoms to look to the mineral, if we would learn the entire range of the substances used by man for food. Humboldt tells us that the Ottomagues, upon the banks of the Orinoco, feed on a fat, unctuous earth, a species of pipe clay, tinged with a little oxide of iron. They collect this clay very carefully, distinguishing it by the taste, and knead it into balls of four or five inches in diameter, which they bake slightly before a slow fire.—These balls are soaked in water when about to be used, and each individual eats about a pound of the material every day. The only addition which they make to this unnatural fare consists of small fish, lizards and fern roots.

These apparent vagaries of appetite—and the list might be easily enlarged—are really the result of the necessities of the people, who are unable to procure more abundant and nutritive food. The actual difference in the proportional consumption of animal and vegetable substances must be sought for in geological causes, climate and soil. The inhabitants of high northern latitudes require a much larger supply of animal food, and that of a grosser quality, than those in temperate climates; while the latter, again, are more carniverous than the inhabitants of the equatorial regions, whose food is chiefly vegetable. In a climate like that of the United States, in which our seasons assimilate us to the extremes of almost arctic cold and tropical heat, we ought to obey correspondingly varied rules of hygiene. In our manner of living during the summer months we ought to copy from the people of Southern Europe, if not from those of India and southern China.

Our meals should be light, and a large proportion of vegetable substances and fruits; but in saying this we do not mean to include damaged or badly cooked vegetables, sour bread or unripe fruit. A little improvement in the culinary art—a thing, by the way, sadly needed—would furnish, with the addition of milk and eggs, a great variety of dishes, both nutritive and palatable. At this season fresh meat is not required, and, except to the hard laboring man, is not wholesome more than once a day, and then in the earlier part of it. The heavy suppers enjoyed in Winter are now distasteful; and if taken they are apt to disorder the digestion and prepare the way for serious disease.—We know that fatal results have followed a hearty supper of lobster and other shell-fish.

Next in importance to the question of the digestibility and wholesomeness of the several articles of food is that of the time of the day or the meal at which they are taken. The Spaniards have a saying about the use of pineapples—or, as some allege, oranges—which is applicable to the use of our own fruits: "Gold in the morning, silver at noon, lead at night." We laid stress on this point when speaking of the prevention of cholera. This lesson cannot be too often repeated. If a trial is to be made of new article of food, or of one of doubtful digestibility, let it be at breakfast, but never in the evening.

As relates to drinks at this season, nature points out those most salutary. Foremost and mainly is cool water, to which frequently acids are added, with the effect of still more readily quenching the thirst.

A convenient substitute for lemon juice will be found in vinegar, which, with the addition of molasses, makes a pleasant, refreshing beverage. The same may be said of cream of tartar punch, as it is called—hot water poured on cream of tartar, sweetened. Slices of apple treated in the same way are good. A refreshing and tonic mineral lemonade is made by the addition of half a teaspoonful of tartar sweetened. Simple sweet drinks, such as sugar water, and molasses water, will assuage thirst, and are relished by persons using them. Sugar water is a common drink among the French. A young Parisian dandy will stop at a coffee house and take it instead of a more stimulating beverage. Copying still the habits of the southern people of Europe, we should avoid at this season ardent spirits and the stronger boiled wines, giving the preference to claret and the Rhine wines, and those of home production, from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and California. Tea is to be preferred to coffee.

BRIGHAM YOUNG AND HIS WIVES.—There is a legend that, one day, a woman went to Brigham Young for counsel, touching some alleged oppression by an officer of the church. Brigham, like a true politician, assumed to know her; but, when it became necessary to record her case, hesitated, and said:—"Let me see, sister, I forget your name." "My name!" was the indignant reply, "why, I am your wife!" "When did I marry you?" The woman informed the "President," who referred to an account-book in his desk, and then said:—"Well, I believe you are right. I *knew* your face was familiar!"

☞ The citizens of Patterson, New Jersey, rejoiced at the adjournment of Congress by firing a salute.

## MYSTERIOUS PATIENT.

Our exchanges, by answering our query, may bring joy to some fond heart, that mourns as dead, an unfortunate man whom we saw at the hospital in this place on yesterday. So sad a picture as his anxious face presents has not often been our lot to look upon. No account whatever can be gathered of him here. When the United States forces took possession of Tallahassee, they found this man in the (then) Confederate hospital, and he has not been heard to speak since. His face ever wears an expression of the most anxious care. The moment any one enters his room he turns with an imploring glance, intensified by an expression of fear. Oh! that look can never be forgotten—so full of petition, dread and woe! He wrings his hands incessantly and seems just uttering some earnest request, but never speaks. Repeated efforts have been made to induce him to write. But he takes the pen mechanically, as he does everything else, and gazes up into your face with that same earnest look of undefined supplication and dread.

When he is left alone with his food he eats heartily, and until recently his general health has been good. He is now a little emaciated. Occasionally he has been known to creep stealthily to his window, and open it cautiously. But in doing so he seems to dread some catastrophe.

We have made considerable enquiry about him in this city, and can gather no clue as to the exact time when he was brought to Tallahassee, or from where. One account supposes that he was brought up here a month or two before the surrender from the hospital at Monticello. Another says that some Confederate soldier, who has seen him here, remembers that he saw him in the Natural Bridge fight—that he was then wearing a major's star, and that he fought bravely. He supposes that the explosion of a shell near his head paralyzed his speech and deprived him partially of reason.

It is strange that he should have remained here so long without being identified. He is a man of commanding figure, we should think six feet one or two inches in height, if strong and robust would weigh one hundred and eighty pounds, seems to be between thirty-five and forty years of age, has a prominent forehead, dark hair, a large gray eye, and rather prominent nose. He is as docile as a child, obeying mechanically every command—and with an expression as would move a heart of stone.—*Tallahassee (Fla.) Sentinel.*

☞ The following interesting passages are extracted from late foreign files:

Dr Cumming lectured at Halifax, England, lately, on the "Signs of the Times." The lecturer did not claim to be a prophet, but expressed his belief that these were solemn and startling times, and that the world was on the point of great events. The great lines of prophecy seem to intersect the year 1867. The world, he believed, would not be destroyed, but would endure forever in a more purified and exalted state. Though he was unable to explain the increase of Romanism in England, he believed the heart of the country was still true to Protestantism. In 1792 there were 5,000 priests in Paris, but, though the population of the city has doubled itself since that time, there were now 900 priests only in Paris. He believed the Saturday evening of the world was very near, and that on the Sabbath of a thousand years, which were at hand, there would be a sunrise which would experience no Western declension.

☞ Two daughters of John Van Buren were recently presented to the Princess of Wales, which is considered as equivalent to being introduced to Queen Victoria, the Princess receiving all company in the name of her mother-in-law. It is a pity that the Van Buren girls did not get to see the widow, as that would have afforded them an opportunity to behold their father's first flame. It will be remembered that when Martin Van Buren was President, his son visited England, where he upset aristocratic English propriety by a dashing flirtation with Miss Guelph. Victoria remembered John Van Buren until her memory was clouded by the burley German, Albert, inspiring her with a new love. Victoria is now a widow and a recluse in a Court visited by the blooming daughters of her old flame.

A FATAL DRINKING WAGER.—A foolish wager was made at a wine-shop in Paris, which resulted in death. At a breakfast, where the conversation turned on the quantity of drink which a person could take, a bricklayer, named Florentine, made a bet that he would drink twelve glasses of wine while the clock of the Tuileries was striking twelve. He drank three glasses before the clock had struck three times. At the next glass he stopped to breathe. At the seventh he began to drink more slowly, but, making an effort, he drank off the eighth glass. He then turned very pale, and breathed with difficulty. His friends wished to stop the wager, but he said he would go on, come what might, and swallowed the ninth glass. He had hardly emptied the glass, when he fell down senseless. A surgeon was sent for, but, in spite of all his efforts, the foolish man died in three hours.

*Raw Meat and Spirits to Cure Consumption.*—An English paper prints the following: "M. Fuster proposes to cure all cases of consumption by the administration of raw meat and spirits. Although his method of treatment has not been long employed by Continental physicians, considerable testimony has been borne to the great success which has attended its employment. The new treatment has now been tried satisfactorily in two thousand cases of phthisis. The raw meat is reduced to a pulp, mixed with sugar to conceal its unpleasant flavor and administered in doses of one hundred to three hundred grammes per day. The alcohol (of the strength of twenty degrees Baume) is given in doses of one hundred grammes a day."

President Johnson has handed to Bishop Potter, of South Carolina, his check for $1,000, in aid of the Theological Institute in that State.