

**RICH AND ANOMALOUS CORPORATION.**

The British East India Company, according to recent and authentic documents before us, now rules, directly or indirectly, an empire of 1,500,000 square miles, with a population of more than one hundred and sixty millions. This vast empire, no less remarkable for its healthfulness and the beauty of its scenery, than for its extent, embraces almost every variety of soil and climate, producing not only the cereals of the North and the tropical fruits of the South, but many valuable articles of commerce peculiar to the East. The nominal money capital of the Company is set down at £16,000,000 sterling, or eighty millions of dollars. Its annual revenues are estimated at one hundred and thirty-five millions, and with the development of country, and the consequent enlarged trade of the Company, they are annually increasing.

The East India Company, at date of last report, consisted of 1750 stockholders, privileged to meet in general council. The holder of \$5000 of stock has one vote; of \$15,000 two; of \$30,000 three; and of \$50,000 four; provided always he has been in possession of the same twelve months. The whole number of votes at the present time is estimated at about 2600. These stockholders, thus qualified, meet once in three months, in general council. They elect the court of directors and board of control, in whom is vested the actual government, we had almost said the sovereignty of India.

The employees of the Company are divided into five distinct classes: civil, clerical, medical, military, and naval; comprising nine or ten thousand persons. The salaries of the principal officers are as follows:

Governor General, \$125,000, perquisites \$200,000	\$325,000
Members of Governor's Council	48,000
Bishops	\$12,000 to 25,000
Law Judges, thirty in number	15,000
Collectors and Magistrates, 45, 86,000 to 19,000	
in striking contrast with these salaries is the pay of the native soldiers, (sepoys,) 54d per day, from which it would appear far better to be Governor General of India than a sepo.	

Territorial aggrandizement is an established principle of this anomalous corporation. The domain acquired the last few years, during the administration of the Marquis Dalhousie alone, comprises many thousands of square miles—whole empires rather—adding 4,280,000 pounds sterling, \$21,400,000, as follows:

Punjab	£1,500,000	\$7,500,000
Pegu	270,000	1,350,000
Nagpore	401,000	2,005,000
Oude	1,400,000	7,000,000
Sattarab	150,000	750,000
Shensi	50,000	250,000
Hyderabad	500,000	2,500,000

Of the revenues of the East India Company, the land tax is most productive, the annual income from that alone being \$75,000,000. Next in importance are the revenues from the opium, of which the Company enjoys a monopoly. In 1846 the opium export duties at Bombay alone amounted to \$5,000,000; at Calcutta to \$15,000,000. Since then, they have vastly increased. The sales of opium the last five years at this latter port were as follows:

Sales of 1850, 55,383 chests, 35,432,079 rupees	
“ 1851, 54,409 “ 32,250,839 “	
“ 1852, 53,561 “ 32,245,135 “	
“ 1853, 53,463 “ 33,343,033 “	
“ 1854, 48,419 “ 36,727,584 “	

The price paid the producer is about 240 rupees (\$120) the chest. The profit was formerly so great that opium growing superseded almost every other business. It has of late been subject to constant fluctuation, though it is still the best business of India. The native population are engaged in its cultivation wherever it will grow. The East India Company reap the profits. But it is out of this, a trade condemned by native and foreign writers alike, that they have grown most of their difficulties in the East. Captain Elliott, of the British Navy, once remarked in one of his official despatches:

“No man entertains a deeper detestation of the disgrace and sin of this forced traffic than the humble individual who signs this despatch. I see little to choose between it and piracy; and it is rapidly staining the British character with the deepest disgrace.”

The standing military force of this powerful company is about 300,000 men, European and natives, the former the flower of the British army. The department of topographical engineers is remarkable for its skill and efficiency, and has done much for the material development of the country. Railroads, completed and in construction, now span the whole extent of the Empire, from the Carnatic to the Himalayas, opening a brilliant prospect for the agriculturist at no distant future. There are also in operation at the present time more than four thousand miles of the magnetic telegraph, with which connection will soon be made, along the southern coast of Arabia, and through Egypt, submerging the Red Sea, with the Mediterranean lines, thus communicating directly with the whole Western World.

**LOCOMOTIVE EXPERIENCE.**  
Riding on the engine of an express train is exciting business. We made intercession with the powers that be, the other day, and secured a passage for the distance of ten miles on “the machine.” It is interesting to watch the track ahead, and imagine yourself going down the banks from some obstruction. You look at the steam gauge and wonder if a hundred and ten pounds of steam is a safe quantity. As the speed increases, the sway of the engine attracts especial notice. Every little roughness of the track is felt, and the machine goes knocking about from side to side with force enough to tear the rails from the ties. The flat ribbon of rail, extending so far before you, seems utterly insufficient to hold the vast, ponderous weight of iron upon it. For relief from the terrors you have conjured up, you turn to the engineer and venture a remark. He does not look around, his hand is on the lever, his eye steadily fixed on the track. Just then the fireman rings the bell for a crossing. You can see it swing, but in the crash and thunder of your progress you hear no sound, and then you think that the engineer perhaps did not hear your voice.

The fireman is constantly busy. He piles up the wood in easy distance and then “stokes.” As the dry sticks are cast in the furnace, the devouring flame seizes them with a fierce avidity, cats into their substance, penetrates their pores, and tears them to pieces almost in a moment. It is an awful fire, unlike any you ever witnessed.

You take another look at the track and gain a new sensation, for wherever the rail is a little settled the engine sinks down upon it, and it seems as if the wheels and trucks were giving way, and the whole machine about to crush down in one fatal smash up.

These are daylight observations, but the night is the time to enjoy a locomotive ride. The light from the engine lamp extends only for two or three rails forward—beyond that all is darkness, and you go plunging into the black unseen before you, without a possibility of a forewarning of any danger. You can see the switch lights, or that of another locomotive, but a log or a drunken man may be on the track, or a rail may be broken, and you none the wiser until with one tremendous crash you meet your doom upon it.

From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

**NOTICES OF BOOKS.**

**ABRIDGMENT OF THE DEBATES OF CONGRESS, FROM 1789 TO 1856. Vol. II. New York—D. Appleton & Co.**

Mr. Benton is proceeding with his work rapidly. Two of the fifteen or sixteen volumes which the Abridgement is to compose are already published—two stout octavos of about eight hundred pages each. The first volume closed with the first session of the fourth Congress, June 1790; the second volume begins with the second session of the same Congress, December 1796, and ends with the second session of the seventh Congress, March 1803. During the period embraced by this second volume, Presidents Adams and Jefferson were from office, Presidents Adams and with the Barbary powers occurred, and important debates were held in regard to the free navigation of the Mississippi, the alien and sedition laws, naturalization, the judiciary system, taxation, the naval establishment, &c. The debates are abridged by Mr. Benton with much care and excellent judgment, and his notes, some of which are elaborate, are very instructive and useful. Andrew Jackson, the actor here of New Orleans, first appears in the Congressional debates in December, 1796, when he spoke in the House of Representatives in defence of Gen. Sevier's expedition against the Cherokees. In a note on this debate, Mr. Benton says:—

“The true ground on which the United States becomes liable to a state for its expenses in suppressing or repulsing Indian hostilities turns upon the idea of an actual invasion, or such imminent danger of it as not to admit of delay: then the contingency happens in which the state may engage in war, and all the acts of Congress, and the Government orders give way before a constitutional right. Tennessee, like other new countries in the United States, was settled without law, and against law. Its early settlers not only had no protection from the Federal Government, but were under legal disabilities to pursue the enemy. This arose from the policy of the Government to preserve peace on the frontiers by restraining the advance of settlements, and curbing the disposition of the people to war. The history of all the new settlements, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is the same; people go without law and against law; and when they can neither be stopped by the Government, nor driven back by the Indians, then the Government gives them protection.”

In 1797, slaves were recognized as property by a vote of the House of Representatives (yeas 68, nays 23,) imposing a direct tax upon them. Most of the members from the slave states supported the tax, and the reason assigned for their doing so was that “the taxation of lands and slaves went together in the slave states—the people were used to the association—and to omit slaves in the direct tax would be unjust and unpopular, as sparing the rich and making the tax fall heavier upon persons of less property.”

In 1798, the House of Representatives was the scene of the first debate on the prohibition of slavery in a territory which took place under the Federal Constitution. Messrs. Rutledge, Otis, Gallatin, Harper, Varnum, and others took part in it, and it is remarkable that the constitutional power of Congress to make the prohibition was not questioned by any speaker.

In the same year, by a close vote, the Navy Department was created, and, as the proceedings show, by a party vote—the Republicans of that day being against a navy.

Mr. Benton directs attention to the fact that in the earlier Congresses, the speakers were held to the point even when the House was in committee of the whole, and hence the debates were brief, forcible and instructive.

The first instance of a President's Message being sent to the two Houses at the commencement of a session occurred in 1801, when Mr. Jefferson adopted that plan. In a note accompanying the Message he said:—“In doing this I have had principal regard to the convenience of the Legislature, to the economy of their time, to their relief from the embarrassment of immediate answers, on subjects not yet fully before them, and to the benefits thence resulting to the public affairs.”

Mr. Benton says:—  
“It was one of Mr. Jefferson's reforms—the former way of assembling the two Houses to hear an address in person from the President, returning an answer to it, the two Houses going in form to present their answer, and the intervention of repeated committees to arrange the details of these ceremonious meetings, being considered too close an imitation of the royal mode of opening a British Parliament. Some of the Democratic friends of Mr. Jefferson doubted whether this change was a reform, in that part of it which dispensed with the answers to the President. Their view of it was, that the answer to the Speech, or Message, afforded a regular occasion for speaking to the state of the Union, and to all the topics presented; which speaking, losing its regularity, would afterwards break out irregularly on the discussion of particular measures, and to the interruption of the business on hand. Experience has developed that irregularity, and another—that of speaking to the Message on the motions to refer particular clauses of it to appropriate committees, thereby delaying the reference; and, in one instance during Mr. Fillmore's Administration, preventing the reference during the entire session.”

In 1802, Mr. Rutledge, of South Carolina, declared in a speech in the House that Mr. Jefferson's opinion on slavery was an obstacle to his receiving the vote of that State for the Presidency.

Mr. Benton's note on our relations with France in 1799 is quite elaborate, and contains some curious and interesting extracts from the dispatches of the Ministers of that day, which we have not seen elsewhere. At the end of each presidency he briefly reviews the history of the Administration, and these notes are such neat and convenient historical summaries that we quote them in full:—

**THE PRESIDENCY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON.**

The close of the fourth Congress terminates the Presidency of General Washington, and presents a proper point for a retrospective view of the working of the Government for the first eight years of its existence. Such a view is full of instruction, and deserves to be taken; and first of the finances. Moderate expenses and moderate taxes were the characteristics of this branch of the service. The support of the Government, called the Civil List, and comprehending every object of civil expenditure, was, for the year 1796, (the last of Washington's Administration,) \$530,392, and the duties on imports about five millions of dollars—or nearly ten times as much as the support of the Government required—leaving nearly nine-tenths to go to the preservation of peace with the Indian tribes, defence of the frontiers, protection of commerce in the Mediterranean, and other extraordinary objects. This amount was produced by moderate duties—the ad valorem, 10, 12, 15 and 20 per centum—and mainly produced by the first two rates, the latter two chiefly applying to objects of luxury not used by the general mass. Thus: The amount of imports subject to the 10 and the 12 rates was \$28,267,000, while those subject to 20 per centum were \$7,850,000; and those subject to 20 per centum only the third of one million. The average of the whole was about 13 per centum. The specific

duties were on the same moderate scale; and the cost of collecting the whole was 3.73 per cent.

The interest on the public debt was three millions and a quarter; the Military Department, \$1,300,000; Naval Department, \$440,000; tribute to the Barbary powers, veiled under the name of foreign intercourse expense, was \$300,000; while the regular diplomatic intercourse was only about \$40,000. The whole expenditure of the Government was about 54 millions: its whole revenue something more—the excise on distilled spirits producing some \$400,000. Thus, order and economy were established in the finances.

Abroad peace had been maintained. The proclamation of neutrality, unanimously agreed upon in the Cabinet, saved the United States from the calamity of being involved in the wars of the French revolution. The commercial treaty with Great Britain stopped upon American vessels carrying provisions to France, and obtained indemnity for depredations already committed. With Spain the serious question of the free navigation of the Mississippi was settled; and in addition to the right of navigation, a place of deposit for American produce and merchandise was obtained at New Orleans—the right to be absolute for three years, and afterward until an equivalent place should be provided. (It was the subsequent violation of this right of deposit which led to the acquisition of all Louisiana.) Safety to the persons and property of American citizens in the Mediterranean Sea had been obtained, according to the means usual at that time and upon terms to be endured until strong enough to do better. The formidable Indian war in the Northwest, and the troublesome hostilities in the Southwest, had been terminated, and peace given to the young communities, on the Kentucky and Cumberland rivers, which commencing without authority, were laying the foundations of future great States. A domestic insurrection (that of Western Pennsylvania) had been quelled, and happily without bloodshed—the exhibition of a large force, with Washington at its head, being sufficient to forbid resistance, and a wise humanity sparing all punishment. The new Government was solidly established, and amid difficulties which might have been insufferable under any other President. Public credit, which had sunk so low under the Confederation, had risen to a high standard under the new Government, and a general commercial and agricultural prosperity pervaded the land.

**THE PRESIDENCY OF JOHN ADAMS.**

The Administration of John Adams fell upon difficult times, and involved the necessity of measures always unpopular themselves, and never more so than at that time. The actual aggressions of France upon our commerce, her threats of war, and insults to our Ministers, required preparations to be made for war; and these could not be made without loans and taxes. Fifteen millions were the required expenditure of the last year of his administration; a large sum in that time, but almost the whole of which went to three objects; the army, the navy, and the public debt. The support of the Government remained at the moderate sum which it had previously presented, to wit, \$590,000. The duties still remained moderate—ad valorem, 10, 12, 15 and 20 per centum; and the latter more nominal than real, as it only fell upon a few articles of luxury, of which the importation was only to the value of \$30,000. The main levy fell upon the 10 and 12 per centum classes of which to the value of 26 1/2 millions were imported; of the 15 per centum class only 7 1/2 millions were imported, and the average of the whole was 13 per centum and a fraction. The specifics were increased, but not considerably; and the cost of collecting the whole was 4 1/2 per centum. Direct taxes and loans made up the remainder. The whole amount collected from taxes was about 10 millions; to the precise, \$10,126,213; that is to say nearly twenty times as much as the support of the Government comprehending every civil object required. The administration of Mr. Adams, though condemned for extravagance, was strictly economical in support of the Government, and in the collection of the revenue; the army and the navy, those enormous objects of expenditure, brought the demands for money, which injured the Administration.

This Abridgement of the Congressional debates combined with Mr. Benton's notes will furnish almost a complete political history of the United States since the adoption of the federal constitution and will be an invaluable work of reference for legislators, politicians and historians. It is to be hoped that nothing will occur to prevent its completion.

**False Education.**—The early breaking down into invalidism of our American women is the subject of frequent remark. Our young maidens are, as a class, beautiful but delicate, and hardly do hosts of them get out of their teens before they become more or less the victims of disease. Several of our contemporaries, we perceive, are calling attention to one cause of this evil, viz: the overworking of girls at school. Where the blame of this is to be laid we are not prepared to say. We doubt, however, whether it is all to be put at the doors of teachers, for we have heard many of them lament it, especially those having charge of public schools. The docility, love of approbation and emulation, quite characteristic of the sex, taken in connection with the early age at which they are seated at the desk, and the early age at which they are called from their studies, may account for much of the error. Not only the acquisition of the common branches of education, but likewise the acquisition of accomplishment, is crowded into a few years; and this, too, with a premature entrance, oftentimes, into the excitements of society. Natural consequences of this are headaches, crooked spines, disordered nerves, weak eyes, debility, chronic complaints, that occasion more mischief, moral as well as physical, than many may imagine. What must follow where the wife and mother is the victim of ill health, can be easily fancied. And how many instances there are of this ill health traceable to the grievous mistakes of parental vanity or thoughtlessness, in subjecting mere children to the inevitable deleterious effects of overtasking the brain, keeping to sedentary pursuits, involving confinement, unnatural positions, unrelieved by vigorous open-air exercise? This is not a subject on which it is our province, were we competent, to speak in detail. But it is a subject which demands very serious consideration. It concerns the prosperity and happiness of thousands. It concerns the comfort and joy of numberless homes. It concerns the cause of humanity; inasmuch as the abuses alluded to, threaten to bring on, in some respects, an alarming degeneracy in posterity—and that posterity only a generation or two behind us. The hosts of physicians, the statistics of the death of infants, daily occurring facts within the observation of every one, are all indicative of a great wrong, which threatens to produce bitter fruits, to disappoint many of the hopes of a progressive and prosperous civilization.—*Boston Courier.*

“A smile, which will refuse a smile  
The sorrowing breast to cheer,  
And turn to love the heart of grief,  
And check the falling tear?  
A pleasant smile for every face,  
Oh, 'tis a blessed thing,  
It will the lines of care erase,  
And spots of beauty bring.”

**PIERCE'S PUNGENT PROVERBS.—APRIL FOOLS.**

Considering what a natural tendency man has to folly, it was a wise dispensation of popular custom to limit the privilege of making fools of our fellow creatures to one day in the year. It might however, have sprung from its being the only day to spare, since men make fools of themselves every day.

When the poet said, *dulce est desipere in loco*, he possibly might have been under a fool, on some ancient first of April, by some little slaver of the Augustan era, as he crawled in *tope* to his Roman school. One day in a year to be made a fool of, is certainly getting off very lightly, although a man may commit enough folly in a day to last him all his life, live he as long as Methusalem. Nay, a man may do as much hanging, marrying or speculating in an hour as will ruin him forever.

We have thus always considered April Fool Day an institution to be honored, as a debatable space for the exercise of wisdom, aggressive and defensive.

Let us inquire what a genuine April fool really is. Our dismal man defines him to be one who believes what is told him on the day in question—such as, if your wife swears she loves you for your own virtues and not for the diamond rings and cashmere shawls, or that Mr. Jones has just fallen down and broken his promise, or his leg, or any other little commodity.

Our excellent friend Burkhart is the victim of one of these inventions last Fool day, by a boy hardly bigger than the Doctor's boots, crying, “Sir, you've dropped your tail!” Now it happened that the worthy editor had a tale in his coat pocket behind, which he had just finished for the New York Dispatch, and instinctively feeling behind, to see if his package was safe, the boy naturally mistook the action, and nearly laughed his buttons off.

A man, however, may be too wide awake—too incredulous on this celebrated day, as our friend Wild was, who got up one first of April determined not to be made a fool of. He was roused from a witty article in the Daily News by the fair Kate telling him that a gentleman from Ohio was waiting to pay him some money at his store; giving a knowing wink, he sent his compliments to the honest debtor, and begged him to keep it till he came for it! Next morning he found the Ohioian had taken him at his word, and left a letter full of grateful thanks!

Not an hour after, our tall friend Shlanghai, who had made a similar vow of wisdom for this one perilous day, was told that his coat tails were on fire. “Let them burn!” he replied, chucking his fair Mrs. Applejax under the chin. In another minute the boarders had to roll him in the rug to put him out, and the burnt remains of his coat tails bore sad testimony to his wisdom!

Our excellent City Clerk, who is one of the neatest dapper little figures in the world, paraded the Jersey shores with a placard announcing, “These spacious premises to let,” and Garry himself walked about till dinner time with a bill on his hat, “This vacant lot for sale—apply within.”

When a benevolent little boy went up to the City Father to tell him to look behind his hat, he nearly got kicked for his pains.

There is a description of April jokes which we consider illegitimate. One of this kind was played upon the Doctor last year. Some very facetious fellows sent him twelve tons of coal, in separate carts, all of which were dumped down at his door, rendering the street impassable. When, however, Mace, the undertaker, went to measure him for a coffin, he considered the joke assuming far too grave an aspect; and he succeeded in convincing Mace that he was far too lively a corpse for rosewood yet.

We consider these as absurd hoaxes, not coming within the scope of the original intention. We also object to making bogus offers of marriage to inflammable widows, under cover of an April joke! We would rather play with a champagne lamp than a widow,—not that we mean they are both wicked things; but because we do not like to play with flames!

The difficulty is to really discover what a fool is! Nothing is more common than to hear one man call another a fool; which means that he does not think or act as he considers wise. But what is wise in one is otherwise in another! It is wise, no doubt, for Jones to take Mrs. Jones to the theatre, but it would be very unwise for Smith to do it!

Brown called Robinson a fool for speculating in the Potosi lead mines, but himself went largely into the Parker vein! The fact is, although a man may now and then, in the very arrogance of wisdom say: “I was a fool to do so and so!” yet he never means it. It is much safer to consider that every man's definition of a fool is, “what everybody else is, but which he can never be himself!” In other words, every man is his own Solomon! But we must not trench upon egotism, which is a distant relation of folly.

From our own experience we should say that fools, whether April or the common year-day fools, were happier than the philosophers, who, after all, may be the prince of folly. To a sane eye, what a fool Adam was to eat apples! or Alexander the Great to cry for another world to devastate! Julius Cæsar went himself down an ass when he would sign Imperator! Solomon, writing books, tells terribly against his wisdom, and the Queen of Sheba settled him! Oliver Cromwell had much better have stuck to the mashbub, instead of brewing storms of State. Horace Greeley had been happier had he remained on exhibition at Barnum's as the white nigger, instead of getting up bleeding Kansas!

Dear reader, we cannot be too thankful, that we are not, like the rest of our fellow creatures, liable to be made April fools of, at all events, for nearly another year!

**Power of the Human Eye.**—George Pitt, afterwards Lord Rivers, declared that he could tame the most furious animal by looking at it steadily. Lord Spencer said, Well, there is a mastiff in the courtyard here which is the terror of the neighborhood; will you try your power on him? Pitt agreed to do so, and the company descended to the courtyard. A servant held the mastiff by a chain. Pitt knelt down and a short distance from the animal and stared him sternly in the face. They all shuddered. At a signal given the mastiff was let loose, and rushed furiously towards Pitt; then suddenly checked his pace, seemed confounded, and leaping over Pitt's head, ran away, and was not seen for many hours after. During one of my visits to Italy, while I was walking a little before my carriage, on the road near Vienna, I perceived two huge dogs bounding towards me. I recollected what Pitt had done, and, trembling from head to foot, I yet had resolution enough to stand quite still and eye them with a fixed look. They gradually relaxed their speed from a gallop to a trot, came up to me, stopped for a moment and went back again.—*Rogers's Table Talk.*

The Beaufort Journal says that on board the schr. Emily, which it will be remembered was abandoned on a voyage from Charleston to Beaufort, last winter, were two slaves owned in the latter place. They, with the rest of the crew, were taken to Liverpool, where they were at perfect liberty to remain free, but they did not hesitate in signifying their preference for home, and have now returned to their duties in Beaufort.

**IRON AS A BUILDING MATERIAL.**

A resolution having been passed by the United States Senate during its last session, instructing the Committee on Manufactures to inquire how far it would be practicable and expedient for the Government to employ iron as a building material in the construction of the various public edifices, a report has been made highly favorable to its extensive use for these purposes. In the opinion of the committee few of the improvements and discoveries of the age promise more important results than the substitution of iron in the construction of buildings for the materials heretofore employed; and that “in beauty, durability, polish, and susceptibility of ornamentation, it is superior to every other material except marble.” In the infancy of iron constructions, the report says, cast-iron was employed for beams and girders, and failed, from its natural unfitness for the purpose to which it was applied, and a prejudice was thus created against its use; but when the researches of Stephenson, Hodgkinson, and Fairbairn, in reference to the great tubular bridge over the Menai Straits, had fully developed the appropriate provinces of cast and wrought-iron, and when the successful erection of that bridge, followed by the crystal palaces in London and New York, had fully demonstrated the adaptability and security of iron for building purposes, it only remained to remove a few mechanical difficulties in order to secure the general use of iron in all first-class structures. One of the most formidable difficulties encountered arose from the expensive and contractile nature of the metal, causing a displacement of materials with every change of temperature; but it appears that this has been wholly overcome.

By a cheap, simple, and convenient process lately invented, and by means of which the columns, beams, &c. are embedded in clay, *pisé*, or some other non-conductor of heat, they are completely isolated, and no longer liable to the expansion which rendered iron next to useless as a building material. Taking advantage of this invention, which, as above stated, is both simple and cheap, your committee are informed that the Secretary of the Treasury has lately contracted for the erection of the marine hospital at New Orleans wholly of iron. In the proposals issued by the Secretary for bids for the erection of this edifice iron was brought into competition with brick; and the result discloses the fact that an entire iron building, completely fire and lightning proof, with a beautiful and elegant external iron veneering, resembling in appearance the marble veneering or facing of the Capitol extension, may be erected in many localities cheaper than an edifice of common brick.

In the process here referred to clay-blocks or *pisé* are inserted between the outward and inward facings of the walls, by which the temperature within is rendered comparatively equable at all seasons.

Referring to the rapid increase in the use of iron for building purposes, (not less than 19,000,000 pounds having been used by the United States Treasury Department alone, according to a letter from Capt. A. H. Bowman, engineer-in-chief,) the committee express satisfaction at the prospect that “an impulse will be given to the iron trade which will largely increase the production, and at the same time promote the prosperity of this important branch of American industry.”

In a lecture delivered not long since by Mr. Hewitt, a distinguished ironmaster, the consumption of iron was considered as the standard by which the progress of civilization is measured. In concluding their report the committee remark that “the application of iron, even for partial purposes connected with the erection of our public edifices of various kinds, has been made with entire success, so far as regards strength, economy, and durability, and is a most important step in developing this branch of our national industry and putting it on a permanent basis, provided its future growth is not impeded by any partial legislation to its disadvantage.”

**RAILROAD PROGRESS.**

Some interesting facts in regard to this subject are gathered from the annual report of the railroad commissioners of New York:

“The first railroad constructed in the United States was the Quincy road, built in 1827. The first passenger railroad was the Baltimore and Ohio, which was opened with horse power for fifteen miles in 1830. The Mohawk and Hudson river road was opened for public travel with horse power in the summer of 1831. Locomotives were first used in this country in 1831 on the Mohawk and Hudson railroad, and in 1832 upon the Baltimore and Ohio, and on the South Carolina railroad. In 1828 there were but three miles of railroad in the United States; now there are twenty-one thousand five hundred miles! On comparing the safety of railroad travelling on the roads of this State with those of Great Britain, it is found that for the last four years there were a greater number of passengers killed and a less number injured upon the roads of this State, in proportion to the number carried, than upon those of Great Britain. In this State one passenger was killed out of every 1,262,165 who travelled, one either injured or killed out of every 341,125. One passenger was killed for every 47,164,426 miles travelled, and one was either injured or killed for every 12,747,142 miles travelled. Excluding all the accidents growing out of the imprudence and fault of the passengers themselves, it appears that one was killed out of every 6,310,828 who travelled, and one was either injured or killed out of every 664,300. Excluding the accidents caused by their own carelessness or imprudence, there was but one passenger killed for every 235,822, 132 miles travelled, and but one either injured or killed for every 24,823,482 miles travelled. A vast number more lives would have been lost if the same number of passengers had been conveyed the same number of miles in one-horse wagons or in the old fashioned four-horse coaches.”

“I will give as much as Williams.”—And Williams, who is thus chosen as the standard of contribution, is known to give as little as any member of the congregation; so that this is an excellent mode of refusing to give for some charitable object, and at the same time retaining the credit of liberality. But who is Williams, that you adhere so closely to him? Christ says we are to give from self-denying ability, and not according to the deeds of others. Besides, you do not understand his accounts. He may really be unable to give half as much as you think he should, and he may have perfectly satisfactory reasons for his conduct, which he does not think it necessary to disclose. And supposing him to give far less than his ability; if you insist on reaching his standard of contribution, you must also expect to be exposed, as he is, to God's displeasure.

No, let Williams do as he pleases, do you act as responsible for yourself to God. As it is, when A breaks his arm, B looks around to see how much C will give, thus showing a more liberal disposition with his neighbor's money than with his own; thus almost every purse is closed until C opens his, and consequently benevolent enterprises languish and sometimes die, because one stands looking at another. However, the time is soon coming when you must surrender yourself, and you would do well “to make to yourself” friends of the unrighteous mammon, that when ye fail they may receive you into everlasting habitations.”

**COMMUNICATIONS.**

**FOR THE OBSERVER.**

Messrs. Editors:—Your remarks in the Monday's Observer, respecting the Taxes assessed and to be collected the present year, to meet the interest upon the Town Bonds, brings to mind some observations made by you, through the same medium, one year since, commending the action of the then Board of Commissioners in assessing a Tax sufficiently large to meet the interest as it became due, and also to lay the foundation for a sinking fund for the redemption of the bonds, when they came to maturity. Some of our citizens then thought the tax unnecessarily large, as the bonds were not disposed of; but the taxes generally were freely paid, thinking that what was not wanted to meet the interest, would be invested in the sinking fund, and there left to accumulate until it was wanted. My object now is to make some little inquiry respecting this sinking fund; and to know who are the sinking fund Commissioners? It is a matter of importance to have some light upon the subject. By reference to a statement of the Town Treasurer, July 1st, '57, I find there was on hand at that date, \$1,744 24 Interest on bonds sold, due that day, \$1425. Is that balance invested, as it should be, in a sinking fund? Will our City Fathers (who promised to do so much for the benefit of our Town) enlighten us? Tax time will soon be at hand, and our citizens would be pleased to know how our cash account stands. Let us have the desired information before we are called upon for more. We pause for a reply.

This is written by no opponent of the work, or of the tax; but by a warm friend of the former, and cheerful payer of the latter.

**FOR THE OBSERVER.**

**AMERICAN MEETING IN MONTGOMERY.**

TROY, April 8, 1857.  
After a short notice, a large assemblage of the citizens convened in the Court House. The Meeting was organized by the appointment of Dr. J. H. Montgomery, Chairman, and John S. Chambers, Secretary.

The Meeting being organized, on motion a committee of three was appointed to draw up Resolutions expressive of the object and will of the Meeting. The Committee consisting of S. H. Christian, David Bruton and Alvis Jordan, having retired, the Meeting was ably entertained by M. Q. Waddell, Esq. of Chatham, until their report, when through their Chairman, they reported the following Preamble and Resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, We the people of Montgomery county view with the deepest interest the importance of the next Congressional election, and much regret that our able representative the Hon. E. G. Reade has on account of ill health declined a reelection,

Therefore Resolved, That the Chairman appoint twelve delegates to meet with others, appointed from the several counties in this Congressional District, in a general Convention, and nominate a Candidate to represent us in the next Congress.

Resolved, That we recommend said Convention to be held in Graham, Alamance county, on the 20th of May next.

The Chairman then appointed the following delegates: S. H. Christian, E. G. L. Barringer, P. Fry, D. S. Pemberton, John S. Chambers, Jeremiah Luther, A. McLendon, Jesse Spencer, C. J. Cochran, Zebedeo Russell, E. J. Christian and J. T. Bruton.

On motion, it was Resolved that copies of these proceedings be forwarded to the Argus, Observer and Register, with a request for their publication.  
J. H. MONTGOMERY, Chm'n.  
JOHN S. CHAMBERS, Sec'y.

**The Bird**