...torial.

At the request of an esteemed friend who begs [illegible] to publish the following extract from an Address of Dr. [illegible] SATCHWELL, delivered at the eighth annual meeting of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina, held at Edenton in April last. We have not the pleasure of Dr. Satchwell's acquaintance; but judging of the size of his muscles by the print of his fist, we take it that he is unable to wield a club which forty of the impiries whom he assails could not lift; and we hope that he may entirely succeed in cleansing the Augean Stable of medical charlatanry of the vermin on which he has chosen to make war. The accomplished physician is a blessing to the community in which Providence has cast his lot—as we have reason gratefully to acknowledge: but minerals—as also vegetable remedies—are edged tools in the hands of the uninitiated; and it concerns the interests of humanity that all such should be sternly frowned down.—But here is the extract. Let the reader judge for himself, and say whom he will trust:

"The imperfect preliminary education of practitioners is another obstacle to the progress of medicine. Here I am aware I am on ground familiar to those who are acquainted with the transactions of the American Medical Association. But the subject is worthy the consideration of State medical bodies, as well as our higher national organization; and its general importance commends it to the attention of all.

Medicine is an elaborate science: or rather it is the science of sciences. It is based on all the natural sciences. Chemistry, botany, physical and mental science, geology and mineralogy, are all laid under contributions by medical science. Some of the finest illustrations of principles of natural philosophy are seen in the human body. It is well known, that to acquire a knowledge of these natural sciences, requires mental culture, logical acumen, capacity to think and investigate. The mind must be well trained before it can grasp them. And yet, young men plunge into medical science, the most subtle, comprehensive, and complicated of all the sciences, not only without a knowledge of these natural sciences, but unable to read the Latin of their diplomas, or to write, and speak their mother tongue correctly.

Among regularly licensed practitioners, how many are there who know the botany of medical plants—those beneficent productions of nature to relieve the ills of life; how many understand the acoustic principles of the stethescope, now used by nearly every physician; how many have ever looked through, or know the principles of construction of, the microscope, that valuable auxiliary of modern scientific investigation? Of the fifteen hundred graduates that annually issue from the medical colleges of the Union how many are there that have that mental training and knowledge of these preliminary studies, so indispensable to him who would know the labyrinthian ways of our science?

I need not say, that tortuous and rugged is the way that leads to a knowledge of medicine. He who would revel in the rich luxuries that lie waiting within her golden temple, must expect to do so, not by the arts of legerdemain, or the tricks of demagogism, but by long, laborious, mental application, ardent love of truth—skillful interpretation of the laws of nature, is the price he must pay. The ever-varying phenomena of life, in health and disease, the wide domain and diversified character of remedial agencies, the sound judgment and active sympathies necessary to constitute a successful practice of our heaven-born science, demand a cultivation of the head and heart. The intellect as well as the moral nature and affections must be educated. That these requirements are not observed; that educational deficiencies are a great cause of the overflowing numbers in the profession, in opposition to that maxim of political economy, that the supply should not exceed the demand, are truths, I regret to say, too obvious to be denied. But it is said that all successful and eminent physicians are not thus educated. This is true; but such men are nevertheless educated. They may never have been in an academy, or a college, but they have been trained in the rigid school of poverty and self-dependence, which may have given them a discipline, a power of thought, and a knowledge of human nature and the world at large, not always to be obtained at universities. They are men of iron will and inflexible determination, which nothing can resist; and the very hardships which they undergo, and the struggles they make to supply early and conscious deficiencies, call into requisition habits of self-reliance and mental effort, constituting an education in the broad sense of the term. There are comparatively few possessed of the indomitable energy; and this fact is the best evidence of the correctness of my position.

The cause of this imperfect preliminary education is referrible in a great degree, to the medical colleges. The requirements for admission into, and graduation at, nearly all of the thirty odd medical schools of the country, are not only low and imperfect, but mostly nominal, at that. A young man may leave the plough, workshop, or merchant's counter, enter a physician's office for a year or so, attend two courses of medical lectures, and graduate as a peer of the most skillful and thoroughly educated physician in the land. No preparatory education, or even preliminary medical reading is required. The great desideratum with the medical colleges is for him to pay for his ticket for two sessions. The matter of his attendance on the college exercises, and even moral character for honor, truth, and rectitude, weigh but little in the scale of estimate. Thus it is, that swarms of doctors issue annually from the medical schools. They commence practice, most of them ignorant of their profession; and to that extent are really entitled to commiseration. Inflated with the pride and vanity of a diploma, and deluded with false hopes of success, the young graduate settles in some town or village, and unfurls his banner to the breeze. Cases soon present themselves, some of them difficult to manage; he has never seen any like, them before. His books, for the first time, are at fault. His position is now different from sitting in the lecture rooms of his *alma mater*, listening to lectures on health, and disease, and remedies. Defeat and mortification meet him on all sides. A gathering storm destroys the flattering hopes of his bright medical fancy. He begins to lose confidence in himself; he begins to find that his has not science to sustain him. He blunders along in the dark. Disappointment follows disappointment. He finds himself casting about upon the stormy sea of uncertainty, with no safe guides to keep his frail bark from perishing. He sees no means of securing a fair name, and of earning an honest living. The consequence is, that he is either obliged to commence anew some other more suitable occupation, or resort to every species of empiricism to get a living. A large majority of the quacks of the land are graduates of what are called regular medical colleges. Rushing into these colleges without adequate preparation, spending their time and money at them to little advantage, unwilling to make up for early insufficiencies by protracted mental labor and self-denial, they find that they have reckoned without their host;—that they have mistaken their calling;—that they are mere cyphers in the most eminent and laborious of professions. Such men are to be pitied. Those who have been mainly instrumental in placing them in this unfortunate condition,—who have, with great *eclat*, crowned them with the highest honors of a medical college,—are the very first to neglect them, and to sneer at them in their pitiable condition. Such young men, while too late in discovering their error, in their hearts censure their *alma mater* for their misfortunes. They know, as we all know, that it is the "ambitious struggles of competition—the love of fame, money and numbers" that causes these institutions to disregard the claims of humanity and science, in the matters which actuate them in these matters.

But the colleges reply that they operate on the imperfect materials furnished them by the profession, that it is with the profession the reform must commence. This plea of theirs is not sufficient excuse for the error of graduating young men as they do. They could and should place themselves on high and elevated grounds in this important matter; and the profession would then rise to a corresponding level. Nevertheless, a wrong is often committed by physicians in taking incompetent men into their offices to study medicine. It seems to me, that many of us commit an error in recommending young men to engage in the profession, without this preparation of which I have spoken. Let physicians maintain a firm and elevated position in this respect; let them, on all occasions, dissuade young men from engaging in the practice of medicine, on their own responsibility, until they have become well grounded in its principles, and have seen and studied for themselves, as far as possible, the varied phenomena of disease, and its treatment; and we shall thus discharge a duty we owe to them, to ourselves, to our profession, and to the community.

Another circumstance militating against the progress of medical science is the want of protection to the profession by legal statute. Any one who chooses, can now practice medicine or surgery, and thereby misrepresent the profession and bring discredit upon it. It is said that medicine ought to protect itself; but this is at variance with the doctrines of political economy that have been recognised in state and national legislation, ever since the science of political economy had an existence. And such is the nature of of medical science, that the world at large finds it difficult to discriminate between it and empiricism. A large portion, learned as well as unlearned, often find it difficult to make a correct estimate of the qualifications of professional men. Perhaps in no professions are there so many successful modes of deluding and imposing upon mankind as there are in the medical. Hence it is, that medical science and the public safety, present imposing claims upon legislators, to institute such laws as are most likely to meet these claims. The moral force of associated medical effort has done much, and is destined to do a vast deal more, for the profession and the public good; but it is important and right to add legal sanction, to aid in suppressing the medical delusions and licentiousness of the times. Wherever the people have made these laws, by instituting medical boards of encouraging science, and of discouraging incompetent men from practice, there the profession has been materially improved, and the public safety guarded. I believe the records will bear me out in this assertion, as well as in adding, that wherever such laws have been repealed, it has been done against the will of the profession, and political demagogueism.

I am aware that a small but respectable number of practitioners are opposed to the establishment of these medical boards; but in the main, they are either those who have some direct personal interest in a medical college, or those laggards in the profession who are unwilling to measure their insufficiencies with those generous minds who are nobly battling for medical improvement.

I regret that in this matter our own Legislature has exhibited such determined resistance to the pleadings of humanity and science. A bill aiming at the appointment, on proper principles, of a medical board, was rejected at the last session. For several sessions past, the Legislature has refused to legislate on the subject. The national government will not allow any one to practice medicine and surgery in the army and navy without an endorsement of qualifications by a competent medical tribunal. The State will not allow any one to plead your case in a court of justice without authority from the Supreme Court. She will not allow her free school teachers to teach your children without permission from boards of examiners. And yet, so cheap is her estimate of human life, that she opens the doors wide, to any and all who will, to traffic in the health and lives of her citizens.

I am informed by a physician, that there were some twelve or fifteen physicians who occupied seats with him in the House of Commons of the last Legislature. That very few of them were in favor of any project for a medical board; and when the decisive vote was taken on the medical bill, only three or four of them voted for it. Several legal gentlemen not only voted for, but ably advocated, its passage, and for one, I return them, on this occasion, my thanks for this independent advocacy of the best interests of the Commonwealth.

The Journals of the last Legislature will show when published, the proceedings and votes on this bill. Not one physician, so far as I can learn, was heard to raise his voice in the last Legislature in behalf of the rights of his profession, and of the public good, in this relation. So far from this, is not the conclusion inevitable, that the course which these physicians pursued towards this medical bill caused its defeat?—Why did so many of them endeavor to raise a panic among the members,—that the bill was unpopular with the people—that if they passed such a bill it would be the death knell of their political hopes for the future? It would not have been legislating for the medical profession, any more than for the welfare and safety of their constituency, for the members of the Legislature to have passed this just and reasonable bill.—The true statesman will breast the storm of popular clamor, in order to do good service to his State, and is willing to work on and wait for time to vindicate the correctness of his course; but the political *trademan* chooses to float smoothly along upon the bosom of the popular current, even if he knows it to be freighted with destruction to the best interests of the people. The fate of this bill is additional evidence of the fact, that medical science, need not look to the tricky domain of political life, or among those who work the wires that control legislative action, for her most reliable friends.

But I do not despair. Rather am I disposed to appeal from the decision of the Legislature, to the virtue and intelligence of the people, and to utter my belief that those who opposed this bill from selfish motives of popularity, have mistaken public sentiment. At any rate, when the subject is more generally and correctly understood, the voice of the people will demand that the Legislature shall no longer continue to place scientific practitioners on an equality with the ignorant and prowling quacks of the land. I need not enlarge on the subject of a medical board. It was well presented in the eloquent address delivered before the society last year by Dr Edward Warren of this town. If those legislators who have heretofore opposed, in this way, the claims of humanity and science, should continue their opposition, then may others, influenced by better counsels and more comprehensive liberality, be elevated to the positions heretofore occupied by the time serving narrow minded.

Evil, wide spread evil, is the result of want of legal recognition of the claims of medical science, and of the science of success in profession. It dishonors public respect for profession as a body, and tends to deter talented and educated young men of the from engaging in a calling where dishonorable is placed on an equality with merit and knowledge. It encourages, with mere drones—with resting [illegible] with men who are too indolent to read, [illegible] to learn. It encourages that professional demagogueism, which, I regret have to acknowledge, seems on the the profession. Men who have the [illegible] and intellect to succeed in other [illegible] often obtain success in medicine, by the authority of a diploma. They frequent the most unworthy means to obtain practice gain popularity. Unassisted by science, strive to make up the deficiency by assi that inability of a great many to [illegible] tional medicine from blustering charlatans hide their ignorance in mystic [illegible] own creation; deceive by their [illegible] vellous cures never performed, [illegible] ments never accomplished; [illegible] publishing impudence in public [illegible] private—at the domestic fireside [illegible] corners of streets, and [illegible] ty church-yards. There [illegible] enough to believe [illegible] reptiles were [illegible] receives credence to matters of Such men practice medicine altogether They constitute the main portion of their medical demagogues, who, without merit or knowledge to sustain them, succeed by obsequious manners, and sycophancy to the wealthy and influential around them. They have their "runners" or "strikers" to aid them in blowing their own trumpets, or in insidious efforts to injure some rival practitioner. They will meet an honorable competitor with a smiling countenance and warm greeting, and perhaps whisper in his ear flattery and professions of friendship. The next day they will be relating "in confidence," to a select circle, some "lie" affecting his moral or professional character. Bring them to an accountability, and they will manage, like the eel, to slip out of it, saving their bodies from harm, but leaving their offensive slime behind. The cowardly assassin, who, in the hour of midnight, thrusts his stiletto in the heart of his unsuspecting victim, is not more mean and murderous in intention than these men, who, with deceitful and treacherous hearts, base innendoes, and a hypocritical shrugging up of the shoulders, would advance themselves by injuring the personal or professional character of some worthy and high-minded rival,—it may be some poor and deserving young physicians, just starting out in life. If there be any class of demagogues who deserve to be stretched high upon the gallows of public condemnation, such medical malefactors are the men. I fear there are many of them in North Carolina, with nicely framed diplomas hanging up in their offices. They are loud in professions of regular practice, and in a strict observance of ethical rules; but "by their *works* ye shall know them." They are generally found to be members of that political party and of that religious sect which has the most influence in their respective places of practice. By such a course of hypocritical cant and fawning upon power and wealth—flattery of old maids and young maids—sly and underhanded attacks upon those supposed to be in their way, such men make money, and often fortunes, while, perhaps, [illegible] and want is the lot of some rival vastly their [illegible] in all respects, [illegible] of principle and honor, and who despise contemptible means of obtaining practice under the name of regular practice, some of the most despicable empiricism in the land is practiced upon the public. We talk about the [illegible] side impositions of charlatans; but the profession has more to apprehend from the empiricism of some of its own recognized regulars, than from any other class of medical impostors. We talk about the evils to the public, of patent medicines; but they are not surpassed by the silly insinuations and quackeries of some graduates;—as, for instance, the arrogant assumptions of such humbuggery as Hunter's processes of inhalation. The quack advertisements of newspapers are not more empirical than the advertisements of some of the so-called regular medical colleges.

Is it not the duty of every honorable medical gentleman to array himself against all such empiricism and demagogueism, so withering in its influences upon all that is beautiful and noble in the profession? It should be branded wherever it is seen. To resist such influences the more effectually, there must be union among those who are *really* entitled to be called medical gentlemen. The "good men and true" in the profession must themselves be united and harmonious. Nothing is more deplorable in the profession, than to see such men disunited or at war one with another. It ought to be printed in letters of gold on every diploma, that honor, truth, justice and concord is the spirit of medical science; and under this should follow the inscription, that he who degrades an honorable rival, degrades himself and his profession.

PECUNIARY VALUE OF EDUCATION.

There have been many attempts to estimate the pecuniary value of an education so far as it bears upon the public and the State, in the saving of pauperism and crime, and conducing to national prosperity.—But for the individual, it has often been regarded more as a burden for which he has to pay, rather than as the fleet of all properties which it is possible for a farther to give his child, or labors by which a young man can begin to acquire his own fortune.

But take a strong, hearty laboring man, without any education at all—one who is not able to read or write, nor acquainted with any trade, nor instructed in any handicraft employment whatever. Suppose him to be honest and truthful, and willing to do his best, yet how much would he be worth more than his board? If he knew something of farm work, and has had experience in horses, he might still be hired by the year in many parts of the State for $10 a month and his board, which might be called as much more.

But let him have a good common school education, so that he could read, write and cypher, he can as a salesman or in teaching, easily earn $450 a year at once; that is, $200 a year as long as he lives, for his education. Suppose him to pass through College respectably, and he can at once get from $650 to $850 as an engineer or surveyor or teacher. So that a college education makes a man worth $500 a year more, so long as he lives, than if he had not enjoyed it. We say nothing in all this of the security it affords against crime and disgrace, nothing as to the superior character of the friends and companions it will bring round him, and who can and will help him to situations of trust and honor. We say nothing of the larger number of gratifications and enjoyments of an innocent and improving character it would open up before him. But speak only of the immediate and direct pecuniary advantage.

Supposing a young man at 21 years of age to have accomplished this; the Chester Life tables would show us that he has an expectation of living upwards of forty years—that of receiving in [illegible] for it, hard cash, $20,000, at the rate of [illegible] a year. Supposing that commencing at [illegible] it cost him two years to prepare for college, and four years to go through, and that each year he spends $200 more than he earns, that is $1,200, and the interest.—With diligence he can teach school, study a profession, and pay all this off in three years. After that, he has a certain income that is better than any other for fortune, is this, that *it cannot be spent*. It is better far than it would be to put $10,000 into the average of young men at 21 or even at 24.

But the important advantage of an education is, that it multiplies a man's power of usefulness, and of acquiring wealth at a much greater ratio in proportion as it is combined with other qualities, and as he advances in years or his physical powers decay.

For instance, take a completely uneducated man, and it is only his honesty and his physical industry that gives his labor any value in commercial point of view. He can perhaps mow, or he can reap so much land per day, and he will not rob at night.—But every new mowing and reaping machine introduced, can do his work better and more quickly, and this yearly diminishes the value of his labor. But on the contrary, all these improvements in the value of educated labor, that is of the mechanic who can *calculate* as well as work; the machinist who can form patterns and adapt machinery to all the wants of civilized life, becomes every year more in demand and better paid, and the architect and engineer of high ability receive yearly immense incomes.

When education is combined with great physical [illegible] it more than doubles the value of [illegible] man who can, with the same hand draw the plan of a building and assist in its execution, directing each workman, often makes thousands thus, and the artillery officer who can estimate the weak points of an enemy, and then charge at the head of his men, thinking with the wisest, and fighting with the bravest, that man justly deserves the rank and pay of sdozen mere fighting men, or a dozen mere thinking men either.

But it is where, in addition to this the highest moral qualities are also combined, that the value of education is chiefly apparent. That self command, honor and strict integrity which enables a man to lead and combine the wills of others and make him trustworthy by all, when united with qualities, produce a character, the value of which even pecuniarily it seems at times impossible to estimate. Edgar Poe possessed a brilliant intellect and the highest powers, but died a beggar, simply from a terrible lack of all moral power of self control. Arnold was brave, and Aaron Burr was able, but the want of moral principle ruined the prospects and power of each of them. But in the character of Washington, we have one of the finest combinations of the three in history. Physically active and strong, his intellectual powers, though not so brilliant, were more solid than those of Burr, and his uniformity and lofty simplicity and integrity combined to form a character that made worth to the country and to the history of the world, what no money can estimate. But what Washinton have been without the study of mathematics, and without his combined education in the woods as a surveyor, and in the field as a soldier? An honest American gentleman, like hundreds of others, it was *education*, combining and cementing into a unit his noble powers, that gave value to the man.

GUANO—ITS HISTORY.

Guano, as most people understand, is imported from the island of the Pacific, mostly of the Chincha group, off the coast of Peru, and under the dominion of that government.

Its sale is made a monopoly, and the avails, to a great extent, go to pay the British holders of [illegible] bonds, giving them, to all intents and purposes a lien upon the profits of a treasure intrinsically more valuable than the gold mines of California. There are deposits of this unsurpassed fertilizer in some places to the depth of sixty or seventy feet, and over large extents of surface. The guano fields are generally conceded to be the excrement of aquatic fowls, which live and nestle in great numbers around the islands. They seem designated by nature to rescue, at least inpart, that untold amount of fertilizing material which every river and brooklet is rolling into the sea. The wash of alluvial soils, the floating refuse of the field and forest, and, above all, the wasted materials of great cities are constantly being carried by the tidal currents out to sea. These to a certain extent, at least, go to nourish, directly or indirectly, submarine vegetable and animal life, which in turn goes to feed the birds, whose excrement at our day are brought away by the ship load from the Chincha islands.

The bird is a beautifully-arranged chemical laboratory, fitted up to perform a single operation, viz: to take the fish as food, burn out the carbon by means of its respiratory functions, and deposit the remainder in the shape of an incomparable fertilizer. But how many ages have these depositions of seventy feet in thickness been accumulating!

There are at the present day countless numbers of the birds resting upon the the islands at night; but, according to Baron Humboldt, the excrements of the birds for the space of three centuries, would not form a stratum over one third of of an inch in thickness. By an easy mathematical calculation, it will be seen that at this rate of deposition, it would take seven thousand five hundred and sixty centuries, or seven hundred and fifty-six thousand years to form the deepest guano bed! Such a calculation carries us back well on towards a former geological period, and proves one, and perhaps both, of two things—first, that in the past ages an infinitely greater number of these birds hovered over the islands; and secondly, that the material world existed at a period long anterior to its fitness as the abode of man. The length of man's existence is infinitesimal, compared with such a cycle of years; and the facts recorded on every leaf of the material universe ought, if it does not, to teach us humility. That a little bird whose individual existence is as nothing should, in its united action, produce the means of bringing back to an active fertility whole provinces of waste and barren lands, is one of a thousand facts to show how apparently insignificant agencies in the economy of nature produce momentous results.

London Farmers' Magazine.

GOLD IN MOORE COUNTY.—Our friend R. W. Goldston, Esq., has shown us some rich specimens of gold taken from the Cagle Mine in Moore county. The nuggets of gold, just as they came from the mine, appear to be entirely free from the mixture with any base metal. We regret that we cannot offer to exhibit and give any specimens to our friends, as we do of copper, coal, lead, &c., People who have gold mines and show us specimens, singularly enough, do not imitate the liberal actions of the coal and copper people, who have kept us well supplied for some years past.—*Observer.*

ADVANCE IN GUANO.—The Alexandria Gazette states that the price of Peruvian Guano, has advanced from $57 to $60 per ton in that market. The cause assigned for this advance is the limited supply in the difficulty in getting it from the Chincha islands, in consequence of the revolutionary movements in Peru.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN (NEW SCHOOL) CONVENTION.

This Convention met in Richmond on Thursday last, delegates (124 in number) being present from Presbyteries in Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky, Virginia, Mississippi and Maryland. Hon. Horace Maynard, of Tennessee, was chosen President of the Convention.

A resolution was adopted appointing one clergyman and one layman from each Synod, to constitute a committee to prepare business for the Convention.

Subsequently the business committee made the following report, which was laid over for further consideration:

Whereas, all acts, reslutions and testimonies of past General Assemblies, and especially the acting of the last General Assembly, whereby suspicion and doubts of the good standing and equal rights and privileges of slaveholding members of the Church, of imputations or charges against their christian character, have been either implied or expressed, are contrary to the example and teaching of Christ and his Apostles, and are a violation of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church.

And whereas, the relation of master and servant, *in itself considered*, or further than the relative duties arising therefrom, and slavery as an institution of the State, do not properly belong to the church indicatories as subjects for discussion and inquiry.

And whereas, in the judgment of this Convention, there is no prospect of the cessation of this agitation of slavery in the General Assembly, so long as there are slaveholders in connection with the church: Therefore,

Resolved, That, in the judgment of this Convention, nothing can be made the basis of discipline in the Presbyterian Church which is not especially referred to in the constitution as crime or heresy.

Resolved, That the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church has no power to pronounce sentence of condemnation on a lower judicatory, or on individuals, for any cause, unless they have been brought before the Assembly in the way prescribed by the constitution.

Resolved, That the Convention recommend to all Presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church, which are opposed to the agitation of slavery in the highest judicatory of the church, to appoint delegates in the proportion prescribed by our form of government for the appointment of commissioners to the Assembly, to meet at Knoxville, Tenn., on the 3d Thursday in May, 1858, for the purpose of organizing a General Synod, under the name of "The United Synod of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America."

Resolved, That the members of this Convention adhere to, and abide by, the confession of faith of the Presbyterian Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and that we adhere to the form of government and Book of Discipline of said church.

Three of these resolutions were afterwards adopted. The one containing the proposal for the organization of a General Synod led to an excited debate; pending which, the Convention adjourned. The proceedings thus far have been perfectly harmonious.

THE CRAIG TELESCOPE.—This gigantic and magnificent instrument may justly be termed an unsurpassed triumph of human skill. The length of the main tube, which is shaped somewhat like a cigar is seventy-six feet; but, with an eye piece at the narrow end and a dew cap at the other, the total length in use is eighty five feet. The design of the dew cap is to prevent obscuration by the condensation of moisture which takes place during the night, when the instrument is mostly in use. Its exterior is bright metal; the interior is painted black. The tube at its greatest circumference measures thirteen feet, and this part is about twenty-four feet from the object glass. The large flint glass is twenty four inches in diameter—perfectly clear, and homogeneous in structure. The tube rests upon a light wooden frame work, with iron wheels attached, and is fitted to a circular iron railway at a distance of fifty two feet from the center of the tower. The chain by which it is lowered is capable of sustaining a weight of thirteen tons, though the weight of the tube is only three. The slightest force applied to the wheel on this iron rail causes the instrument to move horizontally round the central tower, while a wheel at the right hand of the observer enables him to elevate or depress the object glass with the greatest precision and facility. The magnifying power of this telescope is so great that—to use a plain expression—by it a quarter inch letter can be read at the distance of half a mile.

RACE BETWEEN WAR STEAMERS.—We have been permitted to see an extract of a letter received at the Navy Department, dated August 13, from which it appears that, on returning to England, a trial of speed took place between her Britanic Majesty's ship the Agamemnon and the United States steam-frigate Niagara and Susquehanna. The Niagara soon evinced her superior speed. This circumstance is very gratifying as the Agamemnon is said to be the "crack" vessel of the English navy, easily making eleven or twelve knots per hour. The circumstances attending the race are described in the letter above mentioned as follows:

"This morning, (the 13th,) at 9 o'clock, the Susquehanna was about two miles ahead; we were just abeam of the Agamemnon. Capt. Sands signalized, 'I'm going to Plymouth;' as much as to say, 'Can't wait for such slow coaches.' We concluded to go to Plymouth also. Each ship's smoke-pipe at once told the tale of hard firing-up. The sea was smooth and the wind light.

"At five o'clock in the afternoon the positions of the vessels were nearly as follows: The Agamemnon was far astern, we could just see her smoke; the Susquehanna was about seven or eight miles astern."

As Capt. Hudson, however, wished to keep company with the Agmemnon, the Niagara stopped and waited for her to come up. During the race the Niagara's speed was twelve knots.

A table, showing the relative value of the real and personal estate in the city and county of New York, as assessed in 1856 and 1857, has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors, by which it appears that this year gives $7,435,972 being $521,175,252. The assessed value of personal estate has decreased four millions, while the real estate has increased about eleven and a half millions.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Sept. 1.

THE U. S. AGRICULTURAL FAIR.—The U. S. Agricultural Exhibition opened here yesterday, Marshall P. Wilder made an eloquent address. Fifteen thousand persons were present, half of whom were ladies, the flower of old Kentucky. Many distinguished visitors were also present.

The day was devoted to the trial of speed on the race course, and the voluntary exhibition of horses. Six or seven hundred head of superior stock were entered. Entries still being made. Weather delightful.

BREAKING OF THE CABLE.

The following dispatch, taken from the London Times of the 15th, gives an account of the breaking of the cable:

PLYMOUTH, Aug., 14.—Evening.—The U. S. steam frigate Niagara, Captain Hudson, from the Atlantic, followed by the Susquehanna, Captain Sands, and her majesty's screw steamship Agamemnon, Master Commander Noddall, entered the Sound this afternoon on their return from their unsuccessful effort to lay the telegraphic cable. On board the Niagara they report that at the time of the severance, a quarter to four o'clock on Tuesday morning, 385 nautical or about 380 statute miles had been laid, at a distance of 200 to 980 miles in a direct course from Valentia. The wind was southerly, there was some sea, and the ship was going from three to four knots, and the cable paying out five to six, and sometimes seven knots.

As the quantity of slack thus expended was greater than expected at starting, and more than could be afforded, the retard strain was therefore increased to a pressure of 3,000 pounds, and the cable broke.

The extra expenditure of slack commenced on Monday evening, when a strong breeze and heavy swell prevailed, and a powerful undercurrent was experienced.—This current forced the wire from the ship at a considerable angle.

When the break was applied with increased power the stern of the Niagara was down in the trough of a sea, and the extra strain created by her raising was the immediate cause of the cable's parting.

The Susquenana was a mile off the Niagara's starboard beam; the Agamemnon, the Cyclops, and the Leopard were within hailing distance.

Soundings were found by the Cyclops at 2,000 fathoms. At night they kept a course E. S. E. under easy steam and on Wednesday morning at ten o'clock bore up for Plymouth Sound. The general opinion is that the season is too far advanced for another effort now, but every confidence is expressed in the ultimate success of the undertaking. The machinery now aboard the Niagara is considered too heavy for the purpose. It is stated that the wheels ceased to revolve when the pressure was applied on Tuesday morning.

LAND AND LIBERTY.

In all nations, the monopoly of the land by a few individuals has proven a curse to society. It brings about a state of extreme wealth holding the reins over extreme poverty. The following from the Washington Star is the most sensible article we have yet seen on the subject:

"The price of land is the thermometer of liberty. The laboring class are freest when lands are cheapest. Lands do not breed any more than money, and rents are the usurious exactions of capital. When a few own all the lands, they can and do prescribe the condition on which the laboring masses shall dwell upon "the earth." These conditions in many parts of western Europe have become intolerable: and famine is the normal and chronic condition of the laboring masses. They who rear all the fruits of the earth are allowed to enjoy scarcely any of them. The idle and luxurious capitalist has "muzzled the ox that treadeth out the straw." He lives in luxury, and pays the laborers who supports him nothing, and does not allow them from the proceeds of their labor half as much as masters in our southern States allow slaves—and hence "free labor is cheaper than slave labor."—Hence, lands are dearer in western Europe than in Russia or Turkey. Land monopoly destroys liberty. Rome struggled for five hundred years to prevent the grasping Patricians from monopolising her public lands. Her policy in the disposition of her lands was just the same as ours. She endeavored to sell them only in small parcels. This was the object of her Licinian and (miscalled) agrarian laws. But the Patricians evaded all such enactments. Extreme wealth, extream poverty, and universal corruption were the consequences of this monopolising system. Roman senators became usurers and extortionists, living in the city palaces, instead of cultivating small estates in the country, like Cincinnatus and the Scipios. The decline and fall of the Empire were mainly owing to these causes.

ANOTHER WALKER EXPEDITION.—Some parties in this city who have heretofore been conspicuously engaged in General Walker's Central American crusade, significantly assert that preparations are on foot for another grand demonstration, at no distant day. A secret plan is said to exist which contemplates the raising of an army of ten thousand men, all of whom shall embark, or set sail, about the same time, for some port in Nicaragua. Nothing is to be left undone which shall tend to secure efficiency and eventual success. Baltimore is to furnish from three to four hundred, as her complement of the above named army, with full equipments, money, &c. It is further stated that persons, fully pledged, have already been secured in that city, who are only waiting due notice, and the full consummation of Gen. Walker's plans, to be off. It is known as the "Central American League." Who the parties are attached to the league, we are unable to say; or whether they have been absolutely consolidated as rumored, cannot be fully ascertained, except so far as current rumor goes.—Such secret fillibustering expeditions are reprehensible, and if the one in question does really exist, its movements will, doubtless, be more fully ascertained in due time. New York, Boston, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and all the other leading cities of the Union, are said to be united in this movement.—*Baltimore Patriot.*

Wake Forest College.—We were pleased to find the usual number of students in attendance this session. In the Collegiate department there has been an increase over last year. The prospects of the Institution are now brighter in regard to the completion of the endowment than they have ever been before. There seems to be a general feeling among the friends of the College that the raising of the proposed $50,000 may now be regarded as a fixed fact, that it will be all subscribed this fall. We sincerely hope that it will be done. If the friends of the College, who have not yet subscribed on this proposition, will only be as liberal as those that have, the remaining deficit will soon be raised, and the whole amount secured to the institutions in *perpetuo.*—*Biblical Recorder*