

ITEMS.

Why is the credit of Stephenson much better than that of his partners? Do we give it up? Because they have stopped and he has not.

The Paris papers state that the most brilliant discoveries are making daily in Heracleum and Pompeii. A magnificent mansion is gradually emerging from the volcanic ashes—its interior is decorated with beautiful paintings, and the garden surrounded with colonades. Some of the paintings are said to be superior to any thing heretofore discovered of ancient art.

Progress of Refinement.—A late London paper states that a man is exhibiting at Richmond Arms, Basing, 100 live rats in a cage, and he intends exhibiting himself among 200 of the same vermine; allowing them to crawl over him; after which his dog Rover, cousin of the celebrated Billy, is matched to kill too rats in a minute.

There is now living in Providence a man, aged about 58 years, who was never out of the State of Rhode Island, never sick, or took medicine; never sued, or was sued, has been up before sunrise every day in the last 40 years, and has not tasted any kind of inebriating liquor for 50 years.

In a case lately tried in Dublin, a gentleman, called as a witness, was asked whether his brother, the plaintiff, lived happily with his wife? He replied that they lived as agreeably as any couple of married people could.

The editor of the Portsmouth Journal states that a man who a few years ago was blessed with about \$20,000 lottery money, applied to him on the 10th inst. for 12 1/2 cents to pay for a night's lodgings!

The Kennebec Journal, Augusta, (Maine) states that fortunately for the world, the proper use of N. E. Rum has been discovered at last, and that is to kill lice upon calves backs!!

The Dumfries (Scotland) paper asserts that a Dutch cur dog, belonging to a Mr. McWhir, has been taught to articulate the word "William" very distinctly.—He is not the only dog who can call names.

N. Y. Enquirer.

The Hon. Ezra C. Gross, a member of the New York Assembly, from the county of Essex, died on Thursday week. He had been ill but a few days. He was in Congress a few years since. (1819-21) and was in all respects an estimable man, possessing talents of a superior cast. His death is mourned, and he is seriously felt.

Masquerades.—The New York Evening Journal of the 17th inst. says:—"A person at one of the masquerades last evening, informs us that it was very thin attended, and that there were no females present save those of a doubtful character. At about 11 o'clock some persons came in bearing what was intended to represent the dead body of Mr. Morgan; or as some said, to represent the death of the masquerades."

The Barbary Powers.—It is said that a grand project is in contemplation between the Government of France and that of England, to do away with the small Powers on the Barbary Coast, now become a complete nuisance. The plan is to colonize the Coast of Barbary with French and English subjects, for which they are to obtain the sanction of the Sultan, in a special negotiation, and a person of heretofore great renown is to be employed in the business at the Court of Constantinople.

N. York Courier.

John H. Henshaw, a clerk in the 4th Auditor's office at Washington, cut his throat lately, and thus ended his days. He was a gentleman of fine literary taste, and dignified manners. Supposed to have gone crazy. Various rumors are afloat on the subject; some say that he cut his throat through fear of being removed from office; others, that it was in consequence of having been concerned in certain frauds on the treasury—some say \$45,000 are missing. One thing is certain: Mr. Henshaw left a memorandum, explanatory of certain frauds committed by himself and others on the treasury.

A law has been made in Canton (in China) condemning those who open shops to sell opium, to death by strangling. Those who are caught smoking, to be exposed two months with wooden collars about their necks, after which they are to be sent to the territories, and given to the soldiers as slaves.

Child.—A letter receive in Baltimore from Valparaiso, dated 12th Dec. says:—"Gen. Santa Cruz sails tomorrow in the brig of war Achilles, to take the place of Gen. Sucre, who is driven out of Bolivia. The war is still carried on between Peru and Colombia, but there appears to be some prospects of a reconciliation."

An Honest Prince.—Among the insolvent debtors discharged by the Court in London, on the third ult. was His Highness Gastano Sturubbs, Prince of Giardinili, the eldest son of the present Prince of Sicily. This fellow is an honest Prince, and scorns to make the people pay his debts according to custom.

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY.

The last number of the North American Review contains a critique on Noah Webster's new Dictionary; and as most of our readers doubtless have an anxiety to know something of the merits of this important work, we make the following extract from the Review:

One subject in the early writers of English is abundantly manifest: they aimed at having, at least, letters enough in their spelling, and through fear, as it should seem, of omitting some which might have claims to be used, they often foisted into their words mere superfluities. Thus, after the language, as to words and construction, became in a good measure fixed, it was greatly overcharged, and actually borne down under the weight of its orthography. It may be useful to introduce here a specimen, a few words from Sir Walter Raleigh. Her, we, doe, soone, furre, fude, conveigh, moderate, kinde, businesse, eville, easie, naturall, downe, &c. This is the spelling of one of the most correct as well as most elegant writers of the reign of James the First.

The excesses, which so encumber these words, were gradually lopped off; so that in the history of Clarendon, the improvements in spelling strike us as great. This author wrote most of his words as they are still written; but we find persuaded, suddain, foliole, alarm, &c.; which, orthography, in the late edition of his works, has been altered. He wrote error without a, and scepter, though we find later. He reduced publicke to publick, &c. Dryden was irregular in his orthography; but he threw off some of the lumber of his predecessors, which, in a few instances, has been laid upon him again by his editor, Malone. But there is no advantage in dwelling longer on the history of these changes. As to the variations in orthography proposed and adopted by Dr. Webster, we shall say but little. We see no possible use in retaining the u in the few words which are still extensively written with the termination our, as honour, favour, &c.

As to retaining the letter k at the end of many words, where it is still often placed, we see no objection to Dr. Webster's rule, to retain the k in such words only as have sometimes a syllable added, beginning with e or i. The reason here is plain: the k preserves the pronunciation. But why should any one write publick, when one writes publication? To take another example of a single word, we know of no good reason for writing connection with an x; as it is an anomaly, which has been excluded from writings of the highest authority. Thus Gibbon, and Fox, in his life of James the Second, write this word analogically, connexion.

In some other cases of proposed emendation, we are more doubtful. Dr. Webster, following Milton, prefers highk, and the translators of Niebuhr's history of Rome, which was published in London during the last year, have the same spelling of this word. The same translators write spran and spranty; and Dr. Webster proposes surran, and surranty; though he gives likewise the common orthography of these words. The great objections to changes in spelling lie in the eye; we have been accustomed to see the word worshipping with a double n, and worshipping appears strange, and perhaps odious. But a n might be here as easily spared as an e in kinde, or an i in writ, and an important analogy of the language would be preserved. Sir Walter Raleigh wrote comenke, begg, and meagrely inexpressible.

Besides increasing the number of his definitions, Dr. Webster seems to have aimed at an increased fulness in describing the object or action in view. Thus, under the word bishop, after defining the term, he adds a statement of the mode in which bishops are elected and consecrated to office, both in England and this country. Under the word earth, he enumerates the primitive earths, refers to their metallic bases as discovered by modern chemistry, and he likewise describes the orbit, figure, diameter, and revolution of our globe. Under the word blockade, he states in what cases a port may be considered as truly blockaded. In this respect, the work before us presents not merely the signification of words in their popular import, but, to a certain extent, a scientific enumeration of the properties and relations of the thing described. As examples of Dr. Webster's mode of defining, compared in this respect with Dr. Johnson's, we give the following:

Telescope. Johnson—"A long glass by which distant objects are viewed." Webster—"An optical instrument employed in viewing distant objects, as the heavenly bodies. It assists the eye chiefly in two ways; first, by enlarging the visual angle under which a distant object is seen, and thus magnifying that object; and, secondly, by collecting and conveying to the eye a larger beam of light than would enter the naked organ, and thus rendering objects distinct and visible, which would otherwise be indistinct and invisible. Its essential parts are the object-glass, which collects the beam of light and forms an image of the object; and the eyeglass, which is a microscope by which the image is magnified."

Pursuing the same course in Natural History, Dr. Webster defines the most important terms by a specification of the properties of the objects which these terms designate, and the less important, by referring the several objects to their respective genera. It is unnecessary here to quote examples. In Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology, Dr. Webster has added a great number of words to his vocabulary, and has conferred his definitions to the existing state of knowledge on these subjects. In these and other departments of science, the definitions he informs us, have been submitted to professional gentlemen, whose character is a pledge for the correctness of the statements made. We would remark, however, that the space allotted to different articles in these departments, is not in every instance proportioned to what appears to us to be their relative importance. Historical terms have been added, to a great extent, in this work, and their definitions are in general given with a fulness, which will preclude the necessity of a reference to other works for the true meaning of such words. Where this exact information in the different branches of knowledge can be given within the space allowable in a dictionary, it is desirable, and adds to the value of the work.

Dr. Webster, in the third place has aimed at a more nice and accurate discrimination as to the signification of the terms defined. The leading and important words are not defined by synonyms, which serve only to confuse the mind, but by a brief enumeration of the properties which belong to the object in question.

Frugality is defined by Johnson to be equivalent to 'thrift' or 'parsimony'; by Webster, to be 'that careful management of money or goods, which expends nothing unnecessarily,

and applies what is used to a profitable purpose; that use in which nothing is wasted. It is not equivalent to parsimony, the latter being an excess of frugality, and a fault. Frugality is always a virtue. Nor is it synonymous with thrift in its proper sense; for thrift is the effect of frugality.

Admiration is defined by Johnson to be 'wonder, the act of admiring or wondering.' By Webster, to be 'wonder mingled with pleasing emotions, as approbation, esteem, love, or veneration; a compound emotion excited by something novel, rare, great, or excellent; applied to persons and their works. It often includes a slight degree of surprise. Thus we view the solar system with admiration.'

Magnanimity is defined by Johnson to be 'greatness of mind; bravery, elevation of soul.' By Webster, to be 'that elevation or dignity of soul, which encounters danger and trouble with tranquility and firmness, which raises the possessor above revenge, and makes him delight in acts of benevolence, which makes him disdain unjust and mean, and prompts him to sacrifice personal ease, interest, and safety, for the accomplishment of useful and noble objects.'

Obstinacy is defined by Johnson to be 'stubbornness, contumacy, pertinacity, persistency.' By Webster, to be 'a fixedness in opinion or resolution, that cannot be shaken at all, or not without great difficulty; firm and usually unreasonable adherence to an opinion, purpose, or system; a fixedness that will not yield to persuasion, argument, or other means. Obstinacy may not always convey the idea of unreasonable or unjustifiable firmness; as when we say, soldiers fight with obstinacy. But often, and perhaps usually, the word denotes a fixedness of resolution, which is not to be vindicated under the circumstances.'

Adjournment is defined by Johnson to be 'an assignment of a day, or putting off till another day; delay, procrastination, dismissal to a future time.' By Webster, to be 'the putting off to another day or time specified, or without delay; that is, the closing of a session of a public or official body.' And likewise, 'the time or interval during which a public body defers business; as, during an adjournment. But a suspension of business between the forming of a house and an adjournment, for refreshment, is called a recess. In Great Britain, the close of a session of parliament is called a prorogation; as the close of a parliament is a dissolution. But in Great Britain, as well as in the United States, adjournment is now used for an intermission of business, for any indefinite time; as an adjournment of parliament for six weeks.'

Acumen is defined by Johnson to be, in general, 'quickness of intellect.' By Webster, to be 'a quickness of perception; the facility of nice discrimination.'

Acquire is defined by Johnson, 'to gain by one's own labor or power; to obtain what is not received from nature, or transmitted by inheritance.' By Webster, 'to gain by any means, something which is in a degree permanent, or which becomes vested or inherent in the possessor; as to acquire a title, estate, learning, habits, skill, dominion, &c. Plants acquire a green color from the solar rays. A mere temporary possession is not expressed by acquire, but by gain, obtain, procure; as to obtain (not acquire) a book on loan.'

Obtain is defined by Johnson, 'to gain, to acquire, to procure.' To receive is defined by him, 'to take or obtain any thing.' By Webster these words are thus distinguished, under the word obtain. 'This word usually implies from receive, which may or may not imply exertion. It differs from acquire, as genus from species; acquire being properly applied only to things permanently possessed; but obtain is applied both to things of temporary and of permanent possession. We obtain loans of money on application; we obtain answers to letters; we obtain spirit from liquors by distillation, and salt by evaporation. We obtain by seeking, we often receive without seeking. We acquire or obtain a good title to lands by deed, or by a judgment of court; but we do not acquire spirit by distillation; nor do we acquire an answer to a letter or an application.'

Besides discriminating the signification of words with greater exactness, Dr. Webster has corrected numerous errors into which Dr. Johnson had fallen, through inadvertency, or a want of accurate information. The following may serve as examples of a large number, which we had marked as belonging to this class.

Peculation. Johnson—"Robbery of the public; theft of public money." Webster—"The crime of defrauding the public by appropriating to one's own use the money or goods entrusted to one's care for management or disbursement."

Lens. Johnson—"A glass, spherically convex on both sides." Lenses are not only convex, but concave, planoconvex, &c. The proper correction is made by Webster.

Lemma. Johnson—"A proposition assumed." Webster—"A proposition demonstrated for the purpose of being used in the demonstration of some other proposition."

Coral. Johnson—"A plant of a stony nature." This is corrected by Webster.

Focus. Johnson—"The place where rays meet after refraction." Webster—"after being reflected or refracted."

Flame. Johnson—"Light emitted from fire." It is more than light; it is 'burning vapor,' as defined by Webster.

Earn. Johnson—"To gain as the reward or wages of labor, or any performance." But a man may earn money who never gains it. To earn, is to merit by service, according to Webster.

In the definitions of legal terms especially, Dr. Johnson has fallen into many errors, which Dr. Webster's professional knowledge has enabled him to correct. Thus larceny is defined by Johnson to be 'a petty theft.' It is shown by Dr. Webster to be a generic term, including all kinds of theft, and even burglary and robbery, and is distinguished by him into various classes, as petty and grand larceny, simple and mixed larceny.

Burglary and house-breaking are confounded by Dr. Johnson. Burglary is defined by Dr. Webster to be the crime of house-breaking, when committed in the night.

Robbery. Johnson—"Theft perpetrated by force or with privacy." Robbery, says Dr. Webster, 'differs from theft, as it is a violent felonious taking from the person or presence of another, whereas theft is a felonious taking of goods privately, &c. These words should not be confounded.'

A tough Morsel.—A French writer, speaking of the relative situation of England and Ireland, says that the larger island devoured the smaller, but has never been able to digest it!

GOVERNOR HOUSTON.

From the following document, it will be seen that Gen. Samuel Houston, has resigned the office of Governor of Tennessee; and that consequently, Gen. Wm. Hall, speaker of the Senate, will be the acting Governor, till the election in August. There is something about this movement, that we cannot understand. There are dark hints in the Governor's communication, which seem to envelope the whole transaction in mystery. The Nashville papers are silent, as to the cause of the resignation.

Executive Office, Nashville, Tennessee, 16th April, 1829.

Sir; It has become my duty to resign the office of chief magistrate of the State, and to place in your hands the authority and responsibility which, on such an event, devolves on you by the provisions of the Constitution.

In dissolving the political connexion which has so long, and in such a variety of forms, existed between the people of Tennessee and myself, no private affliction, however deep or incurable, can forbid an expression of the grateful recollections so eminently due to the kind partialities of an indulgent public.

From my earliest youth, whatever of talent was committed to my care, has been honestly cultivated and expended for the common good; and at no period of a life, which has certainly been marked by a full portion of interesting events, have any views of private interest or private ambition been permitted to mingle in the higher duties of public trust. In reviewing the past, I can only regret that my capacity for being useful was so unequal to the devotion of my heart; and it is one of the few remaining consolations of my life, that even had I been blessed with ability equal to my zeal, my country's generous support in every vicissitude of life, has been more than equal to them both.

That veneration for public opinion, by which I have measured every act of my official life, has taught me to hold no delegated power which would not be daily renewed by my constituents, could the choice be daily submitted to a sensible expression of their will. And although shielded by a perfect consciousness of undiminished claim to the confidence and support of my fellow citizens, yet delicately circumstanced as I am, and by my own misfortunes, more than by the fault or contivance of any one—overwhelmed by sudden calamities, it is certainly due to myself, and more respectful to the world, that I should retire from a position, which, in the public judgment, I might seem to occupy by questionable authority.

It yields me no small share of comfort, so far as I am capable of taking comfort in my Executive charge, I am placing it in the hands of one whose integrity and worth have been long tried; who understands and will pursue the true interests of the State; and who, in the hour of success and in the trials of adversity has been the consistent and valued friend of that great and good man, now enjoying the triumph of his virtues in the conscious security of a nation's gratitude.

SAMUEL HOUSTON.

GEN. WILLIAM HALL, Speaker of the Senate, Tenn.

DUEL between the Duke of Wellington and the Earl of Winchelsea.

In consequence of a letter written by Lord Winchelsea to Mr. Coleridge, Secretary to the Committee for establishing the King's College, in which his Lordship reflected strongly on the conduct of the Duke of Wellington, the latter wrote to Lord Winchelsea requiring him to make "reparation" for "having thus insulted a man who had never injured or offended him." This being declined by his Lordship, the Duke, after various letters between the parties, finally called Lord Winchelsea "to give him that satisfaction for his conduct which a gentleman has a right to require, and which a gentleman never refuses to give." It was finally arranged that a meeting should take place.

The parties accordingly met in Battersea-fields on Saturday morning at eight o'clock. The Duke was attended by Sir Henry Hardinge as his second. The weather being fine the Duke and Sir Henry Hardinge rode on horseback to the place of meeting (Battersea-fields, in the vicinity of Clapham common), where, soon after their arrival, they were joined by Dr. Hume, the Duke of Wellington's physician. Lord Winchelsea, who had not arrived (not having, it is understood, been able to find out the place), the party rode about the fields for some time, till the arrival of Lord Winchelsea, who arrived from town in a coach and four accompanied by his second, Lord Falmouth. Preliminaries being arranged between Lord Falmouth and Sir Henry Hardinge, the latter produced a pair of pistols, and loaded them in the presence of the parties; he then handed them to Lord Winchelsea, who examined them, and then returned them. Sir Henry handed one to each of the combatants, and measured the ground agreed on, twelve paces. Lord Winchelsea re-measured the ground, and the Duke and Lord Winchelsea took their stations, and were informed by Sir Henry there was nothing further to be done till he used the expression "Fire." The

seconds then retired, and Sir H. Hardinge gave the word "Fire." The Duke of Wellington immediately discharged his pistol. The ball struck the lapel of Lord Winchelsea's coat on the left side. Lord Winchelsea then fired his pistol in the air; the seconds rejoined their principals, and a memorandum expressing the regret of Lord Winchelsea at having published an erroneous opinion of the Noble Duke's motives in a certain transaction being handed by Lord Falmouth to Sir Henry Hardinge, was accepted by Sir H. as a reparation to the Duke of Wellington.

The Duke wished Lord Winchelsea good morning, and the compliment being returned, the parties left the ground and returned to town. About fourteen or fifteen gardeners and labouring men, who were on the spot during the transaction, advised the noble combatants to settle the matter in dispute with their fists.

President Jackson, and the Foreign Ministers.

All the Foreign Ministers resident at Washington City have been formally and collectively presented by the Secretary of State, to the President of the United States. A letter from Washington, published in the New-York Evening Post, furnishes the following particulars of the interesting interview:

"As they arrived, the Secretary of State announced them to the President by name (as he would have done any private gentleman) who received them in the most courteous and graceful manner—for he is a gentleman of the old school of polished and dignified deportment. To each of them, as he took them by the hand he had something civil and appropriate to say. After they had all assembled, he expressed to them, in a brief, neat, impressive address, the personal gratification he experienced at thus meeting them together, as it afforded him the opportunity to reiterate to them, respectively, the sentiments expressed in that part of his Inaugural Address which related to the foreign policy of the government. He added: 'I am quite sure the true interests of this country will be best promoted by preserving the relations of peace with all nations, as long as that can be done with a due regard to its own honor, and by commercial intercourse founded on a just reciprocity.' He continued: 'I have entered, gentlemen, upon the high trust committed to me, without prejudices against, or undue partialities towards, any foreign nation or people; but with personal feelings of the most friendly character for all. Although actuated by a determined purpose to promote the best interests of my own country, I have no desire to impair the rights or interests of others, and will endeavor to do so as little as possible. Where differences exist, or may hereafter arise, it will be my desire to settle them on fair and honorable terms, in that spirit of frankness so congenial to my nature and the character of the American people.'

"I have thus given you the substance, and, as nearly as I can recollect, the language used on the occasion, at which I was present. At the conclusion, he bowed round to them all, which they returned, and with the most gratified feelings they took their leave. Never did a ceremonial go off better or with more effect."

Mad as a March Hare.—A correspondent of the Charleston City Gazette has "gone crazy at the sight of Clara Fisher. Ecce Signum.

FOR THE CITY GAZETTE.

Mr. Editor.—I have beheld—I have admired—I have idolized—the Master piece of nature! The perfection of art! The glory of her sex! The wonder of the World! Oh! how I thought to comprehend, or language to describe the excellence of the fair enchantress; the transcendent talents of the lovely Clara! Oh! had I the inspirations of her ethereal mind—the golden pinions of her soaring fancy; then might I faintly pourtray what I would glory to emulate. But it were fruitless to essay, her talents require not the tribute of words; they are superior to praise! "Omni exceptione major," be the motto of her fame, and now, &c. &c.

A straight jacket and shower bath would be useless in this case—the man is mad, and in love—his situation is hopeless. N. Y. Courier.

Money lost at Gambling Tables.—An important decision was lately made at Charleston, which we suppose to be new in this country, though not in England. It goes to establish, that S. & M. Allen may recover at law \$2500, lost at a Faro Table, by Alex'r Main, from Henry L. Watson, and Nicholas Spalding. Gamblers, and actually passed into their possession by Main. The action was brought on the affidavit of Main himself.

According to a statistical account of the existing Jews their number throughout the world is at least 2,700,000, belonging to the different sects.

It is expected that Florida will be admitted into the Union as a state, during the present Administration.