DEMOCRACY—WHAT IS IT?

We hear much of Democracy, and thousands shout its praises, but few there are who ever stop to inquire whether, in this country, it has not become a mere name with the party claiming to be Democratic, without any longer having any substance to justify them even to a claim of the name. According to Webster, Democracy is "a form of Government in which the supreme power is lodged in the hands of the people collectively, or in which the people exercise the powers of legislation"—in a word, such a Government as that of Athens; and a Democrat is one who "favors the extension of the right of suffrage to all classes of men."—Applying such a test to the so called Democracy of this country, we are, of course, left in the dark as to its claims to the name; for in its character, organization, discipline, principles and measures, it bears no more resemblance to the Democracy of Athens than does a Hottentot to a Frenchman. Well aware of this, its votaries have given many definitions of its real character, purposes and objects; among whom is the author of the Republic of the United States of America, who describes it as follows:

"The Democratic Party represents the great principles of progress. It is onward and outward in its movements. It has a heart for action, and motives for a world. It constitutes the principle of diffusion, and is to humanity what the centrifugal force is to the revolving orbs of a universe. What motion is to them, Democracy is to principle. It is the soul of action. It conforms to the providence of God. It has confidence in man, and an abiding reliance in his high destiny. It seeks the largest liberty, the greatest good, and the surest happiness. It aims to build up the great interests of the many, to the least detriment of the few. It remembers the past, without neglecting the present. It establishes the present, without fearing to provide for the future. It cares for the weak, while it permits no injustice to the strong. It conquers the oppressor, and prepares the subjects of tyranny for freedom. It melts the bigot's heart to meekness, and reconciles his mind to knowledge. It dispels the clouds of ignorance and superstition, and prepares the people for instruction and self-respect. It adds wisdom to legislation, and improved judgment to government. It favors enterprise that yields a reward to many, and an industry that is permanent. It is the pioneer of humanity—the conservator of nations. *It fails only when it ceases to be true to itself. Vox Populi Vox Dei* has proved to be a proverb and prediction."

Accepting this as a correct definition of the so-called Democracy of the United States, let us see how far it carries out its professed objects, and what claim its acts give it to the name it bears. "It conforms to the providence of God." If this be the mission of true Democracy, in what respect does the so-called Democratic Party thus conform? It cannot be by such procedures as the violation of treaties with nations with which we are at peace, nor by encouraging Fillibuster expeditions to rob and plunder neighboring Governments; and yet these are characteristics of the so-called Democracy we now have in this country.

"It has confidence in man," and how does it show its confidence where it is in power? Look at Virginia, in which it has had the reins of Government for half a century. It has divided the State into Congressional Districts, consisting of strips of all imaginable shapes, so that in every one it may override its opponents. At the late election, about 170,000 votes were polled in the State, of which Wise had about 90,000, and Flournoy about 80,000, and yet, owing to the unjust apportionment of the Congressional Districts, the 90,000 so called Democratic voters have elected the whole Congressional Delegation, with *possibly* one exception, leaving 80,000 *native born* Americans unrepresented.—This is the kind of "confidence" the miscalled Virginia Democracy has "in man," and the manner "it cares for the weak while it permits no injustice to the strong."

"It aims to build up the great interests of the many, to the least detriment of the few," and "favors the enterprise that yields a reward to many, and an industry that is permanent;" and how? By making war upon the industrial interests of the country, and adopting a revenue system which discriminates in favor of the workshops in Europe, and against those of our own country. Instead of "building up" American interests, it oppresses them; instead of favoring the enterprise of our own people, it does all it can to discourage and paralyze it; instead of making 'industry permanent," it closes our manufactories, and deprives American laborers of the opportunity to thrive and be comfortable.

"It dispels the clouds of ignorance and superstition, and prepares the people for instruction and self respect"; and its way of doing it is to reinse the establishment of a common school system, as the Democracy of Virginia has, and to thank God for having no newspapers, as Henry A. Wise, one of its leaders, once did.

Thus we might go on, but there is no use. The so-called Demacracy has not a single principle now, and does not advocate a single principal measure, which is accordance with its professions, or give it the pretence of a claim to the name it has appropriated to itself. It presents in its own character a fraud upon the Democracy of its founders. False to all its professions, it relies upon its name for success, and has nothing but the name to commend it to the American people.

TOUCHING—VERY!—The Wilmington Journal of yesterday furnishes, for general circulation, the following sublime and "touching" information:

"At one part of Mr. Winslow's address, when he stated that the report of his having been a Whig in 1840 was erroneous—that he had not voted for General Harrison, *but for Mr. Van Buren*, the APPLAUSE and EXCITEMENT was immense. The old Democratic spirit was alive."

Truly, this *is* glorious and refreshing intelligence! Mr. Winslow is forced, by the outside pressure, to reluctantly admit that he did vote for Martin Van Buren, (although he would have nothing to do with him, four years before,) and "the applause and excitement" is "IMMENSE!" We had thought that Southern men—Democrats—had long ago become ashamed of their folly in supporting this notorious individual for the Presidency. We had thought that the Democracy had years since been surfeited with this wily demagogue—this false friend who caused the defeat, in a great measure, of their party in 1848—this leader of the Free-soil party whom they had learned to curse up in heaps, something after the fashion of excommunication in the Roman church, wherein a man is damned from the crown of his head to the sole of his foot, in all his joints, members and faculties. Yet, here, within a day or two, the mere announcement of a candidate for office, that he voted for this man, is received by the Democracy with "immense applause and excitement!" "Oh! trumpery! Oh! Moses!" as Mrs. Partington would say.

Wil. Herald.

MR. SOULE.—Mr Soule was in this city yesterday, on his way to Washington, and, it is said, in no very meek or benevolent state of mind, and determined to bring some of the parties in this involved diplomatic intrigue to account. Whether it is Perry or Marcy he's after, is not stated. Perhaps he will give the wily Secretary the occasion for another "patch" in a peculiar locality of his costume or person. In this case, we can say with Iago,

"Whether he kill Cassio, or Cassio him,
Or each do kill the other, we do not care a continental—n."

Mont. (Ala.) Journal of 13th.

WANTED TO KNOW.—The address of the fire when it goes out? Whether the edge of a sharp wind is keener than a cutting satire?—Whether a treble singer does three times the work, or is paid three times as much as another? And whether a lawyer ever fainted under the burthen of conveying a house?

THE AMERICAN COUNCIL—SECESSION OF FIFTY-THREE NORTHERN MEMBERS.

PHILADELPHIA, June 14. After the adoption of the majority report of the platform committee yesterday by the National Council of the American party, the resolutions refusing to recognize the restoration of the Missouri Compromise as the platform of the party on the slavery question, the Council adjourned amid much indignation and confusion. This morning 53 members from twelve free States seceded—eight from Ohio, six from Indiana, two from Michigan, four from Illinois, seven from Massachusetts, three from New Hampshire, five from Vermont, seen from Maine, two from Iowa, three from Rhode Island, three from Connecticut and three from Wisconsin.

Those met at the Girard House, when J. W. Foster, of Massachusetts, presented an address to the people, which was adopted and signed by all the seceders, after which a committee of correspondence, consisting of one delegate from each State named above, was appointed.

The address says the seceders feel constrained, in the existing state of affairs, to affirm the following principles:

First. The unconditional restoration of the time honored compromise, known as the Missouri prohibition, which was repealed in utter disregard of the popular will. And we will use all constitutional means to maintain the positive guarantee of this compact.

Second. The rights of settlers in the Territories to the free undisturbed exercise of the elective franchise. And we cannot act with those who will not aid us in the correction of these national wounds.

Third.—We declare our continued and unalterable determination to use all honorable efforts to secure a modification of the law, aided by such an elevation of public sentiment as shall preserve the interests of the nation, and guarantee spiritual freedom, a free Bible and Free Schools.

Fourth.—That we invoke any legislation to arrest the growing evil of the exportation, by foreign authorities, of paupers and convicts to our shores; and that as the National Constitution requires the Chief Executive of the country to be of native birth, we deem it equally necessary and important that our representatives abroad should also possess no foreign prejudices to bias their judgement or influence their official action.

TURKISH FESTIVAL.

We make the following extract from a recent letter in the Baltimore Sun, dated

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 9, 1855.

To the believers in Islamism Friday last was a memorable day, as it was then that the Sureh Emyny and his band started upon their pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina. Perhaps there is no tenet more strictly enjoined upon his disciples by the Prophet than the necessity of visiting at one period during their lives the holy Kaabeh of Mecca. The Koran expressly declares that "he who fails to perform the pilgrimage may die a Jew or a Christian, or whatever he pleases." The day of departure is the twelfth of the moon Redjeb, five months preceding the festival of the Courban Beyram. The present one was all the most fastidious could have desired. The soft showers of the previous night had cooled the atmosphere and laid the dust, whilst a delicious breeze stole gently down the Bosphorus. Taking a caique at Galata, I crossed over to the Top Kapousi, and entered with the vast throng that was pouring into the green and shaded gardens of the Seraglio to witness the ceremony. Arriving some time before the Sultan, who is always present on such occasions, I leisurely strolled about and examined the singular preparations that had been made, and the queer looking people that had been collected.

Within a walled enclosure, an imperial tent had been erected for the accommodation of the Sultan. The avenues through which the procession was to pass were crowded with as motley a group as could elsewhere be found. Every hue and nation, from the fair Circassian of the Caucasus to the jet black Nubian, were to be seen, as well as every description of costume, from the bright and flowing robes of the Persian, to the sombre and closely fitting dress of the Frank. The mules and horses destined to bear away the presents, with their gaudy trappings, were stationed along the road, in the care of their Arabian seijes. About twelve the guns upon the bastion of the seraglio pealed forth their hoarse announcement of the Sultan's approach, to which the vessels of war, gaily decked with flags, immediately replied. All that were able flocked down to see him land from his large gilded caique of State. After receiving the homage of his subjects, he slowly proceeded to one of the Imperial Kiosks, which overlook the harbor, to rest himself after this unwonted exertion.

As he took his station in the Imperial tent I could not but be struck with his pallid and careworn look. War, wine and women are sadly telling upon his emaciated frame; nor do I think it long, judging from appearances, before he will be gathered with his fathers. Seating himself upon a richly embroidered divan, the Sheiks Ulemas and Imamns slowly marched in procession around the tent, chanting in a most doleful and melancholy strain the praises of the Prophet and Padisha. Most of them were certainly venerable looking men, and since my stay here I have never seen so many collected together at one time. They wore a long and flowing cloak of dark cloth, with richly embroidered cuffs and collar, the full Turkish trowsers and red slippers. Upon the head was a spotless turban, encircled with a broad band of gold lace, the fringed ends hanging down the back. The Emirs had green instead of white, the distinguishing color of the descendants of Mahomet.

At the termination of this ceremony, that most important personage of the Ottoman empire, and whose presence on every state and religious occasion is as indispensable as the Sultan himself, the Guyzlar Aza, or chief of the black eunuchs, made his appearance, surrounded by his numerous attendants, similarly conditioned as himself, leading in the mahmel or sacred camel. This was the chief object of attraction, and was a large dun colored one, selected for its size and beauty. Upon its back was a curiously built tower covered with stuffs of the richest description, and containing the sacred cloth sent by the Sultan to cover the tomb of the Prophet at Medina, the return of which I gave your readers a description of in one of my previous letters. The camel was led by one of the neutralized gentlemen of color by a silver chain. The Guyzlar Aza, after reverentially kissing the chain, took it and led the camel to the Sultan, and in his presence delivered it to the Sureh Emyny, who is then invested with the caftan of honor.

I never looked upon a more venerable personage. His white and flowing bread added much a dignity and such a look of wisdom to his grave and solemn face, that as I silently gazed upon him I could not but ask myself the question, was it possible for any human being to be as wise as the Sureh Emyny looked? After this investiture he receives the letter from the Sultan to the Chery of Mecca, a statement of the presents, and has the sole charge of the Hadjy. The procession then started upon the pilgrimage.—In order to let the camel pass the arched gateway with his tower, a deep ditch had been previously dug beneath it.

First came a mounted officer holding a green scroll containing the Sultan's letter, followed by another bearing in a similar scroll a list and destination of the presents. Next came the Ulemas, the Sheiks and the Imamns, each mounted and followed by their attendants. The Sureh Emyny, upon a superb Arab, rode in front of the Mahmel, led by a eunuch; this was followed by a smaller camel covered with green velvet, bearing the Sultan's presents; then came a long line of mules and horses, each bearing pack saddles containing the offerings of the devout: whilst some were decorated with gay flags, high pyramids of many colored feathers, constantly twirling for the amusement of the crowd. The procession closed with a long line of Turkish rabble, who are to make the pilgrimage, beating upon small kettle drums and cutting the wildest antics.

The shaded avenues through which the procession passed were lined with imperial troops, whilst military bands were stationed at intervals, discoursing sweet music. It proceeded through the gardens and left by the Sublime Porte, slowly wending its way through the streets of the harbor. The pilgrims and presents were carried over the Asiatic shore, and encamped under the charge of the Sureh Amyny, upon the plain of Hyder Pasha, there to await for several days the collecting of other pilgrims from the adjoining country. They then start upon their holy mission, consuming some several months before reaching the sacred spot of Mecca, where many curious ceremonies are said to be performed.

Ever after these pilgrims are called Hadjy, and are regarded with veneration by their coreligionists, and are promised by their Prophet a future blissful state in his paradise; ever enjoying themselves amid its beautiful gardens, in the charming society of lovely houris.

MODERN PROGRESS IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

The public have latterly had presented to them rather a novel feature in the journalism of the day, in the shape of elaborate scientific treatises on medical subjects appearing in consecutive chapters in the advertising and news columns of the daily and weekly newspapers of this city. These articles are from the pen of Dr. Hunter, No. 828 Broadway, the well known practitioner in pulmonary and bronchial diseases, and are distinguished from the empyrical programmes usually put forth through the same medium, by their thorough acquaintance with the subjects treated of, the simplicity and clearness of their language, and the demonstrative force of the arguments employed.

With these qualities to recommend them to our attention, we cannot but welcome the appearance of these articles as heralding an important and beneficial revolution in the traditions and practice of the medical profession.—There is no pursuit in which the spirit of old fogyism has, in spite of the enlightenment of the age, managed more completely to trammel and subdue the human intellect. With a view to unity, like the Roman Catholic Church, it maintains its hold upon the almost superstitious awe and reverence of ignorant and unreasoning minds, by involving the little of truth that it posseses in technical phraseology, derived from classical sources, and consequently incomprehensible to the multitude.

But a few men belonging to the craft—for such more correctly may be designated the medical profession—have had the courage to emancipate themselves from the code of conventional as well as collegiate regulations which has been built up for its protection. Like the novitiate of the Egyptian priesthood, its mysteries and its privileges could only become accessible by a prescribed track, and after a long and often painful probation. There has been hitherto no short cut to professional success and fame recognized within its canons. Any man departing from the beaten road laid down for his guidance has been invariably treated as an outcast, and stigmatised as a quack. The result has been, that whilst the medical profession has been reduced to a close monopoly, it has extended but little its sphere of knowledge, and has consequently conferred less benefits upon the human race than it might otherwise have done.

One of the barriers by which the profession has endeavored to fence itself around, has been the prohibition or discouragement held out to all attempts on the part of its members to enter into direct communication with the public. A medical man may address himself through the medium of a book, and under the cover of technicalities, to his own profession, but he must not appeal to the common sense and natural intelligence of the uninitiated members of the community, lest the arcana of the healing art should cease to be, like the Eleusynian mysteries, an exclusive and profitable possession. The effect of this jealous and narrow minded system on philanthropic and high spirited men may readily be conceived. They have had to chafe in silent indignation under restraints, the direct bearing of which has been to protect the privileges of the senior members of the profession, and keep down and discourage, as much as possible, all evidences of rising talent.

We are rejoiced to find that one man, and that a practitioner whose professional merits and skill cannot for a moment be questioned, has had the moral courage to break though the trammels imposed upon him by the old routine of his art. Dr. Hunter wisely, and in time, arrived at the conclusion that if such acquirements as he possessed were worth anything, the more extensive circulation he gave to the results of his researches and experience, the greater the benefits he would not only confer upon himself but upon the community. Between the limited publicity afforded him by the usual professional resource of book publication and that afforded by the newspapers, it is not surprising that he chose the latter. It presented the advantages of rapidity, comprehensiveness and popularity, objects which, to a man ambitious of fame in his profession, were the readiest and surest elements of success.

We have had personal experience of the happy results of the Doctor's mode of treatment, and can vouch for its success. Owing to the severe drudgery incident to our pursuits, and that tendency to bronchial diseases with which the peculiarity of our climate afflicts such a large proportion of our population, we have been suffering for several years past from a throat affection, which all the medical remedies that we had formerly applied failed to cure. We can truly say that we have found more relief and greater hope of ultimately getting rid of the malady from Dr. Hunter's mode of treatment than from that of any other medical man to whom we had previously submitted our case.

The lesson afforded by this brief sketch of Dr. Hunter's career is calculated to be useful to the medical profession. Here is a man who, chained down by the conventional prejudices and usages of his medical brethren, might have toiled on for half his life without arriving at the results to which his acquirements entitled him to aspire. It cost him an effort of moral courage, and no doubt a sacrifice of some professional pride, to emancipate himself from the thraldom of associations in which they bound him. By having sufficient independence of character to shake loose these ties, and devote his talents to the general good of the community, he has, within an unprecedentedly short space of time, won the highest prize within the reach of a medical practitioner.—*N. Y. Times.*

PAINFUL AFFAIR.—An affair of an unusual character occurred at one of our wharves yesterday afternoon. It seems that an old grudge which had existed between Capt. Marshall of the schr. Araminta, and Capt. Grey of the schr. Exchange, was renewed in the forenoon, and angry words passed between the parties. The lives of each were mutually threatened, we understand. In the afternoon the quarrel was renewed, until finally, Marshall, being on board of his vessel, and apprehending that Grey would attack him there, declared that he would shoot the latter if he attempted it. By this time a number of persons collected on the wharf with a view to putting an end to the quarrel. Grey jumped on board Marshall's vessel, and the latter presented his gun. Mr. W. L. Beery, (one of the town Commissioners,) at this crisis, reached the deck, and in endeavoring to prevent Marshall from firing the discharge took place, and its contents, (small shot) were scattered among the crowd on the wharf.

The right thumb of Mr. Beery, above the first joint, was blown entirely off; Mr. E. C. Singeltary received a number of shot in the thigh and hand; Mr. Jacob Wessel was wounded in the legs; Mr. J. B. Russell was shot in the knee; Mr. Alex. Mathews in the thigh; and a couple of negroes were peppered more or less. Glancing shot struck two other persons, without damage. The injuries, we are glad to hear, are not considered serious. The Captains, Marshall and Grey, were at once arrested, carried before a Justice, and committed to jail. An investigation into the matter will take place to-day. There are various accounts of the difficulty, and the above, in some unimportant particulars, may be incorrect.—*Wil Herald*

TRAGEDY IN ALABAMA.

We have already published an account of the terrible tragedy in Alabama, commencing with the murder of a young girl by a negro, and terminating with the fearful retribution of the enraged inhabitants in burning the murderer at the stake. This is one of the most shocking cases that it has ever been our lot to record, and we must say that if anything can justify the extreme measures which were taken by the naturally infuriated citizens of Alabama, the fiendish conduct of the negro in question was a sufficient provocation.

The following embraces his confession and the mode in which he effected his devilish purpose.

Dave (the murderer) on being questioned again, acknowledged that he had done the deed, but Hardy hired him to do it, telling him he would give him five dollars, if he (Dave) would kill her. He then went with some gentleman and showed them where he took her from—said she was sitting down playing in the water. He then showed them where, in taking her off, he had thrown her on the ground, evidently very hard. A little further on he had thrown her on the ground again, and then again. It is supposed that when he did this, she was trying to escape. He said she was crying all the time, and pleading with him not to kill her. The fourth time he threw her down he beat her with an old piece of stump. She did not speak again after that, but cried very much. When he got to the place where he buried her, she was not quite dead, so he cut a club and struck her on the forehead. He then got a large stick and put it across her throat, and put his knees on each end, and bore down upon it until she was entirely dead. He then took a hoe and covered her entirely up, throwing some leaves and brush on her. He acknowledged, finally, that he did it of his own accord—that no one else knew anything of it, that he never thought of doing it until he saw her walk down to the branch. He had not the slighest shadow of reason for doing it, said her was not even mad with her—that she had not provoked him in the least. He had belonged to her father ever since she was a small child, and had always seemed to think a great deal of her—ever ready to accomodate her in any way.

NINETY YEARS AGO.

A friend has furnished us with the following interesting and suggestive reminiscence, in the shape of an extract from the *South Carolina Gazette* (TIMOTHY'S) of September 28th, 1765. The italics and capitals are according to the original:

"It is said that at the approaching election for REPRESENTATIVES of this Province, the choice of NATIVES will be one principal object of the electors."

That election was indeed a crisis in the affairs of the Province, as upon it hinged the whole question of resistance to Parliamentary assumptions and usurpations. The Stamp Act was about going into operation, and the issue was to be met or evaded. It was met, and met, too, in a manly spirit; it was met in a spirit that placed the Province of South Carolina in the lead of the South, and resulted ten years after in the inauguration of actual hostilities in the glorious action at Fort Moultrie, which was undertaken by the orders of a *native* Governor against the authority of the *foreign* General who had been assigned to the Southern department, in reliance merely on his military accomplishments, without regard to his interest and affections.

The extract we have given explains the mode by which the State was righted for action, and by which she was enabled to maintain a glorious and successful resistance, even against a large proportion—if not a majority of residents of foreign attachments and inclinations. It was the union of the natives for the rescue of the State. The plan worked well then, and it will be found sufficient now on trial. It resulted then in the overthrow of foreign domination and misrule; it will, if adopted now, result in throwing off the incubus of foreign pauperism and foreign vice and licentiousness.—*Columbia Times.*

☞James Montgomery's habits of writing had few romantic concomitants. His study was a "small back room of a large building in the centre of the town, and looking immediately upon one of the meanest masses of dead brick walls in Sheffield; from *its* windows he could see none of the fine scenery in the neighborhood, that might serve even to *remind* him in summer of pastoral Alpine landscapes, or in winter of falling avalanches—of the cottages, the lakes, or the water-falls of Switzerland at any season." Though given to solitary walks, he was not always sad. He never smoked more than one pipe at night, and sometimes omitted that. One of Montgomery's first reviews was of that volume of Moore's which had just occasioned the notorious duel with Jeffrey. "Thomas Moore, *ci-devant* Thomas Little, and *soi-distant* Anacreon, holds the strange opinion that reviewers are "accountable beings," though he writes as if he were neither accountable to God nor man.

Our readers know what a tremendous risk one of the most formidable of our brethren has incurred by presuming to reprobate the publication of these poems—less indeed as a personal crime than as a public nuisance. Unawed, however, by so awful a warning, and neither daring nor deprecating Mr. Moore's displeasure, we shall speak as freely of this gay volume as if the author were neither a man of honor nor a gentleman, but as sincere a coward as the writer of this article has the courage to avow himself." Jeffrey missed his mark, as usual, in the notice in the "Edinburg," of "The Wanderer in Switzerland," in 1807. We give a sample:—"We took compassion upon Mr. Montgomery on his first appearance, conceiving him to be some slender youth of seventeen, intoxicated with weak tea and the praises of sentimental ensigns and other provincial literati, and tempted, in that situation, to commit a feeble outrage on the public, of which the recollection would be a sufficient punishment. A third edition, however, is too alarming to be passed over in silence; and though we are perfectly persuaded that in less than three yeras nobody will know the name of The Wanderer of Switzerland, or any of the other poems in this collection, still we think ourselves called on to interfere, to prevent, as far as in us lies, the mischief that may arise from the intermediate prevalence of so distressing an epidemic."

A "MIRACULOUS ESCAPE."—Mr. Weld, an Englishman, who travelled in America and of course wrote a book about his travels and troubles in these wilds when he got home safe, thus discourses of a miraculous escape from being run over, which he "experienced" in Ohio, when riding a light carriage driven by a boy:

"But when, on turning a corner, we came suddenly in sight of a board with the well known notice, '*Look out for the Locomotive when the bell rings*,' which was made more impressive by hearing the signal, and seeing the line of steam announcing the proximity of a train, I was somewhat anxious, as my driver did not manifest the slightest disposition to stop. As usual, the road and railway crossed on the same level, which did not lessen the anxiety.—'Hold hard! stop, stop!' I cried; and as these words received no attention, I rose from my seat and grasped the driver's arm, for the purpose of arresting our progress, but in vain.—Lashing the horse with redoubled energy, he replied to my entreaties to stop, by the assurance that he would go ahead of the en *gine*; and to my horror, on we went, buggy and train approximating rapidly at right angles; the locomotive's bell meanwhile ringing furiously what seemed to be my death knell. Finding all my efforts to avert an anticipated collision were futile, I resumed my seat, and resigned myself to my fate. What I did or said during the next few moments I know not; but I remember a feeling of sickness came over me as we dashed across the line, and I beheld the iron horse rushing onwards, and almost felt the hot blast of steam jets. 'There, I told you I'd clear the darn'd thing, said my driver, chuckling over the achievement."

COMMUNICATION.

FOR THE REGISTER.

OXFORD FEMALE SEMINARY.

It is a grateful task we have to perform. We have been privileged again to attend one of those admirable examinations, which, semi-annually, the excellent gentleman who presides over the above named school holds for the edification and delight of its intelligent and numerous patrons. Once more the new and commodious Musical Hall, fitted up with taste and comfort, has reverberated with the sweetest notes of song, and been enlivened by the presence of a gay throng of performers, with their admiring auditory. It has been our province, on former occasions, to notice the peculiar and striking excellencies of this institution, and to express in judicious phrase our admiration of them. We have been forced, sometimes, to almost seeming fulsome panegyric in correctly reporting the superiority of the exercises. But what shall we do, now, Mr. Gales, when we are to speak of the examination and musical concerts which have just come off with so much eclat—especially what are we do, if we approached hyperbole in our previous notices, when we are now to celebrate the success of these last brilliant exercises, that have so far transcended all former ones? Whilst in North Carolina, we believe, there is no village half so beautiful as Oxford, we believe also there is no village that can boast of an institution of learning fairly capable of competing with that of Mr. Venable, in all the essential excellencies of a good school. We know how every place loudly vaunts of its capital schools—we know, too, that the language of praise, ordinarily employed, is far too indiscriminate, but when we say that the above Seminary for young ladies yields to none in the State in point of position and genuine excellence, we know we utter language of simple truth, and, in corroboration, we appeal to a hundred fathers in North Carolina and Virginia, whose daughters have been educated at this school.

The recent examination was, indeed, capital. The large number of young ladies to be examined did not prevent the teachers from giving the audience the most unmistakeable proof of the superiority of their attainments, and of clearly exhibiting that the examination was conducted on the most rigid and candid principles. There were no set lessons to be said—no stereotyped answers to be given, learnt for the occasion.—To the contrary, the pupils were taken promiscuously over their whole course, and we speak our honest convictions, when we declare we never before witnessed greater proficiency.

Concerts of music were given on two evenings. Would we were master of those nice critical terms which would fully reflect the skill of the performer, and the delight of the rapt listener! But we despair. If, however, the best musical critics of our State had listened to the execution of a most difficult song by the entire choir, they would have unhesitatingly acknowledged the graceful, limpid, and deliciously sweet flow of their voices,—as with the ease and freedom of a bird they poured out a stream of simple, clear melody, so natural, and so full of pathos and beauty. We heard one voice remarkable for its simplicity and sweetness of manner and purity of tone. We mean Miss B——, who sang so frequently during the evening, and invariably sang well. Most persons expected a respectable collection of songs to be sung in fair style, but no one hardly was prepared for excellencies so varied and execution so exquisite. In the performance of many pieces, the acutest ear would have been at fault in detecting the slightest jar in the music or flaw in the voice—for it was almost resistless, reaching the heart, and touching the deepest chord of human feeling.

We were quite as much delighted at the instrumental part of the entertainment. The execution of the performers was perfect, and the harmony elisted was so exquisite as to be aptly described as a "concord of sweet sounds." Take it altogether, the playing was more artistic and finished than any we remember to have heard. We are not afraid of being considered extravagant by those who *listened* on the last evening—for the delight of hearing something so new and so natural took even the most phlegmatic by surprise.

We trust we do not approach too closely or too rudely that line which the hand of propriety has traced, if we for a moment become a little more personal, and particularize those persons whose efforts struck with most force the critical approbation of the audience. We must especially mention the elegant bearing of the two accomplished young ladies, who so gracefully presided over the exercises of the two evenings. Nor must we forget to pay our meed of praise to their magnificent execution on the instruments, and the glorious harmony and sweetness of their song. Their efforts always drew forth the whispered praise of a delighted company.—We, too, would fain speak of those two sweet little girls, scarce seven years old, who sang so wondrously well. We never heard any thing better from infantile lips. There were many young ladies whose performance impressed us as admirable; but, we should run this article to an unusual length, if we were to praise all who merited it.

The musical ceremonies were interspersed with Literary exercises in composition, which enhanced vastly the entertainment of the intelligent auditory. We thought all good. The second one really was *very good*, and though the fair authoress made out rather a strong case for her side of the question, we must yield a hearty response of admiration to its general excellence. The valedictory was a graceful and flowing performance, full of beauty and pathos, which drew forth loud applause from the audience, and gained high praise for the fair authoress. We understand the Address by Rev. Mr. Hines, of the Presbyterian Church, which we were unable to hear, was replete with practical thoughts, and full of wit and eloquence.

Ungraceful as it may seem, we must mingle with our applause an expression of regret.—Whilst we admire the liberality of the Trustees in erecting such a large and imposing building, we wish that a purer taste had been observed in its inner construction. The fine effect of a large and otherwise beautiful Hall has been greatly impaired by its *unique* arrangement, and, in common with every visitor, we must express our utter dislike of the absurd plan of entrance.

STEEL PEN.

A GATHERING OF THE CLANS.

Among other queer things that have sprung out of the National Baby Show is an "enterprise," the like of which, if successfully carried out, the world will never have seen before. Several gentlemen, it seems, have associated together and subscribed $100,000 to be expended in getting together a "Congress of Nations," that is to say, living specimens, male and female, of every nation on the habitable globe, all in their native costume, except when they are *nude*. Grat care will be used in selecting the finest specimens, and when convenient, preference will be given to such persons as play upon some instruments of music.

Such a *study* was of course never before brought under the eyes of mortal men. The Congress of Nations will necessarily include all the various tribes of Indians in the world, Esquimaux, Japanese, Laplanders, Persians, Turks, Arabs, Hottentots, Bushmen, Caffirs, all the Asiatics, &c., &c. Some 18 months or more may be required to make the entire collection, but interesting portions of it, it is thought, can be obtained at a much earlier period.

N. Y. Express.

☞The American party held a meeting on Friday evening last, at Rockfish village, 7 miles from this place, which was attended by a large crowd. The meeting was addressed by David Reid, Esq., the candidate for Congress, and by R. P. Buxton, Esq., W. H. Haigh, Esq. Col. J. W. Cameron, and Dr. W. C. McDuffie. It adjourned in good order about 11 o'clock, and a large portion of the crowd, attended by a band of music, returned to this place a little after midnight.—*Fay. Argus.*

WHO IS SAM?

In his youth he was a shoelesss, bare headed boy—descended from the soldiers of the revolution. His father wa killed in battle, and his widowed mother had not the means to educate and prepare him for that civil position in the government and society which his determined fore fathers had won for him. The Tories who were suffered to remain in the country after the revolutionary war, and fresh accessions of them every year from the old country, are about to displace him—deprive him not only of his birthright, the elective franchise, but of the very means to get an honest living. He is not thought fit to represent his country at home or abroad, and hence the great rejoicing over the Virginia elections, where this same poor Sam is not allowed to vote—that State requiring a property qualification, about the value of a poor donkey.

PINEYWOODS.

CAPITAL HIT.—The following capital *jeu d'es prit* appears in a New York paper. It cuts keenly and close:

BUSINESS CARD.

JOHN DE LA MITRE,
LAND BROKER,
Church Architect, and Civil Engineer.
At the Sign of the Cross, near St. Patrick's Cathedral, Mott street.
Refers to Pio Nono, Esq., Rome.

N. B.—Particular attention paid to Damming Brooks.

EX GOV. TAZEWELL appeared before the Mayor of Norfolk, on Wednesday last, to defend himself from a charge made by the City Inspector, for an alleged nuisance on his premises.—The event drew a large crowd to the court room. The Ex Gov is now 80 years of age. Trifling as the case was, involving only a fine of $5, he gave it an interest that men of ordinary minds could not attach to cases of the highest moment. His speech to the Mayor is said to have abounded in facts and analogies that none but a man of his vast information and wonderful memory could adduce, and that but few lawyers, however well read, would think of introducing in reference to a matter of so little consequence in itself. The case occupied five hours, and was finally dismissed.

Our Principles are Onward!

EVERY SEASON WE MAKE RENEWED exertions to supply the wants of our numerous customers. We have this season purchased

A LARGE AND VARIED STOCK OF

Clothing and Gentlemen's Furnishing Goods,

and, to come to the point, are prepared to sell as Low it not Lower than any who sell OUR KIND OF GOODS. Our concern is connected with one of

The Largest Importing Houses in the Union,

with capital sufficient to make all purchases for the Cash; consequently the Proprietor of this,

The only Clothing House (Exclusively) in the City of Raleigh,

cannot and shall not be undersold; and unlike the "Town Clock (vide Standard 28th inst.) has not ceased to TICK, but will continue to "tick" all those and those only who make prompt payments.

☞We are located on Fayetteville St., where we have been for the last seven years, opposite every body.

E. L. HARDING.

Raleigh, April 3, 1855. 27.

MONUMENTS, TOMBS AND HEAD STONES

THE Subscriber would take this method of reminding the public, that he is still engaged in the manufacture of Grave Ornaments, in all variety and the best style of finish and workmanship. He keeps always on hand a large stock of Marble, both of American and Italian, suitable for Monuments, Obelisks, Tombs, Head Stones, &c.; and having in his employ a first-rate Northern Carver and Letterer, he is prepared to put all kinds of Designs and Inscriptions, to suit the tastes and wishes of all.

He would respectfully invite a visit to his Marble Yard, at the south-east corner of the Raleigh Grave Yard, where may always be seen specimens of his workmanship and a variety of styles of Grave Ornaments.

Thankful for the liberal patronage heretofore received, he respectfully solicits a continuation of the same, pledging himself to use his best endeavors to please all.

Orders from a distance will be faithfully and promptly attended to. Address,

WM. STRONACH, Raleigh.

October 31, 1854. wly 88

Tar River Male Academy.

GRANVILLE COUNTY, N. C.

(9 MILES WEST OF OXFORD.)

THE exercises of this School Will be resumed on the 1st Monday in July next, under the management of Mr. Campbell, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, who has had some experience in teaching.

TUITION PER SESSION OF 5 MONTHS.

Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic,	$ 7 50
English Grammar and Geography,	10 00
Higher English,	12 50
Classics,	15 00

Board 6 dollars per month—Lights extra.

By order of the Trustees,

C. W. ALLEN, Secretary.

Tar River P. O., Franklin Co.

May 31, '55. wtJyl 44

Hillsborough Coal Mining & Transportation Company,

THE annual election for directors of the Hillsborough Coal Mining & Transportation Company will be held in the City of New York, on Tuesday, July 3d, 1855, at 1 o'clock, P. M., at the office of the Company. A full meeting of the Stockholders is desirable.

E. W. HICKS, Secretary.

New York, May 28, 1855. 45 wtm.

MORNING SUN ACADEMY.—T. J. HORNER *Principal*; A. J. JONES, *Assistant*.—The fall session of this school opens on the 1st Monday in July next. The Academy is located in a healthy and moral neighborhood in Wake, twenty miles north-west of Raleigh. A parental regard over the morals of the pupils will be exercised. Terms as heretofore.

For particulars, address the Principal or Assistant at Fish Dam, N. C.

The Hon. Sion H. Rogers will deliver an address at the close of the present session, on the 1st June next.

May 28, 1855. td 43.

A Valuable Mountain and Stock Farm.

THE Subscriber offers for sale a desirable and valuable Stock Farm, lying in the county of Watauga, near the Watauga River, known as the MISSION OR VALLE CRUCIS PROPERTY, containing about

1300 Acres,

900 acres of it lying in a body, 400 acres in as good Summer range for cattle as the mountains can boast of, 200 acres of cleared land under good fence, a large portion of which is well set in Timothy and Blue grass, mixed with clover, for meadow and pasture. The balance produces corn and other products of a mountain climate abundant. There is a good Grist and Saw Mill on it, with a custom to the grist mill that will supply a family of fifteen with grain throughout the year. Good roads for a mountain country can be boasted of, from the east side of the Blue Ridge, (passing within 1 mile of the property) to East Tennessee. It is within 45 miles of the Railroad running through East Tennessee to Virginia, and if the Western extension of the North Carolina Railroad be completed, will be within 45 miles of that.

R. C MILLER.

Valle Crucis, N. C., June 12, 1855. 47-wtA1.

THE CREDITORS named in the Deed of Trust executed to me by A. B. & N. L. Stith, dated 16th February, 1855, are hereby notified, that a part of the trust fund has been paid, and will be distributed *pro rata*, according to the directions of said Deed.

H. W. MILLER, Trustee.

June 14th, 1855. 3t 48.

LAW SCHOOL AT HILLSBORO', N. C.

THE next Session of this School will begin on Monday, the 18th of June next

J. L. BAILEY,
F. NASH.

June 14th, 1855 48-4w.

Notice to Contractors

THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH CAROLINA RAIL ROAD COMPANY.

PROPOSALS will be received by the undersigned from Contractors of ability, at the office of the Company in Newbern, North Carolina, until the 28th of June, 1855, for Grading, Bridging, Masonry and Superstructure—including the iron—(the plan of Rail to be furnished by the company of 60 pounds to the lineal yard) of the Eastern Division of the Atlantic and North Carolina Rail Road, extending from the Eastern bank of the Trent River, opposite Newbern, to Beaufort Harbor, the distance being about 36¾ miles.

Proposals will be received for the work in sections of about one mile each, or for the entire distance of 36