MISCELLANEOUS.

INDELIBLE INKS, AND PAPER.

[Abstract of a Lecture on the " Chemistry of Indelible Ink and Paper," delivered before Bacon's Cincinnati Mercantile College, by Prof. Chas. W. Wright, and reported expressly for the Scientific American.]

The basis of most of the so-called indelible inks of commerce is the nitrate of silver, or lunar caustic. The articles written upon by the nitrate are previously moistened with a solution of carbonate of soda; or ammonia is added to a solution of nitrate of silver until the precipitate produced is redissolved. The latter is a dangerous preparation, as it is liable to give rise to the formation of the fulminating silver, and explosive compound, particularly if if it be kept for some time. Nitrate of silver, however, does not make an indelible mark, as all writing executed with it can be discharged by means of chlorine or its bleaching salts.

A truly indelible ink must contain carbon in the solid form as its basis, as this substance has but two solvents, viz., melted iron and strong sulphuric acid, neither of which are likely to be employed in erasing writing. In the form of charcoal we have numerous instances of the indestructibility of carbon. Thus in the Thames River stakes of oak have been recently found where they are supposed to have been driven at the time of the invasion of Julius Cæsar, the surface of which was charred and in a state of perfect preservation. At Herculaneum the beams of the theatre were carbornized when that city was overwhelmed with lava, 1700 years ago, and are as perfectly preserved now as the day after that sad occurrence. Carbon is the basis of India ink, which is made by incorporating purified lampblack with glue, and moulding it in suitable forms. As the carbon in India ink is not in solution, it does not sink into the substance of paper like the tanno-gallate of iron, a portion of which is in solution, but flows with difficulty from steel pens, and hence cannot be used as an ordinary writing fluid.

PAPER is composed of carbon and the elements of water, as can be very readily shown by bring ing it in contact with sulphuric acid, which ab stracts the water and liberates the carbon. It is fabricated, as is well known, out of linen or cotton rags, which are reduced to a pulp by machinery and incorporated with a size of glue or alumina by which, when rolled into sheets, its tenacity is increased and it is rendered less porous When paper is sized with glue and written up on by common ink, containing free tannic acid. it is affected in a peculiar manner, in fact the letters rest upon a basis of leather, as tannic acid. by combining with gelatine forms that substance. When paper is boiled for several hours in very dilute sulphuric acid it is transformed into that variety of sugar which is found in grapes and honey. When heated with nitric acid, carbonic acid is evolved and oxalic acid generated, but if it be digested for a few minutes in strong nitric acid, or a mixture of nitrie and sulphuric acids, in equal proportions, at the ordinary temperature, and washed in water and dried, it shrinks slightly, becomes tough, and is highly explosive, in fact it is identical in composition with the gun cotton of Schoenbein.

Various kinds of paper have been invented to resist the aris of counterfeiters and forgers. In 1826 the French Academy of Sciences appointed a committee to discover a paper to be used for deeds, bank notes, &c., that could not be tampered with without detection. The device agreed upon consisted in covering the paper on both sides with microscopic stars, a delible ink being used, which would be destroyed by the chemical agents employed in erasing writing. Another process intended to accomplish the same purpose' consists in incorporating iodide of potassium. starch, and yellow prussiate of potash with the materials for fabricating paper. When chlorine is applied to such paper to discharge writing, iodine is liberated, and by combining with the starch forms the blue iodide of starch, and the application of acids would give rise to Prussian blue, by the re-action of the iron of the ink on the vellow prussiate of potash. Neither of the above processes are of much value, however, as an expert engraver and chemist could overcome any obstacle which they might present in the prevention of forgery and counterfeiting.

PARCHMENT which was extensively used as a writing material in ancient times, is rarely employed at the present day, except for diplomas. It is prepared from the skins of animals, and is written upon with difficulty by ordinary ink, from its generally being slightly greasy. This difficulty is readily overcome by moistening the parchment very slightly with the water of ammonia, or by adding a little of that substance to the ink just before using it. If the ink contains free tanic acid, the letters rest 'upon a basis of leather, as in the case of paper that has been sized with glue.

CHESS EXTRAORDINARY.—Recent foreign journals contain references to a chess match, upon a mammoth scale, played in Germany not many weeks ago, An immense plain was divided off into squares of grass and pebble, alternating like the cheques of a draughtboard. The four castles were live elephants, draped in black and the drivers; the knights were mounted on black or snow white chargers; the bishops were in tu canonicals; the kings and queens were upon throned platforms drawn by horses, and the pawns were knight-esquirols mounted on small barbs. This game lasted all day, and was witnessed by an immense concourse. The black king was check-mated by the white queer, aided by her knight and castle-regarded as a capitol play. Abd el Kader was once check-mated by an almost parallel move, the castle being the most important piece of machinery against him.

We should think this ponderous game was very slow to play or to witness; and as there rarely is played a game of chess without one or more persons remaining stationary, or nearly so. from first to last, we should seriously pity the unfortunate black or white knight-esquirol who had to sustain this distasteful part of masterly. inactivity ? Give to us the broad squares of the folio leathern board and the patent Staunton chess-men, lately so common, and by the side of a cosy cannel coal fire, with bright eyes to oppose us, we will play chess until matins ring again-nor envy, but rather pity, the directors of the live elephants and breathing kings and queens of an hour upon the continental field.

THE SUBORNED WITNESS.

It was quite a little dinner party in Dorchester. -There were present, Daniel Webster, Joseph Charles Thatcher, Samuel Upton, and Josiah Bradlee, the three great merchants of Boston, and benevolent man : Edward Everett, and Andrew Dunlap, afterwards United States District Attorney for Massa-

When it came Mr. Webster's turn to speak, he told of his first case in Salisbury, where an old man by the name of Searl had to defend himself against a charge of having set his shop on fire, for the purpose of receiving his insurance ly. money. The case was turned upon the testiname of F. Fisk, whom Mr. Webster most solemnly believed to have been suborned by a warm This man Fisk gave his story from the witness stand as if it had been written and studied for repetition. He used the words "the said Searle. the said Emerling," quite out of his own natural way of speech, but from his story no cross examination of Webster could bring him. He would go right back to it, making use of the same phrases, and no bluster moved him.

The judge and jury began to be impatient they had been led to believe, from the strong asseverations of the counsel for Searle, that he would come off triumphant; but the testimony of Fisk, an ignorant and unlettered man, was nevertheless so succinct and so consistent-saying nothing but about the case, and full of all facts necessary to sustain it-that their minds were evidently made up, and they were only thinking of their dinner. It was close on two o'clock, when the court usually adjourned to dinner, and yet Mr. Webster continued his ques tions, with repetitions, which provoked reproof from the Court, but which, from the urbane manner of Mr. Webster, at last resulted in an order for adjournment, to the afternoon session. with leave to Mr. Webster to go on with his investigation then to his heart's content.

Old Searle seized the arm of Mr. Webster as the crowd left the court, with all the agony of a drowning man, and whispered into his car with trembling accents, that Fisk was only telling the lies which Emerling had taught him to repeat. The court and the bar went to dine, the crowd separated. Mr. Webster stood apart, and while he was in despair in the fearful certainty of losing a case which he believed ought not to be lost, he saw the man Fisk retire to an obscure place, and take from his waistcoat pocket a paper which he consulted with all apparent earnestness. The lips of the man moved, and his gestures were animated as he returned it to his pocket and went to the tavern bar room and priety, digress to the grand event of the week--again upon the stand.

letter from Emerling!

Witness-" No, I never saw it." near the witness' box, and while the attention of Fisk was drawn to this movement, Mr. Webster suddenly thrust his hand into the waistcoat delphia. pocket, where he had seen the paper placed. which the witness was perusing during the adjournment, and quietly returned with it to the nia. bar, in spite of the quick convulsive clutch of Fisk, which was shaken off by Mr. Webster, who certainly the second in the list. The Empress

after a hasty perusal of it said-"I hold here the whole written instructions of the man Emerling, to the witness, Fisk, the story written out by Emerling as it has been repeated by Fisk, word for word, on that stand. He has just declared that he never received letters from Emerling, and did not know his hand a right to call a train a tail, if I like: the writing. Mr, Foreman, will you please be sworn, French word is gueue.) There never were but and see if you know this writing to be that of five women in France who wore a train with

the court; and during all this time you could at Court; and M'lle Mars and M'll Levert, on the have heard a cricket chirp in that court room. stage. The revival of the fashion, for the single You should have seen old Searle in these mo- reception of Monday night, is calculated to have ments as he stood behind Mr. Webster, his hands caused an outlay and distribution among artiholding hard upon the railing of the bar, his sans and sewing girls, of three millions of francs. chin quivering like the mouth of a rabbit, and Last night the first ball at the Palace took big tears trickling down his lank dry cheeks. place. Trains were not worn, of course, as O, it was a happy freedom of truth from the it was a soirce dansante, and the entertainment, fangs of wrong! There was not a word of hesi- presented no new or unusual features. tation in the verdict; and bench warrants were

to the wonder, how that black-eyed fellow, Daniel Never was the Russian Envoy so overflowing

PULASKI'S MONUMENT.—The following is from the Savannah Courier, of the 13th ult :- 'Since the commencement of the successful search of white, with castellated appendages containing the brig Augusta; and, furthermore, that he haps you are not aware how almighty hard it is dv for inauguration during the month of March. public, who take a deep interest in the subject. gentlemen of the skeleton recently found, and supposed to be that of Pulaski, is nearly completed, and that the result, with all the evidence which bears upon the question of identification. and the place where Pulaski was buried, will be speedily published."

A New way to Quench Thirst .- In a certain village lived a very honest farmer who, having a number of men hoeing in a field went to see how his work went on. Finding one of them sitting still, he reproved him for his idleness; the man answered, "I thirst for the spirit." "Grog, you mean, I suppose," said the farmer; but if the Bible teaches you to thirst after the spirit, it says, also, "hoe!-every one that

ANECDOTE OF THE LATE JUDAH TOURO .-The following anecdote, says the New Orleans Delta, related of our lamented fellow-citizen, T. Buckingham, then of the Boston Galaxy, the late Judah Touro, gives a beautiful exemplification of the character of this most excellent

" A poor woman had been thrown pennyless

upon the world, by the loss of her husband,

SOUTHERN

her a large family of children to support. She had long contended with adverse fortune, and was fast sinking under the exertions she had been forced to make to sustain herself and fami-In her dire extremity she was forced to mendicity. Begging for her daily bread, from mony of a witness for the prosecution by the door to door, she met with little encouragement from the cool-hearted and selfish possessors of this world's wealth. She had almost relinquishpersonal enemy of old Searle, named Emerling. ed all hope of meeting with any success, when one day she was referred to Judah Touro, who was recommended to her by an individual almost his peer in wealth, as a very charitable man. With fear and trembling she knocked at the door of his hospitable mansion-was admitted by a servant, and conducted to the persence of Mr. Touro. Here she related the brief story of her sufferings and misery. The benevolent man walked to his desk and taking out his checkbook, filled a check and handed it to the woman, with instructions to call at a certain bank and have it cashed. Cautioning her not to mention to any one the circumstance, he bade her begone, and instantly withdrew from the room, to escape the profusion of heartfelt thanks that were swelling forth from the heart. She repaired to the bank and handed the check to the cashier. That individual was amazed on examining it, to find that the check was drawn for \$1,500; but he was not more astonished than the woman herself was, when she heard the amount. She was sure there must be some mistake, and taking up the check immediately returned to the house of Mr. Touro. The old man appeared to be very angry when she again presented herself, and asking her if he had not given her enough, he added, 'Begone Madam, for not another cent will you get from me,' and without giving her a moment for explanation, he ordered the servant to conduct her out of the house. The woman, of course, had the check cashed, and since then has passed many a happy day, and still lives to bless the memory of her benefactor, whose kindness had

TRAINS INTRODUCED .- A Paris letter says -Having spoken of the Imperial quadrille and of the diplomatic waltz, I may, without improdrank a glass of brandy and water. Presently the first reception of the season at the Tuillethe court house bell rang and the witness was ries, and the inauguration of trains and court mantles. This huge event, in the minds of those Webster-" You say you never received any it was intended to interest, was of vastly more concern than the disaster of Sinope or the pas-Witness-"Yes. The said Emerling never sage of the Bosphorus. The solemnity lasted barely half an hour, but was as meteoric in bril-Webster-" Do you know his hand writing!" liancy as it was in duration. This generation has seen nothing so magnificent. Three trains Mr. Webster rose as if to look at a book lying were especially gorgeous and tasteful. I put them in the order of precedence.

1st. That of an American lady from Phila-

2d. That of the Empress of the French. 3d. That of an American lady from Virgi-

This was the universal verdict. Eugenie was wasthe only lady who dragged her train behind her. The others carried them upon their arms, except at the moment of presentation, when they were allowed to trail them. The lessons taken from dancing masters in the graceful art of tail bearing, were, therefore, thrown away. (I have dignity and grace. Queen Hortense; the Duch-It was proved, it was read, it was handed to ess of Angouleme and the Countess of Simeon.

Notwithstanding the hostile attitude of Rusforthwith issued against Fisk for perjury, and sia and France, M de Kissleff opened the quaragainst Emerling for the subornation of perjury. drille at the ball of the Princess Mathilde, with The cry of the crowd, as they dispersed, was the Empress, and waltzed with the fair hostess. Webster, looked right into the waistcoat pocket | with urbanity, never were the little interchanges of courtesy between him and his enemies so charming and delightful to behold.

A REAL YANKEE .- One of the last stories of Col. Bowen for the grave of Pulaski, many in- Yankee inquisitiveness makes the victim give his quiries have been made of us concerning the tormentor a direct cut in telling him he wished progress of the Pulaski Monument, and the pro- to be asked no further questions. The inquisbable time of its completion. In order to sa- itor fell back a moment to take breath, and tisfy ourselves, and those int rested in the monu- change his tactics. The half suppressed smile mental decoration of our city, we vesterday ap- on the faces of the other passengers soon, arousplied to Col. Bowen, who informed us that the ed him to further exertions; and summoning up granite for the pedestal had already arrived in more resolution, he began again : "Stranger, perhad the day before received advices from the for a Yankee to control his curiosity. You'll tion of the material had recently arrived at New | your name, and what business you follow. I ex-York from Italy, among other pieces the God- pect you ain't ashamed of either of 'em, so now dess of Liberty to crown the whole; that all won't you just obleege me ?" This appeal was in excellent order, and that the monument brought out the traveller, who, rasing up to the would be completed in every part and be rea- extremest height allowed by the coach, and throwing back his shoulders, replied, " My name We will here state for the information of the is General Andrew Washington. I reside in the State of Mississippi. I am a gentleman of leasure. that the authorized examination by medical and I am glad to be able to say of extensive means. I have heard much of New York, and I am on my way to see it; and if I like it as well I'm led to expect, I intend to buy it." Then was heard a shout of laughter throughout the stagecoach; and this was the last of the conversation!

> FAT AND LEAN .- A man praising porter, said was so excellent a beverage, that, taken in great quantities, it always made him fat. "I have seen the time," said another, "when

"When ?" asked the eulogist. "Last night-against a wall."

t made vou lean."

The area of all the States of Europe is given at 3.634.882 square miles.

THE CHICKEN FEVER .- The praiseworthy attempts to improve the breed of domestic fowls which led to the introduction of the Cochin China and other enormous birds, threatens, both here and in England, to degenerate into a mania for monstrosities, not at all likely to further the desired reform. Prices have already been paid, in our own country, for different varieties of fowls, out of all proportion to their value; and this, who had died in indigent circumstances; leaving whether we merely consider their worth for the

table, or regard their merits as progenitors of an

As in all similar excitements, the most money present arms! will be made by those who were among the earliest pioneers in it, or by those who wait until the fever of the enthusiasm is over, until a reaction occurs, and until prices consequently fall. What have tohappened during the Merino sheep speculation, and even to some extent during the Du ham cattle one, is happening again, and to a new generation. The permanent result will be, as then, beneficial to the country at large. But hundreds, if not thousands, will pay dearly for this public good. Many a man will burn his fingers in the Shanghai excitement-bnt the breed of fowls

will nevertheless be improved. We do not decry the movement, be it understood. But we wish every person, before going into the "chicken line," seriously to count the cost. What may be a pardonable hobby, for example, to the idle gentleman of fortune, may such aprove a very dear 'whistle' to the small farmer, who looks to a ready return for his money and time. Fancy chickens, as yet, "don't pay." That is they "don't pay" legitimately, but only for speculative purposes. No Shanghai, or other premium variety, is worth, for the table, the the moiety it brings, now that the fever is raging. Americans are a rich people: Our common food is more costly than that often served to no- yourbles in many a European country. But we cannot afford, nevertheless, to eat, as a daily dish, fowls that cost from five to ten dollars each. The farmer, therefore, who expects to make money immediately, by the sale of high-priced fowls for the table, emphatically "counts his chickens before they are hatched." Prices must come down vastly before Shanghais can become staples for ordinary tables. Till they do become such, however, the demand for them will be a mere speculative one wholly. The bubble will break, sooner or later. A wise man will take care, at the proper time, therefore, to be out of

even while it glows with its thousand seductive had lost any of his family, he replied "no. no colors, it is not entirely the beautiful thing it body but my wife and a small gal." "How seems. This "chicken fever" if it improves the many children had you sir?" Seven in all."breed of fowls, creates also a taste for monstros- "No dad," said a strapping boy of 17 you had ities. Some persons have already reached the eight-there was Jim and Dave and Sal etc... point when they no longer care to breed the etc., "Well, I b'lieve you're right," said the largest and finest flavored birds, but seek rather father and we walked on. to produce novelties in appearance, habits or size, regardless of the usefulness of the fowl for the an evidence of what we consider a total destiis challenged to produce a chicken so small, so clerk's hand the big tears rolled down his cheeks. fair in England, for example, the Queen paid touch him in the right place." fifty dollars for a pair of bantams, whose only merit, if merit it can be called, consisted in being infinitesimally puny. But her Majesty of England is not the only lady who has gone into raptures over "the dear little bantams." Really, if Americans and Englishmen both do not take care, the tulip mania, which once disgraced Holland, will have its rival, in our own times, in the "chicken fever." There is such a thing as having too much even of a good thing; and the poultry excitement threatens soon to reach that climax .- Phil. Ledger.

THE STORY OF A BONNET .- When at Paris had purchased one of the bonnets of the season, which, as every one knows, are small beyond precedent, without reflecting that I was bound for a country where the ladies display in nothing their characterstic modesty and reserve more than in bonnets-at least for the ordinary promenade-retiring into profound depths of Leghorn and lace, and sometimes cloistering themselves in the shades of "uglies."

The Parisian milliner of whom I purchased the above-mentioned bonnet, who was a reduced comtesse, and had her arms blazoned on the plafond of her show-room, was so complaisant as to | do a little in that way." no into ecstacies over the effect when I tried it on, erving, " C est joli! charmant, parfait!" I saw that it was becoming, peculiarly so; and boots. she assured me it was not dear; so I took it. with no fearful looking for of cockney indignation, surely. "Well, as I descended from my find the following statistics in the Boston Tranchamber, equipped for my expedition into town, script : I noticed that the friend who was to accompany it was not till I was walking down Regent street | chusetts Bay. In 1725, the Dutch Company offending" was my unfortunate bonnet. It was siderable number of horses. stared at and commented upon without mercy; shon-boys pronounced it "the last Paris stunner:" shop-girls lifted up their eyebrows and said "Oh. my !" and an impudent young footman, as he passed me, looked up into my face with a shrill significent whistle. At last, in very desperation, I rushed into a shop and purchased a black lace veil, with which I quite ex- Pennsylvania one to six and six-tenths. Ohio, tinguished my "stunner," poppies and all .-Grace Greenwood.

TRY IT .- Any human being who will have with that of the population. the presence of mind to clasp the hands behind the back, and turn the face towards the zenith. still water-ay, sleep there, no matter how long. there are in that country 3,200,000 horses. If not knowing how to swim, you would escape drowning: when you find yourself in deen water, you have only to consider yourself an empty pitcher; let your mouth and your nose-not the top part of your heavy head-be the highest part of you, and you are safe, but thrust up one of your bony hands and down you go-turning up the handle tips over the pitcher.

THE PRISONER OF ROCHELLE.

HERE is a scene from the vaudeville of the Prisoner of Rochelle," which, says a metronotan journal, keeps the audience in a roar of laughter, every night of its performance. Corporal Cartouch amuses himself by going through the manual exercise, while Leza, seated at her work table, abstractedly questions him concerning matrimony.

Leza.-If a girl was to fall in love with you, Corporal, what would you do? Cartouch .- [Manœuvring with his musket,]

L.—She would doubtless look to you for-

L .- And then what a heavy burden you'd C .- Carry.

L .- Your butcher and baker would have

C .- Charge. L .-- Your prospects, of course, would not-

C .- Advance.

L .- And you have to-

C .- 'Bout face. L .- And never have any-

C .- Rest. L .- Now, Corporal, pray give me your-

C .- Attention. L .- A man of your age is not able to bea

C .- Load L.-But you are not in your-

C.—Prime.

L.-Your wife may-C .- 'Bout.

L.-Leave you; but she will soon-

L.-And then you will have to bear all or

C .- Shoulder.

L .- Would you be-C .- Ready.

L .-- I think you have some other-C .-- Aim.

L.-And you'd throw all your epistles into-C .- Fire.

(Fires the musket.)

SENSIBILITY .- The N. O. Bee relates the fol owing among other incidents connected with the burning of the Georgia.

An individual was pointed out to us among the survivors. He was apparently about forty Even while the bubble continues to dilate, years old from Georgia. On our inquiring if he

On relating the circumstance in the cars as table. Now, it is a clumsy bird, with coarse tution of sensibility, a passenger remarked "von flesh, over which the "fancier" exults; now are mistaken, sir. He is a man of very tender credit is claimed because of the unrivaled ugli- feelings. While he was telling me about \$900 ness of the "fresh variety;" and now the world all in \$5 gold pieces, that he had left in the rediculous, or so useless. At a large poultry He is not wanting in sensibility, if you only

APPEARANCE .- "How do you think I ap-

peared at the party last evening?" "Oh finely as usual."

"Do you really think so?"

"Certainly I do." "Do you think I appear as well at a party as

"Now, really tell me-honestly-will you?" "To be sure, I'll tell you honestly if I tell you

"Well, now-I am anxious to know-when do you think I appear the best?" "When you are at home minding your own

business, madam." NOT MUCH OF A SHAKER, BUT CAN SHAKE Some .- A young chap from New York City, visited the Shakers at Lebanon, and as he was wandering through the village, he met a stout

costed him: "Well Mr. Broadbrim, are you much of a Shaker?"

hearty specimen of the shakers, and thus ac-

"Nay, not much," was the reply, "but I can He then seized the astonished Gothamite by the collar, and nearly shook him out of his

THE HORSES OF THE UNITED STATES .- We

The first horses brought into any part of the me looked a little struck up; but I concluded it | territory at present embraced in the U. S. were was with admiration at the ton of the thing; | landed in Florida by Cabeca de Veca, in 1527, and perhaps it was. At the station, while wait- forty-two in number, all of which perished or ing for the train, I had a strong suspicion that a were otherwise killed. The next importation remark I overhead of "My eyes! them is pop was also brought to Florida by De Soto, in 1539. pies." referred to a trifle in the decorative way. In 1608 the French introduced the horse into belonging to my bonnet. In the railway carri- Canada. In 1609, the English landed at Jamesage I found myself an object of rather curious town in Virginia, having seven horses with them. regard; but this I attributed to a certain foreign In 1629, Francis Higgison imported horses and air I may have picked up on the continent; and other domestic animals in the Colony of Massathat I was convinced as to the cause of the sen- imported horses into New York. In 1750, the sation I produced. "The head and front of my French of Illinois were in possession of a con-

According to the census returns for 1850. there were 4,335,359 horses in the United States, exclusive of those in cities, which were not returned. The four and a half millions of these animals in the United States, constitute a proportion of one to five of the inhabitants.-New York has one horse to seven persons. one to four. Kentucky, one to three free inhabitants. In Ohio and the new States of the Northwest the increase of horses has kept pace The number of horses in the United States is

more than three times as large as that in Great may float at ease and in perfect safety, in tolerably Britain. A recent report in France shows that PINE leaves, as a top dressing, has in several

instances, destroyed the growth of wire grass where it had been applied. FIGHTS are easily got up. All that is required

are three participants—two block-heads and a pint of new rum.

Southern Welly Post.

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EDITOR AND PRINCETOR.

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NARROW-MINEDNESS.

tracted and prejudiced vie of things not immediately related to their wn pursuits. The clergyman, accustomed to cathe a theological atmosphere and to devote jost of his time to subjects of a peculiarly evated or recondite nature, often fails to appriate the claims of truth of another kind, andometimes betrays a the stores it has already acquired. culpable indifference towas great and important issues upon which ardispended the dearest interests of society. W sometimes see dis- would find it useful to acquire. Every body at cussions going on in religion papers upon points the present day is liable to the temptation, eithof difference so minute, the however vast they er to attach himself with irrational arrior to may appear to the writers, e absolutely invisi- some particular project, or to retire into the ble to others, and certainlynsignificant, com- ranks of cynical criticism and do nothing but pared with the great essent doctrines of the sneer at what others have done. It is very de-Christian faith. The physian, also, lives in a sirable to avoid these extremes. We must learn medicinal atmosphere. Hideas are very apt to be useful and endeavor to scatter blessings to be tinctured with the precries of his drugs, among our fellow men, with a hand at once and his views and sentimen in regard to gen- liberal and discreet. We must neither turn our eral subjects are often as upund and perverse eyes away in cold indifference from the claims as the constitutions of his paents. He despises of every good cause, nor gaze so intensely upon quackery in medical practic but it is astonish- one object as to become entranced by it. Useing how independent and exn mercenary may fulness is a stream formed from the contribube his opinions on question relating to the tions of innumerable fountains, and although health and comfort of the bdy politic. He is they may seem to flow in opposite directions, very rational and conservative in respect to the their waters are mingled at last in a common animal economy, but you will ofen find him a tide. bold theorist and reckless experimentalist in political or social economy. In egard to lawvers, the observer will soon find that they are frequently chargeable with the same kind of inconsistency. Within the sphere of their profession they are cautious and conservative. From the nature of their studies they are habituated to calm and close investigation, and to give much weight in their judgment to authorities and precedents drawn from a emote antiquity. But they are too prone to view every thing in the light of a litigation. Mary of them seem to think all the great controversies that agitate the world are but a strife for power or interest, and that the greatest issues are to be met and parried with as much quibbling and sophistry

as the respective parties can command. The more a man confines his thoughts within the narrow bounds of a particular system, the more narrow-minded and illiberal he must become. All professions and all parties are subject to the same influence and liable to the same error. It is the great error of our country and our time. Society is minced into sects, parties, and associations to such a degree that, were it not for a kind of comity that has sprung up between them, the mass would rapidly and inevitably tend to a speedy dissolution. The logrolling principle adopted in our legislative bodies. has begun to be applied to all the great move-"Yes, though I have never taken particular ments of the day. A and B temporarily relax some little of their mutual hostility, for the purpose of overwhelming C, and resume their wonted antagonism when they have divided the spoils. Necessity has done for society what could not be effected by patriotism or charity. and has thus far disarmed the violence of conflicting opinions of some of its dangerous power. Many persons, like the Chinese geographers,

seem to regard the position they occupy as the centre of the universe. They first assume that their opinion, or creed, or hobby, of whatever kind it may be, is the great first object of human contemplation, and then measure the importance of everything else by this arbitrary standard. Distance does not lend enchantment, but only contempt to their view. Objects that attract little of their attention are regarded as absolutely insignificant, and they do not reflect that every image formed on the retina of the mental, as well as of the bodily eye, is produced by converging rays of light. There is sometimes a question raised in regard to the apparent size of the moon, and the controversy has been known to become too animated for the occasion. Precisely similar are many of the disputes that occur in society between enthusiasts of different classes. The more their thoughts are concentrated upon particular topics, the more they are withdrawn from others, and objects once prominent before the mental eye, diminish as they recede, till the deluded observer ceases to ap-

Every citizen should be a philanthropist, every philanthropist a philosopher, and every philosopher a Christian. Society contains a great many a pire. who range themselves under one or another of these classes, but they are too much dissociated, and too often antagonistical. In this country Christianity is marred and debased by the ex- mington are projecting line of steamers becessive sectarianism of many of its champions, tween that port and Haua. We wonder that Our philosophy is generally remarkable rather such a line has not been tablished before this. for cynical prejudices than for an enlarged liber- The idea so long prevalt that nature has surality, and our philanthropy assumes the form of rounded the commerce North Carolina with an amazon instead of an angel. Every enthu- insuperable difficulties, ihappily beginning to siast appears to regard the hobby upon which vanish, as we become tore enterprising and he is mounted as a colossus rampant. Of course better acquainted with o resources. The posithe importance of the rider grows in proportion tion of Wilmington is dinently advantageous to the dimensions of his steed, and the world for communication and rade with the West soon appears to his imagination like a panorama, Indies, and we fortunate produce, on the Cape in which he is the central figure at whose feet | Fear and its accessible trutaries, many articles all observations are to be made. On the other which meet a constant mand in those islands. hand, the sneering cynic, who refuses to mount a hobby or to participate at all in enterprises of active usefulness, is no less important in his own estimation, but looks abroad upon the ever changing scenes and evolutions around him, with a colder and more heartless egotism, which satisfies its appetite with the sentiment of contempt for the rest of mankind. It is hard to say which of these forms of human perverseness is most hostile and dangerous to society. They are both very common, and should be more railroad communication he is bon to enjoy generally deplored.

things, and frequently to occupy some new p of observation. Engineers who lay down lines of our great improvements are oblige do this in order to select a practicable ro Great commanders are accustomed to exam all the points on an exposed frontier. To oc py one position all the time is impolitic at fatal. The same rule ought to guide our publi-

men. Our great men, who are great either i general estimation or their own, ought to dives themselves of all unreasonable prejudices and singularities, and sometimes view the interests of society and their country from other position Where a club of eight, ten twenty copies is sent, than those which the ties of sect or party require the person making up the club wibe entitled to a copy them to maintain. This is the only way which truth and sound policy can be neache in the midst of so many distracting influence which continually surround them. The dency of parties is to repel one another, a unfortunately, the more this party zeal is exer. cised, the more intense and repulsive it becomes MEN of all professions arept to acquire con- It is absolutely necessary that it should be mad ified and moderated by frequent efforts to cor rect in the mind those errors of the reckoning which it has produced. The power of self-cor rection is indeed the best test of a great mind. which can rise superior to the pride of absolute consistency, and add the fruits of experience to

The habit we have now endeavored to library trate is one which every member of society

CLERICAL POLITICIANS.

WE notice that several of the Northern clergy have been making themselves indecently con spicuous in the anti-Nebraska agitation now at its height in that excitable clime. Not only has Henry Ward Beecher made his appearance on the political platform in New York city, to unite with John P. Hale and other demagogues in denouncing the measure now before Congress, but the Rev. E. N. Kirk, of Boston, whom we had supposed satisfied with his well deserved clerical honors, has seen fit to lug Nebraska and the Missouri Compromise into his pulpt and devote the sacred hours of the Sabbath to sectional agitation.

There is nothing in the conduct of thes, gen. tlemen that interests us to any great extents We make a note of it as very discrediable to themselves and their profession, however harmless it may be to the American Union. They disgust, through they do not alarm us. They are but types of a great and growing evil. This interference of ministers of the gofpel in political affairs, is a gross indecency-quite as gross as the appearance of women it he pulpit and at the bar. It is however just as foolish as it is indecent. The only way irwhich the free soil party can ever accomplish nything in Congress is by purely political mageuvering. The more the moral question intedes into that body, the weaker must that part become, for the obvious reason that politiciansone and all, entertain a profound abhorrence of actimonious fanaticism. There is not in either suse sufficient religious influence to afford a dent mask under which the monster could hide i deformities. Let not these clerical politicians magine that their demonstrations can add on particle to the strength of the anti-slavery partyn Congress. They can have no other effect the to rob that party of the little pretence to poical plausibility which it has been endeavorings employ in the work

It is truly mortifyingo see ministers of the gospel thus throwing theselves into the muldy whirlpool of section; or party strife. We wonder thy cannot see at slavery, as a political question, has no mo business in the pulpit, than slavery as a religis question has in the halls of legislation. We onder they do not see that consistency require them to denomice every territorial bill who does not exclude, as far as can be, every spect of vice and immoral-

ity from the bounds of al territory. We would recommente all our clerical agitators the pure examples their master and his apostles, who scrupulous confined themselves to the propagation of rgious truth, and took no part in the factions il conspiracies of their time. Even Boanerges I not thunder against the Herods, the Pilates othe Casars of the lieman world, though subission to their rule required an amount of hristian patience to which few professors of r day seem willing to

WILMINGTON AD HAVANA

WE have observed wi a great deal of pleasure that the merchantsad capitalists of Wil

Success, we say, to 18 promising enterprise and all who may engagen it. It is one of the most cheering evidences e have seen of an ad-

vancing prosperity in oubounds. We can see no good ason whe Wilmington should not become the redium of a most flourishing foreign trade. The improvements on the river, by which the agricltural and mineral | roducts of a highly produce region may find an outlet through Favettevie, and the extensive with other parts of the State, ill furnish her It is very important for those who aspire to with enviable facilities, for the up or neglect of teach and lead others, to take enlarged views of which she will be responsible to erself alone.