THE NORTH-CAROLINA STAR.

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NORTH CAROLINA—"Powerful in intellectual, moral and physical resources, the land of our sires and home of our affections."

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AGRICULTURAL.

ON THE LIMING OF LAND.

Lime has been directly applied to the land in the agriculture of this country for a very long period of years. The object of applying it has always been the same—to increase the crops by stimulating the action of the soil. It was supposed to act in two ways—directly upon the vegetable matter in the soil, and directly upon the soil itself, by altering its texture. When wanted to act upon vegetable matter, it was applied to boggy soil after it had been drained, or to deaf soil that had long been under an exhausting course of husbandry, and which had never been limed, for it is known that soil never becomes deaf that had been occasionally limed. When the texture was desired to be altered from a stiff to a friable state, or from a very loose to a firmer state, lime was applied. Stiff clay soils were those which were rendered pulverable by lime, and loose gravelly soils were rendered firmer by its action. The most convenient period for applying lime to the land was when the soil had been bare-fallowed; and as that process was extensively practised, the lime was always laid on in summer. It was the most favourite practice with farmers to apply lime in a caustic state, because, being then in a state of finest powder, mixed best with every sort of soil.

Experience having confirmed all these practices in regard to the application of lime, it is doubtful that many farmers of the present day know more about the nature of lime and its action than what is implied in the above statement, and consequently the practice now is what it was then.

When lime is obtained direct from the kiln, or from shipboard it is in lumps, called *shells*, and light in weight. Limeshells are differently treated by different farmers in their preparation of it for the soil. Some lay down the shells in small heaps upon the feered ridges, while others lay them in large heaps upon the upper head-ridge. It is clear that the mode of laying shells at once upon the land cannot be adopted until the land had previously been sufficiently fallowed; and as fallowing occupies a considerable time to be done in a proper manner, it is also clear that no considerable quantity of lime can be driven, after the fallow is ready, unless the kilns happen to be near; and, at all events it is unnecessary to lay the lime upon the fallowed land until only a short period before the wheat is sown. Besides, when shells are placed in heaps on the ridges, they must remain a considerable time there to be reduced to powder by the air, when the lime will have lost a considerable portion of its causticity by union with the carbonic acid of the air, unless a good deal of rain shall have fallen to hasten its slaking. To preserve the shells intact, till needed, they should be put in large heaps, the outer surface of which may become neutralised by the action of the air, but the interior of which will not be so affected. While the heaps are thus occupying a head-ridge, the land may be worked as opportunity offers.

A week or so before the lime is applied, water should be poured on the large heaps of shells to reduce them to a state of fine powder. The water will all be absorbed by the lime, which nevertheless continues quite dry, thereby indicating that it has been taken up in chemical union with the lime, which then becomes in the state of a hydrate. A great heat is evolved during the time the lime takes to fall to powder; and when it attains that state, the heaps will have swelled to more than three times their former bulk.—The lime is then said to be *slaked*, and is in its most caustic state.

While the slaking is proceeding, the land that was manured in drills (4172) is cross-harrowed a double time, to make it flat; after which the ridges are feered; and the lime is then spread along the feered ridges.

The lime is spread in this manner: Frying-pan shovels, fig. 233, are the best implements for filling carts with, and spreading lime upon land. A calm day should be chosen for the purpose, but should there be the least wind, the single-horse carts should be so placed at the heaps as that the lime-powder which rises into the hair should be blown away from the horses and men. Powdered lime is heavy; but all that can lie upon a shovel is so light in weight that each ploughman takes a heap, and with one of his horses in a cart, for a yoking at a time, fills his own cart and spreads the lime from it upon the ridges allotted to him. The direction in liming should have the wind a little ahead; and when a number of men take from different heaps, they should so arrange themselves along the ridges as that the cart farthest down the wind take the lead in spreading. In spreading lime, the man walks along the middle of the feered ridge, and casts the shovelfuls right and left from the middle towards the feered furrows, which will become, by ploughing the crowns of the future ridges. The man who can cast the shovelfuls with either hand will spread lime better than one who is right or left handed only. The lime should be spread *evenly over the surface;* but it may be spread thicker on one part of the field than another according to the wants of the soil.—On light knolls it may be spread thinner than in hollows, where the soil is either deeper or stronger. Whenever rain falls, the liming should be discontinued.

It is proper to put a cloth over the horse's back and the harness; and the men should cover their face with crape, to save it from the cauterising effects of the quicklime. The horses, whenever loosened from work, should be thoroughly wisped down and brushed, to free the hair of any lime that may have found its way into it; and should the men feel a smarting in their eyes or nose, sweet thick cream is the best emollient.

Progressively as the lime is spread, ridge after ridge, it is harrowed in a double line, and mixed with the soil; and immediately as the entire field being limed, the ridges are ploughed with a *light* furrow, to bury the lime as little as possible, and which constitutes the seed-furrow of the future crop.

The *quantity* of lime that should be applied depends on the nature of the soil, the lighter soils requiring the less, and the stronger the greater quantity. On light turnip soils, some think 120 bushels per acre sufficient, whilst I have used 150 bushels, with benefit. I have seen as much as 510 bushels applied to the acre of wheat land, with manifest advantage. But perhaps from 150 to 240 bushels may be considered average quantities, from the lightest to the heaviest soils. On weak moory soils, 75 bushels are enough with which to commence its improvement.

The sort of lime should determine the quantity applied, the stronger being used in less quantity than the weak. The English lime is much more caustic than the Scotch.—Lime with any magnesia in it is unfit for the land.

It is not customary to apply lime often to land, it being inexpedient to apply it oftener than once in a lease of 19 years, on account of its expense.

Its common price is 3s. per boll of 6 bushels, consequently its entire cost, at the above quantities, will be from £3, 15s. to £6 per acre for the best seaborne English lime, exclusive of carriage; the Scotch sells for 10s. per cart-load of 4 bolls of 6 bushels each including carriage for 10 miles, which makes the cost from £3, 3s. 6d. to £5 per acre.

Lime weighs from 75 lb. to nearly 1 cwt. per bushel, which indicates that it ought not to be laid on by the measure alone, but by measure and weight combined, giving the preference to the lightest weight.

Lime is applied at different periods of the year, according to the state of the land. On summer-fallow it is applied immediately before the wheat is sown in autumn. It is also used for wheat immediately after taking up the potato crop in autumn. It is applied to the land cleared of turnips by sheep, just before the sowing of the barley-seed in spring. It is also applied before the turnip-seed is sown in the beginning of summer. It may be applied to lea immediately before being ploughed for oats in early spring. I do not say it is immaterial to the proper use of lime to choose the season in which it is applied, convenience often determining the point as much as propriety; but experience has decided that it is used to the best advantage on summer-fallow, and after turnips have been eaten off by sheep.

The effects of lime are manifested in a rather remarkable manner. When ploughed down with an ordinary furrow by itself, no effect is observed on the first crop; and when ploughed in deep, a rotation may pass before it shows any effect. When harrowed in, and the land ribbed for barley after turnips eaten off by sheep, it has effect at once. When ploughed with a light furrow above the dung in summer-fallow, even after the lapse of a few weeks it has a sensible effect on the first crop. It has the best effect on the grass of any crop in the rotation and most upon the clover. It has an injurious effect on the potato crop. It loses its effect on the same land after several repetitions. It has little effect on soils in the neighbourhood of large towns. It has always a good effect on fresh soil, as also on moss that has been thoroughly drained. It has a good effect on all drained soils, and is wasted on undrained ones.

Lime is usually procured in summer and autumn, as the kilns are only kept in activity in those seasons; so when it is intended to apply it in spring, it is necessary to procure it in autumn, and keep it all winter. And to preserve it in a desirable state in winter, the heaps of shells should be covered with a thick coating of earth, and every device that appears in it should be immediately filled up.

I am aware of the opinion of some farmers, that lime is equally efficacious in the soil in the effe a as in the caustic state, and Lord Kames was of that opinion; and, therefore, precautions to preserve it in a caustic state in winter may, by them, be deemed unnecessary; but as the general opinion is in favour of quicklime, and which I support, I have treated the subject accordingly, until experience shall instruct us better. There is the advantage, however, in using quick-lime, that it is much more easily spread upon, ploughed into, and mixed with the soil than effete lime; and if pulverisation be of any use to it all, it should mix with the soil, and act with it more quickly than in an effete state.

To the ordinary use of lime, as I have described it, chemistry might object to its application so close to farmyard manure as it is in summer-fallow. It is entirely right avoiding to apply it with or near guano, as it will entirely deprive it of its ammoniacal ingredients. But it is not easy to avoid its proximity to manure, when it is considered that it cannot be applied at any time in the course of a rotation, and that a considerable time is required to collect as much of it as will spread over a large space of ground; and that if a large space is not limed when it is applied, time will not be afforded the tenant to lime all his farm, and derive all the advantages from it, in the course of a 19 years' lease. Suppose that he limes entire fallow-break every year, he cannot go over his farm in less time than four or five years, and this space is as much as he can lime in the course of a year and carry on the culture of the farm at the same time.

If we take the time the farmer has to apply lime, we shall see that he can scarcely avoid applying it near a recent period of manuring. When it is applied on bare-fallow, it must be immediately above the manure; when placed below it, the lime sinks out of reach. When applied to the potato land after the crop has been lifted, it follows the large manuring the potatoes had received late in the spring. The liming land after turnips in spring follows the large manuring which the turnips received in the early part of the preceeding summer. When put upon land that has been manured by sheep eating off turnips, it is placed still nearer the manure. Liming land in preparation of the turnip crop, in the early part of summer, places it as near the manure. Lime cannot be applied to any of the cereal crops when they are growing, and it cannot be put on grass land that is to be sown or pastured in the same season.—Thus, neither in spring, summer, nor autumn can lime be applied to the soil without coming into near contact with manure; and as to applying it in winter, it is out of the question when a large quantity is to be used. The rain and snow and frost may prevent its being harrowed in after being spread, and bad weather may prevent the liming proceeding at all after a portion of the field had been limed. After all, as lime is applied only once in a lease, it matters little that it be put upon the land near a manuring; the important point is to apply it at the best and most convenient time, which is on the fallow; and experience has obtained the best return from its use thus, both in grain and straw.

A top-dressing of *chalk* is one method adopted in several districts of England—in Essex, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, for affording calcareous matter to the soil. It has a striking effect at first, particularly upon fresh new broken up land; but at length it seems to lose its efficacy. It is applied again whenever its effect becomes inert.

The solid chalk of the lower stratum is preferred to the more porous substance near the surface. It is taken out of pits in lumps, which are put upon the ground to be limed; and, the lumps being wet, the frost in winter causes them to fall down into a powder, which is then spread over the surface of the ground. Dry chalk will not fall down, and is therefore useless for the purpose. Chalk is used in Hampshire to render the soil more loose, and in the wolds of Yorkshire more firm. I would conclude from this that the Hampshire soil is clayey, and that of the wolds of Yorkshire silicious.

The quantities applied vary in different districts. In Essex, in the clayland district, about 15 cart-loads, of 40 bushels each, are considered a full dressing per acre, at 6s. per load, and 3s. 6d. for carting one mile; but here the expense does not bear carriage farther than four to six miles, beyond which lime is preferred. In Lincolnshire 80 cubic yards of chalk are applied to the acre, at a cost of 66s. In Hampshire it is dug out of pits as deep a 20 feet, and 2000 bushels are wheeled on the land in barrows at a cost of about 45s. per acre. In the district of Windsor, where it has to be carted ten miles, it cost about £8 per acre.*

I have already referred to shell-marl as a manure, in (4999.) The composition of peat shell-marl of Logie, in Forfarshire—a county which at one time afforded and used a large quantity of this substance in its agriculture, to a degree to be positively detrimental to the soil, some of which has not recovered its effects to this day—is as follows:—

	From the top of the bed.	From the bottom of the bed
Carbonate of lime,	77.6	81.7
Oxide of iron and alumina,	1.8	0.6
Organic matter,	14.6	14.6
Insoluble, chiefly silicious matter,	6.0	3.1
	100.0	100.0

Bog-marl retards the ripening of the grain crops, while lime hastens their maturity.

The process of marling as practised in England is very similar to that of gaulting or claying, already described in (2110.)—The marl is a clay containing particles of chalk, which are quite visible in the mass of clay. The marl is applied both to heavy and light land. On heavy land it is used on new broken up pasture and mixed with farmyard manure in compost. On light soils it is more extensively employed, and its benefits are derived from an improved texture of the soil. From 40 to 50 cubic yards are applied per acre, at a cost of 7d. per cubic yard if not driven farther than a furlong, and beyond that distance one penny per furlong is paid. Its action produces better quality of grain and regularity of crop. The excess of organic matter in a new-soil loosens it, which the marling corrects; the dry and loose texture of sand is rendered more adhesive [illegible] and peat is benefited by consolidation and the supply of inorganic matter.†

The following analysis may give a fair idea of the composition of a clay marl. This specimen was found in Ayrshire:—

Carbonate of lime,	8.4
Oxide of iron and alumnia,	2.2
Organic matter,	2.8
Clay and silicious matter,	84.9
Water,	1.4
	99.7‡

The lime used in the agriculture of this country is chiefly derived from the mountain limestone of the carboniferous series, as also that of the coal formation. The rock forms a broad belt across the centre of Scotland, along the centre of England, and in the whole of the centre of Ireland. Lime in Scotland is mostly derived from the coal formation, where it is associated with shales, sandstones, and ironstones.

In Ireland large beds and knolls of limestone nodules, in the form of gravel, are found in many districts. The gravel, when laid upon the land, acts as lime in the course of time; and it affords a very ready means of reclaiming drained bogs, and of reducing their vegetable into earthy matter, (5891.)

The composition of some good limestones for agricultural porposes is here given:—

	Carluke,	Cockermouth,	Kilnhead.	Relig.
Carbonate of lime,	99.71	91.86	95.89	93.97
Sulphate of lime,	0.85	0.23	0.32	..
Phosphate of lime,	1.14	..	..	..
Carbonate of magnesia,	2.06	1.26	0.54	1.52
Alumina and oxide of iron,	1.63	6.73	1.26	1.57
Silica.	0.41	2.92	2.85	3.14
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Limestone, on being broken into handy lumps, is packed in alternate layers with coal in kilns and burned, when a very material effect is produced upon its appearance and character. From being a close-grained, hard, heavy stone, it is reduced to a porous, light, splintery cinder. One ton of limestone, when thus burned, yields 11 cwt. of the cinder. The cinder is called *lime-shells*. The burning has the effect of driving off water and carbonic acid from the limestone; of forming gypsum with the sulphur of the coal, and with the pyrites of the limestone; and silicate of lime with the silicious matter present in the limestone and the coal.

Limeshells have a strong affinity for water: they will extract it from the atmosphere and become in time slaked, which is the end aimed at in putting limeshells on the land in small heaps along the ridges; but they are more commonly slaked by water being poured upon them. The pouring water too quickly upon the shells causes the lime to be gritty, and to contain many small lumps which refuse to be slaked. The spontaneous slaking is attended with the least trouble as usually practised, but in effect it chills the surface and produces much gritty lime; and it gives sufficient time for much of the powdered lime to absorb carbonic acid from the air, and go back to the state of carbonate and become effete. To succeed well with the spontaneous mode of slaking, the heaps should be covered with sods, which is a trouble which no farmer will undertake with heaps lying on the field. Farmers will willingly cover large heaps of limeshells that are to remain over winter, to be spread upon the land in spring, by which time most of the lime will be found slaked in an excellent state for mixing with the soil.

In slaking limeshells, an intense heat is produced, a large quantity of water is absorbed, much increase of bulk ensues, and a fine powder is obtained, which is called *quick-lime, caustic-lime, hot-lime*. The heat in some cases might ignite gunpowder; the lime absorbs about one fourth of its wieght of water; it increases from 2½ to 3½ times its bulk; and the powder has strong caustic and alkaline properties. The ultimate results are, that the slaked lime consists partly of caustic lime, partly of carbonate of lime, and partly of hydrate of lime, somewhat in these proportions in the ton:—

		Per cent.	Cwt.
Carbonate of lime,		57.4)	11½
Hydrate of lime,	(lime, 32.4 (water, 10.2)	42.6) per	8½
		100.0	20

The composition of the limes obtained from the limestones mentioned above, (6035,) with the exception of that of Relig, is as follows:—

	Lanarkshire, Carluke.	Cumberland, Cockermouth,	Dumfriesh. Kilnhead.
Lime,	89.78	89.77	88.84
Sulphate of lime, (gypsum,)	1.45	0.38	0.51
Phosphate of lime,	1.93	..	..
Magnesia,	1.09	1.04	0.45
Alumina and oxide of iron,	2.76	1.23	1.98
Silica in the state of silicate,	0.70	4.92	5.39
Carbonic acid and moisture,	1.09	2.68	2.83
	100.00	100.00	100.00

The purer lime, is it is considered, the better for agricultural purposes; it is then said to be in the fattest and strongest state. Of the limes whose analysis appears above, it would seem to me that the Kilnhead is the best for applying to the land. Plasterers like fat lime, as it runs best and makes the strongest putty. When a considerable proportion of sand occurs it is the better adapted for common building purposes, as it then requires less sand to convert it into good mortar, and the natural union of silicious matter is much better than any artificial method of adding it can be devised. Of these the Cockermouth is the best for buildings. Much magnesia in lime is hurtful to vegetation, and is therefore unsuited for the land; but it is a useful ingredient in lime intended for buildings under water, such as piers and docks, where it becomes very hard, and on that account is called hydraulic lime. Of these limes the Carluke would seem best suited for building piers; but the proportion of magnesia in it is but small compared to many of the magnesian limes of England, as at Hartlepool, where it contains about 45 per cent of the carbonate of magnesia, a ton of which affording no less a quantity of the calcined magnesia of the shops than 9¾ cwts.

The practice hitherto has been to apply a large dose of lime at once, and not to repeat it during the lease. The motive for this practice I could look for more to the circumstances in which the farmer is placed in regard to the tenure of his farm, than to any reasonable expectation entertained by him of the action of lime upon the soil in large quantity. It is felt with the application of lime as with the draining of the farm—the sooner it is done, and the seldomer done, the greater profit to him who does it. The opinion is gaining ground, however, that it is better for the tenant's interest to lime in less quantity at a time, and more frequently. It would appear, taking the average of the quantities of lime applied in different districts of the country, that about 8 or 10 bushels per acre per annum are applied to supply the supposed requirements of the land. It might, therefore, be better for the crops and more prudent for the purse of the tenant, to apply 8 or 10 bushels to the acre on the fallow every year during the lease than 160 to 200 bushels per acre at one time at its commencement.

There is no doubt that lime is an exhausting substance for the land. Long ago it was quite common in Scotland for tenants, who grudged to purchase manure, to procure lime and apply it as manure, just as the bog-marl was used, until the land was rendered almost incapable of growing any crop, when it was laid down to grass to rest for a number of years. The various substances of the soil, organic and inorganic, are more rapidly set free after lime has been applied than before; and, on being set free, the roots of plants obtain them the more readily and in greater abundance; and then, as the plants themselves grow more rapidly and to a larger size, and perfect all their parts more completely, they will carry off a larger quantity of matter from the soil, which if not replaced in some way, the soil must become exhausted. If more lime is applied to correct the evil, the exhaustion will become the more severe.

Over-liming was an evil which the land suffered in a former generation more than in this; and when it occurred was confined to poor weak soil, that was soon rendered too loose by the use of the plough. It is therefore quite correct what Professor Johnston says, that "the evil called overliming is a mechanical, not a chemical one. The extreme openness of the soil has been brought on by prolonged ploughing, and too frequent cropping of corn. An opposite procedure must therefore be adopted, and mechanical means employed, by which a gradual solidification may be effected," among which none is more effective than the eating off turnips by sheep on the land.

A compost of lime and earth is a better top-dressing for grass land than either separately. Such a compost is usually made too weak of lime; the proportion should be one cubic yard of lime to three cubic yards of earth. The mixing of such a compost costs 1d. per cubic yard of the mixture.

The appearance of the white clover, *Trifolium repens*, on top-dressing healthy soil with lime, is a well-known and remarkable phenomenon. Lime extirpates the corn marigold, *Chrysanthemum segetum*, but it encourages the red poppy, *Papaver Rheas;* and on sinking into strong clay soil it favours the growth of colt's foot, *Tussilago farfara*.

If a person is continually complaining of the town in which he lives, it only proves that he is not fit to live in it.

He who eats till he is sick, must fast till he is well.

If a person sports with other's infirmities, you will observe that he is totally blind of his own.

Journal of the Agricultural Society of England, vol. iii. p. 183, and Vol. v. p. 34.

†*Journal of the Agricultural Society of England*, vol. iii. p. 212.

‡Johnston *On the Use of Lime in Agriculture*. p. 11.

§Johnston *On the Use of Lime in Agriculture*, p. 44.

¶*Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society*, July 1848, p. 229.

THE MORMONS.—SALT LAKE VALLEY.

The Desert News, of April 8th, contains the "Fifth General Epistle" of the "Latter Day Saints, from Salt Lake Valley, to the Saints scattered throughout the earth" The Epistle contains much statistical information concerning the prosperity and productiveness of this people and country.

This Epistle of the Saints jubilates over the extension of Mormonism to all lands—in Europe Asia, Africa, the East and West Indies, and America. This extension and rapid gathering of the Saints is proclaimed as a token of the Messiah's near approach. Then, again, the "Saints" declare that civil dissensions, the cholera, quarrels among christian sects, earthquakes, whirldwinds, hurricans, tornadoes, &c., are sure *signs* that the "second coming of Christ is at hand." Leaving heavenly theorizing, the "Saints come down to earth.—They say the winter has been mild, and very little snow, several grain and lumber mills have been built. Shingles have been made, threshing machines put into use, the council house nearly finished; the warm spring bath completed, the tinning, store in use; a pottery nearly finished, a woolen factory to be erected, and china ware and cutlery to be manufactured.

In March the farmers sowed their wheat. A colony of Mormons has been formed at Iron county, 250 miles south of Salt Lake city—a few families, and 130 men, with teams, seeds, and tools, were sent out December 7th last, and when last heard from they had a field of 1,600 acres, 400 of it so vn, plenty of water, wood, iron, ore, alum, and prospects of coal.

"The Quorum of Seventies" have agreed to erect a great Rotunda in Salt Lake city, to be called the "Seventies' Hall of Science." Gov. Young is trustee and superintendent.

About three hundred emigrants wintered with the 'Saints,' and left for the gold diggings in the spring.

A settlement is to be found in the southern part of California, not far from San Diego, and one hundred and fifty wagons, under the charge of Elders Lyman and Charles Ritch, started in March for the place. A continuous line of stations or places of refreshment to the Pacific, on this route, is to be established.—The city is being formed into blocks, instead of wards; shade trees are planted, schoolhouses built, and measures taken to prevent depredations by California emigrants.

The Epistle informs us that the "twelve apostles are abroad," except two. Orson Hyde is in Iowa; Pratte is on his way to the Society and Sandwich Islands and Chili; Orson Pratt is in the States, but expected home; Taylor was at Boulogne, France, preaching, translating and publishing; Snow has visited the Italian States, and is now located in Switzerland; Erastus Snow is in Copenhagen, and the good work is prospering Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Germany, and all that region; Richards is presiding over the "Church" in the British Isles—his office being in Liverpool; Smith is presiding in Iron county, and the two Rich's are en route to [illegible] a settlement near San Diego.

From the Epistle above it seems that the United States and Canada, "if they wish to see the work of the Lord prosper," to arise as one man, and come to Deseret, "where they can do more for Zion in one year than they can in many years where they are."

Cincinnati Gazette.

THE PURE IN HEART.—A gentleman, in one of his visits among the poor, met with one of his Sabbath school scholars, a little girl not six years old, who had just begun to read the New Testament. This child, being fond of singing, was anxious to possess one of the school hymn-books, which the gentleman kindly promised to give her, on condition that she would learn to read the fifth and sixth chapters of St. Matthew's Gospel within the space of a fortnight. The little girl immediately undertook this task, and having brought her two chapters to the gentleman, began to read: but when she finished the first twelve verses, he caused her to stop, in order to inquire of her which of the qualities described in the beatitudes she would desire most to possess. She paused a little while, and then replied, with a modest smile, "I would rather be pure in heart."

The gentleman asked her wherefore she should choose this blessed quality above all the rest. In reply to which, she answered to this purpose: "Sir if I had a pure heart, I should then possess all the other good qualities spoken of in this chapter."

TEST-TOAST AGAIN.—Col. Black, who was named as a candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania, wrote a letter, which was read in the Reading convention, withdrawing his name. It is a very zealous plea for a faithful support of the compromise measures of the last Congress, and a stern discountenancing of all Abolition agitation. In the course of the letter the following passage occurs:

It is impossible not to love the thought, and the man who made the thought, as well expressed as this: "*The States of the Union, distinct as the billows, and one like the sea.*"

Some time ago, when this sentiment was given as a toast at a public celebration in Virginia, a controversy arose in the newspapers about the right of property. The authorship was claimed for various eminent persons. We do not recollect how the matter was settled among the disputants, but we have a very distinct knowledge that the line is from an English poem, a good many years old, and that as a toast it is more pretty in sound than true in philosophy. In one of the poems of Montgomery the following singular verse occurs, which we quote from memory. The last line, however, we are sure of:

"Ah! why has Jehovah, in forming the world,
From the ocean divided the land;
His rampart of rocks round the continents hurled,
And cradled the deep in his hand;
If man may transgress his eternal command,
And leap o'er the bounds of his birth
To ravage the uttermost earth,
And violate nations and realms that should be,
Distinct as the billows, but one as the sea."

As a philanthropic wish for the universal harmony of the race, this does very well in poetry, but we never could fancy it as an intelligible metaphor, descriptive of the relations of the States termed the Union. They are rather fixed bodies, and rising as the hills which form imperishable parts of the continent, than the transient upheavings of a mass of waters, swelling or weltering away under the capricious agitation of the winds, without any inherent shape or existence of their own.

The idea of the Union, which the sentiment conveys, is a false one, and the line itself, being borrowed, has not even the merit of being well applied. The public ear has been cheated with the smoothness of the verse.—*N. O. Picayune.*

Frederick the Great, with an empire at his direction, in the midst of war, and on the eve of battle, found time to converse with philosophers, and to feast himself on the pleasures of learning.

NEWSPAPER DISCUSSIONS.

The Baltimore American, in some remarks upon the bitter tone and temper which sometimes characterize newspaper discussions, says:

"The notion which seems to be entertained by many that abusive epithets and derogatory imputations add strength to an argument, is one of the most mistaken notions that the most weak minded children of vanity ever indulged in. It is akin to that other offspring of egotism—the idea that the public are interested in the personal bickerings of two individuals who happen to be editors of newspapers, and that either is believed in his vituperations of the other."

We cannot altogether coincide with our friend of the American in one of these opinions. We think the public *do* feel considerable interest in personal warfare, especially if it be smart, pungent, and likely to end in exchanging the pen for the sword. In fact, personalities, brief, pithy, and biting, are regarded as the very salt, cayenne and mustard of the editorial table. A race, a cock fight, or a fisticuff in the street, will attract a crowd sooner than a philosophical lecture, and the same principle in human nature makes us all eager to see a fight on that most public arena of the world—a newspaper.

One principal cause of newspaper personalities is the excess of party spirit. At present, the newspaper world exhibits a comparative calm, but in high party times the press more frequently resembles a weapon of destruction than an engine of truth and virtue. Its conductors permit themselves to be inflamed by the passions of their respective parties, instead of calmly discussing, like advocates at the bar, honest differences of opinion between themselves and their opponents, and endeavoring to enlighten and soothe the public mind.—These bitter controversies have done more to degrade the press than any other cause, and if its conductors sometimes feel that the dignity of their vocation is not as highly appreciated in this country as in France and England, one reason is, that, unlike the French and English journals, they make their presses the theatre of a war of persons rather than of principles, and the public, very naturally, have little respect for a profession whose members show so little respect for each other.

We dare say there is no party in politics or religion, in this country or in the world, the mass of which are not perfectly conscientious and honest in their opinions. There may be prejudice, passion, ignorance and error in each and in all, but in all, with few exceptions, there is likewise sincerity. Why, then, denounce or ridicule men for a difference of opinion, as if it were a wilful fault? If they are in error, is that the most efficient mode setting them right? We should think not. Reason and persuasion have many converts, but persecution and abuse only confirm men in their opinions and prejudices.

Rich. Republican.

Correspondence of the Boston Atlas.

PARIS, May 22.

When we reached the *Road Point*, it was not yet day, and the place was very badly lighted. Yet by the faint flickering lights of the *lanterns* which swayed to and fro in the wind, as if they were *playing* at swinging on their stout ropes, I could see some bayonets gleam, and a vague unformed mass standing in the middle of the square. I had never seen a guillotine, but my heart told me that was it. I went near it—it is horrible to look upon. I need not describe its form, for every one knows it—by the dim light it looked like a pile driving machine. It is placed upright upon a platform, a ladder without rounds, with a wooden collar at its base and a triangular knife above. By the side of the roundless *ladder* is the coffin where the body is thrown, below it is the *panier* where the head falls, and from the upper end of the *ladder* to the balustrade which surrounds the platform, the rope dangles, which the executioner has but to pull, and—ah, it is horribly simple! The guillotine, in all its parts, even to the rope, was painted red. I leave you to conceive how this looked, viewed by the crepuscular light, in which I saw it. But the ponderous triangular axe was unpainted, it gleamed with a horribly sinister expression, high over the *panier* and the coffin.

As there were, as yet, few persons on the ground, except the soldiers, every one was allowed to move around the fatal instrument, and examine it in all its parts. But the crowds soon began to arrive. The instrument had been planted at about eleven o'clock the preceding night, and it attracted crowds from a large radius. As daylight increased, the soldiers formed lines, the people were ordered back from the instrument; a troop of dragoons galloped up, who first formed in front of the guillotine, and then guarded it. Between the horses were the *gend'arms*, and behind them the public.

A GOURD.—A Gourd was exhibited yesterday, at one of our stores which measured three feet 6 inches in length, and two and three quarters inches in diameter. Like some of our Congressional Speeches, it is distinguished more for its length than strength of body.—The owner intends it for a trumpet, or horn—not a horn of liquor, but a horn to make a noise like the rams' horn of Jerico. It is well we have no walls to tumble down at the perpetration. It is a curious gourd, a *sui generis* of the present day, and must belong to the family which raised the dander of Jonah.

Wil Commercial.

CONSCIENCE.—In some of the speeches made by abolitionists of the North against the fugitive slave law, it was urged as the dictate of conscience not to permit a fugitive slave to be restored to his owner. A *fore*ward gentleman was very vehement in his appeals in favor of runaway slaves, and denounced the vengeance of Heaven upon those who delivered them up. His conscience would not permit him to carry the law into effect, though it would tolerate the violation of an oath to support the Constitution of the country. We presume that the juror, (D. B. Walker,) who, being sworn on the jury to try Robert Morris (a negro for assisting to rescue the slave Shadrach, was set aside by judge Sprague on an examination for perjury, was one of the disciples of the reverend gentleman referred to. It seems that the easiness of Walker did not prevent his serving on the jury, and swearing to bring in a true verdict according to the testimony, though he had previously declared his intention not to convict under any circumstances. A man who would act thus, shou'd serve a term in the penitentiary.

Baltimore Clipper

AMERICAN SELF-GOVERNMENT.

In the "Recollections and Anecdotes of the Presidents of the United States," published in Authur's Home Gazette, a very graphic and stirring account is given of the scene in the Hall of the House of representatives on the eventful and exciting occasion of the election by that body of a President of the United States. After describing the intense and absorbing interest evinced by every human being in Washington, and the successful opposition of Mr. McDuffie to an attempt to exclude the people from witnessing the acts of their representatives, that gentleman pledging himself for their orderly deportment while looking on such a spectacle, the writer thus proceeds:

"At length the Speaker's hammer fell.—A dead silence instantly prevailed, and the respective delegations assembled and took their seats around the tables prepared for them.

"It was my privilege, from an elevated position on the right hand of the chair, to enjoy a full view of all the groups; and I have preserved a rude and hasty sketch which I caught of their positions while the first ballot was proceeding. Each delegation appointed one of their number to act as Chairman, collect their votes and report the result. The delegations voted by pluralities. Whoever, in each, received the most votes, was reported as the choice of that delegation. There were twenty-four of these groups, and when the votes had been gathered in each, they were called upon to report, which they did in succession, *viva voce*, commencing at Maine.—The silence was like that of a sepulchre.—Men's breath was suspended as State after State uttered its voice; and oh, can I ever forget the moment when the Speaker, standing up in his place, declared, in a clear sonorous voice, that seemed to pierce through bone and marrow, that John Q. Adams, having received a majority of the votes cast, was duly elected President of the United States for four years from the 4th day of March next ensuing."

"Then arose such a shout from the galleries as seemed to lift the very dome of the Hall. Mr. McDuffie, (whose candidate had been defeated, whose eager hopes had been blasted, and whose personal pledge for the good order of the assembly was remembered by all,) sprang up in such excitement from the ground, and in a voice that rang above all the tumultuous plaudits of the spectators, cried, 'Mr. Speaker, I move the gallery be cleared.' The question was put, and carried. 'Yes,' said a foreign minister to another who stood by his side, 'but how are you going to do it? A natural question enough for a European, ignorant of the country and the people. Here were no guards, no gens d'armes, not even a constable; how was the order to be enforced?"

He soon saw, and while he gazed, seemed penetrated with speechless wonder. No sooner had the spectators cleared the galleries, than an active, slender young man, of graceful form and with brilliant black eye, darted from his place, and mounting, (I did not see how,) to the broad stone cornice which runs all around the hall in front of and below the breast work of the galleries, motioned with his arm to the dark, dense, and almost suffocated mass of human beings before him, exclaiming, 'gentlemen, the speaker orders the galleries to be cleared; you must retire—clear the galleries.' And at his word, like a flock of quite, passive sheep, when the gate of their pen is thrown open, out went the entire crowd, without a word of complaint or remonstrance, and in an incredibly short time, not a soul was left behind. The foreign minister lifted up his hand in amazement, and exclaimed, 'What a government! What a people!'"

It is only an occasion like this which can do full justice to the American character and illustrate its capacity for self-government in a manner palpable to the most common understanding, and irresistible by the strongest prejudice. Such an ordeal as the above no people of Europe could have passed thus quietly and peacefully. Yet to such trials our countrymen have been repeatedly subjected.—Wound up every four years to a pitch of political frenzy by a Presidential election, the defeated party submits to the result with no more idea of resistance than if the claims of the successful candidate were sustained by a large standing army. The President dies, and their Vice President occupies his chair, as has twice happened during our brief national history, but not a check occurs to the wheels of government, not a ripple upon the popular wave, and the ship of state shows no more sign of change than does a ship upon the sea when one pilot relieves another at her helm.

Such facts as these display the true greatness of the American character. They exhibit it in its true superiority over the rest of the world. They show the difference between the *men* of America and the *subjects* of Europe. The World's Fair has no apartment large enough to exhibit specimens of nations, or we might appear to better advantage there than we do in the manufacture of knick knacks and playthings. What American is not proud of such a country? Who will not strive to perpetuate its institutions and its government?

Rich. Republican.

WHIG CANDIDATE.—It is the determination of the Whigs here, and as far as we hear, of the Whigs of the District generally, to have a Candidate for Congress in the field as soon as possible. It is thought that it will be requiring too much of the Convention, to meet a second time, at this busy season of the year, especially. The chairman of the Corresponding Committee, is in communication with that Committee with a view to ascertain the wishes of the majority in the District, and fix upon a suitable Candidate. We shall announce the result as early as possible.—*Newbernian.*

A GOOD REPLY.—The Natchez Courier says that a pretty good story is told of a manly reply to one of Col. McWillie's apostrophies at a gate speech he made in Brandon, Miss. Looming up in a certain portion of his address, he exclaimed: "I was a freeman when I was elected to Congress, and I went there a freeman." Whereat a Union loving son of the Emerald Isle exclaimed from the crowd, "Yes, be jabbers, and a *Freeman* will be your successor." Gen. Freeman, it must be observed, is a candidate for Congress in opposition to Col. McWillie.

EXTENSIVE FARMING. A crop of potatoes grown on the rancho of Mr. Perner, containing 1000 acres, in the San Jose valley, California, yielded in gross receipts $223,000.