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TERMS.
Subscriptions, three dollars per annum—on half in advance.
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Nothing is beneath the attention of a Great Man.

This short sentence is inscribed over the door of the small building, in Holland, which was once the workshop of Peter the Great; and furnishes more than volumes of common description and history could do, an insight into the character of the man who raised the Muscovites from the deepest barbarism to the rank of civilization, and laid the foundation of an empire, the extent of which the world as yet seems little able to comprehend.

One of the most fatal errors to which men are subject, is the disposition to treat small things with contemptuous indifference, forgetting that great things are but an aggregate of small ones, and that discoveries and events of the greatest importance to the world can be traced to things most insignificant in themselves. Nothing more truly marks an original mind, and stamps its possessor as a truly great man, than the seizure of circumstances which would pass unnoticed by the multitude, and, by subjecting them to the analysis of his reasoning powers, deducing inferences of the greatest practical results.

The power of the lodestone to attract iron, has been known from time immemorial; accident discovered the fact that a magnetized needle would indicate the North, but for a long time this truth was productive of no results. In the hands of Flavia Goja, of Amalfi, it produced the mariner's compass, an instrument which has changed the whole course of commerce, and opened America and Australia to the rest of the world. To mention only one of the results that the use of the compass in maritime discovery has led to—it has given the potato to Europe, and thus trebled the means of subsistence.

We owe the Galvanic or voltaic battery, one of the most powerful instruments in advancing science the world has yet seen, to Madame Galvani's noticing the contraction of the muscles of a skinned frog accidentally touched by a person on whom her husband was at the moment making some experiments in electricity. The experiments of Galvani and Volta were followed up by Davy, Hare, and Silliman, and effects which have astonished and instructed the world, have been the result. The dry galvanic pile, in the hands of the discoverer, De Luc, was nothing more than a scientific plaything. Singer, of London, a mechanic of genius, saw the pile, and applied the power thus generated to moving the machinery of a watch; and one constructed by him has now run more than sixteen years without winding or loss of motion.

A Chemist was at work in his laboratory preparing a powder for a certain purpose. A spark fell into his composition, and it exploded; and from that day gun-powder was discovered. Some may question the utility of this discovery, but we do not. Gun-powder has materially aided the miner, the founder and the chemist; it has made war, when now carried on between nations, a much less evil than formerly; but, more than all, it has given internal order and tranquility to the kingdoms of Europe, by knocking down those strong-holds of feudal barbarism and cruelty, the castles of a haughty and domineering nobility, and placing the weak, so far as regards protection by law and security to person and property, on a level with the highest.

A German peasant carved letters on the bark of a beech tree, and with them stamped characters on paper, for the amusement of his children. Nothing more was thought of this; but from it Faust conceived and executed moveable types; and printing, an art that has perhaps exercised a greater influence on the destiny of mankind than any other, thus had a beginning.

Galileo was in a church at Florence, where a drowsy Dominican was holding forth on the merits of the Virgin, and the miracles of the Holy Church—things about which the philosopher cared very little. The principal lamp of the church had been left suspended in such a manner that it swung to and fro by the slightest breath, and caught the eye of the philosopher. The regularity of its oscillations struck him, and the idea of employing such vibrations to measure time occurred. Galileo left the church and returned to his study, and in a short time the first pendulum ever made was swinging.

Some children playing with the glasses of a Dutch spectacle-maker, accidentally placed a couple so that the steeple of a church appeared much nearer, and turned bottom upwards. From this small beginning was pro-

duced the telescope—an instrument which, more than any other, has enlarged the boundaries of the universe, and given to man more exalted ideas of that Being who spake all these worlds into existence.

About one hundred and fifty years ago an old man might have been seen in his study, apparently amusing himself by witnessing the escape of steam from an old wine-bottle, and then checking it instantaneously by plunging it into cold water. There are multitudes who would sneer at an observer of nature who could stoop to notice such a trifle; yet this expansion and condensation of steam in the wine bottle, and the train of thoughts which it suggested, in the hands of the Marquis of Worcester, gave birth to the steam-engine—the most valuable present that Science has ever made to the Arts. Those very men who are now filled with delight and astonishment when they behold the beautiful steam-boat majestically ploughing the waves, or the steam-car whirling its train of carriages over the rail road with almost the rapidity of thought, would be the first to look and speak with contempt of the train of causes that led to such important results.

But perhaps the example of Newton, more than any other, conclusively proves that there is, in the whole circle of nature, nothing trifling to a truly great mind. Thousands had seen apples fall from the trees to the earth; yet no one had ever asked the question whether the cause that caused the apple to fall to the earth, extended to the moon?—yet this question, and its solution, was the key which has unlocked the mechanism of the universe, and given to man power and ideas that could otherwise never have existed.

The great truth these examples inculcate is this—that there is nothing trifling in nature, nothing that is not worthy attention and reflection, nothing that does not form part of the great chain of cause and effect, and capable, consequently, of leading to the most valuable and interesting events. There is an impression abroad, that it forms no part of the business of the tiller of the soil to think. This is not true, and the position should be exploded at once. It is scarcely possible for a man to be more favorably situated for an observation of nature, than is the farmer. His business is with the soil he treads upon—with its constituents and their varying proportions—with the green earth and its covering of herbs and plants, its trees and flowers; while over head is stretched the broad over-arching sky, inviting him to useful reflection, and urging him to "look through nature up to nature's God."

THE BROKEN BOND.

Hundreds of our youth who have read Wirt's graphic life of Patrick Henry, have actually supposed the effects ascribed by the inimitable biographer to the powers of that self-taught orator's eloquence, in the parson cause, the beef cause, and the storm scene in the House of Burgesses of Virginia, on the adoption of the Federal Constitution, to be mere fantasies of the writer's brain, and out of the question in the practice of real life. To those who have never witnessed the force of eloquence upon the minds of a listening multitude, such inference may certainly appear natural and very excusable; especially if they had not the pleasure of knowing the exalted character and pure purpose of Wirt; but for others to doubt the veracity of his pen, seems very much like questioning one's own existence.

Patrick Henry, however, is not the only orator of our infant republic, who, by the force of eloquence, has cleared the courts of justice and the halls of legislation. And to back this assertion, we here offer the simple story of the events connected with the "Broken Bond," referred to at the head of this article.

Just before the war of the Revolution, Deacon Dudley C. of New Hampshire, accompanied Zebina C. his neighboring merchant, to the town of Boston. There they called on Mr. Frazier, a large importer of foreign fabrics; with whom Mr. Z. C. was in the habit of dealing. The deacon, thoughtful and enterprising, proposed trade also, but the wary citizen declined the purchase of his butternut and hickory piths, his kegs of pickled trout, and bales of peltry; but finally expressed his wish to purchase a drove of cats, for a ship which he was about to send to a quarter of the world where the animal was unknown. But said the crafty purchaser, they must be trained to the whip, and to regular marches across the country to ship board. The Deacon thought of the offer and concluded that as horses, mules, horned cattle, sheep, hogs and turkeys had been trained and driven by thousands across the country to a market, he could not see why the cat also might not be trained for the same purpose. At all events if he could not drive them, he was sure he could train them to follow him, for his old Tab often followed him to the fields and woods. He therefore concluded to furnish the drove of cats. A bond

was drawn and executed, and a large sum of money was advanced, in order to enable him to prosecute his arrangement. On reaching his home, the Deacon immediately prepared a room in his garret, and began to collect his drove, exercising them every morning under the crack and lash of a long whip, to regular marches round the room.

The plan operated favorably while the number of cats were small, and the space sufficient for free movement; but when he had assembled a large number, opposition arose; and when the whip was applied to force obedience, the whole mass, as by common consent and simultaneous movement, pounced upon poor Deacon, and would have torn him piece-meal, but for the timely aid of the family, who roused by the noise, burst the door of the chamber, and allowed the cats to escape. The Deacon fortunately survived his wounds, returned the money advanced him by Frazier through the agency of his neighbor C., and relinquished the contract.

The war which ensued called the whole strength of the country into the battle field, and both the high contracting parties to the cat contract, did their country some little service. Some ten years after the peace of 1783, Frazier, on closing his business, journeyed through the interior to collect his balances; and among the rest called on the Deacon for the fulfillment of his bond, demanding the amount of advance (which the country merchant had never returned,) with interest, and a heavy sum as smart money, for neglecting to perform his covenant.

This was like a thunder-bolt to the ears of the poor Deacon, who had not once doubted that the merchant's money had been promptly returned, and the bond cancelled. Presuming there must be some mistake in the matter, he resisted payment; and an action was instituted to enforce the demand.

The cause was brought to an issue at the village of Keene, where the good people had just finished a new and tasteful church, and had turned the old one elevated some eight or ten feet upon a granite foundation, over to the purposes of justice. The Deacon, when he found himself drawn into the law, employed the slick-headed, eagle-eyed, and eloquent Ben. West to defend his cause; and against him had been pitted the young and brilliant J. Mason. From the singular character of the case, the parties litigant, and the high standing of the counsel, a general interest had been excited; and women and children thronged the store to literal stuffing, to hear the story of the Broken Bond.

The pleadings were opened by young Mason, with a bold flourish of anticipated triumph, frequently mingled with a lurking sneer at any serious attempt at defence—and he was replied to by the grave and stubborn charge of a direct and premeditated attempt upon the life of the venerable Deacon—an officer, who in those days and among that people, stood in sacred relation to the church, next to the minister.

To sustain this charge, the witty counsel first held the princely clad and full powered merchant up to the gaze of the court and crowd, as an old notorious and experienced cat dealer, familiar with all their habits, and so long immured to their society, as to have imbibed most of their nature—alleging that if shut up alone in the jury's lobby, he would instantly *meow* for his old companions. This brought a tremendous burst of irrepressible laughter from the whole crowd, and set the bench in a perceptible titter. When the fit had fairly subsided, he adroitly changed his key, and presented the unoffending, grey-headed Deacon, cast helpless upon the floor, beset by a hundred furious animals, made desperate by hunger and long confinement—some fastened upon his throat, sucking out his life blood, others upon his body, tearing away the flesh, and others at his face gashing his cheeks and tearing out his eyes with their claws.—His peculiar picture brought the whole scene before the eyes of the court, the jury and the people, whose sympathy was excited to a shower of tears, commingled with audible imprecations on the head of the wretch who had plotted the mischief.

Of this general excitement, the adroit counsel took instant advantage, and bearing with irresistible force upon the feelings and conscience of the discomfited merchant, assigned him in tones of language that went to his heart and harrowed up all his sensibilities, his position with cats in this life, and in the life to come—with an escort of cats as he made his journey thither.—This denunciation was fervid, withering and overwhelming, and was instantly followed by a continued chorus of cat squalls, proceeding from among the very feet of the spectators, as though the assigned escort had actually arrived to accompany the afflicted merchant on his untrodden journey. The children began to cry, the women to scream, and the men to stare, and all to move *en masse* toward the door way, seeking immediate egress. The panic was universal, the jam fearful, and to many nearly fatal. Some fell and were trampled upon, others pitched

headlong down the granite steps, bruising their flesh, and breaking their bones, while others leaped from windows twenty feet from the ground.—The house was soon cleared, and neither judge nor jury would return to it that day; the cause went for the Deacon by general acquiescence—and a committee was appointed to investigate the matter the following day.

SIGHT GIVEN TO A SEMINOLE BORN BLIND.

In all the great schools of medicine throughout the world, there has seldom been witnessed a prouder triumph of human art than was achieved in our own city on Saturday last by Dr. Luzenberg, in the successful removal of congenital cataract. That the cataract has been successfully operated upon before, all are aware; but it has always been where civilization has aided the operator by incalculable a reliance upon his skill,—and when the mind is so predisposed, the surgeon's path is smoothed of many of its obstacles. But in the recent triumph of Dr. Luzenberg, every sort of difficulty and impediment lay in his way. His patient was a savage of the wilderness, with no particle of faith in the operator, nor consciousness of privation to nerve her to endure the operation.—The circumstances are these.

Among the Seminole prisoners is a female, named Mary, about thirty years of age, and born blind. Her life had been passed in the wilds of Florida, and among its wilder natives,—and ignorance, and a belief in its immobility have ever made her resigned to her affliction. When arrived here, it was stated to her that her blindness could be removed,—that the "great medicine" of the white man could give her sight.—The proposition was referred to her relatives and the chiefs of her tribe. Superstition naturally entered into their councils, and the result of their deliberations was this oracular decree:—"What the great spirit has denied, the pale face cannot give;—what the Manitto has ordained, it would be bad in its children to wish to change." Frequent importunity, however, induced a better state of feeling, and the patient at length consenting, the operation was performed at the barracks, on Saturday, the 14th ult by Dr. Luzenberg, assisted by Dr. Labatut, in the presence of the chiefs of the Seminoles. Many singular difficulties presented themselves; firstly, from the impossibility of prompt communication between the patient and the surgeon; secondly, because from habit the pupils of both eyes were thrown in the internal canthus; and thirdly, because mental agitation caused the eyeballs to rush from side to side as if under the operation of galvanism. But skill and perseverance can overcome all impediments, and the poor savage of the woods prepared to receive from the white man the inestimable blessing of sight. The eyes, which in their blind state were additionally afflicted with obliquity, will henceforth assume their natural position.

During the first operation, Cloud, the Seminole chief, watched it over Dr. Luzenberg's shoulder almost as intently as the surgeon himself; and when in her agony and dread the poor woman refused to submit again, the chief assured her had observed the pale face closely, and was satisfied he could give her sight,—that their own great "medicine," their prophet, Felix-Haya, could do nothing for her; but if she would submit a few moments longer, the medicine of the pale faces would enable her to gaze upon her children and their father, and to look out upon the beauty of the country where they were going to dwell; that she could then mingle in their dances, and see how their braves could defend her wigwag! Bound by habit to obey her chief, and with some ray of hope to support her, the patient submitted to the second operation, which was performed with matchless skill, and well required success. Under all the circumstances of the case, this may well be considered one of the proudest achievements of surgery; and we cannot avoid envying the Doctor the gratification he must feel when he reflects upon the result of his benevolence and skill. Mary has a child, nine years old, also born blind, who will be operated upon by Dr. Luzenberg, in the course of the week. May success again crown his noble efforts.

Facts for the People.

Upon the resolution of Mr. Hopkins, to divorce the Government from the Press "Mr. Bond of Ohio made an able and unanswerable

speech. He went into a "most searching operation," and developed facts which will astonish every one, if indeed any thing which the Administration does, can excite astonishment. We propose to give a few extracts, in "broken doses," so as not to fatigue the reader with the contemplation of too heavy a mass of corruption at one time. Mr. Bond says:

"We know, sir, that at the commencement of Gen. Jackson's administration, the official newspaper was the United States Telegraph, published by Duff Green. Things went on pretty smoothly for a while, and until, as was said, some jealous rivalry sprung up between the then Vice President of the United States and the present President, Mr. Van Buren, who was then Secretary of State. It was said Green was suspected for cherishing a stronger partiality for the Vice President than for the Secretary of State. But I do not profess to be familiar with the causes of this family jar. Report says that the Telegraph was not discontinued abruptly, as the official organ, but was gradually supplanted by the Globe, and its editor, Francis P. Blair, brought here for that purpose from Kentucky. Among the means resorted to for this purpose, as complained of by the Telegraph, were orders or requests to various postmasters throughout the country to furnish lists of its subscribers. The Globe was then sent to them, claiming to have the special confidence of the party. In this way it was initiated into favor among the subscribers of the Telegraph, and in due season the latter paper was wholly abjured. I have no knowledge of all the measures taken—that at all hazards the paper he sustained, and will leave it for others who know F. P. Blair better than I do, to determine whether the Administration, in furnishing an editor for the Globe, succeeded in getting a "true & trusty fellow, a fellow that will 'go the whole,' who is troubled with no principles on any subject, but who will support a certain interest 'thru' thick and thin." This I know, that the administration fostered and cherished the Globe with an immense amount of patronage, & in that way gave it strength and influence. That paper was first published in 1831. The whole amount paid for printing by the Executive Departments in 1832 and 1833 was \$113,346 21, of which \$47,245 42 were paid to the Globe, and the residue to various other printing establishments, editors, and publishers throughout the United States. In 1834 and 1835, the whole amount so paid was \$83,966 50; of which sum, a part, say \$40,473 16, was paid to the Globe, and the residue again divided as before. For the next two years, ending with September, 1837, the several Executive departments paid out, for printing, the enormous sum of \$142,804 68! Of this, the Globe received \$34,381 27, and the balance was divided and subdivided—the spoil being thus given in due proportions among the whole pack, from the sturdy mastiff that howls at the door of the Treasury, down to the most starveling turnspit that barks on the farthest verge of our frontier."

But it will be observed that, so far, I have stated the amount of executive patronage of the press only. In December, 1835, the Globe obtained the printing for the House of Representatives, and for the two years ending on the 30th September, 1837, its editors or publishers were paid, on that account, \$105,914 58!—It thus appears that, for the last six years, the Globe newspaper has received from the government, as the published documents prove, nearly \$220,000. What it has received indirectly, and from office-holders and expectants, no one can tell. I will not designate each of the innumerable host of editors and printers on whom this patronage has been showered. Many of them have received small sums; others, again, do not quite equal the Globe editors; but I will name a few who seem to be among the preferred, and then leave it to their readers to say whether their papers can be supposed to be under the wholesome regimen of Treasury diet. I find that Hill & Barton, of New Hampshire, have received in about six years, between 7,000 and 8,000. During the same time, Shadrack Peain, jr. of Kentucky, has been paid about \$10,000, nearly the half of which has been paid within the last two years. During the same time, the firms of True & Green, Chas. G. Green, and Beals & Green, of Boston, have been paid \$27,204 76; in the course of two years, Medary & Manypenny were paid \$2,958 66; Paine & Clark \$2,837 53; Miffin & Parry, of Philadelphia, \$1,822 26; Medary, Reynolds, & Medary \$1,584; and Samuel Medary & Brothers, all of Ohio, \$2,002. All these payments were made by the Post Office Department; and, in addition to this printing patronage, some of these parties enjoyed advantageous contracts in the same department, for the supply of "paper and twine," connected with their printing of blanks. These contracts for "blanks, paper & twine," when examined, as they were by the committees of investigation, disclosed the practice of most reprehensible partiality in the Postmaster General for certain political favorites.

I have not examined to see if the other departments did not simultaneously bestow a part of their printing patronage on these same individuals. This further fact, however, is disclosed by the printing accounts of these departments; that, for some time past, they have thrown large portions of their patronage into the hands of Langtree & O'Sullivan of this city, who are publishing a periodical journal, the "Democratic Review," which professes to be a literary work, but at the same time, devotes its columns to the cause and defence of the administration, with a zeal equalled only by the Globe, and, in at least one of its articles recently published, shows as little regard for justice and truth, I think, as that paper does.

The executive patronage of the press was one of the great chapters of reform into which the famous retrenchment report of this House was divided. It is there stated as an alarming fact, that the amount paid for printing and advertising by the executive departments at the seat of government for the [then] three last years, (1825, 1826, and 1827,) and by the General Post Office, in two years, was \$71,830 31." In the same report, we are also told that the printing for Congress, the Senate and House included, from March, 1819, to December, 1827, being a period of eight years, amounted to \$271,888 37. These were tho't to be extravagant expenditures, and retrenchment demanded and promised.

I beg the House to indulge me a few moments in holding up to their view, and especially to the gentleman from New York, (Mr. Cambreleng,) who was an active member of that committee, a mirror, in which the practical reform may be seen. If the gentleman, or the party, shall find the object a hideous one, I can only say the picture reflected is the work of their own hands.

For the six years ending on 30th September, 1837, the several executive departments, inclusive of the General Post Office, paid out \$340,116 37 for their printing. In order to get three years, so as to compare it with the term and amount before stated by the committee, let us take half of the \$340,116 37, say \$170,058 19 Deduct the amount stated by the committee, 71 830 31

Amount of increase every 3 years by the Reformers, \$97,227 67

I also find that, in six years ending on the 30th day of September, 1837, the printing for Congress (Senate and House,) and inclusive of certain land documents, books, and engraving, amounted to \$751,584 62. Let us deduct the amount reported by the committee as paid for the same object in 8 years by the administration which was condemned for its extravagance—that was, \$271,888 37. That operation will show that the Reformers have paid, in the legislative patronage of the press, \$479,701 25 more in six years than the whig party paid in 8 years!!

In the attempt which the resolution under consideration proposes, no danger awaits us, but a great civil triumph may be obtained by it. I invite the gentleman from New Hampshire to adopt the words of his gallant statesman, and, instead of thinking it "impracticable," let him say "I'll try."

But, sir, we have been greatly disappointed in the failure of this promised reform in many other respects besides that which regarded the public printing and the Executive patronage of the press. And, to establish this, I will state briefly a few items, contrasting the precept with the practice of the reformers. Imitating the example found in the report a ready alluded to, I may be best understood by a division of the subject into a few prominent heads. But, in the language of that report, I am "far from thinking I shall now exhaust the subject;" I shall "have only opened it." I pretend to nothing more at this time than to lay the foundation of a system, to be followed up and completed hereafter by the people.

The prolonged sessions of Congress formed a conspicuous chapter in the book of reform. The committee denounced the usage as 'one of the most serious evils attending the national legislation of the country,' and, by way of arresting it, recommended that the compensation of the members, during the first session of each Congress, be reduced to two dollars per day from after the first Monday in April, if Congress should sit beyond that time. This was the precept; now for the practice. The sessions of Congress, so far from being shortened have been prolonged, no remedy applied, and the people of the country ought to know that the gentleman from New York, (Mr. Cambreleng,) so early as March, 1830, when an attempt was made to carry into effect the remedy proposed in the report of the committee of which he was a member, by reducing the pay of members, did himself actually resist and vote against the measure.

The report alleged that abuses had taken place from the various and arbitrary manner in which members estimated their mileage. This abuse was ascertained to have been practised by the reformers themselves; and they have continued the practice without

Illustrations