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## Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

**Solar Heat.**—It seems to be the general received opinion that the present summer is much warmer than usual. It is a maxim in philosophy that there is no effect without a cause.

That the rays of the sun are more dense at sometimes than at others admits not of a doubt, from the number and magnitude of the spots which at times are discovered on his disk. They are often very numerous, and of considerable extent. Some think they may become so numerous, as to hide nearly the whole face of the sun. We are informed that the sun has at different times given out quite a diminished portion of rays. Plutarch says, that in the first year of the reign of Augustus, the sun's light was so faint and obscure, that one might look at him steadily with the naked eye, without suffering any inconvenience. Kepler says, that in the year 1647, the sun appeared of a red color, as if viewed through a thick mist. This continued for the greater part of the year.

When spots present themselves on the sun's disk, they generally consist of a dark space, and are almost always surrounded with a brilliancy exceeding the rest of the sun; and in the midst of which, the spots are seen to form and disappear; all this, says Laplace, indicates that at the surface of this enormous body, vivid effluences take place, of which our volcanoes form but a feeble comparison.

In the year 1799, Dr. Herschel discovered a spot on the sun, so large as to be seen by the naked eye. It extended more than fifty thousand miles. He says, that he discovered a large spot in the year 1783, which he followed up to the edge of the sun's limb; that he plainly perceived it to be depressed below the surface of the sun, and that it had very broad shelving sides. Dr. Herschel also says, that on the 26th August, 1792, he examined the sun, with powers from ninety to five hundred, and that it evidently appeared that the black spots were the ground, or body, of the sun; and that the luminous parts was an atmosphere, which being broken gave a glimpse of the sun himself.

The same gentleman further states, that with his seven feet reflector he could see the spots, as on former occasions, much depressed below the surface of the luminous part. On the 1st September, 1792, a speculum which he brought to a perfect figure on hone, without polish, had the effect of stifling a great number of the sun's rays, and on this account the object spectrum admitted a great aperture, which enabled him to see with more comfort and less danger. He then discovered, that the surface of the sun was unequal; many parts of which were elevated, and others depressed, but this inequality was in the shining surface only; for he thinks, that the real body of the sun is seldom seen, otherwise than in black spots.

The sun has at times, though rarely, appeared altogether luminous, and without a spot, for several years together; these different appearances of the sun are produced by the fluctuations of the lucid flame, which surrounds that body, whose situation is supposed to be similar to an atmosphere. When this principle is so

accumulated, as to present an entire luminous disk, there is a more dense body of rays, emanating from the sun, than when there are cavities or spots in view, some perhaps as much as fifty thousand miles in extent.

The more dense the rays the greater the heat, admits not of a doubt. During the year 1547, as we are informed, the sun appeared to be red; there was some derangement, or fluctuation, in the vast improvement, as well as economy. lucid flames surrounding that body, so that there was a greater portion of the red rays emanating therefrom, than any of the other seven primary colors. A few years ago, as is well recollected, there was quite an unusual phenomena of the sun: his appearance blue, the origin of which was confined to the sun himself; for if this appearance had been produced by the state of the earth's atmosphere, the moon, and the stars, would have been affected in appearance also: they would have been blue, the former quite dim, and the latter perhaps not visible at all. At the same time we saw a large spot on the sun's disk, the largest perhaps that has ever appeared in any age of the world; if accurately measured, it would in all probability, have measured not less than seventy-five thousand miles. The diminution of rays occasioned by these two circumstances, produced a reduction of solar heat in an appropriate ratio; that time, also we could view the sun without any embarrassment to the eye.

As a diminutive quantity of rays emanating from the sun, produce a reduction of heat, it is also true that an increase of rays will produce an increase of heat. From these circumstances we are induced to believe, that the great and continued heat of the present summer is occasioned by an entire lucid and igneous disk, presented towards the earth.

**The President.**—Intelligence has been received from the President since he has entered Tennessee, from which we learn that he is well, and sustains the journey astonishing, considering the extreme heat, and his suffering a sharp bilious attack, which detained him two or three days at Salem, Virginia. The complaint yielded immediately to remedies. We have no doubt that he carried the seeds of the disease with him from this city, as some acres of stagnant water have been formed in the President's grounds by the embankment of the canal, the miasma from which had greatly affected the health of Mrs. Donelson and her children, and others of the President's family, before leaving the city. The vigor and elasticity of the President's constitution was remarkably evinced by the endurance which he maintained in discharging his arduous duties throughout the late prolonged session, under the circumstance of laboring in a sickly atmosphere, which subjected even the young and sound of constitution to agues and intermittents.—*Globe.*

**Steam Boat Burnt.**—The Steam boat Walter Raleigh, Capt. Gardiner, on her way from Elizabeth City (N. C.) to Charleston, was discovered to be on fire in the hold, on Tuesday night of last week, Georgetown light bearing S. by W. distant 12 miles. In about five minutes after the fire was discovered, the flames had spread so rapidly that those on board, ten in number, were compelled to abandon the vessel and take to the boat, when they were fortunately picked up by the schr Rice Plant, from Georgetown, and carried into Charleston. The W. R. belonged to Messrs Robert Souter & Son, and Mr James T. Souter, the junior partner of the firm, was a passenger on board; had been recently fitted up to be run regularly between Charleston and Columbia, and was insured in the Virginia Insurance Company at Richmond.—*Norfolk Her.*

**American Silver.**—By an advertise-

ment in this day's paper, we perceive that Louis J. Belloni, William street, near Wall, is agent for Hagenmacker's manufactured articles of German Silver. His newly invented metal has every appearance of silver, at one-third the cost; and the articles for domestic use, such as spoons, forks, tea sets, &c., are deserving of patronage. They look as well, and last full as long as silver, and is a vast improvement, as well as economy. *N. Y. Evening Star.*

**Counterfeits.**—We have seen some of the counterfeit money which was taken from the persons lately arrested in Monroe and Russel counties. Most of the counterfeits, of which we feel at all qualified to speak, are poorly executed. Among them are notes of the Farmers' Bank of Virginia, and the Bank of Virginia, of different denominations; the Charleston (Kanawha) branch of this last bank are well executed—the fingers of the right hand of the figure in the vignette, are closed in the genuine notes, as in holding a pen, while in the counterfeit they are open. United States' Bank notes, of different denominations; the \$20s well executed, but shorter than the genuine. Raised notes of the Bank of the Valley from \$5 to \$25, well executed. Do on South Carolina Bank, \$5 to \$50—and counterfeits on the Bank of Michigan. *Staunton Va. Spectator.*

**Cholera.**—A few cases of cholera have appeared in New York; but not enough to excite any alarm for the general health of the city, or to furnish any reason to believe that it is likely again to rage as an epidemic. The cases of this disease in Quebec and Montreal, at the latest dates, were gradually diminishing.—*Ral. Star.*

**Cholera in the West.**—At Cincinnati, during the week ending on the 30th July, there were 86 deaths, of which 30 were reported as of cholera, and there were 19 deaths of cholera previous; In Fulton, adjoining Cincinnati, there were 29 deaths between the 4th and 17th July, at Richmond, on the Ohio river, 10; at Letart Falls 9; at Maysville, 1; at Portsmouth 10; at Newton and Millville, Butler county, it raged fearfully. A few cases are occurring on the Ohio river from Pittsburgh down, and scarcely a steamboat comes up the river, that does not lose more or less by this alarming disease. During the week ending on the 25th ult. 6 deaths of cholera took place in Washington, Pa. In Beaver county several deaths have also taken place.

At Princeton, Caldwell county, Ky. 22 deaths of cholera had occurred; at Louisville 2 or 3; and the 15 persons supposed to have been poisoned at a wedding, are now believed to have died of cholera.—At Maysville some deaths have also occurred.

In the town of Pekin, Illinois, 12 deaths occurred, and most of the other inhabitants fled. At Rushville, 13 deaths, and at Dillon's settlement 4 deaths had taken place.

In several parts of Missouri it prevails; but it has been very mortal among the Mormons in Clay and Jackson counties; 17 of them had fallen victims at our last dates from thence.

Dr. Drake of Cincinnati, has published an article on this subject dated July 11, from which we make the following extract:—"The malignant cholera may be distinguished from the common cholera morbus and cholera infantum, with which we are familiar, by the watery discharges, the want of bile, and the absence of fever. A disease which runs its course in less than 24 hours, requires to be met at the very onset. Whatever can be done, must be done the first hour; and all who live where it is prevailing, should be deeply impressed with the solemn truth, that any delay whatever in applying for medical aid, may be fatal."—*Ohio Rep.*

The accounts from almost all parts of the country, and particularly from Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York, concur in the statement that the harvest of the present year will yield an abundant return to the labors of the husbandman.

**Remarkable Longevity.**—Mrs. Betsey Trantham died in Maury county, in this State, on the 10th of January, 1834, at the uncommonly advanced age of one hundred and fifty-four years. She was born in Germany, and emigrated to the British Colonies in America at the time the first settlement was made in North Carolina, in the year 1710. It is a matter of history, that the proprietors of Carolina induced a number of Palatines from Germany to emigrate to their lands in that colony, in order to give value to their possessions. For this purpose, ships were prepared to convey the emigrants, & upon their arrival, the Governor, Synte, was directed to give to each 100 acres of land. Among the number of those who emigrated at that time, which was one hundred and twenty years ago, was Mrs. Trantham. At the age of 120 her eyesight became almost extinct, but during the last twenty years of her life she possessed the power of vision as perfectly as at the age of twenty. For many years previous to her death she was unable to walk, and it is said to have required a great attention in her friends, for many years, to prevent the temperature of her body from falling so low as not to sustain animal life. For this purpose, she is said to have been placed between two feather beds, for many years before her death, and by this means to have retained the natural warmth of her body. At the time of her death, she had entirely lost the senses of taste & hearing. For twenty years before her death, she was unable to distinguish the difference between the taste of sugar and vinegar. At the age of sixty five she bore her only child, who is now living, and promises to reach an uncommonly advanced age. We doubt whether the annals of modern history can produce an equally remarkable instance of longevity. *Murfreesboro' Tenn. paper.*

**Who would not be a Quack?**—We learn from the Newark Daily Advertiser, that, on a recent trial in New York, for an infringement of the patent right, it appeared that the annual sales of Morrison's Hygeian Pills, by his agents in this country, exceed \$200,000. The originator of this famous compound, which cures all the ills flesh is heir to, who is an Englishman, it is said has amassed a large fortune by the sale of his nostrum.

**Effect on the Air, of firing Cannon.**—Mr. Robertson, the aeronaut, in his last ascension from Castle Garden, states, that he was very much annoyed by the firing of cannon, perhaps at the Navy Yard. Every discharge made his balloon shake like an aspen; and at times, he was not without apprehensions of danger from the circumstances. The increase of his distance from the earth did not diminish the effect of the concussion. *Newbern Spec.*

**A tried Receipt for Burns.**—Keep on hand a saturated solution of alum (four ounces in a quart of hot water) dip a cotton cloth in this solution and lay it immediately on the burn. As soon as it shall have become hot or dry, replace it by another, and thus continue the compress as often as it dries, which it will, at first, do very rapidly.

The pain immediately ceases, and in twenty four hours under this treatment the wound will be healed, especially if the solution be applied before the blisters are formed.—The astringent and drying quality of the alum completely prevents them. The deepest burns, those caused by boiling water, drops of melted metal, phosphorus, gun-powder, fulminating powder, &c., have all been cured by this specific.