WEEKLY AMERICAN.

THE TRIAL OF THE WASHINGTON ELECTION RIOTERS.

[FROM SUTTON'S REPORT.]

CRIMINAL COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF *WASHINGTON.*

JUDGE CRAWFORD, Presiding.

PHILIP BARTON KEY, ESQ., U. S. D. A.

COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENCE.

JOSEPH H. BRADLEY, SR., ESQ.
ROBERT E. SCOTT, ESQ.
VESPASIAN ELLIS, ESQ.
JOHN A. LINTON, ESQ.
WILLIAM J. MARTIN, ESQ.
JOSEPH H. BRADLEY, JR., ESQ.
DANIEL RATCLIFFE, ESQ.
EDWARD C. CARRINGTON, ESQ.

FOURTEENTH DAY.
WEDNESDAY, August 12, 1857.

SPEECH OF

ROBERT E. SCOTT, ESQ.

IN THE DEFENCE.

(CONCLUDED.)

Now, gentlemen, if the Mayor was not right in using the military to capture this swivel, he is responsible for the manner in which he and his officials performed the service. I have shown to you that that is the law. There is no question about it. If he had no such right, he was, himself, violating the law, and not keeping it. Then the principle is clear that he and his aiders and abetters, and instruments are all guilty of murder, and liable to be indicted, tried, and hung for it, under the law. Perhaps they are in no danger under the administration of the law here. If I say the use of the Marines was unlawful, then the principle of the criminal law is a clear one. I need not stop to read it; that a homicide committed in the execution of an unlawful act is a felony, murder or manslaughter, as the case may be, but it is a felony. Now, whether he had the right to use the Marines, depends upon the question whether he was justified under the circumstances of the case in calling them out; or if it does not depend upon that question, it depends upon whether there was necessity to use them. Could not civilians have managed six boys? They stood around; they did not undertake to exercise authority, but they took the cannon and turned it round. Suppose a dozen, or two, or three, or one hundred and fourteen civilians without the paraphernalia of arms had been detailed by the Mayor on the spur of the occasion, and told to go there and take that piece, and arrest those boys, why could it not have been done? Where was the Marshal of this District that he was not there? He knew of the disturbance.

The DISTRICT ATTORNEY. He was there.

Mr. SCOTT. Where was his *posse?* The law requires that, first, the civil power is to be resorted to, and the military power only in an extreme necessity. If the civil power is competent to arrest the disturbance, the law says it shall be used. His Honor has explained the law to you in his instructions. It is only where the civil authority is inadequate that the military is to be used. Now suppose that when these marines, these gallant fellows, were drawn up on I street, their commanding officer had not undertaken to act upon his own book, the disturbance about the market-house would not have been half so great, and the disturbance about the polls, but of little consequence. If he had left them on I street, from which they were marched without orders, I ask what would have been the difficulty? I say nothing of the Mayor. Unfortunately, you seem to have elected a man who does not command the respect of all your fellow-citizens. That, I gather from the evidence. What do you say of the Marshall? What would have prevented either of them from summoning, and enlisting on the spot, a *posse* of civilians, with or without arms, who would have been competent to have arrested those boys and taken their swivel? Is there any man in the hearing of my voice, who does not know that that could have been done? Men do not shrink from the performance of duty because danger lies in the path. Danger would be their attraction. Am I to understand, that amongst the sixty thousand population of this federal city, men enough in the civil walks of life could not have been found who would have been willing to assume the duty of taking that swivel, and arresting those boys? Why, my friend the District Attorney, with his clarion voice, could have commanded more than a sufficient number. There was nothing but a foregone determination; nothing but what I am bound to charge as a malicious determination, on the part of this official, that ever led to the use of the military on that occasion. The whole case proves the malice—the preparation of the affidavit—the application to the President—the hot haste with which the military were resorted to—the blind refusal to take any steps to prevent a breach of the peace. Why were not those "Plugs" arrested before or after the disturbance? Why were they not followed and captured by the police? The explanation is, no such attempt was made, because it was the foregone determination of this officer to make an opportunity to call upon the military of the United States, to parade it under his command. Certain it is, there was no necessity for them. Suppose there was not. Then the law, the uncontroverted law is, that every homicide committed in consequence of it, is felonious, and they are guilty of felony who are aiders and abettors, and accessories—those who were accessories after the fact, equally with those who were engaged in the perpetration of it. But suppose you think the military ought to have been used to capture the piece, what justifies those who stood in the line in firing upon Allston's corner? They say a pistol shot came from there? Suppose it did? They say stones were thrown, not from the crowd, but thrown from out in the street; suppose it was true; suppose that parties, as stated by the fugitive Birkhead, came into the street and fired and threw stones, would it excuse the marines in murdering them? Why, if I cast a stone at you from the distance at which were these people, and hit you or not, and you shot me down with a musket, it is felony in every land where Christianity and law prevail. You have the right to take the life of another in case of necessity to save your own life from destruction, or your person from grievous bodily harm; but a stone thrown from the hand of a boy at a party of marines, could neither endanger their life nor cause them great bodily harm; it, therefore, could not justify, it could not excuse the homicide committed. A pistol shot, fired without effect, would not justify the party, at whom it was aimed, in shooting down the assailant in his retreat. If he did it the law condemns it as felony; there is no escape from it, and I warn my friend, the District Attorney, to guard as to how he touches this branch of the case. Justice may not sleep in this city forever. The blood of these slaughtered men may not appeal in vain for all time to come, and his efficient services may be required—everybody I think, must agree, that they ought to be required in a proper judicial investigation of this affair.

But if the Marines were justified in shooting down the fellow who fired the pistol and cast the stone, did it give them the authority to shoot down innocent people, and plunge their fire into the crowd at Allston's corner? Take it, that they were defending themselves. You must so defend yourself, as not to commit an aggression upon another, or you are responsible for it. If aiming at one man in a crowd, without regard to the effect of the shot on innocent people, you kill another, the law holds you responsible for it. So, look at this question as you will, if the Mayor was not justified in calling on the military, all are murderers, from the Mayor, down to the lowest Marine that was used that day. If he gave them the authority to fire into Allston's corner, he and all those who fired are responsible for the murder. If he gave no such order, those who did fire are responsible. If they fired upon the mistaken idea that the wounded Marine was shot in their rank, the mistake is no plea or excuse; it is murder, unadulterated murder. They cannot plead their mistake in regard to the blood on the Marine's face. If they had a right to fire at the parties that shot the pistol, they cannot plead that as an excuse for the murder of Allston and others, who stood on that corner. For the men, or all the men, who fire deadly weapons at random, and indiscriminately into a crowd, though they may have no special malice against A, B, or C, the law draws malice from the enormity of the act, and stamps the homicide as guilty of murder. Take it, therefore, in whatever light you choose to view it, murder was committed upon the peaceful citizens at Allston's corner, and the perpetrators of that murder have not been brought to justice, nor has any attempt been made to bring them to justice. Nay, here in the witness box, in this very court, during this trial, a witness has testified to what would convict him of the fact. One of the Marines—Kearney—brought here for another purpose, let out the fact that he was one of the firing party. He said he heard the word "fire;" where it came from, who it came from, he did not know, but he heard the word "fire," and when others were shooting at Allston's corner, he levelled there too. He said he did not shoot at any particular persons—he was enveloped in smoke—he was excited by the firing, and he popped away into the crowd. He said he had before that been struck on the head by a stone, and my friend argued that it corroborated Birkhead's testimony, but how he could, I do not know, as he was in the rear rank. My friend did not show where it came from, and I think it is out of place in a Prosecuting Attorney to seize upon a fact so utterly inconclusive, and seek to sway the minds of the jury to such a conclusion. Now, whether he fired with or without orders, I do not know how it will be held in the City of Washington, I know how it has been held in another country where the laws are admirably administered, for I believe in no country under the sun, are the rights of persons, and the rights of property, more sacredly respected, more carefully guarded, and held more secure than in the kingdom of Great Britain. I wish I could say the same for this country. Republican as we are, Democratic as we are, I wish I could say that our laws were as equally, as faithfully, as impartially administered as they are in the country from which we derived them. I find a pertinent case in the work from which I have already quoted—Russell, 613—to which I will call your attention. It is the case of a sentinel on an English armed ship, who shot a man who was approaching his ship. It is in these words:

"If a ship's sentinel shoot a man because he persists in approaching the ship when he has been ordered not to do so, it will be murder, unless such an act was necessary for the ship's safety. And it will be murder, though the sentinel had orders to prevent the approach of any boats, had ammunition given to him when he was put upon guard, and acted under the mistaken impression that it was his duty. The prisoner was sentinel on board the *Achille* when she was paying off. The orders to him from the preceding sentinel were, to keep off all boats, unless they had officers with uniforms in them, or unless the officers on deck allowed them to approach; and he received a musket, three blank cartridges, and three balls. The boats pressed, upon which he called repeatedly to them to keep off; but one of them persisted, and came close under the ship; and he then fired at a man who was in the boat, and killed him. It was put to the jury to find whether the sentinel did not fire under the mistaken impression that it was his duty; and they found that he did. But, a case being reserved, the judges were unanimous that it was nevertheless murder. They thought it, however, a proper case for a pardon; and further, they were of opinion that if the act had been necessary for the preservation of the ship, as if the deceased had been stirring up mutiny, the sentinel would have be n justified."

It will be observed that the crowd on Seventh street never received a word of warning. If they did, from whom did it come? But with or without warning, they were shot with impunity; while in England a ship's sentinel with a loaded gun put into his hands, with orders to keep off any one that might approach his ship, after giving the warning, shot a man; and what was the consequence? The sentinel supposed he was acting in accordance with his duty; but that was not allowed to pass unnoticed; that poor boatman was not allowed to go to his grave without enquiry nto that act. In Great Britain, under the laws that prevail, and under the administration of those laws, the homicide of that poor boatman was enquired into judicially by the proper authority; it was ascertained who shot him, under what circumstances; and the perpetrator was brought to trial. A jury, under the guidance of a learned judge, s t upon his trial, and the law was expounded to that jury so as to cause them to find him guilty of murder. It was a hard case upon a poor sentinel. The law made it murder; and as in that country the law is administered, the law condemned him; but the merciful prerogative of the crown was put in requisition, and he was pardoned. So that, I say, if you sat here to try the man who testified there, and had nothing but his confession before you, you would convict him of the unlawful shooting, and I doubt if a British judge would not have put him into custody under his bench warrant before he left the presence of the court. Be that as it may, Americans were slaughtered, maimed, wounded, and left weltering in their blood, upon the pavements of the streets, and the city authorities, the criminals, the spectators of the sight, turned from the bloody scene, and proceeded to and regaled themselves in a public office, and left those poor men to be put into their bloody graves without an inquiry as to the cause and manner of their death; and we stand here investigating these circumstances in a case of misdemeanor!

Is it that this prosecution has been instigated for the purpose of shielding greater criminals? Is it to relieve the public mind, to conduct the public inquiry into this channel, that the public mind may not require a public inquiry into the criminal homicide of the first of June? Who were those that figured in this prosecution? Men who come into the court with their hands dripping with the blood of those murdered persons, with their garments stained with their gore. They are the men who figured most largely in the prosecution. Look at their evidence when they come to you in such apparel; scan their testimony; seek into their motive. All these things and more ought to be done, when you come to determine the credit that is due to the testimony. If you find them straining facts, distorting what they have seen, swearing to what is inconsistent with what others have sworn to; if you find that, in the course of this proceeding they have sworn to what is confessedly false, and practised imposition upon a confiding Executive, you will think that they are the responsible authors of the bloody work; you will see a motive to actuate them in giving shape and color, and direction to the testimony. You will see that it is to their interest to get up this prosecution, to lead off the public mind, to hoodwink the public judgment, that in the conviction of these parties, or of some of those who are arraigned here, they may escape the consequence and the penalties of the crime of which they must feel conscious.

Gentlemen of the Jury, I have occupied, I am aware, a great deal too much of the time of the court, and I really regret that I have made so poor a return for the indulgence which his Honor granted to me yesterday. I should not have asked it, but I did not like to complain of being unwell. It would seem to be an excuse easily hatched up. I was not much unwell, but I was out of condition to make an argument, and I say again, I am sorry that I have made so poor a return for the indulgence of the court. But, gentlemen of the jury, I speak with others, in behalf of persons against whom, under the instigation of this set that I have been describing, this prosecution has been gotten up, and is sought to be conducted to its conclusion under the authority, and power, and means of the United States. I speak in behalf of humble citizens in defence of an accusation started by individuals who prosecute under the sanction of the government. I speak in behalf of those who stand in as unequal a contest before this court, as those poor navy-yard boys did in the contest between them and the Marines; I speak in behalf of men whose rights and liberties have been stricken down; in behalf of men, some of whom may be guilty of a breach of the peace, may be guilty of offending the law, but their offence is a trivial one, for which it seems to me fine and imprisonment, incarceration in the public jail, would be an unmeasured punishment. I speak in behalf of men, who, though actors on the occasion of the first of June, were humble actors, and played an insignificant part on that occasion. I say, I speak in behalf of these men, when other and higher criminals whose crime is blood, walk your streets unquestioned, nay, who were brought here to aid the prosecution. I say in behalf of them that, according as I understand the law of this case to be, they are punishable but for one offence. They are tried under an indictment with a single count, which alleges but one offence, a riot, when the only charge that could be properly proved against them is the offence in the morning, when they had a shindy with the Irish. Some have been proved to have been engaged in that. I do not apologise for them. I do not excuse it. They are guilty of an offence against the law, and for their guilt merit punishment. But I say I would not transcend the law to subject them to punishment; and if they cannot be convicted by the law, they are entitled to their discharge at the hands of the jury, and at the hands of this court. Whether guilty or innocent, depends upon the single question whether that shindy was a riot in the contemplation of law, or an affray according to the definition which I have read to you. Gentlemen, I will not repeat to you my argument whether it is a riot or an affray. I attempted to show by fair criticism of the occurrences of that day; by a fair appeal to law, I attempted to show, and I trust I have successfully shown, that these parties were not guilty of rioting as charged, but that their offence is an affray, a fight, a shindy. Gentlemen, we always have shindy's where there are Irish. They are accustomed to it. It is a part of their birthright. As a man who went West, and subsequently returned to his original home, representing as the cause that he could not get a herring; so the moment Irishmen cannot get a shiny they will leave the country. An affray, gentlemen, as I have already explained, is derived from the French word *effrayer*, to terrify. Now, gentlemen, they have attempted to make this a riot, but, as there was in this case a "fight," a "fright," and a "flight," if that does not make it an affray, I do not know what will.

I thank you, gentlemen, for the attention you have given to me during this protracted discussion, and I again give expression to my acknowledgments for the indulgence which his Honor afforded me yesterday. I regret that the course pursued by my learned friend, the District Attorney, has imposed on me the necessity to detain you so long.

The Court adjourned.

"OLD MAN ELOQUENT."—In answer to a correspondent, the New York Post states as follows, to whom the above appellation was originally applied, and by whom it was invented:

"The title 'Old Man Eloquent' belongs by right of priority to Isocrates, who was so affected by the news of Philip's victory over the Athenians, at Chœronea, that he immediately expired. 'The patent' was bestowed by John Milton in a sonnet to Lady Margaret Ley:

Daughter to that good Earl, once President
Of England's council and her treasury,
Who lived in both unstained with gold or fee,
And left them both, more in himself content,
Till sad the breaking of that Parliament
Broke him, as at that dishonest victory
At Chœronea, fatal to liberty,
Kill'd with report that "old man eloquent."

That the American people are appreciative of any substantial service rendered them, is seen in the result of Dr. Ayer's enterprise. It was something of a venture for a chemist of his splendid reputation among the literati of the world, to risk it in the production of Cough Drops and pills. But he boldly threw himself into the gap where his talents could best subserve the public weal, and it is now easy to see that he did not misjudge the temper of his countrymen. Throughout this nation and some foreign lands, his name is foremost at the bed-side of sickness—while in the good he scatters, he is second to no living man. He wins the brightest laurels man can wear, and enjoys in untold measure the luxury of doing good.—*Observer, Dubuque, Iowa.*

Fifty Years Ago.

[From the Albany Statesman.]

Nothing reminds us more vividly of the progress of time and the march of improvement than an old newspaper. In perusing a paper printed but fifty years ago, we look in vain for a vestige of any tradesman, then in business, who now pursues his calling at the same place. On looking over a copy of Harry Croswell's *Balance*, printed in State st., in 1810, we find the names of noted merchants of the day, which are totally unknown to those who now occupy their places of business. A sexagenarian will be reminded by such a sheet of many things that had passed from his memory, but will with difficulty, trace the old land marks under the guise they now wear. Though the city then numbered but a small population it was, and had long been, a place of considerable trade. There were three semi-weekly newspapers, namely: the *Albany Gazette*, by Webster and Skinner; the *Albany Register*, by Solomon Southwick, and the *Balance and New York State Journal*, by Harry Croswell. Of the publishers of these papers, Rev. Harry Croswell and Mr. E. W. Skinner alone survive. Among the advertisements we find the following relic of an institution which has passed from us:

EDUCATION OF BIRDS BY THEIR PARENTS.—Nothing, says an ornithologist, is more striking than the efforts of the maternal birds to tempt their young to make the first experiment of trusting themselves to their wings. The nightengale flutters around her nest, holding an insect in her bill at a little distance to draw her young to the edge of the nest, and to incite them through their appetite to make the efforts with their wings. The Iceland diver offers a still more striking spectacle of maternal solicitude. The bird builds its nest on the steepest summits of the mountains near the shore of the sea. As soon as her young are fledged, she ceases to bring them food. But she continues to visit them, to flutter about the nest, to show them the power of her wings, and to invite them to visit her. The younger bird, oppressed by hunger, approaches the edge of the precipice, hesitates, and finally falls into the air. Its wings are too small to sustain it, and it would dash upon the rocks below. The mother summons the aid of the male. They spread their wings in concert a little beneath their young, to allow free play to their wings. Thus they gently let the bird down to the shore. Crowds of the kind assemble round the young bird, and raise cries of congratulation at the view of this new companion that maternal love has emboldened to the first attempt at flight.

SHORT SPEECHES.—In the English House of Commons they will not hear a man speak at length who is not known beforehand to have something to say. They cheer him down, cough him down, laugh him down, clap him down, stamp him down, or go down themselves to dinner. Long speeches are an abomination. So, remarks the Philadelphia Ledger, it will become at Washington. A few of the really great men will make just as many really great speeches as ever. But the business of the country is more rapidly coming to be transacted by sharp, short, pointed debating speeches, with the quick-witted retort, than prosaic orations.

The Southern Democracy are now demanding the expulsion of the author of the Kansas bill from the party. For what? For insisting upon a verification of his pledges to the people—of the pledges of Cass, Shields, and the whole Democracy of the North—the pledges of Buchanan, Walker, and Stanton—that the principle of popular sovereignty, as contained in that bill, shall be immediately applied in the formation of the organic law of Kansas! Beautiful consistency! Harmonious Democracy! The party of principle, indeed.—*Montgomery Ala. Mail.*

☞ A tape-worm, said to be seventy feet long, was removed from Mr. J. Gear, of Hartford, last week. Mr. Gear had been ill for some time. Mr. Gear was out of gear because the worm wasn't.

"A fine girl and a tattered gown always find something to hook them," is the French idea of beauty in distress.

Time keeps his constant pace, and flies as fast in idleness as in employ.

While we are executing one work, we are preparing ourselves to undertake another.

Vague, injurious reports are no men's lies, but all men's carelessness.

The longer the saw of contention is drawn the hotter it grows.

THE FARMER.

FARMER'S OMNIBUS.

There are five pounds of pure sulphur in every 100 pounds of wool.

Carrots consume 167 pounds of lime to the acre.

Turnips but 90 pounds.

A cubic foot of common arable land will hold 40 pounds of water.

It takes five pounds of corn to form one of beef.

It takes 3 1-3 pounds of cooked meet to form one pound of pork.

To add 1 per cent. of lime to a soil that is destitute of it, requires 10 tons of slacked lime, or 6 of caustic to the acre.

Clay will permanently improve any soil that is sandy or leachy.

Lime and leached ashes will also benefit leachy land.

A ton of dry forest leaves produces only 500 pounds of mold; hence 500 pounds of mold will produce a ton of plants.

Clay applied to sandy land is far better than sand to clay land. 100 tons to the acre will give one in depth.

Pure phosphorus is worth from four thousand to five thousand dollars a ton; and as it comes from the earth, it shows how scarce it is.

A rich mold formed by rotting clover, is worth more than the same number of pounds of clover. 400. lbs of dry plants will yield 100 pounds of mold.

Swamp muck, or peat, when dry, will take up without dropping, 4 times its own weight of water. Hence, the necessity of thorough drainage.

Limestone sand retains heat the longest; black, peaty soils radiate heat most rapidly, consequently cools soonest, and is the first to experience frost.

The reason why peas, beans and clover rotato so successfully with wheat is that these crops draw comparatively very little silicia from the soil, but leaves it for the wheat.

Mangel wurtzel consumes 160 lbs. of common salt to the acre. If it is not in the soil, salt must be applied.

Soils often contain not over one part of phosphorus, in a soluble condition for the use of plants in 5000, and yet, with this small portion, not a blade of grass or seed of grain can be produced. To extract this from the soil, and not return an equivalent, will soon render the soil sterile and worthless.

Wheat sown in December has ripened ready for harvesting by the middle of May in Georgia, while that sown in September is not ready to harvest before July in Maine,—so that as many chemical changes takes place in Georgia in five months, as in Maine in ten. These changes consist in decomposing both organic and inorganic substances, and rendering them soluble for the use of plants.

A MERCHANT TURNED FARMER.—A successful merchant, after ten years' business, retired to a farm, to the astonishment of his friends, who knew, at the moment of his breaking away from his mercantile profession, that he was in the midst of prosperity. On requesting his reasons for so singular a move, he replied, that the cares, anxieties, and risks of a mercantile business are destructive of comfort, security, tranquility, and also of health; that the cultivation of the fruit and field crops is much more favorable to health and comfort, both of body and of mind; that business pursuits tend to concentrate the whole energies of the mind in one direction, thus producing mental and moral deformity and disease; and that the impossibility of bringing up children in a city, without running all the risks of the contaminating and corrupt influence of silly, fashionable and vicious company and customs, is sufficient to counterbalance all the educational advantages which some claim for the city over the country; and, in a letter to one of his old city friends, writes as follows:—"You seem to think that the society of farmers and rural residents must be exceedingly dull and stupid. I can assure you it is not so. My neighbors in the country may not be so quick and ready in their conversation as my old friends in the city, and their attention may not have been directed to so great a diversity of subjects, but their knowledge is less superficial, and their judgment far more sound and reliable. But even if intellectually inferior, which I do not admit, they are certainly MORALLY SUPERIOR. Take a hundred individuals, without any picking, and a like number from the old, and there will be found more among the former than the latter who deserve and might command your moral respect and approbation—more who are honest, sincere, reliable, and of good moral habits and worth of character. For my own part, I take more pleasure in the society of the good than in that of the roguish and unprincipled, be the latter ever so smart. Then, again, I can be more with my family than when keeping store, and can more easily keep my children from the contamination of evil companions. But the crowning recommendation of my farming pursuits is this, I feel that I am working together with God in providing for the primary wants of His human family."

AUTUMN LEAVES.—Autumn leaves by millions rotting in heaps unheeded, and yet each one a microscopic wonder of contrivance.—And this snow-wreath that half envelopes them, made up of myriads of crystals, melting while I look at them! What an utter waste it seems! Wisdom and beauty flung wholesale into the pit of corruption. Until the day of resurrection we shall never comprehend this melancholly mystery. Then shall atoms all be portioned out, and every organized particle of the earth's crust be found to be part of some soul's tabernacle. Then shall we understand how Cæsar's dust has also lived in the leaf, and his moisture effloresced in the snow, duly to be restored and produced when time and its uses are no longer: but meanwhile used everywhere, and nothing lost, mislaid, wasted, or forgotten.—*Dublin University Magazine.*

HEIGHT OF COLTS.—A very reliable rule to judge the height a colt will attain to when full grown, is the following: When the colt gets to be three weeks old, or as soon as it is perfectly straightened in its limbs, measure from the edge of the hair on the hoofs to the middle of the first joint; and for every inch, it will grow to the height of a hand of four inches when its growth is matured. Thus, if this distance be found sixteen inches, it will make a horse sixteen hands high. By this means a man may know something of what sort of a horse, with proper care, he is to expect from his colt.—*Tennessee Farmer and Mechanic.*

A SECRET WORTH KNOWING.—I tried a rather curious experiment with a few potatoes this season. Some twelve months since I saw a letter from a farmer stating the great success that had attended an experiment the preceding season. It consisted in inserting a pea in each potato set, and planting the potato in the usual way. The result, he stated, was a large yield of peas and a splendid crop of potatoes; but the most important result was the entire freedom of the potatoes so treated from any disease, while all those planted in the usual way in the same field were extensively deteriorated. I was led by this statement to try the experiment on a small scale in my own garden this season. I planted not quite half a peck, only fifty sets, in six ranks, cutting a piece out of each, and putting a pea firmly in. The peas grew up and flourished well, and last week I dug the potatoes. They were perfectly free from the slightest taint or speck of disease, and very fine and large; while in the same bed close to them was another lot planted in the old style, nearly half of which were rotten.

I leave your readers to draw their own conclusions.—*Letter in the Agricultural Gazette.*

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THE UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY will hold its Sixth Annual Meeting in the Lecture Room of the Smithsonian Institution, at Washington city, on Wednesday, the 13th day of January, 1858, when the election of officers will then be held, and the business required by the constitution of the Society will be transacted. dec 16

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s26 tf

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