[From the New York Tribune.]

THE CATTO MURDER.

The murder of Catto in Philadelphia has apparently produced a stronger revulsion of feeling there than all the other outrages of the riot during the recent election. It has come to be a matter of course in that city, it appears, for the Democratic police to guard the polls and incontinently knock down or shoot colored voters who claim their right to support the Republican ticket. In the Fourth and Fifth Wards, at this and the previous election, negroes were shot down like sheep, and no result followed, either in the punishment of law or the indignation of public sentiment. Any colored man under the present rule who attempts to vote does it knowingly at the risk of his life. This was an acknowledged fact, but produced no effect on the peace-loving Quakers until the assassination of Catto roused them from their stupor. The indignant call for the public meeting of Saturday to denounce the murderer was signed, we perceive, by some of the leading men of the city; and the funeral, yesterday, is represented as imposing in its display, and attended by a great concourse of excellent citizens. Catto was the Principal of an Institute for colored children; a man of culture and a quiet, inoffensive gentleman, obnoxious to the roughs simply because he had devoted himself to the amelioration and elevation of the condition of his race. While going quietly home, on the day of the election, he was shot on the sidewalk by some ruffian, who coolly walked off among the crowd.

Now, for the life of us, we cannot see why the aristocratic Philadelphians should make any pother about the matter, hold mass meetings in National Hall, or show their righteous wrath at the murderer by unwonted zeal in funeral services for a martyr whose life they did so little to protect. The poor wretch of a murderer but acted after the habits of his kind. He was a wolf, and he bit. The teeth were his by nature, but the wolfish spirit came to him from his betters—from the very men who hold meetings to denounce him. There is no place where the colored man has striven harder and more successfully to prove himself a man than in the City of Brotherly Love, and there is no place where he has had to fight his way against greater odds in the intolerant tyranny that rates him as not man, but brute. The negro regiment drilled and camped outside of the city, was forced to sneak in civilian's clothes to the train that was to carry them to the battle-field, lest they should be mobbed for fighting for their country. This was before Emancipation it is true; but now, although some of the most scholarly and wealthiest citizens of Philadelphia have black blood in their veins, although their schools and colleges rank with the highest, no colored man is admitted to a place of amusement, and the Directors of the Academy of Music, grave and rational men who shut all the indecencies of the leg drama to their stage, refused it for a lecture from Senator last Winter. This very professor Catto purchased, last year, a share in one of the Institutes, and obtained entree to the lectures, whereupon a certain Dr. Rapp annulled his contract for lectures, and refused to speak if Catto were present. Rand and his class, because a man is black, put him out of sight by setting an iron heel upon his intellect, his finer tastes, the human ties that bind him in the brotherhood of man; the ruffian, because he is black, rids himself of him in a less cruel and more direct fashion by putting a ball through his body.

"Physician, heal thyself," would be a suggestive text for the meeting of indignant philanthropists; it will be hardly worth while to begin the cure with the ignorant murderer, though a close consideration of his motives may be profitable. It is not always pleasant to face the animal that we resemble, but the lesson is wholesome. Meanwhile we cannot too highly commend the spirit with which the more intelligent of the colored race have accepted and used their opportunities for attaining the full stature of manhood. Cowards they are not, as they proved when occasion required; we find, therefore, in their patience under injuries, in their quiet, their zeal, their gentle modesty, an unexpected steadfastness of temper and moderation scarcely to be looked for in a Southern race, but which invariably conquer success.

ORIGIN OF LIFE.

How life originated on the earth Sir William Thompson attempts to answer by suggesting that it was introduced by germs enclosed in meteoric stones. He says: "The hypothesis that life originated on this earth through moss-grown fragments from the ruins of another world may seem wild and visionary. All I maintain is that it is not unscientific." Such a hypothesis may be as capable of proof as Darwin's theory of pangenesis, or the theory of the plurality of inhabited worlds. He says:

"When a volcanic island springs up from the sea, and after a few years is found clothed with vegetation, we do not hesitate to assume that seed has been wafted to it through the air or floated to it on rafts. Is it not possible, and, if possible, is it not probable, that the beginning of vegetable life on the earth is to be similarly explained? Every year thousands, probably millions, of fragments of solid matter fall upon the earth. Whence came these fragments? What is the previous history of any of them? Was it created in the beginning of time an amorphous mass? This idea is so unacceptable that, tacitly or explicitly, all men discard it. It is often assumed that all, and it is certain that some meteoric stones are fragments which had been broken off from greater masses and launched free into space. Hence and because we all confidently believe that there are at present and have been from time immemorial many worlds of life besides our own we must regard it as probable in the highest degree that there are countless seed-bearing meteoric stones moving about through space. If at the present instant no life existed upon this earth, one such stone falling upon it might, by what we blindly call natural causes, lead to its becoming covered with vegetation. From the earth stocked with such vegetation as it could receive meteorically to the earth teeming with all the endless variety of plants and animals which now inhabit it the step is prodigious; yet, according to the doctrine of continuity, most ably laid before the Association by a predecessor in this chair (Mr. Grove), all creatures now living on earth have proceeded by orderly evolution from some such origin."

COMMERCIAL.

SATURDAY, Oct. 21—11:30 A. M.

COTTON—Continued unfavorable Liverpool and New York advices (the latter market having been affected by the large receipts at the ports) have caused a feeling of greater depression here, and some authorities quote prices down ⅛@3-16. About 500 bales have sold thus far. Low Middling, benders, sold at 18⅜, and we hear of a sale of Middling at 18¾c.

Yesterday's sales embraced 1900 bales, and the market closed as follows:

	Average Lists.	Exchange Figures.
Low Ordinary	—@—	—
Ordinary	—@—	—
Good Ordinary	18½@18⅞	—
Low Middling	18½@18¾	18⅝
Middling	18⅞@19	18¾
Strict Middling	19¼@19½	—
Good Middling	19½@20	—

SUGAR:—	
Good Fair, ₱ lb	11⅝
Yellow Clarified	11⅛
Fair	10⅞
Fully fair	12
White	13@13½
MOLASSES:—	
Reboiled, plantation, ₱ gallon	30@——
Reboiled, refinery	30@ 65
Golden Syrup	$1 00
FLOUR:—	
Superfine	6 12½
Double extra	6 90
Treble extra	7 25
Good Treble Extra	7 50
Good Extra	7 62½
Choice Extra	7 75, and 8 75
CORN:	
White mixed	68
Yellow	—
White	1 00
Choice White, in Dundees	—
St. Charles county White	—
Mixed, in poor order	—
OATS:—	
St. Louis, ₱ bushel	68@ —
Galena	55
BRAN:—	
₱ 100 lbs	1 50
HAY:—	
Western, ₱ ton	33 00
Choice	36 50
PORK:—	
Summer-cured Mess	——
Winter-packed Mess	——
Retailing at	$15 00@ 15 50
ESCULENTS:—	
Potatoes, ₱ bbl	$3 75
Onions	3 25
Apples	3 00@4 50
LARD:—	
Tierces, ₱ lb	13¾
Kegs, ₱ lb	11¼@12½
BUTTER:—	
Choice Western, ₱ lb	22@24
Goshen	32@33
RICE:—	
Louisiana, prime	9c
" ordinary	7⅞
" common	—
India	—

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WILLIAM G. BROWN, Assistant Secretary.
oct 1 1m

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