THE TRIBUNE.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 5.

☞ THE WHIG ALMANAC.—The third edition of this useful Register is now ready.

In every counting room and workshop this Almanac will be found a most convenient and useful work. The price is only 12½ cents, while the matter contained in it cannot be purchased in any other form for less than four times that sum. See the contents in another column.

Notes on Texas.

We have been reading with interest a work* on Texas published three or four years since in Cincinnati, but which we think has not been much, if at all, known on this side of the Alleghenies. This narrative, considered in a Literary point of view, is full of faults of style and diction, but manifestly the work of an honest, truthful man, who traveled very thoroughly over Texas, and writes according to the dictates of an unwarped judgment. We propose to glean some leading facts which are not universally, even if generally, known; but with which we may as well become familiar if Texas—as seems extremely probable—is to be thrust into our Union within the next four years. 'Necessity', they say, 'makes strange bedfellows;' Political chicanery and selfish intrigue may do the same: but there is no reason why bedfellows, present or prospective, should not become acquainted when they may.

—And first, a word on the territorial extent of Texas, and the beautiful-*compromise* which has just been made in Congress respecting Slavery. All South of 36½ degrees North latitude is to be slave-holding if it will—that is, if slave-holders choose to settle upon it, while Freedom is to have all North of that parallel. But on *Col. Stiff's Map of Texas*, published in 1840, before any possible motive for misrepresentation existed, *there is not a foot of that Country North of the 35th degree of latitude!* This is the truth, beyond all cavil. The province of Texas never did extend to the Rio del Norte, and thence Northerly to its source. Its Southern and Western boundary was the Nueces, fifty miles east of the Rio del Norte, to its source in the Piedra Pinta Mountains, leaving the whole region drained by the Rio del Norte and its Eastern tributary the Pearco in the indisputably Mexican provinces of Tamaulipas, Coahuila, Chihuahua, and Santa Fé. Claiming the Rio del Norte as the natural boundary of Texas is in effect splitting four undeniably Mexican States, which no Texan ever entered except as a spy or a prisoner, making Matamoras and Mier frontier towns, and throwing Santa Fé—a Mexican City of one hundred and fifty year's standing—into Texas. There is no principle of right or public law known among men by which this important portion of the Mexican Republic can be seriously claimed as part of Texas. Whenever a treaty is made between Mexico and Texas (or whoever possesses Texas) that region must be conceded to her. Even were she compelled by defeats or her fears to surrender them, we could not as Republicans accept them with any decency. On what principle should we compel the Spanish-Mexican Catholics of Santa Fé to obey our laws and conform to our institutions?—The pretence, then, that there is some portion of Texas from which Slavery is excluded by the Joint Resolution which has passed the House, is a most impudent and wholesale iniquity.

Let us stop here to redemolish the ever-recurring swindle, which no completeness of exposure can silence or abash, that Texas was once ours, and that her acquisition by us now would be a *Re*-Annexation. On what is this claim based? Purely and necessarily on the assumption that what we call Texas was originally a portion of Louisiana and not of Mexico. But *how* a part of Louisiana? The mouth of the Mississippi was discovered by the French adventurer La Salle, in 1682, over a hundred and fifty years after both Mexico and Florida, on each side, had been discovered and possessed by Spain. (The upper portion of the River had been visited and descended as far as the mouth of the Arkansas in 1673, by Marquets and Joliet, also Frenchmen.) La Salle reached the Mississippi from Canada, passing up the St. Lawrence and Lakes and down the Illinois. France thence claimed the region of the Mississippi, and sent out La Salle to found a colony upon it. He missed the mouth of the River, sailed by, and landed somewhere in what is now called Texas, in what he named the Bay of St. Louis, which is supposed to be Matagorda Bay. Having lost one vessel in getting into the Bay, La Salle landed, built a fort, and was left here by his colleague Beaujeu, (with whom he had constantly differed,) who returned to France, leaving La Salle only the 'Belle,' a small vessel. Three months before, Beaujeu had written a letter (lately printed) objecting to La Salle's rashness and haughtiness, saying, "Nor can I comprehend how a man should dream of settling a country *surrounded by Spaniards* and Indians with a company of workmen and women instead of soldiers." This he wrote with reference to the mouth of the Mississippi, which they were then in search of, with no thought of pushing four hundred miles farther toward Mexico. The Belle was soon after lost in attempting to reach the Mississippi, La Salle himself was assassinated by some of his own men, March 20, 1687, while making a second attempt to reach the Mississippi overland; several of his faithful followers were killed with him; half his people fell speedy victims to the malignity of the climate, and the small remnant of the company were captured by a Spanish expedition, five hundred strong, which was despatched from New Mexico (Santa Fé,) for this purpose, on their first news of a French landing in Texas. The few prisoners made by this expedition were, after being sent to Spain, returned to Mexico, and there made to labor in the mines, where they were last heard of. France never reclaimed them nor remonstrated against their treatment, though they ought to have been released as clearly the victims of a mistake of La Salle's, who never intended to land West of the Mississippi, and who endeavored, as soon as he discovered his mistake, to get back to that River as speedily as possible. But in fact the real purpose of his expedition was regarded by Spain as an intrusion on her territory, for such she considered the whole coast westward and southward of St. Augustine—nor was her claim unreasonable. But France claimed the region of the Mississippi as hers, both by discovery and possession, and that claim was conceded.

Texas was first settled by Spain in 1692—France never raising a claim to it as a part of Louisiana—and a Spanish province, settled by Spaniards, governed by Spain, and defended by Spain, it remained from that day down to the independence of Mexico—over one hundred and thirty years. Meantime, an insurrection broke out there, and Spain quelled it; smugglers and freebooters harbored there, (in 1817,) and we complained, but never undertook to dispossess them. In 1806, a collision of troops was apprehended, but the Spanish commander advanced to the Sabine and there stopped; Gen. Wilkinson halted our forces some thirty miles this side, and peace reigned. Spain claimed to the Mississippi; but we created the State of Louisiana, making the Sabine its Western boundary, and Spain tacitly acquiesced. No American force, no French force, was ever sent South of that River, unless in an act of avowed hostility to Spain and invasion of her territory. Thus stood matters when in 1818–19 we made a Treaty of Boundary with Spain. She claimed to the Mississippi; Mr. Adams met this by claiming to the Rio del Norte. It was finally settled that the Sabine and the Red River should form the boundary, and to this our Government gladly acceded. (The old traditional line ran some thirty miles this side of the Sabine, and Natchitoches was originally a Spanish town.) Spain deemed her Minister, Don Onis, grossly outmanaged by Mr. Adams in this Treaty, and refused to ratify it for two years after it had been signed.

Such are the essential facts. In view of them, what honest man can talk of the *Re*-Annexation of Texas to this Country? Is this fraud necessary to the perpetration of the greater fraud entrenched behind it? Men! if you *are* men, put a bold face on the matter, and say you choose to have Texas; but desist from this miserable cant of *Re*-Annexation!

—We have been led away from our original purpose, and it is too late to return to-day. In our next, we will speak of Texas intrinsically, as portrayed in Col. Stiff's book.

*To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of N. Y.:—

The undersigned respectfully petition your honorable body to pass a General Corporation Law for "Combined Agricultural and Manufacturing Companies," or to extend the present General Corporation Law for the encouragement of certain manufactures, (see R. S. vol. 1, p. 454,) so as to include the business of agriculture, and general manufacturing. And your petitioners would state, as some of the reasons which at present call for the passage of such a law, the following:—

That it is most essential to the well being of society, that the land should at all times be free and accessible to the greatest extent, so that a large surplus of labor in manufacturing employments occurs, the distress which it brings to the operatives may be avoided by allowing unemployed workmen facilities and inducements to engage in agriculture; and farther, that there are now large numbers of men without profitable employment, who, by the low wages they are willing to receive, (as serious injury to skilful and worthy operatives in every branch of manufacturing labor; who, if companies were encouraged for the settlement of lands, might thereby be furnished with good employment, of which they would gladly avail themselves, and thus relieve the good mechanic of this species of competition, who might often wish to avail himself of the advantages of such a law; and farther, the depression of business, the multiplication and improvement of machinery, and other causes, whereby the chances of accumulation by hard labor are almost entirely cut off, demand that a direct and easy access would be opened to the soil, to avert impending degradation and suffering to the laborer;

And farther, the present wise policy of the State against monopoly and perpetuity in landed property, would be greatly promoted by such a law—"property restricted," and kept always subject to control and repeal by the Legislature, inasmuch as it would make it accessible to a great number of citizens, who now, for want of means, are forced to remain service laborers instead of becoming proprietors of the land, as they might; and farther, that the profits of farming, economy of labor thereon, and agricultural science, would be greatly promoted thereby. The object of your petitioners is to promote new settlements on present unoccupied lands in this State, and provide employment for a worthy and suffering class of citizens. And your petitioners, believing that the public interest calls for the immediate passage of such a law, look confidently to the wisdom and patriotism of the present Legislature for prompt and adequate relief.

THE MAILS.—Owing to the storm no mails were received last evening either from the North, East, or South. The Southern Mail due at 3 P. M. is also behind, so that we are without advices either from Washington or Philadelphia.

To-Day's Outside.

First Page.—Books for Children considered—The Child's Friend, with 'The Little Expecter,' a Tale.

Last Page.—A Poem by SYDNEY GRASS; The Moon: Commercial and Shipping Intelligence.

Indiana.

In our article upon the subject of Indiana Repudiation, a few days since, we stated that an agent of the English and American bond holders appeared at Indianapolis and made a proposition to the State, purporting to be by authority of the bond holders, to accept new bonds bearing 3 per cent. in place of the old bonds. Our information in relation to such a proposition having been made was correct, but we have the authority of Mr. J. Horsely Palmer for saying that in making the proposition alluded to, the agent entirely exceeded his authority, at least as far as the foreign bond holders are concerned. The agent has, indeed, as far as we can learn, entirely misconstrued his instructions, and has taken the opinion of one bond holder, expressed in a private letter, as full authority to make the proposition he did to the Governor. The agent, as we understand, was simply made the bearer of a memorial signed by the American bond holders, and the agents of the foreign holders, addressed to the Governor, praying him to urge upon the Legislature some action on the question of the Public Debt which would lead to its adjustment. He was not authorised to make any proposition whatever, and foreign bond holders did not even know of his mission. We make this statement at the request of Mr. Palmer, who desires to counteract the impression which would obtain, in view of the proposition of the agent, that the foreign bond holders are willing to compromise their claims on the State of Indiana. So far from this, he assures us that none of the large holders would accept ninety-nine cents on the dollar, or 4½ per cent. interest if assured of its payment. They are willing to grant any length of time which the necessities of the State may require, and to accept any instalment of the interest, however small; but that all negotiations for the adjustment of the debt must be based on the ultimate payment of the whole, principal and interest. The foreign creditors, Mr. Palmer says, look at the immense, illimitable wealth of this Country, and relying upon the justice of the citizens of the defaulting States, they rely with the most undoubting confidence on the eventual payment of all the debts of the States.

—We need scarcely add that the exposure made (by the action on the Agent's proffer) of the disinclination of the 'powers that be' in Indiana *to pay at all*, is not at all weakened by these facts.

☞ The great Texas Meeting in the Park did not come off yesterday.

☞ THE NEW-YORK SOCIETY FOR THE ABOLITION OF PUNISHMENT BY DEATH meets this evening at the corner of Broadway and Lispenard street. It is hoped that the meeting will be the first of a weekly series for the public discussion of the subject, in which the friends as well as the enemies of the Gallows may have a fair hearing.

*THE TEXAN EMIGRANT: Being a Narration of the Adventure of the Author in Texas, and a Description of the Soil, Climate, Productions, Minerals, Towns, Bays, Harbors, Rivers, Institutions, and Manners and Customs of the Inhabitants of that Country; Together with the Principal Incidents of Fifteen Years' Revolution in Mexico; and Embracing a condensed statement of Interesting Events in Texas, from the first European Settlement in 1692, down to the year 1840: By Col. EDWARD STIFF.

SNOW STORM.—Yesterday we were visited by an honest, old-fashioned Yankee snow-storm—a blowing, thick, imperturbable snow-storm, when the skies may be said to stick their hands in their pockets, and enjoy the fun. How the dense clouds of snow whirled majestically through the streets, and turned the corners in a hurry, while all the pedestrians who were going in the face of the blast, buttoned themselves up small and bent low, and the rest who were going the other way, under full spread umbrellas, loomed large and made wide berths. It it does not warm the blood and throw a cheerful coloring over events, to be *boosted* and rolled about in a thorough, steady snow-storm, what can do it?—Look out for great performances in sleighing, if the weather only keeps clear and frosty.

☞ We shall doubtless hear of extensive marine disasters from the storm of yesterday. Our packet ships which have been forty to seventy days out, if they have reached the coast, will have had a hard time of it.

☞ The Harlem Stages, Railcars and other conveyances up town, were driven off the course yesterday afternoon by the violence of the storm, and many citizens were thus compelled to remain down town all night. The Broadway, Bowery, Greenwich, Dry Dock and other City Stages, were also snuffed out at an early hour by the surly North-Easter. There were a great many involuntary pedestrians struggling over the dangerously uneven sidewalks through the blinding storm of the evening. Walking is a wholesome exercise, but we have known more agreeable weather for it.

ROME: AS SEEN BY A NEW-YORKER IN 1843-4. (pp. 216, 12mo.) Wiley & Putnam.

This elegantly printed volume cannot fail to be read by thousands, and read with delight. The author, whom we claim as a friend, traveled leisurely through the more attractive portions of Europe with the sole purpose of self instruction and improvement, writing us a weekly letter as he traveled and observed; and our discriminating readers will remember his letters (signed with the initials of his name—WM. M. GILLESPIE)—for their uniformly polished diction, their perfect finish as compositions. Authors in our day are too apt to write hastily as Editors, and of course to write badly, and travelers mistakenly imagine that any lively gossip will do for a letter. Mr. Gillespie carefully avoids this fault, and his letters may be read with pleasure by the thorough scholar as well as the eager devourer of all that is new. He had one fault, in our opinion, as a general traveler—that of looking too intently at the external,—at palaces, statues, picture-galleries; too carelessly at living men. The works of Raphael and Michael Angelo are worthy of regard; but we are more interested in the thoughts and ways of some rude, true-hearted peasant, who has seen Wurmser, Napoleon and Murat, and has an opinion as to the relative weight of French and Austrian chains. What we would mainly know of the traveler is what the People of the Country he visits think of, aspire to, live for, and how the heart of our common Humanity beats beneath the jewels of the princess, the uniform of the soldier, the rags of the beggar. But this volume treats of ROME only, and Rome is a City of the Dead, regarded for what she has been rather than what she is. Ruins are her treasures; her glory is in the high from which she has fallen. Our author has vividly and succinctly portrayed whatever people usually go to Rome to see or read travels thither to learn. A most intelligible Map of the Eternal City precedes his volume, and the Preface is the most sensibly modest of any we have read for weary months.—We close with a very brief extract from the opening chapter:

"ROME is in its single self a whole world of wonders, ancient and modern, and the newly-arrived traveler finds himself bewildered in the "embarrassment of riches." St. Peter's calls him on one side, the Coliseum on another; a living Pope rivals a dead Emperor; the Apollo Belvidere is a mile from the Dying Gladiator; the Forum, the Pantheon, the Tarpeian rock, the Temple of Vesta, the Catacombs, and the thousand other objects of deep interest are scattered over an immense area, and attract you in every direction, so that if their magnetic powers were all equal, they would keep you balanced immovably in their centre, like Mahomet's coffin at Mecca, and you would see nothing because there was so much to see."

☞ BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE for January has been very handsomely reprinted by L. Scott & Co. 112 Fulton-st. Its longest articles are 'Homer, Dante, and Michael Angelo;' 'Red River Recollections,' (Seatsfield,) 'A Ramble in Montenegro,' 'The Three Guardsmen,' 'Æsthetics in Dress—A Case of Hats,' 'Marston,' and 'Coleridge and Opium-Eating.' The number is full of interest, as Blackwood always is, and every reading club or lyceum should have it. This number commences a volume.

☞ No. XVIII of the Illuminated and Pictorial Bible has been published by the Harpers.

☞ "PUNCHIANA"—a 25-cent collection of the jokes and caricatures of the London 'Punch'—is just laid on Graham's counter, 169 Nassau. Pretty good.

☞ A new edition of HALLECK'S Poems will be issued in a few days.

THE CINCINNATI BULLETIN.—We receive a good little paper from Cincinnati, with this title. It is edited by Tracy Howe, whom we know of old. There are rich streaks both of fat and lean in Tracy's composition; he can moralize and crack jokes with equal readiness, and ought to make a capital editor. From some prime lots of conundrums already started, we fancy some of the *Third-street* lawyers are concerned along with Tracy.

MUSICAL.—It is said the Opera will be revived in about a fortnight, with efficient performers to supply the places left vacant by the absence of Borghese and Perozzi. The Orchestra of the Italian Opera intend to have a Benefit Concert at Palmo's on Saturday next.

NEW-YORK PRISON ASSOCIATION.—By an advertisement in another column it will be seen that this Association has opened an office at No. 13 Pine-street, (3d story—rooms No. 15 and 16,) where their Agent will be found ready to receive the calls of friends, particularly of those who are willing to furnish employment to reformed convicts. We have heretofore expressed our warm approbation of the principles and aims of this Association, and now, that it has placed itself in a position to be practically useful, not only to the unfortunate but to Society at large, we cannot too earnestly invoke in its behalf that measure of public confidence and support without which all its best plans must fail. Those who suppose that the founders of this Association are influenced by an unhealthy sympathy for criminals, are under a sad mistake. Their philanthropy is not of so narrow a cast; it not only encircles the unfortunate inmates of our prisons but is the fruit of a wise and comprehensive view of all human interests and relations. They would extend the hand of kindness and sympathy to the discharged convict not alone on his own account, but because such a course of treatment is best adapted to secure the highest welfare of the community.

Those who wish to obtain more definite information respecting the plans of the Association will do well to call at the office, where the venerable Agent, ISAAC T. HOPPER, will be most happy to answer their inquiries.

☞ CATHERWOOD'S NEW PANORAMA OF JERUSALEM was opened for exhibition yesterday at the Granite Buildings, Broadway. The 'holy memories' which cluster around the ancient City of the Jews will no doubt ensure the proprietor a large number of visitors.

☞ SYLVESTER GRAHAM, on account of the storm, has postponed his third and last Lecture on Water-Cure until Friday evening, when it will be delivered at Clinton Hall.

☞ About half past 6 o'clock yesterday morning a young infant was left in the entry of house No. 821 Broadway. The front door was opened for a moment, and a basket with the infant placed between the outside and inside doors; the child is about three days old.

☞ The Spanish quarters and other fractional parts of a dollar, will now go at the Post-Office for as much as any where else. Holders of Post Office stock will be glad to hear this.

Magnetism.

Some fourteen years ago we had the pleasure—not exquisite, by the way—of submitting to a course of treatment by Electricity for the cure of an inveterate sore shin, which the regular doctors could not—at any rate, *did* not—begin to cure. The operator was an odd genius, who had read a pamphlet on Medical Electricity some thirty years before, and thereupon bought him an Electrical Machine and set to work—crack, crack, crack. He thus cured himself of a stubborn rheumatism, and his neighbors of a variety of ills—all in the backwoods of Western Pennsylvania. He had a lot of patients when we were there, and cured some of them—this one, at least. Withal, his practice imbued us with a disrelish for electric shocks which we shall not soon get over.

Yesterday we dropped in at Dr. H. H. Sherwood's 102 Chambers-st. to examine his recent improvements on the Electrical Machine. They are really deserving the attention of every lover of science and human weal. Instead of the old cumbrous apparatus, Dr. S. has condensed the whole machine into a little box, six or eight inches long, by four or five deep and wide, and weighing eight or ten pounds. This machine *charges itself*, and may be kept constantly running at a cost of a cent a day, without 'turning' or any attention whatever. This machine *does not shock at all!* You simply give it a finger-touch to start it, and then take hold of the handles (wires in the old concern) and are charged with electricity, gently or as vehemently as you are able to bear it. A simple touch increases or diminishes at pleasure the rapidity with which the fluid flows into your system.

That this is an immense improvement in every way on the old modes of communicating electricity, whether by a machine or by manipulation, seems self-evident. That there may be cases in which manipulation may be requisite, we are not qualified to dispute; but it is notorious that a great proportion of the human family are scarcely impressible at all by 'passes,' while nobody could resist the power of the machine. We need not add that no one who ever underwent the 'shocking' process would choose to endure it again when the same effects can be produced by a gentle process. The improved machines of Dr. Sherwood cost from $20 to $15, according to size. We do not see how they can be improved upon, either in point of economy or efficiency.

How far and with what success Electricity or Magnetism may be relied on as a Medical agent, are questions for those deeply versed in the economy of Nature and the laws of Life. We know that remarkable cures have been performed through its agency, but of the laws by which it operates in such cases we know nothing as it should be known. Dr. Sherwood assures us that he has cured Paralysis, Tic Doloreux, and a great variety of acute diseases in an incredibly short space of time, and that Curvatures of the Spine of *twenty-eight years' standing* have yielded to the Magnetic application, &c. &c. (See his notice.)

☞ In the outset of the trial trip between the U. S. ships Portsmouth and Jamestown, which are to proceed together to the Cape de Verdes, to test their sailing qualities, the Portsmouth, in the distance between Old Point Comfort and Cape Henry, beat the Jamestown *one mile*, wind on the quarter under topsails, fresh breeze. This is according to the *Mirror*. Elsewhere we see it stated that the pilots report there was no advantage gained by either vessel over the other in this distance.

☞ We saw a piece of wood at the AMERICAN INSTITUTE yesterday, taken out of the Mexican steamers, while they were in this port making repairs, which was changed into a complete honeycomb structure, by a sort of worms or borers, some of which we saw also in spirits, that must have been no less than three inches long. The wood was pierced in every direction. Such a choice *vermetic* performance can be rarely witnessed.

☞ There were several terrible wrecks in the great and unrivalled snow-storm yesterday of—umbrellas!

THE CINCINNATI TELESCOPE.—The arrival of the great achromatic, refracting Equatorial Telescope, forms an era in the history of the Cincinnati Astronomical Society, at which it is proper to call public attention, to its proceedings and its objects; and a description of the qualities and powers of this valuable instrument may be interesting. It equals the highest hopes which we have ever been led to entertain of its excellence, there being nothing of the kind in our own country, (and but one in the world,) in any degree comparable to it, the one ordered by the Government of the U. S. possessing but about two-thirds its powers and proportions. Its focal distance is about 17 feet, and the diameter of its object glass nearly 12 inches. The hour circle is about 17 inches in diameter and so divided as to enable us to read two seconds of time. The declination circle nearly 26 inches in diameter, so divided by verniers upon a limb of silver that four seconds of arc may be read. The great Telescope carries a finder, or small Telescope of nearly three feet focal distance. All its movements are perfectly balanced in every position. Clock work is attached to it, which may be so adjusted, as to retain an object in the field of vision for any period of time. There are 15 eye pieces, common and micrometrical, with magnifying powers varying from 100 to 1,100, besides two circular micrometers and two solar glasses,—The object glass is reported to be the best in the world, excepting, perhaps, that belonging to the Emperor of Russia, recently mounted in the Observatory of Pulkova.

From The Cincinnati Mechanic.

GREATEST DISCOVERY OF THE AGE.—*The Electro Magnetic Light*.—Messrs. J. Milton Sanders and John Starr, have at last succeeded with their Light; and a brilliant affair it is. We have had the pleasure of frequently witnessing their experiments with differently formed machines, having for their objects the production of this wonderful light. Yesterday we were invited to attend the last one to be made in the West. It proved successful. The apparatus with which their light is made is small, to allow of easy transportation. But it may be increased to an indefinite extent, and with its enlargement is the increase of the size of the light. From our own observation we should suppose the power of the light could not be increased. We never could conceive a light more brilliant. Though but the size of pea, it is sufficient to illuminate quite a large room, and forbids the steady glance of the eye. The blaze of a candle twenty feet distant from the apparatus, and three feet from the wall, casts upon the wall a thick shadow—so much more brilliant is "the light," though not one-twentieth of the size of the candle's flame. What will be the power of this light when increased to the size of a gas-light? We cannot conceive.

At a distance the light looks unlike other illuminations—throwing out most beautiful rays, which, finely colored, spread magnificently from the bright centre. The inventors say they can make the light of different colors, and even alternately change from one color to another. The apparatus for producing this illumination displays great ingenuity, and a thorough knowledge of that portion of science which relates to the principles they have so successfully applied.

While witnessing that portion of its operation visible to the eye, we perceived a bar of iron revolving rapidly. The bar was literally heavy, and nearly a foot long—and can be made to revolve with a swiftness sufficient to fling itself, in spite of all workmanship to the contrary, from its pivots. It will go weeks with undiminished velocity, and without assistance, once started, from man. This, we fancy, is an approach to perpetual motion. Cannot it be applied to locomotives, &c.? The inventors say, without doubt, *it can!* Truly this is the age of inventions. They say also, that this latter will in many things supersede steam—the light will supersede many other artificial lights—what next? Once started the light may be said thereafter to be of no expense.

The apparatus will not cost a very great amount. It may be kept in one part of the city, and the light produced by connecting wires in any other part. Or it may be stowed away in the cellar or garret, as it is not affected by dampness, and wires be carried to different rooms, to the street, or to the neighboring streets. What it *cannot* do in the way of illuminations, remains yet to be discovered; what it can do, we may partially conceive. The inventors start immediately to Great Britain to secure their patents.

AN OLD FASHIONED SLEIGHING PARTY.—The Springfield (Mass.) Republican of Saturday states that last week, a party of *ninety nine* persons, "old and middle aged ladies and gentlemen," from Bristol, Ct. arrived there in the morning, spent the day after the old fashioned sort, and returned in the afternoon.

☞ It is said that the U. S. Government is about to make a *peremptory* demand upon the British Government, through Mr. Everett, for the delivery of a gang of eight or nine slaves who burned a house in Florida, and then escaped to Bermuda.

[Reported for the Tribune.]

Proceedings of the Farmers' Club.

TUESDAY, Feb. 4, 1845.

Mr. TOWNSEND, of Long Island, in the Chair.—Mr. Meigs stated that some expected statistics on Railroads had not arrived. Mr. Bridgman furnished the Club with a report on the subject of the disease in the Potato, containing an interesting account of the early history of this important vegetable. There was nothing novel in the communication. Mr. Bloomfield stated that the Potato came to its perfection in seven years, but after another seven years, the Potato begins to decline; this is the "Rise and Fall" of the Potato. Mr. Townsend considered the value of the Potato crop, generally, depends upon the season, not upon any particular periodical decay. Mr. T. raises his Potatoes thus,—in a drill on manure; when the plant just rises from the ground the earth is hushed down level. The earth is then ploughed from the plant, against before blossoming, the earth is ploughed to the plant, and a slight earthing up with the hoe made,—changes hissed as often as possible. Considerable discussion followed on the point of the "Rise and Fall" of the Potato, but not quite as complete in its results as Gibbon's considerations on the "Rise and Fall" of Rome. Mr. Meigs read a letter from the Jamaica Royal Agricultural Society,—also one from Sidney Weller, of Brinkleyville, (N. C.) a gentleman well known for cultivating the grape, and the making of wine. The subject of the "bearing of Railroads and Canals on Agriculture," was adjourned to the next meeting. A letter to Judge Douglass on the Silk business from Florida, was referred to the Committee on the subject.

Mr. Kerr said he would like to say something about Indian Corn.

He stated his objections to hilling corn in the following manner:

1. The removal of the roots from the air, and the earth close to the plant is unbroken and covered up.

2. Rain and moisture tend to run off the hill instead of sinking into it.

3. Part of the manure is turned up and exposed, and applied to the corn in the hill, farther removed from the air and moisture by being buried deeper.

4. More labor and trouble are required in turning up the hills, while the weeds are most likely only to be buried and soon appear again.

5. More room is required between the rows, and consequently, a low yield per acre.

The advantages in stirring and loosening the earth, in place of hilling it, about Indian corn.

1. The root is not buried deeper, and the earth all around the plant is in good tilth.

2. Thus the air and moisture are allowed freely to permeate the soil and benefit the plant.

3. The action of the manure, whether supplied broad-cast or laid in with the seed, is hastened without being directly exposed.

4. The trouble and labor are less, while the weeds are more liable to be cut and destroyed, as a plow armed with its coulter only is sufficient to stir and loosen the soil.

5. A larger yield must follow, and the plants being closer, the stirring of the earth is more easily accomplished and with more benefit to the crop.

The experience of other members of the Club, proved the value of Mr. Kerr's statement.

From the Albany Argus.

The New State Prison in Clinton County.

RANSOM COOK, of Saratoga, the well known agent of the new Prison, has submitted a very interesting report to the Legislature, of its present condition and future prospects. It is now well known that the very important experiment of driving trip hammers of the Catalan forge by means of the *escape* heat, while melting the ore, has been fully tested and found eminently successful. The importance of this discovery will be fully appreciated when we state that water power is no longer necessary for carrying on great iron works, but that the heat which was heretofore allowed to escape, without being used, is now applied by a system of conduction to generate steam which drives the hammers of the forge. Its importance is still more palpable, when we add that the expense is less than to use water power.

Mr. Cook explains in a few words the comprehensive results which will assuredly follow this most useful discovery:—

"The object in trying this experiment has been fully realized, by demonstrating that the manufacture of wrought iron in the Catalan forge can be prosecuted at the mouth of the mine, and without cost for power. The expense of transport, the waste, and of the cost of coal, from the same neighborhood to a distant water power, is thus entirely avoided. In the management of convicts it is of still more importance, as by being enabled to pursue mining, the preparation of the ore and the manufacture of iron, within the prison yard, the convicts can be employed upon different branches, corresponding with their capacity and behaviour.

"It was found, by experiment, that the ore from the Skinner bed, which has been purchased for the prison, is of so superior a quality, that good steel is made while manufacturing iron. Therefore he thinks, with reason, that steel hereafter can be made with facility.

"All the cast steel we use in this country is imported from England; and most singularly, the iron is previously imported into England from Russia or Sweden. The charcoal has also to be imported. It is a very remarkable fact, which shows the commanding resources of our country, that steel must be manufactured from charcoal iron, which England has not and cannot make. Her pit coal will not answer the purpose. Here, our means of obtaining charcoal are boundless and inexhaustible. By manufacturing steel at the prison, it competes *only* with the foreign manufacturer.

"The new prison is to be called the Clinton prison. It is situated fourteen miles nearly West of Plattsburgh, in Clinton county.

"The progress thus far has been limited to the purchase of the one bed and two hundred acres of land ($17,500)—experiments in the manufacturing of iron and steel, and the stockading, in place of a prison wall, with pickets 25 feet long, of 12 acres, which is to be the future prison yard. This job is under contract at a cost of about $2000. The work is progressing, and is to be finished by the middle of April. This yard embraces 55 rods of the mouth of the mine and all the necessary grounds for the buildings. There is a brook running through the prison yard, which can easily be made into a capacious reservoir of pure water. There is also a pure spring of water on an adjacent hill, 150 feet higher than the proposed prison.

"Of the appropriations ($30,000) of last session, there is a residue of from two to three thousand dollars, which will be expended this Winter in procuring lime, lumber, &c.

"In relation to the future and entire cost of the prison the agent remarks—

"With the advice and assistance of competent persons in estimating the expense of these erections, with tin roofing, the whole amount is fixed at eighty thousand dollars, with entire confidence that it will not exceed that sum. The erections for roasting, stamping and separating ore, machine shop, foot houses and forge are not included in this estimate. These will probably cost fifty thousand dollars more. But no doubt is entertained by the undersigned, that, with an appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars, the prison and incidental public buildings may be erected, together with the fixtures for preparing the ore, and a forge with eight fires. These would furnish means for making a respectable commencement in the manufacture of iron. After which time, it is believed the works may be enlarged to the extent desired, by the small earnings of convicts, and without farther legislative aid. As about this sum must be expended before the manufacture of iron can be commenced, the time when it shall be done will be determined by the appropriations for that purpose, all of which rests with the wisdom of the Legislature."

The following is the plan proposed, to complete it in all its details:

"A plan of the prison, with the necessary buildings for the use of the officers and accommodation of the convicts, together with estimates of expense of erecting the same, has been submitted to the examination of the Commissioners, and approved by them. The plan contemplates the building of a prison five hundred feet long and fifty feet wide, with three tiers of stories of cells, making in all five hundred and four cells. Two buildings, each one hundred and fifty feet long and forty-five feet wide, are to be placed one across each end of the prison, distant from it twenty five feet and connected with it by covered halls. The building at one end of the prison is to include rooms for the agent's, also clerk's dwellings, clerk's office, inspectors' and agent's office, guard room, keeper's hall and several store rooms. The building at the other end is to include the kitchen, dining room, bath room, chapel, hospital, physician's office, chaplain's office, a department for the insane," &c.

Mr. Cook concludes his very valuable report with the following remarks, which show the sound policy of turning convicts into this new and boundless field of manufacture:—

"The average cost of a ton of iron in the Northern part of the State is about forty dollars. The item for charcoal, as a part of this expense, is generally $12.50, but in the location purchased by the State it will not exceed $10. The other items to make up the amount are the prepared ore, labor of making the iron, and incidental repairs—all of which will be the product of convict labor after reasonable practice. Three-fourths then of the money obtained for each ton of iron will ultimately be furnished by the convicts. If, as is contemplated, additional labor is bestowed upon the iron, so as to make it bring from $80 to $90 per ton, the advantages in favor of the State will be still greater.

"In such employment, too, the State secures all their earnings, no part of them being given to contractors. We have also the gratifying reflection that they will not injuriously compete with others in the same business, as all can by no means supply the demand; but, while faithfully fulfilling the sentence of the law, they will be drawing from the bowels of the earth its dormant treasures, to be distributed through the country for the benefit of all, and to the injury of none."

Since the Legislature of New-York, after the fullest and most deliberate discussion, have determined upon the erection of this new prison, it will be a matter of just gratulation that the practical results thus far attained, give evidence of the wisdom as well as justice of diverting the labor of convicts so as no longer to injuriously compete with the manifold branches of labor among the Mechanics of our State.

A FEARFUL LEAP.—Dr. L. W. Bristol, while shoveling snow from the roof of his office, in Lockport, (N. Y.) on Thursday last, took a fearful leap, which should serve as a caution to persons who go upon roofs of houses for like purposes. He had gone to the roof of his office to clear away the snow and ice, when he commenced sliding, and, being unable to stop himself, went over the eaves! He threw from him the spade which he held in his hand, and, though his head was downward, through uncommon presence of mind he so turned himself in the air that he struck upon his feet, having fallen about thirty feet without the slightest injury!

☞ The North Carolina University Catalogue reports 151 Pupils.

Appropriations for the Indian Department.

The following are the items of appropriation for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department proposed to be made by the bill now before Congress:

For the pay of the superintendent of Indian affairs at St. Louis, and the several Indian agents	$16,500
For pay of clerk to superintendent at St. Louis	1,200
For pay of clerk to acting superintendent of western territory	1,000
For the necessary buildings required at the several agencies, and repairs thereof	2,000
For postages, rents, stationery, fuel for offices, and other contingencies of the Indian Department, and for transportation and incidental expenses	30,500
To the Chickasaw Indians.	
For permanent annuity, stipulated	400
To the Chippewas, Mississippi and Lake Superior.	
For permanent annuity, stipulated	9,700
For payment in money, for twenty years	19,000
For establishing three blacksmiths' shops, supporting three smiths, and furnishing iron and steel for 20 years	3,000
For support of farmers, purchase of implements, grain to sow, and to carry on their agricultural pursuits for twenty years	1,000
For purchase of provisions for twenty years	2,000
For purchase of tobacco for twenty years	500
For limited annuity for twenty five years, (in money)	12,500
For limited annuity for twenty five years, (in goods)	10,500
For purchase of tobacco and provisions, stipulated in the fourth article of the treaty of 4th Oct. 1842	2,000
For support of two blacksmiths' shops, including pay of smiths and assistants, and furnishing iron and steel	2,000
For support of two farmers	1,000
For the pay of two carpenters	1,200
For the support of schools	2,000
To the Chippewas of Saginaw.	
For permanent annuity, stipulated in the treaty of 3d May, 1836	1,000
For permanent annuity, stipulated in the treaty of 17th November, 1807	800
For permanent annuity, stipulated in Sept. 1819	1,000
For support of blacksmith at Saginaw, and farming implements and cattle, &c.	2,000
For education during the pleasure of Congress, stipulated in the sixth article of the treaty of August 1826	1,000
To the Chippewas, Menomonies, Winnebagoes, and New York Indians.	
For education, during the pleasure of Congress, stipulated in the treaty of 11th August, 1827	1,500
To the Chippewas, Ottawas, and Pottawatomies.	
For permanent annuity stipulated in the treaty of 29th July, 1829	16,000
For limited annuity, for twenty years, stipulated in the treaty of 28th September, 1833	14,000
For limited annuity, for twenty years, stipulated in the treaty of 28th of September, 1833	2,000
For life annuity to chiefs, stipulated in the treaty of 28th September, 1833	700
For blacksmith and assistant, stipulated in the treaty of 29th July, 1829	720
For iron and steel	220
For purchase of salt, stipulated in the treaty of July, 1829	250
To the Choctaws.	
For permanent annuity, stipulated in the treaty of 16th November, 1805	3,000
For permanent annuity, stipulated in the treaty of 18th October, 1820	600
For permanent annuity stipulated in the treaty of 20th January, 1825	6,000
For life annuity to chief, (Robb Cole,) stipulated in the treaty of 20th January, 1825	150
For life annuity to three district chiefs, (two hundred and fifty dollars each,) stipulated in the treaty of 27th September, 1830	750
For limited annuity, for twenty years, stipulated in the treaty of 27th September, 1830	20,000
For education of 60 youths, forty twenty years, including support of teachers in the nation, stipulated in the treaty of 27th September,