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NEW-YORK TRIBUNE.

Those Rochester 'Rappings.'

BATAVIA, Feb. 29th, 1850.

To the Editors of the Tribune:

The remarks of the *Commercial Advertiser*, noticed in The Tribune of 23d inst. reflection strongly upon the "some bodies" who it says have the "folly" to believe the Rochester Rappings to be supernatural. Who exhibits the most "folly" they who see, hear, and form opinions upon evidence; or they who form opinions denouncing others without evidence? Can it be a "preposterous hoax or imposition" which baffles the ability of any one to explain or such? I feel the name of a near relative and child given and communications in the language and spirit with which I was often addressed when they were living, at the first interview, alone and without the acquaintance to my knowledge of a person in Rochester. At another time my name was spelled out by these mysterious communications with the wish to talk with me. My questions pertained to the ones above alluded to. I obtained no satisfactory answer—I called for physicians to indicate who was addressing me—immediately came the sound of plasing and then sawing; and during the last the table, around which we stood, trembled—instantly my mind recurred to having assisted a near relative in some mechanical experiments regarding the use of the plane and saw, some years ago, and what made it more impressive was the fact that he made me pledge secrecy, as he was in ill health and his friends feared the consequences.—this was the last time I ever spent with him of any duration, and the last physical efforts I ever knew him to make; nothing could have more quickly called up his memory. I asked his name, and Silas was spelled out to me, the name by which he was familiarly known. I asked where he died, and was answered *New Orleans*, which was the fact. I called for the exercise of physical force on the table, and it moved so as to crowd persons back, and was held down so as to require a strong man to lift it, or even one side of it. Now, this was all done in daylight, and in the presence of a number of persons, while we were standing around the table, under circumstances that rendered it impossible for any one to touch it without being detected. I have as little faith in the evidence of the senses as any one; and I know enough of the physical sciences to disprove any attempt to explain these *facts* upon such principles. Every attempt so far has shown an utter ignorance of the phenomena, or a dishonesty of purpose—and moreover I know that those who believe in the spirituality of these manifestations are not all properly called "simpleodies" and their opinions "folly," but include many of the best minds and most diligent searchers after truth believe in them; and if I have failed to give what will be deemed "evidence" by you, it is because mine is not the "pen of a ready writer." If you require positive evidence you must see and hear for yourself—no testimony would ever have been sufficient to satisfy me, and perhaps should not any one. That much connected with this matter should appear to prepossess us in favor of deceit, and the much which is said to deceive against its pretensions, and the much which is said to be an impeyens very different when you see or hear it for yourself. C. D. G.

Remarks.

As we have been requested by several friends to give our own opinion of these strange doings at Rochester, Auburn, &c. we take this occasion to say that we incline to believe them in good part the work of deception or collusion. Yet we know that, if there be any trick, a great majority of those involved have no part in it, no suspicion of it, but are thoroughly honest and sincere. There is something in the mode of producing the noises that we do not find satisfactorily explained, and very likely some exercise of Clairvoyance or some kindred psychologic phenomenon on the part of the deceivers and that, we think, is all.

—We find in the Rochester *Magnet* of the 24th ult. a long account signed by eight persons of what the Editor pronounces "Wonderful Revelations" recently made through the newly established channel. The purport of it is that a Mrs. D was apprized, while in a magnetized and clairvoyant state, that *Benjamin Franklin* would make a communication to us poor benighted mortals, and make it to two different parties, in separate apartments, at the same time. So everything was duly prepared, and at the set time the "spirit" communicated (by raps spelled out through the established alphabet) as follows:

To the company in the parlor:

"Now I am ready, my friends. There will be great changes in the nineteenth century. Things that now look dark and mysterious to you, will be and plain before your sight. Mysteries are going to be revealed. The world will be enlightened. I sign my name Benjamin Franklin. Go to the parlor and compare notes"

We brand *that* 'spirit' a humbug and a counterfeit, no matter which world he belongs to. If Old Ben should undertake to communicate with persons still in the body, and had n't anything to say more important and definite than the above, we should leave his name out of our next Fourth of July speech and utterly refuse to attend any more celebrations of his birth-day. No, no, 'spirit,' you must n't undertake to palm yourself off for Ben. Franklin! You are a downright gag, Sir, and may shut up until you have something to offer worth listening to!

—We ought to have stated in the outset that we know the writer of the foregoing letter to be a truthful and worthy man, who has no motive nor design to mislead the public. He states some strange things, and the whole subject is interesting and worthy of thorough investigation. We think Clairvoyance is at the bottom of it.

KENTUCKY AGAINST DISUNION.—The Senate of Kentucky, on the 27th ult. laid on the table the resolutions for the appointment of Delegates to the Nashville Convention by the decisive vote of 26 to 9. Thus, by the overwhelming majority of three to one, the Kentucky Senate says it will have no part or lot in this treasonable Convention. The majority were all Whigs except two, and the minority all Loco-Focos except one.

ANTI-RENT IN DELAWARE COUNTY.—The *Delhi Freeman's Advocate* says that last year the Anti Rent party elected eight Supervisors. This year the eighteen towns in this County stand as follows:

Anti-Rent.—Andes, Bovina, Colchester, Delhi, Hamden, Kortright, Middletown Meredith, Roxbury, Stamford, Hancock—11.

Up-Rent.—Franklin, Sydney, Masonville, Tompkins, Walton, Davenport, Harpersfield—7.

Making an increase of three towns in favor of Anti-Rent over last year. This looks very much like Anti-Rentism being dead.

A COMPLIMENT FROM THE RIGHT QUARTER.—A Disunionist who writes from Washington to the *Columbia* (S. C.) *Telegraph*, thus glorifies our senior U. S. Senator:

"I do candidly believe that the only real friend the South has in the Senate, North of Mason's & Dixon's line, is Mr. DICKINSON, of New-York, who is a high toned, generous, spirited and honest man—but SEWARD represents the New-York feeling—not DICKINSON."

New-York Town Elections.

SCHOHARIE COUNTY.—*Supervisors.*

Whig—Schoharie, Blenheim, Carlisle, Esperance, Gilboa—5.

Loco—Wright, Seward, Conesville, Jefferson, Middleburgh, Sharon, Richmondville, Cobbleskill, Summit, Fulton—10. Broome—Tie.

Receipts of Produce.

By Railroad since yesterday—350 bbls Flour, 198 do Ashes, 91 do Whisky, 88 do Provisions, 421 pkgs Merchandise, 68 do Butter, 2,257 sides Leather, 143 head of Cattle, 38 do Sheep, 104 do hogs, 49 bales Hay, 112,558 feet Lumber.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE.

XXXI st CONGRESS....First Session.

SENATE.... WASHINGTON, March 4, 1850.

REVISION OF PATENT LAWS.

Mr. DICKINSON, of N. Y. presented a petition which was ordered printed and referred to committee on Patent Laws.

Mr. DICKINSON remarked, that the memorial and draught of a bill originated with a Convention of Inventors and others interested in this species of property, a body representing, and representing truly, the interests of Inventors and of the public. For many years Inventors and others have experienced much vexation and inconvenience by reason of imperfect operations of the law of 1836, and subsequent alterations and amendments have failed to remedy the grievance. This whole system is now patched up, incomplete and uncertain. Nevertheless that the benefit of judicial decisions upon important questions may not be lost, they propose to preserve such parts of the law of 1836 as experience has proved to be useful, and to add such provisions as will make it, as far as may be, equal and just in its operations, and mark clearly the line between the rights of the Inventor and the public.

So oppressive had the operation of the Patent Laws proved that a National Convention assembled in New-York to take measures to remedy these evils, and since that time similar Conventions have been held in Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore. The draughts of a bill now presented was prepared by or under the direction of these able and experienced counsellors it was then considered carefully by a Committee of the Convention, and with their suggestions referred again to those who prepared it that it might be made to conform to the views which a large experience had matured and embodied in the shape of amendments, and in its present form is the joint production of learned counsellors and those interested in Patented property.

The present system protects neither the inventor nor the public, and owing to collateral contests begets and fosters endless and profitless litigation. The patent is granted upon private application, and the present law provides no adequate remedy for procuring it canceled, however improperly issued. The proposed bill permits any one aggrieved to institute proceedings for its repeal, and for a direct and speedy trial of the question of priority. It prevents any defense except that the defendant is not using the invention.

These are the two great and marked features of the proposed bill, dispensing with collateral litigations, and providing a direct remedy for annulling patents erroneously issued, and thus protecting the one hand and the patentee or owner on the other during the existence of the patent.—Nothing can be more unjust and oppressive to the inventor who has given the productions of his genius to the world under a guarantee by his Government of exclusive ownership, for a limited period, than to require him to litigate the validity of his patent over any and every question which may arise collaterally concerning it in any court in any part of the United States, involving the expense and time of a jury, and subjecting him to all the embarrassments which caprice and ignorance may unite against him. This bill it has already been said, was designed to remedy this evil, and, at the same time, to give security to the public against fraud and imposition, by simply direct and speedy remedies. The present is deemed a fit occasion to call the attention of the Senate to the objects of the patent fund, and ineed that it should be preserved for the benefit of the inventors, sacred to the contributions of science. No class have done more to add to the permanent glory of the nation, wealth and happiness and elevation of the people, and yet this fund is now being depreciated, if not exhausted, upon objects as questionable in point of utility as the authority by which they are prosecuted.

The Crescent City at New-Orleans.

NEW-ORLEANS, Sunday, March 3.

The steamship Crescent City from New-York arrived last night.

Decline in Cotton.

NEW-ORLEANS, Sunday, March 3.

The COTTON market is again jc lower, and the sales yesterday were 2,000 bales at 10¾ for Middling and 11 for good do.

A Voice from North Carolina against Slavery Extension.

(Communicated for The Tribune.)

ORANGE Co. N. C. Feb. 26, 1850.

At a large and respectable meeting held at Pratt's Store, Orange County, N. C. on 20th Feb. at which a large number of the Society of Friends were present, Gen. HORACE FELTER was called to the Chair, and Messrs. MICHAEL MITCHELL and S. JONES were appointed Secretaries.

Mr. JORDAN SWAIN then moved that a Committee of Seven be appointed by the Chairman to draw up suitable resolutions for the meeting, which was agreed to, and the Chair appointed the following gentlemen:

Messrs. Chesterfield Merritt, Morris Boothe, Nathaniel Hubbard, John B. Phillips, Willis Jenkins, Edmund Bell, and Charles A. Phillips.

During the interval, the meeting was addressed by Messrs. T. Kerby, Allen Utley and C. J. Burnett. After running for a short time the Committee reported the following resolutions, through their Chairman, Chesterfield Merritt:

1. *Resolved*, That we will hail with joy the admission of California as a State of this Union, with a Constitution forever prohibiting Slavery and the slave traffic within its borders.

2. *Resolved*, That we do condemn the course pursued by Mr. Cilingman, and other of our Representatives in Congress, in resisting the passage of the Wilmot Proviso, and other kindred measures.

3. *Resolved*, That we do extend to our brethren of the Northern States, who have instructed their Senators to resist the introduction of Slavery into the new Territories, our warmest sympathies, and do earnestly hope that they will persevere and succeed in their good intentions.

4. *Resolved*, That we do condemn the course of the late Secretary of State, James Buchanan, in conceiling to Texas a great part of New-Mexico, for the purpose of establishing in it Domestic Slavery.

5. *Resolved*, That we will frown down every attempt to dissolve this glorious Confederacy, and will seek to maintain the Union for ever in its pristine purity.

6. *Resolved*, That the Chairman of this meeting be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the Editors of the *New-York Tribune* and *National Era*. Other journals favorable to the cause of liberty will please copy.

Messrs. Merritt, Boothe, C. A. Phillips, Hubbard and D. Barham addressed the meeting in support of the resolutions.

On motion, the resolutions were adopted, and the meeting adjourned *sine die*.

HORACE FELTER, Chairman.

S. JONES, M. MITCHELL, } Secretaries.

A Disaster on Lake Superior.

We are permitted to make some extracts of a letter to a gentleman of this city, from the Agent of the Marquette Iron Co. at the mouth of Carp River, touching the sad affair reported some weeks since:

WORCESTER, Mich. Feb. 1, 1850.
Carp River, Lake Superior.

DEAR SIR: I have just experienced a dreadful calamity, which I will mention to you.

Nov. 25th, the boats having stopped running on the Lake, I thought I must send to the Sault on important business, consequently I consulted Moody and others about the safety of the thing, and I had 3 volunteers to go down, and I selected five. Jas. Miner was the boatman on this Lake; John Mason, one of our preëmptors; Wm. Emmons (or Mass) a man whom I had given the charge of the help for some time back; Henry B. Misner from Chicago, and a young German from the same place. They started off well clad and provided for the undertaking. We heard nothing from them for several weeks; at last an Indian arrived, with the dreadful news below. A boat had been found within 2 miles of the Sault, bottom up; one mast broke, the other standing, and the men all lying in the bottom of the boat frozen to death. Who they were or where they came from was a mystery; at last they found some one that recognized Misner, and an examination of the other convinced them that the marks on the same indicated that the person was H. B. Misner. This was 15 days after they left us. They could not find a cent in money or scrap of paper about their persons, nor anything in the boat, not even an oar. What became of the rest is veiled in darkness, and probably will be for all time to come! It is truly a mysterious affair. How every trace of baggage and camp equipage could have been thrown out of the boat, and the men's pockets that were found, is more than I can comprehend. Some of the men had considerable money; all of them had some cash. The one that was found, Miner, had $1 in his vest pocket, and he had no means of spending it. These men were very much endeared to me, and I truly feel their loss; some of them, Emmons in particular, has left a family of seven children dependent on him for support. He was the man that called on you in the Summer from the East, concerning our trip-hammer. He was truly a good man. I have sent down to have the most thorough search kept up to find the bodies and the property.

Fire in Fredonia.

From the Fredonia Censor, Extra.

Our village last night experienced the most disastrous conflagration with which it has ever been visited. The first fire was discovered about midnight, in Woodford's new building, next to the bridge, and soon spreading to the adjoining buildings, gave little opportunity for rescuing their contents from destruction. Within about 20 minutes thereafter, and while all were busy and crazy around the carriage and cabinet manufactories, alarm was given that the Wolcheu Block was on fire, which proved all too true. The new building owned by M. S. Woodford, in which the fire originated, was occupied by Cramer & Cramp, as a carriage shop. Their (C. & C.'s) loss is about $1,000—no insurance. The next dwelling-house contiguous was owned by heirs of the late Miss Spencer. Loss and insurance not ascertained. The cabinet manufactory of Mr. L. Barmore, next west, and great part of contents mostly lost. Loss about $2,000. Insured $1,200. The two next dwelling-houses were owned by Mr. Woodford, whose loss on them and the carriage manufactory is nearly $3,000. Insured $1,100. The losses in Wolcheu Block are substantially as follows: Wolcheu Building, owned by E. L. Wolcheu—loss $4,500—insured $3,000. J. H. Havens's hardware store—loss $6,000—no insurance. C. Dudley & Co's dry goods store—loss $7,000—insured $6,000. Perkins & Webster's dry goods store—loss $6,000—insurance $3,000. Hilton & Latimer's dry goods store—goods entirely removed—loss $2,000—fully insured. Odd Fellow's Hall—loss $800—no insurance. Dr. Hall's office—loss $200—no insurance. H. F. Smith's saddery shop—loss $600—insured $150. Censor office—loss $2,000—insured $1,000—books saved. Dwelling-house in rear of Wolcheu Block, owned by James's Bank—loss small. Dwelling-house east of Wolcheu Block, owned by Joshua Turner—loss $800—no insurance. The total loss is not far from $40,000, of which about $21,000 is covered by insurance. The statement we have made of losses does not include several minor ones not ascertained. The probability is that both fires were the work of incendiaries.

BURNING OF RAILROAD BUILDINGS AND FUEL.—At noon, yesterday, the woodsheds belonging to the Auburn and Rochester Railroad Co. at Pittsford, took fire from the sparks flying from the locomotive engaged in drawing wood to the spot. A strong wind was blowing at the time, and the fire communicating to the seasoned pine fuel collected there, spread rapidly, and was soon beyond control.

About 2,000 cords of wood—400 cords of which were pitch pine,—sawed, and seasoned, in fine order for burning, and worth about $3,25 per cord,—were collected under these sheds, near the railroad track. The water-fountain, in a fire-proof stone building, was also here, and opposite the fire communicating to