LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

THUNDER-STORMS.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: A great deal has been written about storms—much from theoretical deductions, and some from fact. My purpose in this treatise is to relate the physical aspect of thunder-storms as viewed from above the clouds, from the surface of the earth, from their sides in mid-air, and from the middle of their cauldrons. I have made diligent observations on these meteors for ten years past, and have read some theories concerning them; but as my object is mainly to give facts to the student of meteorology, I will confine my relation at present to that which developed itself to the sense of seeing, hearing, feeling and smelling of these phenomena.

A Storm Viewed from above the Clouds has the appearance of ebullition. The upper surface of the cloud is bulged upward and outward, and has the resemblance of a vast sea of snow boiling and upheaving from internal convulsion. This view is from a point where the atmosphere is clear, around and above. Immediately above the storm the air is not so cold as in a place where there is no cloud nor storm beneath. The falling of the rain can be heard above the cloud, making a noise like a waterfall over a precipice. The thunder heard above the cloud is not loud, and the flashes of lightning appear like streaks of intensely white fire on a surface of white vapor.

A Side View of a Storm—observed when it is a mile or two off and somewhat lower than the point of observation—presents in form the shape of an hour-glass; the picture of a waterspout also gives a good outline of its shape. In this well-defined form it moves along over the earth. When the storm is so small that you can embrace its whole bulk at a single glance—which you can do when you are several miles off and a little more elevated than the meteor—it looks as though it were trailing its lower base along on the surface of the earth, and it has an individuality which cannot be recognized when viewed from the ground. Although the storm is being moved along by the same current of wind that is drifting along the observer, it will be deflected from that course by its encountering a mountain ridge or a deep valley, just in proportion to the amount of lateral force or obstruction it sustains in such cases; and then the observer in a balloon may continue onward, while the storm may be moving off at right angles with his route. These lateral views of storms are very grand and imposing as they rush along by an elevated observer. A grand army of flying artillery at full gallop in all the panoply of war could not produce so imposing a sight; over city, forest, river and plain it goes with undaunted march.

A Closer View from the Side of a Storm, and partly in it, reveals a very interesting physical aspect. The one now described occurred on the 3d of June, 1852, during a balloon excursion from Portsmouth, Ohio. The storm was hedging up the Ohio River about fifty miles above Portsmouth, and where the river courses nearly north and south, while I was sailing from west and east. Moving at nearly right angles with the storm soon brought us together, and the country below being dense forest, the meteor's company was preferred to a reception in the woods. It was easy to keep out of the vortex of the storm from an abundant supply of ballast aboard of the airship; hence a point in its wake was the station of observing its action, and having learned that the shape of storms was like two cones with their ends joined, with a wind driving in below and rushing out again at its top, you might sail with impunity in its wake, provided you kept midway between the upper and lower cloud. When getting too low in its wake there was a tendency to rock the balloon into the vortex, but this was countervailed by going up near the outspreading cloud. In this position the air is cold, and you are in the shadow of the upper cloud, unless you sink low enough where the sun may reach you under the overlapping cloud. Although the sun was shining on me, the rain and small hail were rattling on the balloon. A rainbow was standing in and against the body of the meteor, or rather a prismatically colored arch the shape of a horse-shoe was reflected against it, and as the point of observation charged laterally and perpendicularly, the perspective of this golden grotto changed its hues and forms. Above and behind this arch there was going on the most terrific thunder, but no zig-zag lightning was perceptible, only bright flashes like explosions of "Roman candles" in fireworks. Occasionally there would be a zig-zag explosion in the cloud immediately below, and the thunder therefrom sounded like a "feu de joie" of a rifle corps. Once an orange-colored wave of light seemed to fall from the upper to the lower cloud, and right over the balloon, but no sensible effect was produced by its contact. This was "still lightning." There appeared all the time while in the storm electrical action going on in the balloon, such as expansion, tremulous tension, attraction by lifting papers out of the car ten feet below the balloon, and hugging them to its body for a moment and then letting them drop off again; but as I had no instruments I can only relate the manifestations of electricity in this case. While, as stated above, a distant view of storms is imposing and grand, a closer view of a great storm such as this Ohio meteor is truly sublime; although the rushing noise below and in its midst, like the tumult of a thousand chariots of war, is almost appalling.

The Quantity and Quality of Thunder seem to be in proportion to the magnitude of the storm. A storm may be so limited in size as that there will be no electrical explosions. In this case the developed electricity can be dissipated and taken up by the immediately surrounding cloud formation. April and May showers are an exemplification of this fact. When the storm is of great magnitude the central portion of its top becomes surcharged with electricity, because the surrounding cloud-formed vapor cannot conduct away silently as fast as it is developed, and hence explosions must ensue, such as noticed in the Ohio meteor, with terrific and rapid discharges of thunder; and moreover, the drops of rain that are formed from this surcharged vapor of the upper cloud also become redundantly electrified, and although they fall quietly down through the intervening clear air which is a non-conductor, as soon as they reach the lower cloud which is negatively electrified, they give up their surplus—silently if the capacity of this cloud is sufficient to take it up, but explosively if the cloud is insufficient; and it may fly off laterally until dissipated, or it may glance downward to the earth, rending whatever it encounters before its diffusion in the earth. The physical facts here stated are as I saw them; the rationale of explosion is confirmed from the known play of electricity as divulged by the common electrical-machine experiments.

A Storm Viewed from within its Cauldron—that is, from within its vortex, where the cloud-vapor is driving upward to where it spreads out—is rather a terrible thing, and the very fact that you are caught up in the midst of one of nature's laboratory furnaces makes you feel resigned, and determined to look to the end thereof. It may be only terrible because we are not used to it; nevertheless, I would not like to enter one again for observation until science dictates, without a doubt that we are not liable to annihilation or serious harm. The one now to be described is the result of a trip in the midst of a local storm of so limited dimensions as to have no electrical explosions during my passage of nineteen minutes within its bosom. This storm originated nearly over the town of Carlisle, Pa., on the 17th of June, 1843. I entered it just as it was forming. The nucleus cloud above was just spreading out as I entered the vortex unsuspectingly. I was hurled into it so quick that I had no opportunity of viewing its surroundings outside, and must therefore confine this relation to its internal action. On entering it the motion of the air swung the balloon to and fro, as also around in a circle, and a dismal howling noise accompanied this unpleasant and sickening motion; and in a few minutes thereafter was heard the falling of heavy rain below, resembling in sound a cataract. The color of the cloud, internally, was of a milky hue, somewhat like a dense body of steam in the open air, and the cold was so sharp that my beard became hoary with hoar-frost. As there were no electrical explosions in this storm during my incarceration, it might have been borne comfortably enough but for the sea-sickness occasioned by the agitated air-storm. Still, I could hear and see, and even smell, everything close by and around. Little pellets of snow (with an icy nucleus when broken) were pattering profusely around me in promiscuous and confused disorder, and slight blasts of wind seemed occasionally to penetrate this cloud laterally, notwithstanding there was an upmoving column of wind all the while. This upmoving stream would carry the balloon up to a point in the upper cloud, where its force was expended by the outspreading of its vapor, whence the balloon would be thrown outward, fall down some distance, then be drawn into the vortex, again to be carried upward to perform the same revolution until I had gone through the cold furnace seven or eight times; and all this time the smell of sulphur, or what is now termed ozone, was perceptible, and I was sweating profusely from some cause unknown to me, unless it was from undue excitement. The last time of descent in this cloud brought the balloon through its base, where, instead of the pellets of snow, there was encountered a drenching rain, with which I came down into a clear field, and the storm passed on. This storm may have been accompanied with electrical discharges after it left me, as it had the appearance of increase as it departed. I may here mention that the people in the neighborhood informed me next day that it deposited two parallel trains of hail some distance apart. I have frequently since and before this occurrence witnessed storms while up in the air, but a great distance off sometimes four and five of them at the same time in different parts of the heavens, and always in the months of May and June, and never accompanied with electrical explosions when they were small in dimensions.

Thunder-Storms, Viewed from the Earth, have not the characteristic shapes limeated to the eye of the observer, as when viewed sidewise from above. Neither does one discover the two plates of clouds joined in conic sections. The upper cloud can be seen rolling outward, and black clouds below centering inward, but the whole seems to be nearly blended in one solid mass. By close observation and practice it will soon be deduced that there are two plates of clouds, even as viewed from the earth. In watching clouds carefully from the earth, it will be observed that vivid zigzag flashes and heavy peals are followed by copious showers. The rain-drops, being positively charged from the upper cloud, drop through a clear atmosphere, which is a non-conductor, into the lower cloud, which is negatively electrified; and if the shower is too copious for the lower cloud's capacity to absorb it silently, explosions must follow, in the same way as the Leyden jar explodes spontaneously when surcharged to overflowing. Were it not for the lower cloud and its negative condition, the surcharged drops of rain would scintillate their electrical fire as they touched the earth.

Thunder-storms rage more violently as they pass over forests and moist places, and were it not for the deposition of rain as they pass along their track, would exhibit a parched trail. A long drouth is adverse to the generation of a thunder-storm, and on the other hand a moist earth is promotive of one.

Thunder-storms are deflected from their courses, as well as retarded in their movement, by friction on the earth. Ascending from the earth with a balloon in the rear of a storm, and mounting up a thousand feet above it, the balloon will soon override the storm, and may descend in advance of it. I have experienced this several times.

I have thus related facts which are due to science, with a view to a more accurate understanding of the laws which govern them; and in order to spread them broadcast before the investigating minds of the day in this department of science, I forward you this account to be published in your wide-spreading journal, should it meet your approbation to do so.

Lancaster, Pa., Feb., 1857. JOHN WISE.

TILE-DRAINING.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Under-draining, as an art, has made great advances among the better class of farmers, especially in England, since the introduction of draining-tile; or, we should perhaps say, since the *modern* use of the tile, for prior to 1620 the garden of the monastery at Maubeuge, in France, was drained with earthen tile, placed at a depth of about *four feet*; and so late as 1850, when the conformation of the surface was changed to make a park, this garden was famous for the excellence and abundance of its productions, and the people of the district had been at a loss to account for its astonishing fertility until the grading spoken of exposed a thorough system of drainage, which had evidently been made earlier than interments dating at 1620.

The tile is an innovation—a new idea; it is a revolution in the art of draining; but it is at the same time a silent and timid one, producing but slowly the change of system which its first coming predicted, and which its long use (since about 1841) has steadily advanced. It conforms so easily to popular ideas, and makes itself so useful in nearly all cases, that its distinctive features and strong points of advantage are not so readily seen as if it had no other features or advantages. The old stone and brush drains acted as permeable spaces to relieve the soil of the excess of water which it might receive from rains or springs; and such drains serve a very fair purpose, sufficient, in the absence of other materials, to command respectful attention; but, as they rarely offer more than a channel for the slow percolation of water, they can by no means compare with tile, which, forming, when properly laid, a perfect conduit, that can be entered only by water and air, and which is, therefore, not liable to obstruction, remains as a free outlet for whatever excess of moisture the soil may contain. Add to this the far greater cheapness, in most cases, of the tile, and we see that there are but few soils requiring drainage where it would ever be advisable to employ any other material.

Assuming, then, that tiles are the cheapest and best aids to under-draining, let us examine their action with a view of ascertaining the proper manner in which to construct the drain.

Drains of the old fashion require of course to be made of considerable size, that the dimensions of the passage for water may be sufficiently large to compensate for its want of perfection. Then, again, such drains—partly in consequence of the cost of their construction—are located chiefly in low parts of the land and only at long intervals, or where they may tap springs or deposits of water. Each drain is regarded as complete in itself, not as a part of a system of drains aiding each other. It is, therefore, made of a large size, and is filled with stone toward the surface of the soil, that the water which runs over the surface to this lower portion of the field may find easy access to the drain by filtering down from the top. They are generally, if we may use the expression, *covered surface drains*, and as commonly constructed, they have little of the effect of thorough under-draining; still, it is possible so to arrange them that they shall, for the time of their duration, perform all of the work of tile-drains; as may the tile replace the stone-drain for the purpose of surface-drainage.

The object of under draining is not simply to relieve the wetter parts of the land of their surface water, but *to remove from the whole soil, to a depth of from thirty to thirty-six inches, all water which does not attach itself to the surface of its particles by force of capillary attraction.* This, and nothing less than this, is thorough drainage, and this condition of the soil must be attained before we can anticipate all of the good results which are rightfully attributed to under-draining. Such a condition is best effected by the use of the tile, and it is well always to bear in mind these principles—that in thorough drainage the object is to provide an outlet for water at the *top* of the water-level, and that water which falls on the soil does not travel diagonally toward the drain, but settles at once in a vertical direction, and thus raises the level to such a hight that the water enters the tile and is carried away. It continues to flow until water from the upper soil has ceased to descend to raise the position of that below.

To illustrate this more fully, let us suppose a barrel, standing on its end, to be filled with soil, and that water be poured into it until the soil is saturated—that is, until the spaces between the particles are filled with water. If we now remove the bung of the barrel the water will flow out until that above the level of the lower side of the bung-hole is entirely removed, except so much as is held by capillary attraction. The water which has passed out is not all of it that which was originally above the level of the outlet, for that water did not take a diagonal direction toward the outlet from all parts of the upper half of the barrel. Its weight carried it directly down, and caused it to force up that which was below until it passed off by the outlet. Probably, for a short distance from the hole, the water moved in a slanting direction; but this is only local, and does not invalidate the illustration.

Now if we pour more water into the barrel, in imitation of a heavy shower, it is at once absorbed by the soil in the upper part of the barrel, and it passes down as before, raises the water-level to a point above the lower edge of the bung-hole, and the outflowing again commences. Here we see that the water passes out as soon as it reaches the *lower* part of the outlet, and (except for the removal of water close to the side of the barrel) it would not accelerate the flow to enlarge the hole on its upper side—supposing it originally large enough to carry off the water as fast as it settles and raises the level. The same is the case with the soil. The position of the lower side of the tube which is formed by the tile decides the water-level; and whenever from rains or any other source water is given to the upper soil, it passes down in a vertical direction, and raises the level until a like amount passes off through the tile. It may move sidewise for a foot or two each way from the drain, but this does not affect the principle. When a cubic inch of water falls on the soil at a point midway between two drains, it does not travel along until it finds an outlet; but it passes down to the level of the water below, and by its weight it causes a rise in the whole mass until, other things being equal, a corresponding amount of that which is in the immediate vicinity of the drain passes out. Hence we see that water enters the tile almost entirely from below; and in view of this fact it is obvious that all that is necessary in practice is to so lay the tile that it will carry off the water thus received. Filling in the ditch above the tile is entirely useless in all cases where the tile is large enough to carry off the water—and it should of course always be so—for it does not at all facilitate the entrance of water into the drain. If there were any loose material needed, it should be placed below the tile, for it is from below that the water comes. But it is never needed. Lay your tile so that the water will run out, and you cannot keep it from running in.

There is, of course, very much connected with the construction and action of tile-drains that could not be comprised within the scope of a single article. My object has been merely to show the fallacy of supposing that water enters the tile mainly from above, and that it is therefore necessary to place loose material, such as small stones and leaves, above them. In making stone-drains, which are very liable to obstruction, it is often well to do so, but with tile (properly laid) it never is necessary. Let us have a reform in this matter, and thus cheapen the construction and extend the use of tile-drains.

GEO. E. WARING, Jr., Draining Engineer.
American Institute, New-York, March 17, 1857.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN THE WEST.

To the Editor of the N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: I am permitted to copy a letter, just received from a missionary of the American Sunday-School Union in Indiana for two gentlemen of this city contributing to his support. I think you will agree with me that it presents a graphic picture of the pioneer and missionary life in the new settlements of the West.

Rooms of the Am. S. S. Union, No. 59 Chambers street, January 20, 1857.

"AUBURN, De Kalb Co., Ind., Jan. 21, 1857.

"MESSRS. ——: *Dear Sirs*: As a missionary of the American Sunday-School Union I am requested, by the Secretary of Missions, to write you quarterly letters, as some small acknowledgment of your liberality in contributing to the funds of that noble institution.

"Permit me, therefore, to introduce myself to you as one of the early settlers of this part of Indiana.

"Nearly twenty years ago, when a boy, not yet seventeen years of age, I left the place of my nativity (Franklin County, Pennsylvania), and traveled alone to this county. Northern Indiana was then an almost unbroken wilderness, into which, however, the tide of emigration was rapidly pouring. The worst part of my journey was performed on foot. In this way I came from Dayton, Ohio, crossing the famous 'Black Swamp,' on the old Military Tract—sometimes traveling many miles without seeing a house or the face of a human being. From Fort Wayne to the termination of my journey I had no road at all—the St. Joseph River being my only guide. I found the country without roads, mills, stores, villages, schools, churches and preaching, and almost without inhabitants—although they were rapidly coming in.

"The face of the country was covered with heavy timber; sometimes it was broken by marshes, sometimes full of thick tangled brush, sometimes with stately tamarack trees (a tree resembling the spruce, but not evergreen), and sometimes open as a meadow, covered with tall, coarse grass. Here and there, also, the tall forest was broken by a small clearing around a little round-log cabin with floor of puncheon—roof, door and chamber floor of clapboards; window (if any) composed of greased paper, and chimney of sticks and mud, with furniture to match, viz: table of puncheon or clapboards, stools of puncheon, bedsteads of round poles with the bark shaved off (if the owner was particularly tasty), and chests and bureaus of the rough stone boxes in which their goods were brought from the East, or of clapboards laid on rough pins driven into auger holes in the round-log walls. The first six years of my life in Indiana were spent in clearing land and in digging among the green roots to raise the necessary crops, during the Summer, and in teaching school during three or four of the last Winters. My schoolhouses were of the same description as the cabins of the settlers; and school bills were paid in almost everything imaginable that the settlers could possibly spare.

"After those six years were past, I entered the ministry, and for six years more traversed fifty counties in Indiana, from the swamps of the extreme north to the hills in the vicinity of the Ohio.

"During those six years I never, in one year, received more than $100 for my ministerial labors, though having a small family to support nearly all the time. The settlers, being poor and subject often to long and distressing sickness, were really unable to give much more, and the remainder of our scanty support had to be supplied from the labor of my hands and those of my excellent and beloved wife.

"For the last seven years I have been permanently settled in this county, where I first resided. My time has been spent mostly in Sunday school labors or in the work of the ministry. When I returned here, Sunday schools were, like angels' visits, few and far between. These few were mostly struggling for existence against the poverty which prevented the procuring of necessary books and information.

"Perhaps near 200 schools have been organized, directly or indirectly, through my agency, over some nine or ten counties in this State and north-western Ohio, and more than these visited or assisted that formerly had a languishing existence.

"Many of the new schools were formed in the most destitute neighborhoods, and often proved harbingers of preaching, revivals, churches, houses for worship, and all the ordinary blessings of Christianity. But still there is room, and still the cry is, 'Come over and help us.' Surely there is no way of doing a greater amount of good with the same means than in the establishment and encouragement of the Sunday-school institution as far as possible in my neighborhood."

Now, Sir, this is a specimen of letters received from the missionaries of the American Sunday-School Union at the West, by whose necessary labors more than 2,500 new Sunday Schools were organized last year, having some 17,000 teachers and 104,000 pupils. Ought such an institution to be crippled by the want of means? Are any labors so hopeful as those for the young? Will not the wise and good, the wealthy and liberal respond? S. S. S.

EDUCATION OF COLORED PEOPLE.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Although most of our colleges and seminaries of learning have among their Alumni men whose skin is not fair, the numbers of this class of our citizens who are regularly educated are not large. For reasons best known to themselves, negro youth do not generally seek admission to the higher seats of learning, yet many of them have both the capacity and the taste for letters; and if the proper facilities were afforded them, they would no doubt equal the learned whites, and even outstrip them in some walks of usefulness.

A few benevolent persons have formed the plan of a college for the especial benefit of the colored people, which they have called the "Ashmun Institute," after that distinguished friend of the Africans, and located it in Chester County, Pa., near the Maryland line. A tract of land has been purchased, so as to combine agricultural labor with mental and moral culture. A large building has been erected for recitation halls, dormitories and a refectory; also, a dwelling for the Professors, one of whom is now occupying it and ready for his pupils. All this has been done by the contributions of a few individuals, who have thus made a good beginning of a good work. If their plans are favored by the friends of the colored race, there is nothing to hinder this becoming a very large, flourishing and useful institution.

What is needed is, to have the attention of colored youth directed to the subject of learning in general, to seek out such as are possessed of talent and industry, stimulate their ambition for an education, and convince them that it is an object worth toiling for; then direct them to the place where they may be set forward in a course of study. The Institution needs a library and all the apparatus of a well-furnished college. It needs, also, funds for the support of other Professors, and for the erection of additional buildings.

Such enterprises ought to be sustained. There are fields of usefulness for educated colored men in this country and in Africa which white men cannot enter. The infant Republic of Liberia wants such men just now, and if they were ready to go there with suitable qualifications, they might make Liberia the admiration of the wise and good, and a terror to the slave-dealers. There are also important posts of influence in this country for educated colored men to occupy, and "Ashmun Institute" may, by public countenance become a prolific source of supply to every call for such material. CLARKSON.

STEAM SUGAR-MILL FOR LIBERIA.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Will you call the attention of some of your numerous readers to a most worthy scheme?

Along the St. Paul's River in Liberia is a region eminently adapted to the growth of sugar-cane. The cane ripens from the ratoon in eight months from the time of planting, and when cut, new shoots immediately grow up, to be ready for cutting eight months afterward.

Along that river many small farmers from the United States have each one or more acres of the cane growing, but, destitute of capital they have no suitable machinery for grinding or manufacturing. One of the most enterprising of these, J. M. Richardson, has about fifty or sixty acres of cane, which is nearly ripe for a mill, and writes most importunately for one. As an earnest he forwarded about $500 to a gentleman of this city, a manager of the New-York Colonization Society, and offers, if one is sent, to give ample security, by mortgage or deed of sale of the land on which it will be placed for repayment of all expense or cost, with liberal interest. He is giving extensive employment to laborers and setting a noble example, and deserves encouragement and assistance.

We have pledged toward sending a mill, with necessary fixtures, which will cost $6,000, the sum of $4,500, beside his remittance above noticed of $500, making $5,000.

Will you not make an appeal which shall secure for us the loan of $1,000, and thus make sure a good steam sugar-mill? Yours truly, J. B. P.

It seems to us that this proposition should commend itself to liberal and philanthropic men who are able to help the enterprise. [*Ed.*

HOOPS AGAIN.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

DEAR SIR: I fully agree with the "wife and mother" as to the healthiness of Hoops. There is hardly one woman in twenty who has not been dragged out of shape by the weight of skirts; and as long as dresses are made in the present mode, women will wear an unhealthy weight of skirts—that is, without the hoops. Crooked spines are more attributable to heavy skirts than to tight lacing. For my part, I think that the Turkish ladies dress in a much more sensible and becoming fashion than we do. If we were not used to it, we should think it both ungraceful and inconvenient to hide and clog the feet with such a swash of petticoats around the ankles. But as long as we wear skirts reaching from the waist to the heel, so long will we wear an unhealthy number of under-skirts. (And hereby will the womankind allow me submissively, and in a strictly private parenthesis, to advise those of them who do not, to wear straps to their undersskirts, as some support that will rest on the shoulders.) If by any chance we *do* get a healthy fashion, let us have it. And they don't look so dreadfully absurd either, when they are of moderate dimensions and skillfully shaped. I think they are an improvement, in that they allow a lighter and easier gait. Of course I don't advocate the immensity of circumference indulged in by the extra fashionables. I suppose it will share the fate of all extremes and collapse to a preternatural stringiness, but I hope not. Moderation is one of the virtues. If future generations *do* come to their senses, with what horror will they regard the instruments of torture used by their suffering foremothers, in the shape of corsets, whalebones, petticoats, no bonnets at all almost, &c. It would seem that the goddess of fashion is a malicious old lady, who takes a spiteful and malicious pleasure in experimenting upon the powers of endurance of which the female form is capable. After we have misshapen ourselves as much as possible, we can't return to the classic Greek drapery, or any simple and easy mode of dress for it requires a beautiful form to set that off. Your masculine costume is *hideous* enough, but it is at least healthy. Glorious Nineteenth Century!

Yours, respectfully, A COUNTRY GIRL.

TRIAL FOR MUTINY.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

TRENTON, N. J., March 19, 1857.

The United States District Court is still engaged in the trial of part of the crew of the ship New-York for assault with intent to mutiny, in December last, off Barnegat. The Court overruled all the exceptions taken by the counsel for the prisoners. The first witness examined was Capt. Alexander McKennon of the ship New-York, upon whom the assault is alleged to have been committed. He gave a long, detailed account of the wreck and the circumstances connected with the assault. It appears that after the vessel struck and it was found impossible to proceed, the Captain left the ship for the purpose of getting relief. He returned a few hours afterward and found the crew under the influence of liquor and in a wrangle with the steward. One of the prisoners was demanding his clothing of the steward. The Captain directed him to go about his business. An altercation took place, and the sailor (Devlin) knocked the Captain down. The Captain drew his pistol and defended himself, and then commenced a general scene of confusion among passengers and crew. During the absence of the Captain the crew helped themselves to whatever liquor they could find, and, as a natural consequence, behaved in a very disorderly manner. Dr. Wm. Young of New-York, First Mate Stowell, Second Mate Kline, the steward, Capt. Samuel Brown and Capt. John Brown were all examined on the part of the Government, and testified substantially to the facts set forth by Capt. McKennon. The Government closed the testimony last evening, and Mr. Kingman will open for the defense to-morrow morning. There is little doubt of the conviction of the defendants. An indictment against each of the defendants will remain to be tried after the one against the four collectively. It is understood that the counsel for the prisoners will present legal objections to the verdict when it is rendered, if against the prisoners.

GEN. JACKSON ON COLORED CITIZENSHIP.

From The Albany Evening Journal.

Yesterday we published Chancellor Kent's opinion on the subject. To-day we have Gen. Jackson's. The soldier agrees with the jurist in declaring colored men citizens, and that not only of Northern States, but of Louisiana and of the Union. It may not be amiss to state that Taney owes the place he now holds to the President whose opinion he scouts and contemns.

While the immense British force was approaching Louisiana, Gen. Jackson learned that among its ranks were regiments of colored men, and he wished to excite the sentiment of loyalty in the bosoms of the colored people of that State. The condition of affairs was such that not a man could be spared from the American side.

The Government at Washington had left New-Orleans utterly without defense, and the General had to avail himself of all the means within his reach to get together a force strong enough to make resistance with something like a chance in favor of success.

On the 21st of September, 1814, he issued from his headquarters at Mobile an address "To the Free Colored Inhabitants of Louisiana," in which he said:

"Through a mistaken policy you have heretofore been deprived of a participation in the glorious struggle for national rights in which our country is engaged. This shall no longer exist."

"As Sons of Freedom, you are called upon to defend our most inestimable blessing. As AMERICANS, your country looks with confidence for a valorous support," &c.

"Your country, although calling for your exertions, does not wish you to engage in her cause without remunerating you for the services tendered," &c.

In another part of his address he says to them: "You "will, undivided, receive the applause and gratitude "of your countrymen." Again, he said: "To assure "you of the sincerity of my intentions, and my anxie-"ty to engage your invaluable services to our coun-"try, I have communicated my wishes to the Gover-"nor of Louisiana," &c.

In an address which he issued to his colored soldiers on the 18th of December, Gen. Jackson said:

"When on the banks of the Mobile, I called you to take up arms, inviting you to partake the perils and glory of your WHITE FELLOW CITIZENS, *I expected much from you*; for I was not ignorant that you possessed qualities most formidable to an invading enemy. I knew with what fortitude you could endure hunger and thirst, and all the fatigues of a campaign. *I knew well how you loved* YOUR NATIVE COUNTRY, and that you, as well as ourselves, had to defend what man holds most dear—his parents, wife, children and property. You have done more than I expected. In addition to the previous qualities I before knew you to possess, I found among you a *noble enthusiasm*, which leads to the performance of great things."

The Commercial Advertiser has seen a letter from Paris, giving very gratifying assurances of melioration in the symptoms of Mr. Crawford's illness. Another eminent physician (Dr. Deemarre) had been consulted, and he is unwilling to decide that the disease is a malignant cancer. He thinks also that if it should prove to be malignant, it is so near the left corner of the eye, and so far from the brain, that it may develop itself outwardly, rendering a surgical operation comparatively easy. Mr. Crawford's general health has also much improved. These tidings will be most welcome to the distinguished sculptor's large circle of friends and admirers.

—The venerable Judge Barto, of Tramansburg, Tompkins County, N. Y., died in that village on the 23d of February. Judge Barto was one of the pioneer settlers of Western New-York.

TRIBUNE KANSAS FUND.

Prev. acknowledged	$22,858 67	S. E. Broadhurst	1 00
J. Bailey	9 00	J. D. Armitage	1 00
Thos. H. Cressner	5 00	C. Sheets	0 25
Wm. Smith (blind)	5 00	V. Soyd-r	0 50
John Smith, esq.	2 00	J. Hambletoth	0 25
Elijah Ballard	1 00	W. Kendentine	0 50
Leonard Osburn	1 00	M. S. Fell	0 50
O. W. Winter	1 00	Cash	1 00
J. R. Clark	10 00	Wilmington, Vermont	2 00
Bangor	3 00	A. Smith	2 00
Pioneers in Hutchinson	16 00	C. Howard Malcom	2 00
J. Scott	1 00	A Few Republicans in Stockton	51 40
J. H. Benton	1 00	J. L. Wood	5 00
C. Bartow	50 00	A. Teachout, jr.	5 00
D. Gibbons and Wife	2 00	C. W. Foulon	5 00
German Republican, S.C.	1 00	Gen. A. Kimball	5 00
H. B. Thomas	1 00	Jasper Brewster	5 00
Friends in Alden, Ill.	8 00	Samuel Strattan	2 00
Ladies of Chillicothe	25 00	Horace Safford	2 00
W. Hopkins	2 00	E. W. Brewster	2 00
M. B. Strong	1 00	E. W. Foulon, jr.	2 00
J. P. Finney	1 00	Esther Cunningham	1 00
A. Reader, Aurora	5 00	W. C. Barnes	1 00
J. N. Darnall	1 00	J. B. Hayden	1 00
W. Crosby	1 00	E. Wilber	5 00
J. Bell	3 00	J. M. Ward	5 00
D. Andrews	1 50	H. Harvey	1 00
G. C. Tremaine	2 00	H. Howard	1 00
B. F. German, Salem	1 00	A. Seymour	1 00
D. Wilcox	1 00	S. C. Hart	1 00
F. A. Crafts	1 00	F. Woolworth	1 00
Eld. G. Sanburn	1 00	Chas. Kent	1 00
Des. M. Smith	2 00	F. B. Holden	1 00
D. B. Giles	2 00	Stephen Spencer	1 00
Amos Richardson	1 00	D. D. Foot	1 00
Daniel Noyes	1 00	O. Woolworth	1 00
Isaac Richardson	1 00	M. Lyman	1 00
F. H. Partridge	2 00	A. Foot	1 00
M. P. Balderston	1 00		
G. Shaw	0 50		
Cash	0 50		
Wm. Balderston	2 00	Total	$22,341 92

THE DIRECTION OF NEWSPAPERS.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Will you please change my TRIBUNE from Franklin Mills, Portage Co., Ohio, to Wooster, Wayne Co., Ohio, and oblige me? Respectfully yours, A. R. CHAPMAN.

Franklin Mills, March 16, 1857.

Will our subscriber who sends us the above, and all other subscribers, consider that he puts upon us the heavy labor of searching through three different sets of books for his name—all which would have been saved by his simply writing the word "Daily," "Weekly," or "Semi-Weekly," as the case may be, before the word "TRIBUNE," in his letter above given?

APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR,

By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

NOTARIES PUBLIC.—St. Lawrence, David M. Chapin and George Morris; Essex, Samuel Ames; Delaware, Nathaniel Hathaway; Rensselaer, Willard Gray, George A. Stone; Washington, Edwin Wilmarth; Lewis, James L. Leonard; Onondaga, S. Hervey Slosson; Kings, George L. Fox, Wm. Hughes, Edwin Walsh, George Kellock, jr., S. Kaufman; Dutchess, Joseph C. Harris; Chautauque, Morris Norton; Monroe, Jared M. Smith, Benj. F. Young; Seneca, Wm. V. J. Meteer; New-York, Andrew H. Sands, Thomas B. Oakley, William H. Forman, Charles Edwards.

LOAN COMMISSIONERS.—St. Lawrence, Thomas S. Conkey, Stillman Foote; Essex, Charles F. Dike, William Van Vleck; Clinton, Nathan Lapham, Albert G. Carver; Fulton, Daniel Stewart; Genesee, Charles B. Thompson, John H. Kimberly; Chautauque, Loren B. Sessions; Seneca, John B. Bliss, William Knox; Montgomery, John J. Davis.

INDIAN AGENT.—Onondaga, Josiah Hine.

OUR DIPLOMACY.—*The News* has the following from its Washington advisers:

"It is now supposed that Mr. Slidell will go out as Minister to Paris, to relieve Mr. Mason, *who is anxious to return home.* It is also said that Mr. Belmont, who is at the Hague, will replace Mr. Dodge at Madrid. Mr. Lyons of Richmond, Va., as I have before informed you, is, however, the most likely to receive that commission. The object of our Government, in sending Mr. Slidell to France, is to represent to Louis Napoleon *the necessity of forwarding the views of the American people for the purchase of Cuba from Spain.* It is well understood here that the French Emperor will raise no objections to any fair bargain that the two nations can agree to, for he plainly sees that, in case of a rupture between the United States and England, the latter would endeavor to seize on Cuba, under one pretense or another, and ultimately establish a protectorate over it, for the purpose of holding it altogether as her own.

"Cuba and all the islands in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea *naturally belong to the North American Continent*, and no European considerations of international law should stand in the way of the American people, if their possession by those whose political views and conduct are calculated to weaken or endanger *our institutions* by too close a proximity to us. If we do not get peaceable possession of Cuba and her sister islands in the due course of time for a fair equivalent in money, it must be evident to the most superficial statesmen here or in Europe that 'Manifest Destiny'—or, in other words, the force and influence of the natural current of events in a nation like ours—will, without doubt, very shortly accomplish it."

UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE FUGITIVE SLAVES.—On Tuesday morning last our town was thrown into much commotion in consequence of an almost successful attempt to capture eight runaway slaves, for which rewards are offered of upward of $3,000. It seems that some time during Monday a man came to Sheriff Green with the information that he had discovered eight runaway negroes, and had made arrangements to have them in Dover that night, the negroes supposing they were to be concealed in town until the next night and then wend their way upward. Accordingly about 4 o'clock on Tuesday morning, the man and the negroes appeared at the jail. While the Sheriff was dressing, they all entered the jail, went up stairs (in the dark), found an open room and went into it, but there being no fire they came out into the entry.

By this time the Sheriff had dressed and followed them up stairs, supposing that he would find them in one of the rooms and that all he would have to do would be to close and bolt the door. On discovering that they were all in the entry, the Sheriff returned to his room for his revolver. The negroes, anxious to get to a fire, followed him down and were all in the Sheriff's room, where his wife and children were asleep, before he could seize his revolver. By this time the suspicions of one of the negroes were aroused, and with the exclamation "he didn't like the looks ob de place; I'se gwine out o' dis," he bolted for the window. The Sheriff seized him, and while engaged in the struggle, the rest of the negroes burst through another window and escaped, first scattering the fire over the floor, the man standing trembling in the door like the veriest craven-hearted coward. The Sheriff alarmed by his family and the fire, let go the negro for a moment, when in an instant he bounded through the window and was gone. Thus they all escaped. Six of them were tracked to a house in Camden, but the officers could not enter for the want of sufficient warrant which the magistrates said they had no power to give. On Tuesday night, it is currently reported, the six were conveyed to the house of a man residing near Willow Grove whence they were forwarded up the country by the forest roads, or rather on the underground railroad. The other two were seen, shortly after the escape from the jail, going out of Dover in a northerly direction. The fault of the escape is attributable entirely to the bogginess of the man who tolled the negroes into Dover. Greedy to get the whole reward, he would not permit a small force to share it with him, and he got none. The negroes were all armed with cudgels and pistols. The rewards offered for their apprehension vary from $300 to $400 each. [Dover Reporter, March 13.

A BLOODY TRAGEDY.—Late on Sunday night a party of two or three persons, among whom was a man named John Parker, entered a coffee house, No. 24 West Sixth street, kept by Mr. Horn, and calling for something to drink, invited some others who were sitting around the stove to partake of the treat. While the liquor was being served, Parker, in a bullying manner, remarked that he wasn't afraid of any d—d man in America, to which a young man named Wm. T. Bennett, who has been attending a saloon on Vine street, underneath Wood's Theater, replied that he didn't think anybody was afraid of him—Parker. "Perhaps you're not afraid of me," exclaimed the latter. "No, I am not," rejoined Bennett, when Parker immediately struck him a couple of blows with his fist. Bennett rushed toward him for the purpose of resenting the insult, but those present interposed between them. Parker, however, succeeded in drawing forth a pistol, and extending his arm around the person who stood immediately between him and his opponent, he fired, when the ball entered the