THE SECRET ACCOUNTS.

COUNTY COURT-HOUSE FURNITURE.

A SMALL AMOUNT ONLY ACTUALLY IN THE BUILDING—DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTUAL CONDITION OF THE FURNISHED APARTMENTS.

The following description of the cabinet work, furniture, and upholstering of the offices now in use in the new Court-House should—apart from all other developments—suffice for proof that the sums ostensibly paid for these purposes were, for the most part, converted to other uses. A careful examination of the contents of the rooms on the three floors of this building, which New-York has thus far found means to finish and furnish, elicits the following facts:

The ground floor has a low brick ceiling, formed by filling in between the iron beams with arches of brick. In some of the rooms, this is tolerably well frescoed.

The Surrogate's office has its ceiling adorned in this way. The walls have ranged against them, all around, and a few feet apart, a number of safes, which look like book-cases. These are costly affairs, but certainly did not come under the head of cabinet work or furniture. A three-foot-high black-walnut railing shuts off the visitors from the officials, who occupy some 20 business desks that are not especially ornate. A well-worn Brussels carpet is on the floor within the rail, and there is a bare sufficiency of ordinary office chairs. The Surrogate's private office has a used-up carpet on the floor, and not much else.

The Surrogate's Court has two book-cases about 10 by 16 feet front each. The Judge's "bench," with its inclosures, is in this and all the other courts of black-walnut, but neither this nor any other is elaborately carved. The carpet might have cost $200. There are about 100 chairs, worth $3 apiece, for the possible audience.

The Deputy Sheriff's office, on the south-west corner of this ground floor, is a rough-looking place. In one corner a room is partitioned off with ground glass and walnut. There are here some 25 common office desks, back to back, in pairs, each bearing the name of a deputy on a silver plate. Each man has a low railing around his little den. The floor is covered with oil-cloth and matting.

The Sheriff's office, next east of the other, is divided into small rooms by seven-foot walnut and glass partitions. The outer rooms are covered with oil-cloth and matting; the inner ones are furnished like any prosperous insurance suite of rooms, with good desks and handsome Brussels carpet.

The Bureau of Arrears, at the north-west corner of the ground floor, looks exactly like a plain banking-room, and, as such, would have been considered quite stylish 20 years ago. It has no frescoes and no carpet. Two large, plain book-cases stand against the walls. Inside the walnut fence, which is surmounted by another of cast-iron, are about a dozen desks, mostly of the "standing" sort.

The County Treasurer's office, at the top of the first flight of stairs on the west, has, in common with all the rooms on this floor, a lofty ceiling, with elaborate gilded cornices. There is a private "ground-glass" room in the corner. Outside the rail there is nothing but oil-cloth; inside there are three or four safes such as any merchant has. It is an empty-looking place, the only peculiarity being a desk with a balloon-top to it. There may be a dozen $5 chairs in the room.

The most expensive black-walnut work visible about the premises is that at the north entrance. The immense doors and the adjoining wood-work must have cost a good deal.

The Controller's office is another decent banking-room. The outer court has no covering; there is a Brussels carpet within; the ceiling is frescoed. Several rooms are made by seven-foot partitions as before described. There is nothing grand about the furniture except its ostensible price.

The office of the stock and bond clerks, next east, is about the size and contains the furniture of an ordinary private banking-office. The seven-foot partitions and Brussels carpet are again noticed.

The Supervisor's office, opposite the last-mentioned, is half ante-room, being divided in the middle by a three-foot rail. There are in this ante-room two safes, an oil-cloth, and a $50 desk. The east and west sides of the room are lined by solid book-cases, some 15 feet high. There is a length of about 30 feet of this species of cabinet work. A ten-foot glass partition fences off the portion of the room by the windows. All inside the rail has a Brussels carpet well-worn. There are three office-desks and a dozen cheap chairs visible.

The Supreme Court and Chambers has a very badly-worn carpet, 50 feet by 8 of walnut closets, about 100 $3 and $5 chairs, and the stereotyped Judges' bench found in all these Court-rooms, except the Common Pleas.

Supreme Court Circuit, Part I. has half its 50 by 50 foot floor occupied by shabby matting and benches that would disgrace any County Court-House. Inside the rail is the usual green Brussels carpet much worn. Besides "the bench" there are two long tables, and about 25 $3 chairs. The jury are honored with cane-bottom and back chairs, for which perhaps $10 apiece was paid. There are no frescoes in these rooms.

Supreme Court Special Term has another 50 by 50 room. The furniture is almost identical with that of the Circuit Court. Before there is any more frescoing done in the building, it would be well to clean the walls of these Court-rooms—especially where greasy heads have been rubbed against them.

Supreme Court Circuit, Part II., is like the others, except that the carpet is badly worn, so that square feet of floor are visible through it.

In the third story, Superior Court, Part I., rejoices in some gilt frescoes, and a rather superior carpet. Each of these court-rooms, by the way, has a 24-jet chandelier, which will *partly* account for the $1,250,000 "plumbing and gas-fitting bill" of Keyser & Co.

Superior Court, General Term, has a refreshingly neat and new green carpet. The 100 $3 cane-bottom chairs have all got seats in them. Two small book-cases, the bench, and two semi-circular tables complete the furniture.

Superior Court Clerk's office has oil-cloth over the most of the floor, which is outside the rail, some 50 feet of 14 foot book-cases and 5 or 6 business desks.

The Clerk's office of the Court of Common Pleas resembles the last described, save that it has two private rooms with 7-foot partitions in two corners.

The three Courts of Common Pleas on the west side of this floor appear similar to those on the east. The only one open displayed a novelty in the shape of a concave black-walnut screen behind the bench, with a curtain hanging from the top.

The Court of Common Pleas, Special Term and Chambers, has a room of the same size in the Clerk's office. It is a small court-room, with a few chairs for the audience and glass-door book-cases all around.

Here, then, is the whole story in brief of the wonderful adornments of this model institution. The contents of every important apartment, except two or three not accessible, have been given. Particular mention has been made of the carpets, because it has been calculated that enough has been paid for "Court-House and Armory" carpets to furnish 70 miles of the best of that fabric.

As to furniture and cabinet-work, it must be apparent that the items herein enumerated did not cost a quarter of the three millions that somebody has been paid for them. Indeed, a leading man in that business says he would be glad to furnish the whole building, sumptuously, for $600,000.

For curtains, shades, and cornices, also, $108,021 10 was expended, whereas not a curtain is to be seen in the building except that noticed in the Common Pleas Court-room. As to shades, it is estimated that there is not more than $1,500 worth of them. At the outside, the shades, walnut cornices, gilt scroll ornaments, lambrequins, and wire screens could not have cost over $35,000, unless those who furnished it share in the robbery; and this they can deny and, possibly, prove.

From The N. Y. Times, July 26, 1871.

THIRD SERIES.

THE BILLS OF A PLUMBER AND GAS-FITTER—WARRANTS SIGNED BY HALL AND CONNOLLY WHO RECEIVED THE MONEY?

In previous numbers of *The Times* we have presented full and accurate copies of accounts taken from the Controller's books, showing how millions of dollars were fraudulently paid for furniture, carpets, &c., for the New Court-House and other County offices. These figures have never been impugned by the officials who signed the warrants, and they stand to-day uncontradicted. The following accounts will be read with equal interest, showing as they do, the expenditure of more than a million and a quarter of dollars in plumber's work and gas-fittings, in addition to the astounding sums already given. It will be seen that the bills are chiefly drawn by Keyser & Co., for work said to have been done by that firm in the various County offices:

KEYSER & CO.

Date of Warrant.		Amount Drawn.
1869.	COUNTY COURT-ROOMS AND OFFICES.	**1869.**
Jan.	20—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-works in County Court-rooms and Offices, from Jan. 20, 1865, to May, 1866	$9,834 04
June	7—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-work in New Court-house, from Sept. 5, 1865, to May 15, 1869	25,010 02
July	2—Paid for Plumbing in Several Courts and Offices, from Aug. 21 to Oct. 29, 1868	6,516 26
July	16—Paid for Plumbing, &c., in County Buildings, from Oct. 12 to Dec. 26, 1868	9,774 26
July	26—Paid for Plumbing and Articles for County Offices, Oct. 12, 1868	1,331 50
July	28—Paid for Plumbing in County Court-rooms, Sept. 28, 1868	1,689 60
Aug.	4—Paid for Plumbing, &c., in County Court-rooms and Offices, June 15, 1868	23,840 91
Sept.	7—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-works in County Court-rooms and Offices, from Feb. 3 to June 28, 1868	54,050 55
Sept.	7—Paid for Plumbing and Repairs in County Court-rooms and Offices, from July 18 to Sept. 20, 1868	2,069 65
Sept.	7—Paid for Plumbing, &c., in Civil Courts, from July 19 to Oct. 8, 1868	3,209 40
Oct.	28—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-works in County Offices, from July 1 to Oct. 4, 1868	21,690 85
Nov.	5—Paid for Plumbing, &c., in County Court-rooms and Offices, from June 3, 1868, to May 15, 1869	19,815 26
Nov.	19—Paid for Plumbing, &c., in County Court-rooms and Offices, from Aug. 4 to Nov. 11, 1868	37,324 44
Nov.	22—Paid for Repairs, &c., in County Court-rooms and Offices, from Nov. 29, 1868	51,461 75
Dec.	10—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-works in County Court-rooms and Offices, from July 14 to Nov. 25, 1868	34,588 51
Dec.	22—Paid for Plumbing, &c., in County Court-rooms and Offices, from Dec. 6, 1868, to Feb. 12, 1869	11,893 61
Dec.	28—Paid for Plumbing, &c., in County Court-rooms and Offices, from Feb. 2 to Oct. 11, 1868	19,802 33
Dec.	29—Paid for Plumbing, &c., in County Court-rooms and Offices, from Jan. 5 to April 12, 1868	26,360 65
1869.	KEYSER & CO., ARMORIES AND DRILL-ROOMS.	**1869.**
Jan.	11—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-works in same, from Oct. 6, 1868, to Dec. 28, 1868	$26,829 97
Jan.	19—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-works in same, from Nov. 24, 1868, to Dec. 28, 1868	4,435 29
Feb.	27—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-works in same, from Dec. 22, 1868, to Feb. 10, 1869	31,942 67
Feb.	27—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-works in same, from Oct. 24, 1868, to Feb. 6, 1869	22,454 93
April	26—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-works in same, from Feb. 1, 1869, to April 17, 1869	14,328 53
May	12—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-works in same, from Feb. 10, 1869, to March 6, 1869	19,987 64
June	5—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-works in same, from April 20, 1869, to May 29, 1869	18,177 89
Sept.	20—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-works in same, from May 7, 1869, to June 29, 1869	22,531 94
Oct.	11—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-works in same, from June 15, 1869, to July 5, 1869	14,070 68
Oct.	30—Paid for Plumbing and Gas-fitting in same, from March 16, 1869, to June 29, 1869	15,697 38
1870.	KEYSER & CO.	**1870.**
Jan.	10—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from April 24, 1868, to July 2, 1868	$26,098 30
Jan.	28—Paid for Plumbing-work and Gas-work in County Offices, &c., from Feb. 1, 1868, to March 3, 1868	18,569 09
March	7—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from Jan. 3, 1869, to April 20, 1869	38,205 55
March	21—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from May 4, 1869, to July 22, 1869	30,315 67
May	6—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from July 19, 1869, to Aug. 22, 1869	32,596 08
May	14—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from Sept. 1, 1869, to Sept. 18, 1869	27,837 38
May	23—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from May 22, 1869, to March 16, 1870	31,067 79
May	23—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from Feb. 28, 1869, to April 23, 1870	28,093 70
May	23—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from July 20, 1869, to Aug. 6, 1869	16,924 62
June	3—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from Sept. 5, 1868, to Nov. 28, 1868	12,870 14
June	6—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from June 5, 1869, to Feb. 15, 1870	11,300 31
June	6—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from May 28, 1869, to March 19, 1870	11,794 16
June	6—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from June 10, 1869, to March 29, 1870	13,326 21
June	6—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from Nov. 29, 1869, to March 1, 1870	728 85
June	10—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices, &c., from Oct. 20, 1869, to Dec. 26, 1869	36,839 80
June	20—Paid for Plumbing-work in Armories and Drill-rooms, from Sept. 20, 1869, to Nov. 5, 1869	50,953 85
June	27—Paid for Plumbing-work in Armories and Drill-rooms, from May 19, 1869, to July 17, 1869	44,388 67
July	8—Paid for Plumbing-work in Armories and Drill-rooms, from April 3, 1869, to June 10, 1869	63,231 59
Aug.	1—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices and Buildings, from Aug. 8, 1869, to Dec. 4, 1869	42,224 93
Aug.	12—Paid for Plumbing-work in County Offices and Buildings, from May 4, 1869, to July 12, 1869	53,620 45
March	14—Paid for Plumbing-work and Repairs in Armories and Drill-rooms, from Sept. 4, 1869, to Dec. 4, 1869	27,742 45
March	31—Paid for Plumbing-work and Repairs in Armories and Drill-rooms, from Jan. 4, 1869, to Nov. 29, 1869	35,959 87
April	16—Paid for Plumbing-work and Repairs in Armories and Drill-rooms, from Dec. 3 to Dec. 14, 1869	12,395 80
	Total	$1,231,817 76
1869.	J. W. SMITH.	**1869.**
July	28—Paid for Awnings furnished County Courts and Offices, from July to Dec. 30, 1868	$23,553 51

GENERAL NOTES.

It is said that one of the Emperor William's grievous annoyances is, that Bismarck always beats him playing chess. The Emperor believes himself a first-rate player, and yet nearly everybody checkmates him after 20 or 30 moves. The defect of his game is reported to be that he does n't know how to use his castles.

Dr. J. W. Morton of Nashville, and the Rev. Fountain E. Pitts of the same neighborhood, have been engaged for several years in the cultivation of opium in Tennessee, and have succeeded this season in raising 50 to 75 pounds per acre. They obtained their poppy seeds from Calcutta and Smyrna, and expect to be handsomely repaid for their experimental labors.

Chancellor Robert Lowe has worked grievously upon the sensibilities of the captors of Magdala, by satirically alluding to the "loot" captured from King Theodore of Abyssinia, as "sundry lumps of gold," the said lumps being a crown and chalice of pure gold, and mysteriously valuable as relics, which, so far, the Chancellor refuses to turn into money for the soldiers.

THE EXILE OF ERIE.

There came to Long Branch a poor exile of Erie,
The dew on his gum shoes was heavy and chill;
Said he to the surgeon, "Oh deary! Oh deary!
Are wounds in the ankle much likely to kill?"
The surgeon with much agitation inspected
The right ankle first, as the Colonel directed,
Then looked at the left (finding neither affected),
So he gave the bold warrior a gingerbread pill.

GENTLE CLARENCE.

A duel with sabers has just taken place near Amiens between a young man of that town, age 20, and a Prussian officer. The latter, in walking through the streets, had puffed the smoke of his cigar in the face of the other, who replied to this insult by slapping the German in the face. The officer did not demand the intervention of the armed forces, but a meeting took place the next morning, when the Frenchman, who had been a corporal of hussars in Faidherbe's army, killed his adversary.

A circus, exhibiting in the West, has a most ill-starred aeronaut. He rarely makes an ascension without having a very narrow escape from breaking his neck. He has met with so many accidents that he regards them as matters of course. His last adventure was in Cincinnati, where, after going up about 200 feet, the balloon lost its equilibrium, and caught on the roof of a building in Fourth-st., upsetting the car and dragging the aeronaut toward the eaves. Two girls at the upper windows seized the unfortunate man by his coat-tails, and so saved his life for the present.

What a wicked shepherd is here! His name is the Rev. Mr. Sanford, he is of the Methodist persuasion, and he contracted to take care of a flock in Ghent, Ky. He had a nice wife, and wielded his crook for some time very respectably. Then he forged a check for $1,500 and got the cash; then he disappeared from the sacred ranche, and took a lady of his congregation with him, leaving his wife to shift for herself. He soon deserted the woman he had deceived and she returned to Ghent, reporting the reverend rascal to be in Indiana. Officers in pursuit traced him to Vincennes, where he had been figuring as an M. D., having there married still another woman and deserted her. He was a shifty scamp, for he was next at Fort Wayne, where he lectured on phrenology and mesmerism, having mesmerized another lady out of $500. A very remarkable rogue! The officers are still after him, but we doubt if they catch him.

It has been asserted that no such custom as the eating of human flesh by human beings has ever been proved to exist in any part of the world. Cannibalism, it is said, is practiced as a religious rite, and not to satisfy the demands of hunger or to satiate a morbid appetite. We have now a story of this abomination in Patagonia. Capt. Barnes of the British brigantine Propontis, in passing through the Straits of Magellan, landed with three men for the purpose of cutting wood. As none of the party returned after two days had elapsed, another boat was sent to the shore, where the lifeless body of the master was found, with both legs cut off. The Indians making their appearance in large numbers, the party was obliged to retreat, leaving the body behind. The ship Charybdis, afterward passing the straits, took a Fuegian prisoner, who stated that Capt. Barnes and his men were slaughtered by the natives, that a part of the body of the captain was eaten, and the corpses of the others thrown into the sea; the plea being that the Fuegians had been first attacked. This would seem to confirm the opinion that cannibalism is practiced for the sake of some kind of mystical revenge, for if food only had been wanted the bodies of the sailors would not have been thrown away. Indeed, there have been instances in Corea of this man-eating—the heart of the victim of a vendetta being torn out and bitten by his enemy.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

LET ALL THE CHILDREN ENJOY THE PARK MUSEUM.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I visited the Central Park Museum a few days ago, and noticed the large numbers of both sexes and of all ages, who were profiting by the exhibition. But when a couple of poorly-clad boys made their appearance among the inflowing crowd they were stopped by a policeman, ordered back, and told to "Go and see the monkeys." I inquired the reason of this, and was informed, "Because they are barefooted; no barefoot children are permitted up stairs." On my suggesting the impolicy of such a distinction, as likely to exclude the visitors most in need of instruction, the officer assented, and assured me that it was unpleasant for him to exclude them, but that he had his orders, and must obey. Would it not be well for the press to speak a word in favor of the barefoot boys and girls, and secure to them, if possible, admittance to the Park Museum on the same terms with the children who come clad in a more aristocratic style?

N. D.

New-York, July 24, 1871.

THE CLIMATE OF MINNESOTA.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: In your issue of to-day is an entertaining letter from Minnesota upon the climate of that State and its effect upon the health of invalids, &c. The writer, like most of those who write and talk of Minnesotta climate, does not understand the subject or the cause of the great drift of invalids toward the Upper Mississippi. The earliest visitors to that district discovered some peculiarity in the atmosphere whereby an individual found himself in high condition of mental and physical strength—a sort of exhilaration that was designated by poetic letter writers as the "balsamic air of Minnesota." Not until the Autumn of 1860 was the cause of this scientifically explained, and to this hour it is but little understood. In 1860 a company was formed in St. Paul for the purpose of constructing a telegraph line between that city and Chicago, and during the year it was completed, and then this remarkable fact appeared. The line could be worked at St. Paul with 10 cups that required 25 to do the return work in Chicago, and at times when there was a display of the aurora, St. Paul required none of the ordinary chemicals used, and could be worked independently. Evidently, it is the high electric condition of the atmosphere at that point that marks the peculiarity of Minnesota climate.

INDUCTION.

New-York, July 26, 1871.

"DISREPUTABLE PIC-NICS."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: THE TRIBUNE of July 19, in an article on "Disreputable Pic-Nics," makes a charge against the pic-nic of the Female Parasol and Umbrella Makers' Union, which is without foundation, as hundreds of eye-witnesses can testify. I will refer to our Chief Executive, Wm. J. Jessup, President of the Workingmen's Union, Chairman of the Floor Committee, and Coroner Young of No. 11 City Hall. The pic-nic was a well conducted and enjoyable affair, and was not a scene of debauchery and immorality.

ELLEN M. LEONARD,
President Female Parasol and Umbrella Makers' Union.

New-York, July 25, 1871.

[Doubtless hundreds of eye-witnesses are ready to testify that they saw nothing disreputable at the pic-nic of the Parasol and Umbrella Makers' Union, but their negative testimony as to what they did not see will not invalidate that of the reporter, who has stated what he positively saw on the same occasion. It is the united testimony of several of our most observing reporters that the article in question was in no sense exaggerated, and we have reason to fear that the managers of the Parasol and Umbrella Makers' Union were not aware of half the excesses committed at their pic-nic, possibly by persons not of their Union, but certainly admitted with it to the grounds which they had hired.—*Ed.*]

A SUGGESTION RESPECTING THE BRIDGE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Not an engineer, constructor, or even a professionally scientific man of any kind, I would yet like to offer a few suggestions in regard to the construction of the East River Bridge, the complete success of which is of such incalculable importance to the inhabitants of both New-York and Brooklyn.

The published plans propose to lay for traffic a plank roadway resting on floor timbers, 75 to 85 feet wide, and say 1,600 feet in length; for the central span only, an area of some 3 to 4 acres. This enormous amount of material, with all its pores filled with rain water, and its surface glazed with a coating of ice, and perhaps 12 inches of snow in a single night, would be a tremendous weight to sustain, especially when we include the necessary tracks and loaded teams. Yet competent engineering calculations and strength of material may be equal to all this. But there is exposure to strong gales, which exert an occasional vertical force sufficient perhaps to raise or spring up the whole suspended structure, and then by an instant withdrawal, or possibly reversal of the force, let it recoil with a weight and power which—in my opinion—no calculation can meet or strength of material resist. The chief danger is from vibration. I suggest the abandonment in the plan—if plan it is—of both the foot and the carriage-ways. The former, a two miles' walk, will never be likely to add much to the gross receipts; and the latter, if used at all, would be mainly for fancy turnouts and fast driving, and therefore specially injurious to the structure. I would cover the light iron floor-beams with a heavy galvanized wire netting, of about one inch mesh, abundantly strong and firm enough to support any travel or necessary use. This would offer little resistance to the wind or place for snow, absorb no water, and accumulate no ice. It would also be of light weight, and, what is of great importance, make no food for fires on the long approaches. The cost of the structure would thus be considerably lessened, while its safety and durability would be assured.

G. F.

Glen Cove, L. I., July 24, 1871.

EDUCATING THE NEGRO.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: As the above subject seems to be attracting attention, allow me to give one instance, which may have a bearing on the question. I will state only the simple facts, as they occurred, leaving each reader to draw his own inference.

Coming out of my office one afternoon some five years ago, I saw a colored man, very plainly dressed, apparently studying the signs at the door. As I was passing, he addressed me by name, saying, "I was looking for you." Recognizing him as a waiter in a hotel at which I had boarded some years before, I said: "Well, Samuel, what do you want?" He very briefly told me that he wanted to get an education, and wished to put himself under my direction. He was obliged to be at his business very early in the morning, but had half his evenings off. Telling him what books to procure, and giving him permission to call at my office on his "off" afternoons, he went his way, appearing at the appointed time. He could read very slowly, but of arithmetic, geography, and grammar he knew nothing. I spent a half-hour with him two afternoons in each week, from November to March. A more faithful, persevering student I never saw. At the end of that time, though getting up at 5 o'clock and "waiting" every other day till 8 in the evening, he had gone nearly through the common school arithmetic, had mastered grammar sufficiently to analyze almost any ordinary prose, and had read more thoroughly than most pupils the Latin Reader through the fables and mythology. All this had been done without losing a day's work or neglecting any of his other duties. He also had got through simple equations in Algebra. After he discontinued coming regularly, he would call occasionally to get a Latin sentence, that he could not master, construed, or a problem explained. I have not seen him for a long time, but as he was "trying to learn to be a teacher," I presume he is laboring among the people of his color elsewhere. Where is the young man who, under the same circumstances, would accomplish more than poor black Samuel did? Yours, &c.,

A.

New-York, July 24, 1871.

THE "FREE LOVE" PROPAGANDISTS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I have just read Mrs. Davis's "Last Word" (I think it would be as well if it were her last word in public), and while puzzling my brains to define what she calls Free Love, I turned to the editorial page, and there saw your definition—the only true one—for which, in the name of all true women, I thank you. It is right, when you show us poison, that you should also supply the antidote. There is so much to be said on this subject that I cannot do it justice, but I know that those few discontented women, in search of a mission, are only making things worse. As a general thing, it is not the poor, ill-used wives that complain; it is the "sheltered, shielded" sisterhood who, as you say, spend most of their time "in the clouds," coming down once in a while to air their opinions and scold THE TRIBUNE. I know good gentlewomen whose whole lives are a sacrifice, who are cursed with drunken, shiftless husbands, yet who are never heard of in public, and whose beautiful, Christian lives are a reproach to some of their petted sisters. Such women would sooner die than let the public pry into their affairs, since none can remedy them. The Free Love champions have no balsam for such wounds, unless they tell the sufferer to seek for "a more congenial spirit." I once, speaking with a woman who had a bad husband, asked her why she did not leave him; she said, "I took him 'for better and for worse,' and I could not rest easy if I knew he was homeless." Now that's the kind of love that God rewards, if not in this world, surely in the next. Some one will say, why do girls marry such men? They don't care to be unloved, homeless old maids, so they take the best one who offers, though not madly in love with him, and try to live good, useful, quiet lives, and they usually succeed. Mrs. Davis & Co., your sympathy is wasted on them; and you surely do not need it for yourselves in your "sheltered, shielded" lives. As for the poor fallen women, you have no remedy for them either. Teach your son to respect all womanhood as he does his mother and sisters; teach your daughters to care less for dress and the admiration of the public and more for modesty, so lovely in girlhood or womanhood; pray for the wayward ones, make home as bright and pleasant and as unlike a "fourth-rate boarding-house" as possible, and then your mission will be fulfilled. Once more, Mr. Editor, I thank you for your fearless defense of the right, for your denunciation of panel-houses, keno games, fortune-telling, disreputable pic-nics, and last, though not least, the pernicious doctrines of Free Love.

AN ENEMY OF FREE LOVE.

New-York, July 24, 1871.

RIOTS AND STORMS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: A writer in THE TRIBUNE of the 21st inst. calls attention to some remarkable facts in connection with recent physical and political disturbances. Let me suggest that the following results have been tested by frequent observation: First. The concurrence of such disasters so clustering that they are usually found in strata. The railroad statistician will testify that one *kind* of accident is immediately followed by similar kinds, and thus with murders, suicides, defalcations, homicides. It seems as if nature demanded duplicates for her abnormalities. A new discovery in this country will find a twin on the continent of Europe. By what law does the startling abnormal become epidemic? Esquirol, speaking of suicide, says that it is "only a consecutive symptom," and asks "Does it depend upon a latent condition of the atmosphere, upon imitation, or upon any governing sentiment?" Not necessarily upon imitation, for we know that this epidemic has prevailed when the death of one patient has been carefully concealed from others; but there is undoubtedly this law of coincidence, explain it as we may; and then there is the intimate *connection* between physical and social cataclysms. Our standard writers are abundant in references—"The noise of the waves and the madness of the people"—"Earth felt the wound," and the author of the immortal Analogy declares that there is an exact correspondence between the natural and the moral world.

But a most important fact mentioned by your correspondent is the coincidence of the Isothermal law between these concurrent physical and social disturbances, thus illustrating climatic influence. Now, it is quite remarkable that July is dedicated to riot, and Esquirol again remarks, "When the terrible Klamsin blows, the Indian (Malay), armed with the homicidal steel, precipitates himself on every one he meets;" and further, "The influence of heat also modifies the progress of mania; that of Summer exasperating it. Maniacs, then, are more disposed to fury, while a sudden cold attended by a dry atmosphere at first agitates, but soon composes them." A characteristic of social and physical agitation is a law not mentioned by your correspondent, in *periodical* recurrences, illustrated generally by the repetitions of history and more particularly by the parallelisms of riots and revolutions. Thus homicidal monomania (non-epidemic, sparing no age or relation) is "ordinarily periodic, and the paroxysm is preceded by symptoms which indicate a general excitement;" and so with kleptomania, pyromania, and epilepsy. The consideration of these mysterious laws has hitherto been confined to a few investigators, but recent events solicit the concentrated thought of all interested in mental, moral, or social progress.

Baltimore, July 25, 1871.

GEO. A. LEAKEN.

COREA.

LETTER FROM A CITIZEN OF PITTSBURGH WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE LATE NAVAL ENGAGEMENT.

Correspondence of The Pittsburgh Gazette.

U. S. STORE-SHIP IDAHO, YOKOHAMA, Japan, June 21.—You have, by this time, received telegraphic accounts of the fight which took place on the first of this month between the United States forces comprising the Asiatic fleet, under the command of Rear-Admiral John Rogers, United States Navy, and the Coreans. I send you a more detailed account of the operations. Ordered out to this station on the Colorado, Admiral Rogers's flag-ship, and, after arrival in the East, attached to the Monocacy, the vessel which took the most prominent part in the fight, June 1, I am, of course, familiar with all the proceedings prior to the sailing of the fleet from Nagasaki, Japan, to the Corea, two days previous to which time I was ordered to this place to relieve an officer returning to the United States. The vessels of the fleet left Shanghai, China, for Nagasaki, Japan, (the rendezvous), on the 8th of May. They consisted of the Colorado, steam frigate, 3,900 tuns and 50 guns, Capt. Geo. H. Cooper commanding, and which floated the Admiral's flag; the Alaska, 14 guns, Commander Blake; Benecia, 14 guns, Commander Kimberly; Monocacy, Commander McCrea, 10 guns; Palos, 4 guns, Lieut. Commanding Rockwell. They were all in remarkably fine condition; months of active and incessant drills had wrought the crews of the various vessels up to the highest state of discipline and efficiency; exercises in embarking, disembarking, firing, &c., were had daily, in fact every thing that, from the nature of the expedition, might be demanded. Minister Low, ex-Governor of California, who represents our nation at the Imperial Court of Pekin, went on board the flag-ship on the day of sailing. A short but boisterous voyage of two days from Shanghai across the Yellow Sea brought the vessels safely into the roadstead of Nagasaki, Japan. This harbor, it will be remembered, was the first of the Japanese ports opened to the trade of the world prior to Perry's famous expedition, although the Dutch for more than 200 years before that time had held here a restricted trade with the Japanese. It is one of the most beautiful harbors naturally that I ever saw—deep, long, and narrow, with precipitous cliffs, covered with the most lovely foliage bounding the sides. Small green islands dotted everywhere about the entrance, shut it out so that it is hard to be found, save by the experienced navigator. It had been decided that preparatory to proceeding to Corea, Nagasaki would be the place of meeting, not only from the safety of anchorage, but as being within easy communication of the spot in Corea where the vessels were to go, and the prevailing wind would also allow them from this point an easy passage over.

On the 14th of May, detached and ordered by the Commander-in-Chief at this place, I left the Monocacy. At that time nothing delayed the departure of the fleet but the coaling of the latter vessel, which was then in progress. In the harbor of Nagasaki at this time, beside our own fleet, there were several other national vessels of the English, French, and Dutch Governments. They all looked on our expedition with chagrin and mortified national pride that we should have taken the initiative again, as we had done in the opening of Japan, and more particularly as we had neither asked for nor desired any cooperation. Admiral Rodgers desired that the glory or the odium of the affair should rest entirely with ourselves. His object was a simple and peaceful one—to negotiate, if possible, with the kingdom of Corea a treaty which should have for its basis Commodore Perry's noted treaty of Kanagawa with Japan; failing in this, to survey, in the interests of civilization and science, the unknown shores of the Corea, so that vessels trading to the northern Chinese ports might avoid, in stress of weather, the dangerous and treacherous reefs which stretch far out from the western shores of this peninsula. To carry out this intention it was necessary to go to the only known ground, that is, to the mouth of the Kiang-ho River. This river empties into the Yellow Sea about 37° 30′ N. Up this river, about 50 miles by its course, is King-ki-too (or, as the French call it, Seoul, and by which name it is more generally known to foreigners), the capital of Corea. The French, under Admiral Raze, with two ships, visited the Corea in 1866, at the same spot where our fleet is at present anchored. The Winter season coming on, they accomplished nothing except an accurate survey of the mouth and portions of the river, giving names to all the principal points. Whether the less vivacious but more determined American will succeed better remains to be seen.

On the 16th of May the fleet left Nagasaki for their destination. Before departing they sent on shore from the flag-ship four Coreans who had been received from the U. S. Consulate at Shanghai, who had been picked up at sea by one of our merchant vessels. Admiral Rodgers detained the shipwrecked mariners aboard his vessel, thinking at first of taking them back to their native land to turn them over as a conciliatory act to the authorities, but learning from an undoubted source that the officials of Corea would, if they were returned, conduct them down on the beach, in the presence of the vessel, and cut off their heads, he humanely determined to set them ashore in Nagasaki, and allow them by their own means to work their way back to the inhospitable land which claimed them as subjects. Aboard the Colorado a great deal at Shanghai, China, I had a good view of them—of fine physique, long, black straight hair and the darkest eyes, they resemble in many respects the North American Indian—they behaved with the utmost unconcern and stoicism when first brought aboard the ship, expecting in consonance with the Draconic code of their own country, to be at once executed, even making motions to this effect with their hands across their throat. When assured of their safety, however, they soon threw off all reserve and wandered all over the large vessel, examining with a childish curiosity the various weapons displayed aboard, exchanging their dingy yellow pajama suits for the sailor blue, and messed and berthed with the crew, they soon became familiar objects to "Jack," who, to identify them, had, inscribed on their sleeves in white tape letters, the names that a man-o'-war's man's fancy considered appropriate, such as "Tar Pot," "Jib Sheet," &c. The weapons used by the Coreans are a species of old-fashioned, wide-mouthed blunderbusses. Pittsburghers will take a civic pride in the fact that the boilers of the steam launches, which worked so well in the skirmish of June 1, were made by two well known firms of the city. I am very respectfully yours,

JOHN B. ROBINSON,
Master U. S. Navy.

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE FRENCH TARIFF.

The *Journal Officiel* of the French Republic publishes the following law, passed in the National Assembly at Versailles on the 8th inst.:

1. The duties on sugars of every origin are increased by three-tenths. 2. Sugars extracted by the barytic process, molasses known as waste, will bear a duty of $3 per 100 kilogrammes, décimes included. 3. Molasses not intended for distillation, having 50 per cent or less saccharine matter, will pay a duty of $3 72 per 100 kilogrammes. 4. Glucose, in the state of sirup and in the concrete state, will bear a duty of $2 per 100 kilogrammes, décimes included. 5. Coffee in the bean, from countries out of Europe, including the French possessions, $30 per 100 kilogrammes; from elsewhere, $34 per 100 kilogrammes; coffee roasted or ground, $40 per 100 kilogrammes. 6. Chicory roasted or ground, $11 per 100 kilogrammes. 7. Tea from countries out of Europe, including the French possessions, $20 per 100 kilogrammes; from elsewhere, $24 per 100 kilogrammes. 8. Cocoa in the bean, from countries out of Europe, including the French possessions, $20 per 100 kilogrammes; from elsewhere, $24 per 100 kilogrammes. 9. Ground chocolate and cocoa, $32 per 100 kilogrammes. 10. Pepper, pimento, cloves, cinnamon, cassia lignea, nutmegs in the pod, from countries out of Europe, including the French possessions, $40 per 100 kilogrammes; from elsewhere, $48 per 100 kilogrammes. 11. Nutmegs without the pod and mace from countries out of Europe, including the French possessions, $60 per 100 kilogrammes; from elsewhere, $70 per 100 kilogrammes. 12. Vanilla, from whatever source, 80 cents per kilogramme. 13. Wines, not liqueurs, $1 per hectolitre; liqueurs, $4 per hectolitre. 14. Alcohols, brandy in bottle, $6 per hectolitre of liquid; in the wood, $6 per hectolitre of pure alcohol. 15. Liqueurs, $7 per hectolitre of liquid. 16. Tobacco and cigarettes, of which the importation is authorized for private consumption, $7 20 per kilogramme. 17. Petroleum and shale oil brought from abroad in the raw state from countries out of Europe, $4 per 100 kilogrammes; from elsewhere, $5 per 100 kilogrammes; refined, from countries out of Europe, $6 40 per 100 kilogrammes; from elsewhere, $7 20 per 100 kilogramm