Society and Politics in Washington—No. 7.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 1854.

I see political events looming up in the distance which appear to me as though they will prove to this administration very much like political icebergs, and if the America ship of State, with spoilsman or helmsman Marcy at the wheel, keeps steering the present course, the first we shall all know will be a general smash and crash, and the ship will be brought up all standing. But I will not indulge in profound prognostications, like other letter writers. My mission is to deal in facts, and if I understand your last letter to me, you wish me to "narrate" to you "distinctly what Pierce says and does, without indulging in comments." These are your own words, I believe, though I cannot refer to your letter, as I left it down in my room at Jemmy Maher's, and I am writing this letter in Faherty's room, at the State Department. I will endeavor to comply with your wishes, although I shall lose a great deal of fun by it.

I have had three separate interviews with the President during the past week. He is buried up to his eyes in trouble, and although I am very sorry for him, I can't help matters—because he won't take my advice and cut adrift from his constitutional advisers by kicking 'em out. We stood by the wall down back of his house on Monday morning for over an hour, and talked over the whole matter; but, as I said to him, "Frank, what's the use of talking when you won't do nothing?"

"All talk and no cider, you mean to say, Sam?"

"Just as you say—as Cushing says to you," says I.

"George Sanders is coming home to play hell again. His nomination will be rejected certain sure, Toucey tells me."

"Well, suppose the Senate does reject him, and he come home, what do you care?"

"I don't like it. He has certainly made an ass of himself, but I sent him to London to get rid of him."

"Oh, never mind him, he is small fry; you will have trouble enough with big fish before long."

"Sam!"

"What is it?"

"Can you keep a secret?"

"Yes; I am not leaky."

"I have got the richest thing out. I haven't shown it to a soul yet. You mustn't blab here."

"Of course not. Why should I?"

"Do you know Charles Edwards Lester, in New York?"

"I have heard of him. He wrote the 'Glory and Shame of England,' didn't he?"

"That's just what my Lord Palmerston said."

"Lord who?"

"Never mind, you will see all about it in the letter."

"What letter?"

"Well, I must tell you the whole story. If you like you may send a copy of the letter to Mr. Bennett."

"But what is it? What is it about? Where is it? Who's got the letter?"

"Patience; Sam Marcy is a consumate old—— but never mind. He thinks I am a d—d fool, Marcy does."

"Is it possible?"

"Yes, he does! He thinks I don't know nothing. He thinks because he can officially write letters to my foreign ministers that he can use me. I can smell him out. Just look here."

At this point the President, evidently laboring under great nervous excitement, took from the breastpocket of his frock coat a letter, and held it under my nose, exclaiming:—"That's the document that has led me into the secrets! Poor old Buchanan, how flat he must have felt! I'll pay old Marcy off! You may use the letter. I give you permission to take a copy of it, but suppress my friend's name. He is an old crony of mine, now in Europe, and Marcy has influence with our foreign consuls; and some of them are d——d scaly, and would as soon commit a murder as not if Marcy was to suggest it; and as my friend is going to Italy about a year hence he might get a knife in his guts before he knew what was what. Promise me, honor bright."

"I do, General." He handed me the letter.

"And now, Sam, I must leave you; for you see that pocket handkerchief showed out from under one of the windows. That is the way Sid Webster signalizes me when I am wanted at the White House. Are you acquainted with any livery stable keepers?"

"Yes, with a dozen."

"Credit good with 'em for a horse?"

"To buy a horse?"

"No—no—no; to hire one. I want you to take a horse and ride over the long bridge at four, this afternoon. When you get on Jackson Island, wait until I join you. Will you? I will pay the horse hire."

"Oh, that's of no consequence. I will be there."

"And then give me back that letter. In the meantime you may take a copy of it. *Au revoir.*"

As soon as the President had left I leaned up against the wall and read the mysterious letter. I had not read half way through before I fairly screamed, and only held up when I saw people coming out of General Walbridge's house to discover what the matter was. Here is the letter, copied precisely from the original, with only the suppression of the name of the writer, and a few allusions, which Frank overlooked, and which I have marked with stars, otherwise the real position of the writer could have been guessed at:—

LONDON, Jan. 24, 1854.

DEAR FRANK:—I suppose you will be surprised at receiving a letter from me, dated London, instead of L——; but you will be less so when you have read what will follow. Let me assure you that nothing can happen from my temporary absence from my post, as my official obligations will be religiously fulfilled by ——.

On my arrival in this extraordinary city, the capital as I may safely say, of the great capitalists of Europe, and the commercial metropolis of the world, I did not go to the residence of ——, for reasons which you will understand. I wished to have my observations unbiassed by direct and constant personal intercourse. I had my baggage, consisting only of a small trunk and a carpet bag, sent to the North and South American Coffee House, but hearing that many Americans stopped there I removed with my baggage to the "Old Hummum Hotel," near Covent Garden, about which, by the way, I could make a very entertaining letter if I had the time. I had not been a week here before some very important facts came into my possession, and, according to my promise, made to you before I left the States, to keep you advised about matters and things on this side, I do so now. In the present case, you will be very much astonished, and the occurrences I am about to relate reflect a certain degree of odium upon your administration, although I am aware from my knowledge of your personal character, that you would not stoop to, or sanction such petty and disgraceful trifling. But you shall know all the facts; and I have to beg in advance, that after you shall have given them due consideration, you will (should you mention the subject to Mr. Secretary Marcy) refrain from giving my name as the author of information which you may rely upon. Not that he could remove ——, * * * * * * * * * enmity of a dog.—* * * * malignant and unprincipled wretch. * * * * * * * old political scoundrel. * * * dead to all sense of shame * * * degrade his country to indulge a petty spite.

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Mr. Marcy, as near as I can ascertain, sent a private letter to Mr Buchanan upon the subject. He gave C. Edwards Lester a horrible character, and told Mr. Buchanan to lay before Lord Palmerston all the facts—to beg that Mr Lester, as the correspondent of the London *Times* in America, had taken every opportunity to traduce the administration, and to say that the President of the United States would consider it a personal favor if the British government would arrange with the London *Times* for the removal, as correspondent in America, of the fellow Lester, and that in return for such a favor the President would do anything he could for the British government.

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At the interview between my *Lord* Palmerston and Mr. Buchanan, the latter made a demand of the British Minister, in accordance with Mr. Marcy's instructions. While listening, the British Minister's eyes dilated to the size of your excellent grandfather's old Revolutionary buttons.

"Good God! my excellent Buchanan, what do you ask me? Are you serious, or is this a pleasant joke?" said the British peer.

"I am perfectly serious, my lord. The President's feelings are constantly irritated by this Lester. He misstates facts in his letters to the *Times*."

"Mr. Buchanan, I can scarcely credit the evidence of my own senses when I hear the American Ambassador instructed by his government to request a British Minister to interfere with a correspondent of a newspaper—to get him removed! Why, half of Crampton's letters are filled with complaints of how the British government is traduced by the *Union*, the organ of the American government; and once he wrote me that he had asked for explanation, and that the American government informed him that the *Union* newspaper was not the organ of the government. The *Times* is not the organ of this government. I cannot interfere or attempt to control its appointment of foreign correspondents."

"I am very sorry, my lord; but I should esteem it as a great mark of favor to the administration at Washington if you would use your personal influence to induce the *Times* to remove Lester."

"I cannot do it with any grace. Besides, I have carefully read those letters, and I am only just when I candidly state that I have derived more real information about the true state of affairs on your continent from those letters than from any which have ever appeared in the *Times*."

"They are very clever letters, my lord; but the attacks upon the administration?"

"Mr. Lester is an American, I am told, and if any one is to complain the British government might request the *Times* to remove a correspondent who wrote the 'Glory and Shame of England.'"

"That is true, my lord; perhaps you will do it upon that ground."

"No, sir, upon no ground."

Mr Buchanan was excessively annoyed at the result of his interview with the British Minister, but Lord Palmerston was laid, and treated the whole matter with contempt. * * * * *

It was arranged in that manner, and, acting in accordance with his instructions, Mr. Daniel E. Sickles, our Secretary, called at the office of the *Times*. He desired to see the chief editor. He was informed that he could not be seen. "I am the Secretary of the American Legation," said Mr. Sickles.

"Can't help that, if you are the President of the United States. You can't see the chief editor of the London *Times* without writing a letter, stating your business, and asking for an interview; if it is granted he can be seen. Good morning, sir."

Such, dear Pierce, is the custom with the *Times*. It requires a more powerful, because a different influence, to get access to the editor of the London *Times*, whose name is ——, than to see the Queen.

Mr. Buchanan did not seem discouraged when he heard the unfavorable report of Mr. Sickles, but sent for George Sanders. Mr. S. was very confident of his success, and entered the building of the London *Times* in his usual bullying style. He received the same reply as Mr. Sickles, but became quite rude and obstreperous. No reply was made except to send a messenger for a policeman to take him off. When Mr. Sanders heard the order given he withdrew without waiting for the policeman to arrive.

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Of course you know best what course to pursue; but if you would allow me to make a suggestion, I would, were I you, invite Crampton to a private dinner, and would disavow any personal interest or connection with such proceedings on the part of Marcy, as they are indeed paltry, mean and exceedingly discreditable to the American government. In fact, the course pursued by Buchanan has created the most disagreeably ridiculous comments in diplomatic circles, and as an American I am actually ashamed of such things. * * *

Your tried and sincere friend,

* * * *

TO GEN F. PIERCE President United States.

After I had made myself master of the contents of the London letter to Gen. Pierce, I made a correct copy of it. By the time I had finished doing so the hour drew nigh when I was to meet the General at Jackson Island. At half-past three the horse was at my hotel door, for Jemmy Maher had kindly spoken to an Irish friend of his, the proprietor of a livery stable, and the beast was sent. I mounted, cantered across the Canal bridge, and thence took my way to the Long bridge. When I reached the Washington end of it I inquired of a man standing there whether he had seen a gentleman riding a small black horse, and seated on a Mexican saddle, cross over. He replied "Yes," and I hurried on. True to time, I found the General on the Island, walking his horse on the road. As I rode up to him he exclaimed: "Well, Sam, this is really delightful; I feel like a free man. Egad, wouldn't it be a good joke if we were to keep on riding incog., and let those miserable devils we should leave behind us jog on their own gait, while we kept on our way, to some Southern plantation?"

"I am agreed, if you are," said I.

"What the hell would people say if I was to cut and run, eh?"

"A good many would be very glad of it. It would be a novelty. It would give the papers something to talk about."

"Do you know, Sam, that I have sometimes half made up my mind to do it when I have got command. If poor King had have lived I think I should have done it before this. Then he would have been President, and would have got along better than I do, for he understood the ropes. Come, let us take a long ride as far as Alexandria? That will give us plenty of time to talk over things. Who would be President if I was to cut my lucky, or throat? According to the constitution Atcheson of course?

"No. The constitution makes no provision for it. A law is passed which makes the President of the Senate acting President of the United States in case of the death of both President and Vice President."

"Why is the Vice President of the United States President of the Senate, Sam?"

"It is a piece of foolishness that he is so. His office as Vice President of the United States has no sort of connection whatever with the presidency of the Senate. In fact, every legislative body is not complete unless it elects its own officers; but I'll tell you how it happened. When them chaps made the constitution, they talked it over among themselves. One said, 'Now, we have made the offices of President and Vice President; now, the Vice President wont have a thing to do unless the head chap dies out. Another Yankee fellow says 'Yes, and the Vice President will be receiving money and doing nothing—that won't do.' Then some knowing old duck, like Ben Franklin says—"Well, we will make him President of the Senate; that will give him a little to do. It will give dignity to that body, and instead of sucking his fingers at home the Vice President can come to Washington every year and fuss in the Senate.

"Well, Sam, that is pretty clear. I have no doubt you are correct. I always thought the Vice President occupied a curious position; for there is no earthly connection between the duties of a Vice-President and presiding officer of the Senate than there is between ham and eggs or pork and molasses. Give me that letter I gave you this morning."

I handed the President the letter, and he placed it in his pocket, and asked, "Well, Sam, what do you think of it? That is one of Marcy's queer doings. That aint all—he has got me into another muss about the uniform."

"How so, Mr. President?"

"Call me plain Frank."

"Very well, Frank—what is the trouble about the diplomatic toggery?"

"That Johnny Mason, as the French papers call him, has been disobeying Marcy's orders, and appeared at the French court in monkey costume—sky blue with gold edging. Mr. Sandford, who refused to dress other than in plain black, has sent me his resignation. What can I do, Sam?"

"Remove old potgutty Mason. He is a soft cake any way. Heaven only knows how you came to send him to France any way."

"I did not. Never saw him to speak to him twice in my life. That appointment was one of Marcy's d——d concoction! One thing I won't do, by G——! won't accept Sandford's resignation. It will play hell with some of my private financial arrangements in Boston."

"Who is Sandford?"

"Why, he is a forty-second cousin of mine—one of the Connecticut Pierces. His father, Nehemiah Sandford, was a worthy tinpan manufacturer at Derby, Connecticut. He married a Shelton—a sister of Henry and Philo Shelton. Hen Shelton went to Trinidad, Cuba, made some money, and left it to my Paris Secretary, who is named after him, and Philo lives in Boston, and him and me are thick. I won't consent to ruin him because he obeyed old Marcy's order. Another thing, he is a friend of Burke's."

"Oh, you have a sneaking kindness for Burke yet?"

"Well, I have; and I don't care who objects to it. He made me President, and he has been shamefully lied about in some respects; but we differed on the subject of abolition or free soil. It was against his advice that I took part with the Van Burens when I came back from Mexico."

"Why don't you get together again? You ought to make the first advances. You are side by side now—in fact, you are a little ahead of him—and go Southern doctrines two to his one. Tell me all about you and Burke, Frank. Of course it's between you and me."

"Sam, you know them Butterfields and Georges around Concord?"

"Yes, and I think they are small pups any way."

"They have caused all the mischief between me and Burke, and B—— is too quick. They say that they can do any thing with me, and B. believed it. It is not so. Bill Butterfield edits the New Hampshire *Patriot*, and is a d——d good natured, silly fool that it does very well to take a tod with; but he is of no account except in his own estimation, and Burke has made capital for him by noticing him. They have abused Burke like blackguards. But I give you my solemn word, Sam, I never authorized or countenanced it. But Burke won't believe it."

"How long have you been acquainted with Burke?"

"Over twenty years. We were in Congress together—when I was Senator and he was a member of the House. Even then he used to render me very important services—correct and fix up my speeches, and puff me in the papers. Damn it, he arranged my appointment as Brigadier-General with Polk, and sent me the documents. Why, Sam, when I was off in Mexico Burke used to defend me against slanders that appeared in this same *Union*, that I detested the sight of it ever since, and now they claim it as my organ."

"You know I first started your name as President, in Green Valley?"

"Well, Burke took it up from that, and he managed the whole thing. He was Commissioner of Patents, had control of the *Union*, and whatever he said was done. He drew up the whole programme, Sam. Oh! I give the devil his due always. That's my religion."

"Did Burke ask anything from you?"

"Never, upon my soul, Sam; if he had I would have given it to him, for he was a friend when I needed friends."

"Well, Frank, you are the President, and you seem to take good care of every sucker that comes about you. How is it that you can leave an old and tried friend in the lurch, and let him be a mark for slander, when you can save him? It is all wrong; and though you are a President, you are not a man if you don't silence Burke's enemies, and place him in his true position before your mutual friends and enemies in our beloved New Hampshire."

"I'll do it, Sam. I'll be d—d if I don't; that is, if——"

"Stop, Frank; you will never do it. The moment that miserable preposition 'if' comes into play a man's good purposes are silenced. But here we are, just nearing Alexandria. Do you know anybody here?"

"Yes—office chaps. Stay, I have an old friend here of the name of Lewis McKenzie. Let's go and call on him."

We went down to Mr. McKenzie's office, but the porter told us that Mr. McKenzie was in the Legislature, and absent in Richmond so we remounted our horses and started on our return to Washington. We had hardly got into the outskirts of Alexandria when the President again returned to the conversation about Mr. Burke.

"He managed that whole business equal to a Talleyrand," said the President.

"Why did you not send him Minister to France instead of Mason? You made Gee-up Dobbin Secretary, and he did not do one-half that Burke did."

"Indeed he did not. I have a hearty laugh when I think how completely the thing was arranged. I never see that B. B. French but what I hold my sides."

"How so?"

"Why, just before the nomination French wrote me a long prosy letter, asking me if I would serve. I told him no, certainly not. I wanted him and all my friends to act with a comprehensive regard to the whole country, with a single purpose to the main object—the honorable triumph of our cause. I wrote French that I was perfectly astounded at receiving his letter, and being informed that my name had been mentioned in connection with the Presidency. The cream of the joke was that French ran all about Washington and its hotels, showing my letter to the flats, and among the rest he showed the letter to Burke, who wrote the draft of it and sent me six months before, when a lot of us had arranged how my nomination was to be managed. Cool, was it not?"

"But about you neglecting to answer the letter to the man in Virginia who propounded questions to all the Presidential candidates? You did not get caught in that trap?"

"Caught in that trap! Why, that was a part of the programme. A letter was never sent to me. It was so arranged with the man himself by my friends."

"Upon my soul you ought to have made Burke your Prime Minister after you became President. Did you see him personally before he went to Baltimore?"

"Why, I went to Newport, to his house, and stayed a week, only a few days before Burke went on to Baltimore, and then I made all the final arrangements. Burke was my main dependance—in fact Burke did everything. He was the big man then, and made me; but he has behaved very shabbily since."

"Excuse me, Frank, for my freedom, but did the suggestion never insinuate itself into your mind that you had behaved very meanly and very shabbily to Mr. Burke?"

"Ah! Sam, when you get to be President you will have to crush out all such insinuations. But I like Burke, notwithstanding all that he has done. But don't let's talk any more about it now. How do you like your boarding house?"

"Oh, very well. By the way, I have got a good room now, with a fire in it, and you can call and see me."

"Indeed! I like that. Why, I can run in any time, and have a few words or write a private letter, eh? I have got no good place to write private matters now."

"What does Maher charge you?"

"Only seven dollars a week."

"Well, that is reasonable; I will come and see you to-morrow night."

We talked on a variety of matters, and rode on until we reached Washington, when we separated.

THE MAN WOT NOMINATED FRANK PIERCE.

Death from Producing Abortion.

[From the Albany Atlas Feb 10.]

A girl named Jesse Wickes, alias Mary Lee, aged 23, residing with Mrs. Nancy Vedder, No 82 Broad street, died on Wednesday noon, under circumstances that led Coroner Smith, upon notification of the police, to hold an inquest, which is still in progress. Mrs. Vedder testified that the girl, who had been her boarder for some four weeks, declared to her that she was in the family way. Mrs. Bord, living at 35 Fifth street, Troy, sent word by a woman named O'Hagan, that she (Mrs. B.) would produce an abortion for the sum of $20. This was three weeks ago. A fortnight ago she left my house for Troy; I visited her there last Friday, at Mrs. Bord's house; she was sitting up in a rocking chair, but so weak that she had to be helped in and out of bed; she had been quite well at my house, and had walked up to the stage office; the girl told me (witness) to come and bring her down on Tuesday; but on Monday, Mrs. Bord sent for me, and I found her in a very bad condition—no fire in the room, &c.; she had her things in her satchel, ready to return to Albany; I asked Mrs. B. if she was able to return; she said "Yes, she has got to go;" she refused to give up her hat and cloak unless she was paid $10 more; and said that she would not pay the doctor's bill. Witness gave her some clothes she had brought with her, and brought her to Albany in a sleigh hired for that purpose; when I got her home, sent for a physician; he called next morning (Tuesday) but the day thereafter she died; saw at Mrs. Bord's, on my first visit, a "lady" quilting, a colored woman, and Mrs. O'Hagan; and the same persons, besides others, going in and out, on my second visit; the black woman in reply to my remarks about the health of Miss Lee, said that Mrs. Bord had declared "she was well, and that she (Mrs. B.) had done the work all alone."

Ann Elizabeth Ostrander, an inmate of the same house, 24 years old, accompanied deceased to Troy to visit Mrs. Bord; she wasn't in; went again; Mr. Bord was present in the saloon, and Miss Lee would not speak before him; so we went up stairs, and Mrs. B. inquired of deceased as to her condition, and assured her she had lately had one single woman and two married women under her charge—one of these latter seven months gone—and they had got well and gone home; said deceased would not be long getting well; and promised to see her all through for $20, which was paid her by deceased; deceased was in good health, as she was the next day, when I rode up to visit her; heard that Mrs. B. had "done nothing—had looked at the almanac, but found the moon was not right;" on Friday inquired for and saw Mary, who confessed to her that she had had two unsuccessful operations performed by Mrs. Bord, and was very ill; witness accompanied Mrs. Vedder on Friday, and corroborated her testimony as to the interview; witness knew deceased for four years.

Margaret Brewer, residing at No. 69 Arch street—Knows Mrs. Bord, and knows of her producing abortions in two instances; there was a doctor in Troy who generally assisted her.

Dr. March made a *post mortem* examination, and discovered the evidence of gross violence.

The Troy *Daily Times* of the 11th inst., in speaking of this affair, says:—"A warrant issued by Mr. Brinnall, the police magistrate, was served upon the woman, Mrs. Bord, on Thursday, but she has not been taken to jail. She is represented to be very sick, and she will remain in the custody of the City Marshal until such time as her physician decides it to be prudent for her to be removed."

American Genius.

List of patents issued from the United States Patent Office for the week ending Feb 14, 1854, each bearing that date:—

A. H. Caryl, of Sandusky City, Ohio.—For improvement in picking and cleaning flax

Matthias W Baldwin and David Clark, of Philadelphia, Pa.—For improved arrangement of vertical tube feed-water heaters in locomotive smoke stacks.

Lewis S. Chichester, of Brooklyn, N. Y.—For improvement in machines for cleaning wool

John Griffiths, of Philadelphia, Pa.—For improvement in valve cocks.

F. C. Coffin, of New York, N. Y.—For improvement in fire and burglar proof safes.

Jonathan Knowles, of Trenton, N. J.—For improvement in processes of treating vegetable fibre. Patented in France April 4, 1853.

Samuel G. Lewis, of Delaware county, Pa.—For improvements in making thick paper.

Thomas Cook, of New York, N. Y., assignor to Starkie Livesey, of same place.—For improvement in firearms.

John Standish, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, assignor to John Standish and Horace A. Miller, of same place.—For improvement in machines for pegging boots and shoes.

Robert Preston, of North Pownal, Vt.—For improvement in drying cloth.

Warren Robinson, of New Haven, Ct.—For improvement in ships' ventilators.

Jacob Reese, of Sharon, Pa.—For improvement in hanging the fire plate to iron rolling machinery.

W. G. Sterling, of Bridgeport, Ct.—For improvement in planting hops

Henry S Williams, of Malta, Ohio.—For improvements in apparatus for controlling the pressure of steam.

Jacob D. Woodruff, of Newark, N. J., and Joshua H. Batterworth, of Dover, N J.—For improvement in drop bridges.

Arcalous Wycheff, of Wellsburg, N. Y.—For improvement in machines for making links of jack chains.

John Webster and Orson Spencer, of Cleveland, Ohio, assignors to John Webster, of same place.—For improvement in gas burners.

George B. Ambler, of Trumbull, Conn.—For improvement in saddle trees.

Frederick H Bartholomew, of New York, N. Y.—For improvement in water closets

Jason Barton, of Middle Haddam, Conn.—For improvement in horse bells.

J. L. Burdick, of New York, N. Y.—For improvement in machinery for paging blank books.

John W. Howell, of New Paris, Ohio.—For improvement in machines for stuffing horse collars.

Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson, of Norwich, Conn.—For improvement in firearms.

Allen Goodman and Lyman Wheeler, of Dana, Mass.—For improved machine for scraping and toothing vases.

Joel R. Bassett, of Cincinnati, Ohio, assignor to Caleb H Williams, of same place.—For improvement in ball valves for pumps.

DESIGNS.—Samuel D. Voss, of Albany, N. Y.—For design for cooking stoves Antedated Dec 30, 1853.

Samuel D. Voss, of Albany, N. Y.—For design for parlor stove. Antedated Dec 30, 1853.

N. S. Vedder, of Troy, N. Y., assignor to A. T. Dunham & Co., of same place.—For design for parlor stove.

Superior Court.

DECISIONS.

Before Chief Justice Oakley, Judges Duer, Campbell, Boothworth and Slosson.

FEB 18.—*Peter Havlin agt. The Sixth Avenue Railroad Company*—Appeal dismissed, but without costs.

Henry C. Bowen and Others agt. Zenas Newell, dc.—Judgment for plaintiff, with costs

Augustus W. Clason agt. Daniel Rankin—Sent back for new trial, in order to have the facts better ascertained. Costs to abide event.

Wm McCleary agt. Edward Kent, dc—Judgment affirmed, with costs.

The People ex rel. Thomas B. Davis, dc agt Oscar W. Sturtevant—Order allowing costs to the plaintiff under the Code, affirmed with costs.

The People ex rel. agt. John L. Kingsley—Judgment of the Court affirmed, with costs.

Thomas Stalker agt. James Gaunt, dc.—Order of Special Term affirmed, with costs.

Jonas H Hovey agt. The American Mutual Insurance Company—Judgment for plaintiff, on verdict.

Jane Dempsey agt. Daniel E Tylee—Judgment affirmed, with costs.

The Military Court of Inquiry

RELATIVE TO THE LOSS OF THE STEAMSHIP SAN FRANCISCO.

TWELFTH DAY.

The Court met yesterday morning, at the usual hour, all the members present, but immediately went into secret session, and soon after adjourned until Monday at 12 o'clock.

Augustus Schoffer, Peter Myers, and two other persons, were seriously injured, Myers fatally, at New Orleans, on the 7th inst., by the accidental discharge of a rifle.

Medical News.

Several members of a hitherto healthy family in Baltimore, having recently died one after another, an investigation into the cause was instituted, which showed that the parties were slowly poisoned in consequence of drinking water which flowed through a long leaden pipe—that it was the action of the water on the pipe which gave it its poisonous qualities. It was pump water. Lead pipe, it is believed, has no such effect upon hydrant water.

The medical and surgical profession figure largely in the recent issues of the patent office; nearly one half of the apparatus or instruments patented lately, relating to them, namely:—Saliva pumps, diaphram pumps, pill machines, tonsil instruments, amputating apparatus, and trusses.

Dr. Matthew Wendell has been re-elected by the Common Council of Brooklyn, N. Y., health physician of that city. The doctor has proved himself a useful officer, and our neighboring city has done itself a favor in keeping him in office.

An exchange paper advises one of its correspondents who is afflicted with that loathsome disease the leprosy, to apply friction, warm baths, sulphur baths, and afterwards slightly stimulating ointments, such as pitch ointment or weak citrine ointment, with light and moderate diet and abstinence from wine and stimulants.

The United States Surgeon-General has made a report to Congress, from which it appears that the adulteration of drugs and medicines is carried on more extensively since the passage of the act of Congress to suppress the importation of such articles, than before; so that it is now alleged to be difficult to procure medicines which are not either mixed with some foreign substances or from which some portion of the active principle has not been abstracted by chemical process.

There are eleven physicians in the two houses of the Ohio Legislature.

Dr. James Ewadaile, surgeon in the East India Company's service, has forwarded from Scotland a memorial to Congress, in which he assert a priority to all Americans in performing surgical operations without pain to the subjects, whom he rendered senseless by mesmeric influences as early as 1845. He says his object is to release Congress from the shame of sanctioning by its high authority another of the lies of history.

A memorial from Dr. William Turner to the New York Legislature, has been presented, praying that the measure now before them extending the privileges of dissecting the bones of the dead, to the medical faculty, may not become a law. He opposes dissection, and quotes largely from the writings of Dr. Dickson, the distinguished chrono-thermalist, of London, in support of his position.

There were living in the village of Dighton, Mass., on the first day of January, 1853, no less than forty persons between the ages of seventy five and ninty-six years, all within a circle of one mile radius. Their ages, added together, amount to thirty-five hundred years.

Virginia furnishes three hundred medical students annually, and the whole South probably furnishes from 1,500 to 2,500.

Mrs. Mary A. W. Johnson, a somewhat noted medical individual, has been delivering a course of lectures on physiology in Brooklyn, N. Y.

Among the reforms in Turkey induced by European influence, was that of quarantine. This occurred in 1839. In 1838 the plague had been worse in its ravages than for thirty years previously, and it was estimated that during the year 50,000 people died from it in Constantinople; and notwithstanding the quarantine worked badly at first, yet for fourteen years there had been hardly a case of the plague, and it has now ceased to be an epidemic.

The tables of mortality show that the average length of time persons who have attained to thirty years of age will live, is 34 years and 124 days; according to the experience of seventeen life insurance offices 34 years and 156 days; according to the London Equitable Life Insurance Company, 34 years and 120 days.

Voltaire's definition of a physician is: "An unfortunate gentleman, expected every day to perform a miracle—namely, to reconcile health with intemperance." A better definition it would be impossible to give.

The *Practical Dentist* says that the great and all-powerful destroyer of the human teeth is acid, vegetable or mineral, and it matters not whether that acid be formed in the mouth by the decomposition of particles of food left between and around the teeth, or whether it is applied directly to the organs themselves, the result is the same; the enamel is dissolved, corroded, and the tooth destroyed.

Dr. F. H. Kelly has assumed the editorial chair of the Worcester (Mass) *Journal of Medicine*.

Dr John K. Wells, of Bellows Falls, Vt, died suddenly at that place, aged seventy years.

A new homeopathic periodical has been started in Chicago, Ill., and another in St. Louis, Mo.

In some of the Eastern countries, one of the mother's earliest cares is to promote the growth of her children's eyelashes, by tipping and removing the fine gossamer-like points with a pair of scissors, when they are asleep. By repeating this every month or six weeks, they become, in time, long, close, finely curved, and of a silky gloss. The practice never fails, and is very useful, when, owing to inflammation of the eyes, the lashes have been thinned or stinted.

The following are the officers of the Boylston Medical Society of Boston—one of the most useful medical associations in the country—for the ensuing year: President, Calvin Ellis; Vice President, Samuel A. Green; Secretary, Henry K. Oliver, Jr.

The scarlet fever is quite prevalent in the more thickly populated parts of Windham county, Ky. In some instances, whole families have been swept away by it.

The smallpox is prevailing in Charleston, S. C., also Morristown, N. J., and in New York city.

The whole number of deaths in Stamford, Conn., embracing a population of 4,500, during the last year, was 45, or one in a hundred. There died in January, 1; February, 2; March, 3; April, 5; May, 3; June, 5; July, 2; August, 3; September, 10; October, 7; November, 4; December, 3. The deaths by consumption were 13; typhus fever, 7; marasmus, 4; other diseases, 1, 2 and 3.

Dr. Durkee, of Boston, has had awarded to him a bronze medal for specimens of microscopic anatomy and natural history prepared by him and exhibited at the Crystal Palace, New York. The number of preparations is 170, and are of great beauty and perfection.

During the year 1853 the number of interments in Baltimore was 5,150, or 1 to about 39 of the population. There were 893 deaths by phthisis; 180 by old age; 256 by cholera infantum; 554 by infantile diseases.

A medical correspondent of Nelson's *American Lancet* states that he has applied chloroform successfully in cases of neuralgia, tic doloreaux, tetanus, &c. In a case of tetanus he applied lint saturated with chloroform along the whole spine, and covered it with India-rubber cloth, which was attended with the best results. In cases of toothache, he had found a remedy in filling the cavity with cotton saturated with chloroform, and renewing it until the sensibility of the nerve was touched.

Experiment proves that the beard, if shaved, grows from four to five times faster than if unshorn; and reckoning the stimulus given the beard by the first use of the razor in adolescence to be double, and the consequent difference in size and weight of the fibre, and the result is that we raise thirty times the natural quantity of beard.

The New Orleans *Medical and Surgical Journal* states that a young female, whose great toe was about to be amputated by one of the visiting surgeons of the Charity Hospital in that city, suddenly expired while under the influence of chloroform. It was some time before she could be brought under the effects of the anæsthetic; she finally, however, became completely insensible, and before the operation was concluded she sank and rapidly expired, in spite of the most strenuous and judicious efforts of several medical men present. A post mortem was made by the professor of physiology in the University of Louisiana, and all the organs found perfectly healthy.

Fever, bowel and chest complaint are very prevalent at Hong Kong.

The Paris correspondent of the Charleston *Medical Journal and Review* writes that he saw Mr. Guersent among other surgical operations performed at the hospital for sick children, execute one for opening the trachea in a child with croup. This is done frequently, but on this occasion it was done according to Chassaignac's method, and succeeded admirably. It consisted in a simple incision, keeping the tips of the wound open with his forceps until the false membrane and blood ceased to fill the orifice, and finally inserting the double canna and keeping the external air warm by means of flannel wrapped around the neck.

The habit of wearing glasses for short-sightedness is very injurious to the sight. When convex spectacles are really necessary, the glasses should be arranged for each eye in particular, as it is rare for one eye to have the same power of vision with the other. Spectacles of green glass ought never to be used.

One of the most remarkable cases in the annals of medicine occurred recently in Boston. A man, when driving his team, accidentally struck his eye with the end of his whiplash, causing the blood to flow freely. The next day the eye began to be very painful, and a surgeon was called, who applied leeches. The patient imprudently went out into the cold air, and the pain increased rapidly; he was soon seized with lock-jaw, and after much suffering he died.

Dr Morrill Wyman, of Cambridge, Mass., has been appointed adjunct Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in Harvard College.

Dr. J. M. Ward has been appointed Professor of Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children in the Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania. Dr. W. is well known for his professional abilities, and will make an efficient officer.

Sir Astley Cooper says that "the science of medicine is founded on conjecture, and improved by murder;" and Dr. Gregory says that medical doctrines are little better than stark-staring absurdities.

A humorous writer says that some doctors are unpopular because they do not choose to make chemists' shops of their patients' stomachs.

A movement is in progress in England towards the establishment of a British Institute of Homœopathy, to be conducted in such a manner as to give increased vitality to that school of medicine in that country and elsewhere. Efforts are also being made to found a tract society, for the wider dissemination of homœopathic principles.

The Sultan of Turkey has founded an hospital similar to that of Chelsea and the Invalides.

The Board of Health of Vienna have advised the municipal authorities of that city to license the sale of horse flesh in the butchers' stalls, to meet the scarcity of meat and provisions.

Dr. Mosche, a druggist in Hartford, Conn., fell from the window in the second story of his house, on the sidewalk, and was so injured as to die almost immediately.

The number of deaths in the city of Boston, in 1852, was 3,736; in 1853, 4,284, showing an increase of 548.

Dr. W. Channing, of Boston, in an article on hydrophobia, communicated to the *Medical and Surgical Journal*, expresses his belief that it is a disease by no means pertaining exclusively to warm or hot weather, but is caused by a morbid poison secreted by certain glands from constitutional morbid action, and which may be inserted into the human person by the teeth at any season. Dog-keeping, he says, ought to be rigidly regulated by law.

The mansion house of the original Job Sweet—a name immortalized by its connection with so many cases of successful bone-setting, in former times—is still to be seen near the village of Wakefield, R. I., an object of almost as much curiosity and veneration with some as that of Shakespeare or Sir Walter Scott.

The nerve from one tooth connects with the nerve to every tooth in either jaw. This is the reason the pain is so often felt on the opposite side from where the cause exists. Pain is often felt in the upper jaw when the cause exists in the lower.

The derangement of the heart's action, occasioned by the use of green tea and strong coffee, is well known. A case is mentioned of a gentleman who could, at any time, by taking a cup of coffee, produce palpitation and bleeding from the nose. But the most noxious luxury to the dyspeptic or nervous is tobacco, the essential oil poisoning by paralyzing the heart. A Mexican minister, some years since, summoned Dr. A. H. Stevens, of New York, to Washington, for supposed organic disease of the heart—a cure was performed by emptying his excellency's snuff-box.

The health of San Francisco may be judged by the fact, that according to the latest advices the number of interments for the previous fortnight was only 26, out of a population of 50,000. This is a remarkably small number, and speaks well for the salubrity of the climate and the health of the place.

Dr. E. L. Du Barry, late fleet surgeon of the United States East India squadron, died on board the ship Richard Allsop, within one day's sail of Anjier, July 12, after a long illness.

The hospitals at Demarara are now free from any case of fever, and the health of the place is said to be excellent.

Drs. C. C. Hannington and Geo. M. Bourne came passengers in the Northern Light, from California.

Microscopical examinations have been made of the matter deposited on the teeth and gums of many individuals, selected from all classes of society, in every variety of bodily condition, and in nearly every case animal and vegetable parasites in great numbers were discovered. The only persons whose mouths were found to be completely free from them, cleansed their teeth four times daily, using soap once. Pure white soap is the best article for cleansing the teeth

According to the last census, the following are the ratios of mortality in the different States, disregarding the ages at death:—New England States, 1 to 64; Middle States, with Ohio, 1 to 72; Central States, 1 to 73; coast planting States, 1 to 73; Northwestern States, 1 to 80—United States, total, 1 to 73. This is substantially the ratio stated by Noah Webster for interior towns in 1805. "The annual deaths," he observes, "amount only to one in seventy or seventy-five of the population."

The physicians of Washington county, Ga., who struck for higher fees some weeks ago, have struck their colors and returned to their former prices, their patients having resolved to "die by the old rates."

A distinguished scientific writer says that persons struck by lightning should not be given up for dead until at least three hours. During the first two hours they should be drenched freely with cold water, and if this fail to produce restoration, then add salt, and continue the drenching for another hour.

The papers state that Dr. Morton, of Boston, is now in Washington, endeavoring to secure the recognition by Congress of his claim to being the discoverer of etherization in surgical operations. It will be remembered that last year a grant of $100,000 was reported by the Senate committee in favor of Dr. M., but the thing fell through. We think it hardly possible for Congress to decide between Drs. Morton, Wells, Jackson, and others, in this matter.

The Fishing Business in Massachusetts.

The following tabular statements of the fisheries in Massachusetts, and the number of vessels employed in the fishing business, will be found interesting. The inspection of mackerel for the year 1853, as shown in the returns of the Inspector General, is as follows:—

	No. 1.	No 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	Total
Boston	11,891	6,975	8