ed to the performance of my duty when that important era shall arrive.

Sir, there has been a petition, which received the vote of every Whig member in the Senate last year, (every one but one certainly) to reject all territory with power to hold slaves. The party which calls itself the Northern Democracy, (and I may use the term as they have adopted it themselves,) adopted the policy to admit territory, to agitate the war for territory, to acquire all we could and then let it in, relying upon the principles of the Wilmot Proviso to keep slavery. The Southern portion of the party were for admitting territory. In one respect they agreed. They would let it in and have the contest for spoils after it was admitted. It should be settled afterwards whether it should be free or slave territory.

Allow me to say, sir, that I have not seen one intelligent man of the south who objects to the fair exercise of all the power of the north in preventing the further increase of slave representation in Congress. I do not know the man of my acquaintance who says to me that it is unreasonable in us, or that it is not to be expected from us, or that it may not be rightly performed by us. There is no one who can complain of the north for resisting the increase of slave representation, because it gives power to the minority in a manner inconsistent with the principles of our government. What is past, must stand; what is established must stand; and with the same firmness with which I shall resist every plan to augment the slave representation, or to bring the Constitution into any hazards by attempting to extend our dominions, shall I contend to allow existing rights to remain.

But there is one thing of which southern gentlemen do complain. They complain of this provision of the Wilmot Proviso, "because," they say, "it is unequal. You of the north can settle it, because you can go without slaves. We of the south cannot settle it, because we have slaves. It establishes a derogatory distinction and tends to establish an inequality." Let us consider the force of this argument. I am always happy to meet southern gentlemen of character, honor, talents, and ability upon this question. How is it with the privilege which they now have of a representation disproportioned to ours? They admit this to be an inequality, and if new territory is admitted, open to slavery, is not that plainly an augmentation of this inequality?

Now I am no prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet; but if I was to prophesy, I will say here that the last subject upon which I should venture a prediction we shall see the course which our friends, call of the Southern Democracy, will take upon this or any other subject. The predictions of the weather in the almanac will hit the truth just as well as I can. I hope that there are many men, and I believe there are, in the other party, that will help us. That is, when it comes to the vote, they will not vote to admit a state with slave representation. It seems to me that what occurred here at Worcester a few days ago, will shed a little light upon that subject. I do not understand that by that Convention, any purpose of adhering to the Wilmot Proviso was manifested. I understand, on the contrary, that the whole subject was scouted out of the deliberations of the assemble. And there are Loco Focoso Democratic members in Maine and New Hampshire. Is it quite certain that they will depart from the present administration and vote for the Wilmot Proviso?

Sir, I can only say, that, in my judgment, we are to use the first, and the last, and every occasion which occurs, in maintaining our sentiments against the extension of the slave power. I speak of it now here, as in my seat in Congress, as a political question—as a question for statesmen to discuss, and entertain, and act upon. I do not mean to say that the moral part of the question is less pertinent to what we have to do. Certainly, I do not mean to say that it is less important, or not vastly more important, in other points of view; but I speak of it thus, because this is the only point of view in which I, officially, have any thing to do with it. I am aware, sir, that I am going too much of this strain, and I hasten to end what I have to say by a few remarks.

If peace comes, it will bring with it some terms. This is a matter upon which all decision must be deferred until we can know what they are. But now suppose that no peace is made; that the armistice is broken off and the armies prepare for new combat. Our armies remain in the country or the city of Mexico, and that is the state of things when Congress next assemble. It is natural to ask what shall be there done? I would not anticipate what the exigency of the case may suggest. My opinion is clear, perfectly clear. I hold the war-making power to be given by the Constitution to Congress. I believe that Congress was surprised into the act of the 13th May, 1846. I believe that if the question had been put to Congress before the march of the armies and their actual conflict, not ten votes could have been obtained in either House for the war with Mexico, under the existing state of things.

The war exists. Suppose it to continue till the next meeting of Congress. What is the duty of a good citizen and a good Whig to do? Well, I say for one, that I suppose it to be true that the next House of Representatives in Congress may be composed of a Whig majority. I think we have had tones of denunciation from the North and the South, from the East and the West, sufficient to ensure us that result, although it will be a very great change. Suppose that to be the case. I say at once, unless the President of the United States shall make out a case, which shall show to Congress that the war prosecuted for no purpose of acquisition of dominion, for no purpose not connected directly with the safety of this Union, then *they ought not to grant any further supplies*. If we depart from that, if we say that on the propriety of a war, begun or to be begun, Congress has no voice, no constitutional power, we obliterate the Constitution.

What was done in the administration of Mr. Madison just before the close of the last war with England? He placed his terms for peace before Congress; I will not advert to them, but they were such as were strongly calculated to create this disposition in Congress; that, upon these terms, now offered, if Great Britain does not make peace, we will not vote to refuse supplies, but we will prosecute the war to the end. It so happened that Great Britain did make peace and we were not called upon to further supplies. Certainly it is essential to the liberty of a representative government that the representative bodies which have the power and the only power to make war, should hold a control over the objects for which war is prosecuted, and if they think that the war originated in the mischievous purpose which I have been discussing, it is their business, their solemn duty to put an end to it. That is my judgment.

I have as much respect for distinguished military achievements, I hope, as any man need to have. I honor those who, being called upon by the course of professional duty, to bear arms in the cause of their country, perform that duty well. I would not see any of their laurels withheld; but I am bound to say here, and even to them, that the solemn adjudication of the log of nations, and the sentiment of the world is, that a war waged for extensive conquest benumbs even the laurel of arms, and darkens, sadly darkens, it it does not blot, what would otherwise be a bright and glorious page in national history.

I am sorry, sir, to persons who may have been expected of me an interest which I am sincerely; but I say to the Whigs of Massachusetts, let be stand by our principles. There is hope, there is confidence, and there is trust, and we—every one who honestly and sincerely does his duty as a good citizen, in regard to public questions, will assuredly save himself, and may help to save the country. It is no moment for shrinking or faltering. It is no moment for going to extremes on the right or on the left. Let us stand on our established principles and opinions. Let us maintain our allegiance to the Constitution under which we live. Let us regard those great names that have gone before us, and have illustrated our principles in the administration of the government. We may not see our way out of the present crisis. We may be tossed on an ocean where we cannot discern the land, where we cannot even discern the sun. What then is our duty? Let us study our chart, and let us obey the compass: that chart is the Constitution of the country; that compass is an honest, single idea, and purpose to preserve the institutions, the liberty, and the independence, with which God has blessed us.

Free Press,

BURLINGTON, Vt.

FRIDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 15, 1847.

"IN THE DARK AND TROUBLED NIGHT THAT IS UPON US, THERE IS NO STAR ABOVE THE HORIZON TO GIVE US A GLEAM OF LIGHT, EXCEPTING THE INTELLIGENT, PATRIOTIC WHIG PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES."—*Daniel Webster.*

Mr. Powers and his Greek Slave.

We are indebted to the kindness of a friend in New York for the subjoined notice of the Greek Slave of POWERS. It evinces a genuine appreciation both of the philosophy of Art, and of that rare and beautiful development of it which has given unrivalled renown to one of our own Green Mountain Boys. Since the death of THORWALDSEN, POWERS has occupied the foremost place among modern Sculptors; and it was that great Master who said, on looking at POWERS' bust of WEBSTER, "*I cannot make such busts!*" We pretend to be no connoisseur in matters of Art, but we yield not even to the accomplished critic, in the warmth of our admiration and our respect, for the genius that gives to Poetry and Harmony, human and divine, "a local habitation and a name." POWERS is a Vermonter; and we have a right to superadd to the admiration for his wonderful genius which we share with the whole civilized world, the feeling of *State*-pride which this fact is calculated to awaken. And we are glad to be able to say that no son of Vermont feels a deeper reverence for the heroic deeds of the stubborn and faithful upholders of her early independence—of her ALLENS, her WARNERS, her STARKS, and her CHITTENDENS—and no one knows her History better, than HIRAM POWERS.

We have heretofore, on more occasions than one, alluded to the measures that have been taken by our Legislature, to secure the services of POWERS to execute Statues of ALLEN and CHITTENDEN to be placed in the niches designed for such a purpose, in our noble State House. The Legislature, as the exponent of the popular character and will, could devise no more appropriate method of acknowledging and patronising consummate native Genius, and, at the same time, of testifying a grateful remembrance of the labors and sacrifices, the indomitable energy and perseverance, of native Patriotism. We are most happy in being able to say that the excellent Committee appointed by Governor EATON, (Messrs. GEO. P. MARSH and Gov. PAINE,) to confer with POWERS with reference to the statues named, are prepared to submit their Report during the present session. We understand that the correspondence between the Committee and the Artist will be laid before the Legislature, and we do not allow ourselves to doubt that that body will be prepared to engage the services of the gifted Sculptor in a work that will, when completed, reflect no less credit upon the munificence of our State, than upon the already exalted reputation of the Artist. We shall lay the Report of the Committee before our readers as soon as it is made public; as, we trust, will all our contemporaries of the Press throughout the State.

We subjoin the *critique* alluded to of our intelligent correspondent, from whom we shall always be glad to hear:

POWERS' STATUE OF THE GREEK SLAVE.

The statue of the Greek Slave represents a female in the first bud of womanhood, exposed for sale, for the most unspeakable of purposes, in the Market of Constantinople. The cross depending from the folds of her discarded robe shows that she has been plundered from a Christian family; and her whole person gives every indication that she has been reared with the tenderest delicacy and tenderness. The winds of heaven have not been suffered to visit her too roughly; indeed one would think from the exceptionless perfection of all her form and features, that not even a dream of pain or sin had ever infested the "impollluted temple." That her loveliness may excite its fullest influence upon the passions at the beaded throng around her, she is utterly disrobed, and stands before them in the undisguised "perfection of her beauty."

Her right knee is slightly bended, and her right hand rests upon the pot over which she throws her coarse mantle, and her unveiled Grecian cap. "Beautiful exceedingly!" she stands there; worthy, you would say, to be the mother of another family of Grecian Sages, and through her sons, for another twenty centuries, to give Law and Lacedaemon to the World. But alas! one glance at her averted face (for how can she confront the pitiless barbarity of a Turkish mob?) reveals the bottomless misery into which she has been plunged, and sublimes all the exultation that had been embodied by the "comely proportions" of her goddess-like form.

Art is expended in vain upon those cities who find no character or appropriateness in this most expressive face. "*Sun apage! hand tibi opus.*" The features are indeed characteless, in the same sense in which Coleridge affirms it to be the perfection of woman herself to be characteless. That disproportion and deformity of character; that haughty scorn and masculine pride of strength, with which women are sometimes invested in bad books, to stimulate and pamper a vicious taste, will be sought here in vain. Not indeed that the most feminine gentleness is incompatible with the highest sublimity of heroism. Upon occasions fitted to call it forth, the most delicate female will sometimes show a superiority to circumstances which the element of the mariner sea might envy; and will, with a fortitude that modesty cannot imitate, to form, if need were, and the martyrdom of fire. But to the Greek Slave nothing is left by which even death can be made honor. The spirit which should animate her sex, may in itself wounded—may, utterly broken. Nothing remains for her lot to drink the dregs that Lust and Cruelty have mingled in her cup, and course shed to her lips.

To denounce the manner of a maiden circumstanced thus, so as to convey an impression faithful to Nature and to dramatic propriety, was a most difficult task. And it is safe to say the character of the piece upon the manner in which this task has been performed. After repeated visits and long and earnest contemplations of it, the mind is filled with an deep conviction of the Artist's consummate skill, as the judgment and more than judgment ("He builded better than he knew") that has moulded its features to imitate so feelingly the delicateness of extinguished hope. Here, any affectation of pride or scorn would have been absurdly out of place. She is a woman, and she cannot "defy the storm." Hardly less unnatural would have been any exaltation of tumultuous feeling. Passion and Emotion is speak a more fathomable depth of misery than is appropriate to this condition or this style of womanhood. Here is an extremity of wretchedness which not only precludes emotion, but almost overpowers the sense; as if the terrible consciousness had well nigh subdued even consciousness itself. Her desolation is not only "too deep for tears," but almost for thoughts; and she is calm from the very intensity of her woe. Nor does the stricken expression of the face alone, reveal the condition of the spirit; one at last discerns a sympathy with it in the very bend of the neck, and the half-nerveless posture of all the body; everything conspiring to testify how crushing is the merciless necessity under which she sinks.

But this view of the subject is too painful to dwell upon. Considered with reference merely to its artistic excellence, this noble piece of work is interesting to the thoughtful spectator as affording at one view a two-fold proof of the divine relationships of man. First by its reflection upon the Artist; then by its influence upon the beholders. Busy, bustling men, stealing a moment from the din of commerce, and even hard-handed rustics, who have scarcely been told that there is such a thing as Art, stand there with uncovered head, as silent and respectful as if it were profane to indulge a common familiarity in so beautiful a presence. This effect is not limited to any class or kind of men. No clod-pole so dull as to be incapable of the influence; no barbarian so rude as to dare to disregard it. As the magnet in contact with the commonest iron developes or communicates a property by which it is itself attracted for the time, even so does this work of Art, serve temporarily to awaken in the roughest breast the faculty by which its own excellence may be appreciated. Only, now and then (as if to prove the rule by the seeming exception to it) do a dandy and dandyess, their souls long since exparigated by corsets and affectation, diddle in complacently, to giggle and gabble for a few vapid moments, and then—diddle complacently out again.

But enough of this. There are those, we know, to whom neither the "Greek Slave" nor the Paradise Lost "proves any thing;" and who must conceive that life ill-spent which is consumed in the production of either. But those who properly know the intimate connection between all the works of the Genial Soul and the highest development and well-being of man; who are well emancipated from the vulgar and degrading estimate of *utility* which infests the present age; who discern (in a word) that to elevate man spiritually is more noble and more "practical" than to fatten his flesh, will hail the name of HIRAM POWERS, as of one among the real benefactors of the present generation. And surely no son of the Green Mountain State, as his eye at last falls upon the modest and half-concealed "*sculpsit*" upon the pedestal, can fail of a thrill of proud delight as he remembers that the gifted Artist is not only an American, but a native of VERMONT.

S. M. C.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

State Agricultural Society.

Our readers will see, by a notice in our columns to day, that an effort is to be made forthwith to organize a State Agricultural Society for Vermont. Our only surprise is that it has not been done before. There is no State in the Union whose highest physical interest is more emphatically Agricultural than ours, nor, when we compare advantages of soil and climate, whose various and excellent productions more fully evince industry and enterprise in the Cultivators of the earth. Vermont owes it to herself, in an eminent degree, to establish a Society or an Association where *State* interests and *State* sympathies may be more generously cultivated and displayed. We rejoice to welcome this decided step towards the establishment of such a Society. The gentlemen whose names are appended to the Call in another column are widely known as intelligent, practical, and zealous Agriculturists; and under their management we confidently predict an auspicious commencement of the "State Agricultural Society." Our contemporaries of the Press will, we are sure, cordially aid the praiseworthy movement, and we hope to hear of a large gathering of "the bone and sinew" of the Green Mountain State, at Montpelier, on the 27th instant.

Notice of Burlington.

A good natured Correspondent of the Windsor Chronicle thus speaks of our Village and its fixings. We really hope our Congregational friends will see to it that their beautiful Church edifice is not kept, much longer, "scudding under *bare poles*."

[Correspondence of the Vermont Chronicle.]

BURLINGTON, Sept. 30, 1847.

Burlington seems to be increasing and growing quite rapidly for this northern country. In every part of the town the busy hum of the mechanic is heard, and buildings are in progress of erection on every side, most of them of brick—good, substantial dwellings. The Hotels are enlarged and improving, and the stores are assuming a very city-like appearance. The Drug Stores are beautiful, supposed by the city scores. Our Jewelry Store, kept by the Messrs. Boardman, three brothers, whose father opened his shop here when this part of the State was a wilderness, has a "NE PLUS ULTRA" assortment. In short, the place seems to be preparing and prepared for the increased business which the completion of the two railroads to Boston will undoubtedly point toward it. The Docks at the Lake for the Central Rail Road are building, under the direction of the contractor, Mr. Harry Bradley; and the grounds are preparing for the Southern Road Depot, under the direction of Messrs. Stuart, Chamberlain & Co.

The subject of uniting the two Colleges, Middlebury and Burlington, is not yet settled. For the interested collegiate education, and education generally, it is hoped that a union may be formed.

Prof. Geo. W. Benedict takes charge of the Magnetic Telegraph, which is soon to give us "lightning news," via Albany and Troy and on to Montreal.

A "*long pull*" subscription to the amount of $50,000 has been made to the University here, which is expected to continue on to amount of $100,000. Renewed efforts will soon be made to complete it.

The County Agricultural Fair was held here the 22d and 23d inst., and drew together a large concourse of farmers and other citizens, with a very creditable display of agricultural wares and implements, vegetables, Fruits, Flowers, Animals, Butter, Cheese, and other articles from the farms and workshops, and from the busy housewife's stores.

Although much was done, more, very much more, could have been shown and performed in Chittenden County, to make the Fair interesting and all more worthy of the notice. Mr. Guy delivered an interesting address on the festival day of the Fair.

We had nearly forgotten to mention that Mr. J. S. Pierce, of Burlington, who has taken so many medals, diplomas, and premiums, at various Fairs of the American Institute, New York, for carpets, silk, &c., exhibited one pack of carpets, a sample of 27 bushels, 24 pocket handkerchiefs, 43 yards of silk, all very fine and worthy of high commendation; also sewing silk, silk stockings, &c.; and she was dressed, we hear, in silk entirely of her own manufacture. Miss Weaver and Miss Chamberlin received diplomas for bed-quilts. Miss Stanton for stockings, Miss Collins for shirts, Mrs Wood a premium for work bags, Miss Adeline Thompson, daughter of Mr. Zadock Thompson, for beautiful paintings of "Lamb Foraging," and "A Peach from Nature." A great variety of premiums were awarded to other Ladies, too many to particularize.

Winooski Falls, near by, is also making quite a healthy growth. The extensive Woolen Manufactory, owned by Boston and Burlington capitalists, is under full and successful operation. Specimens of its beautiful cloth, in a great variety of kinds, were exhibited at the Fair, exciting much commendation. New, rich, beautiful styles are turned out here from week to week. Every domestic style which takes in market, is quickly got up, and shipped off with great rapidity. The Cotton and other mills are doing a good business; and here, as at the village of Burlington, buildings are springing up on every side. The Central Railroad passes through Winooski Village, and crosses the river below it.

The Church Edifices here are good. The Methodists have a good brick house; the Baptists a still better one, very neatly finished inside; the Episcopal house is a good stone building, not in very good taste, and needs repainting; the Catholics have a very nice looking brick house; the Universalists a very fine and well-built one, nicely finished, and the grounds in good order; but the Congregational house is the best and handsomest in town. It was planned and built under the direction of Mr. H. Searle, an architect formerly of this place, now of Rochester, N. Y. This building is a very fine looking one inside; the pews and seats are all finished and cushioned alike; the aisles and aisle to the pulpit are of the same carpet. The columns back of the pulpit are and dark and in other parts of the house have beautiful ornamental capitals, and the whole is finished in a style highly creditable to the architect and the Society. Finished? did I say? No. There is a *bare pole* sticking upon top of the centre of the roof of the cupola, which shows that there is something intended by the architect to be added.

The Female Seminary under the care of Rev. J. K. Converse, has about as many young ladies as is desirable. Miss Fleming has nearly as many as she will take, the number being very limited. Her school will, we trust, be opened in time for the reception of many more pupils who desire to attend.—The Academy kept by Mr. Chaney, a brother of Prof. Chaney, and a school by Mr. J. T. Beaubier, are good schools in the higher departments. There are numerous good private schools; beside in most districts two good district schools kept most of the year, with very little more than the usual vacations of private schools.

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☞ We invite the attention of Teachers, and those interested in promoting the cause of Education to the important notice of Mr. PARSELLES, our County Superintendent. We hope the Institute will be resorted to by all who regard Teaching in its true light, as an employment of the most elevated and responsible character.

MR. EDITOR:—In reading the report of the Secretary of the "Chittenden County Agricultural Society," published in your paper of the first inst., I was not a little surprised at the comments of the secretary, under the head of "Secretary's statement," upon the minority report made by me as one of the committee appointed to award premiums on horses. In making that report, I discharged an imperative duty, and I did not then, nor do I now, believe that the making of a minority report was out of order. The committee on horses were divided in opinions. M. Warner was in favor of giving the first premium to "*Sir Henry*," while I was of the opinion that it should be awarded to Whitcomb, "Morgan." Under this state of the case Mr. Woodward, the other member of the committee had the casting vote, and before he expressed his opinion, Mr. Warner remarked that if Mr. Woodward, should agree with me he, Mr. Warner, would make a minority report in favor of "Sir Henry." I stated in reply, that if Mr. Woodward, coincided with Mr. Warner, I would make a minority report in favor of the "Morgan" horse. This conversation with Mr. Warner, and myself was in the presence of Mr. Woodward, at the American Hotel, after the majority of the committee had agreed to award the first premium to Sir Henry. I made my minority report, which was presented to the society on the second day of the fair, by Mr. Maynard, *at my request*, for the reason that I could not be present myself on that day.

I state these facts, as the "Secretary's statement" seems to imply that I was wrong in making a minority report, and that a further wrong was committed in the introduction of the report by the gentleman to whom I entrusted it.

That it was perfectly in order and in accordance with the usages of all deliberative bodies, to make a minority report in such case, I have not the least doubt. Had the Board of managers adopted a rule that no minority report should be received, then the Secretary's assertion that my report was not in order would rest upon good authority; but in the absence of any such rule it is an assertion at war with all precedents and all rules governing bodies before whom business is brought through the action of their committees. The truth is, Mr. Editor, that the only thing out of order in this matter, in my opinion, is the "Secretary's statement." The duty of the Secretary was to read reports of the several Committees under the direction of the President and to report such matters only as the President or the Board of Manager approved, and this is the first instance that has ever come under my observation where the Secretary of any society has ever attempted, in his official report, to recommend a committee man for being out of order, or the President of the society for making a wrong decision on a question of order. I have examined several reports of Agricultural Societies, though not quite so many as the secretary enumerates (viz, one hundred eighty-eight reports and two hundred thirty-eight abstracts of reports!) but I have been unable to find any precedent for the "Secretary's statement." If Mr. Goodrich in his private capacity wishes to express an opinion by publication, or otherwise, that I, or any other committeeman have no right to make a minority report, or that the President of the Society made a wrong decision on a question of order, you will not find me troubling myself to controvert his opinions. But when as *Secretary of the Society*, he forgets his duty, as such secretary, and incorporates into his official report, matters that, as a recording officer, he has no right to put there, I shall always insist that such matters ought to be expunged from the record, by order of the Board of Managers, lest his evil example grow into a precedent tending to lead astray.

FREDERICK FLETCHER.

Shelburn, 11th Oct. 1847.

It is a matter of surprise to many, we learn, that Mr. Fletcher's name did not appear at the bottom of the majority "Report on Horses," presented at the last Fair of our County Society, it being apparent from the minority report that he dissented from the opinion of his associates *only* in relation to the *first premium*. We learn from *good authority* that each of the Committee supposed Mr. F's name was to be attached to the majority report, as a matter of course, and that it was so attached, in the manuscript, and that neither of them understand for what reason, or by what mistake or misapprehension it did not appear in print.

We make this statement because many are of the opinion that the minority report implied Mr. F's entire dissent from *all* the awards, which is not true. All the premiums, we are *assured*, were awarded unanimously, excepting the one referred to in the minority report.

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Boston Correspondence of the Free Press.

BOSTON, Sept. 25, 1847—Saturday morning.

Having in my last given you a brief sketch of the proceedings of the Association of Geologists and Naturalists during the first three days of their session, I now proceed to fulfil my promise of some account of the subsequent doings.

The first paper before the Association on Thursday morning was on the Mastodon, by Dr. J. C. Warren, of Boston. He gave a succinct history of the different skeletons of that animal which had hitherto been found, pointed out the resemblances and differences between the Mastodon and Elephant, and illustrated his remarks by reference to the large cranium, jaws and other portions of a skeleton of the Mastodon, which he exhibited before the Association. The skeleton belonging to Dr. W. was found at Newburgh, N. Y., in 1845. Dr. W. supposes the Mastodon to have been extinct as a living species at least one thousand years.

The next paper was on the Laws of Cohesive Attraction, by Prof. Dana, of New Haven, Conn. He regarded solidification and crystallization as identical, and also the laws of solidification and the laws of cohesive attraction; and each species of matter he supposed to have its characteristic crystallization. From these principles he deduced a great number of inferences too many to be inserted here. Following this paper was a letter from Mr. Bond, superintendent of the Cambridge Observatory, stating that the great nebula of Orion, which had hitherto defied the powers of the best telescopes in the world, was resolved, by the new Cambridge instrument, into innumerable bright points, or stars. The reading of the interesting letter of Mr. Bond was followed by a paper on the Nebular Hypothesis, by Prof. Pierce, also of Cambridge University. He regarded that this hypothesis rested on the tripod of geology, astronomy and mechanics. Nebulae are of two kinds, one irregular and ill-defined, and the other regularly rounded and well defined. The former have been regarded as resolvable into stars, and the latter as not resolvable. These last have been regarded as made up of nebulous matter, and they have formed the stronghold of the nebular theory. But since these planetary nebulae have already, in several cases, been resolved, there remains no existing proof that any of them consist of elastic nebulous matter. He considered the arguments in favor of the hypothesis at considerable length, and, after showing their unsoundness, expressed his opinion that it was not at all calculated to advance the science of Astronomy. The forenoon session was closed by a paper on a new species of Orang, by Dr. Wyman, of Boston. It is found in western Africa, whence skeletons of it were sent to this country by Dr. Savage. Dr. W. exhibited portions of the skeleton of this and of the Chimpanze, or common Orang, and showed them to be specifically different.

The principal papers in the afternoon were, one on the Geographical Distribution of Animals along the coast of N. England, by Prof. Agassiz, and one on the Cypress of Mississippi and Louisiana, by Dr. Dickerson. With regard to the distribution of animals, Prof. Agassiz believed them to have been generally created for the localities in which they are found—that with the exception of man and a few animals which migrate with him, none have, to any great extent, changed their localities—that when the same species, as certain fishes which are found in the head waters of the Danube, the Rhone, the Rhine, and the mountain streams of Scotland and Norway, and not in the lower water, he supposes that they have not migrated or been transported from one of these localities to another, but were in each case created in the waters in which they are found. He stated that the results of the U. S. Exploring Expedition had shown that almost every group of islands in the Pacific Ocean had a distinct fauna of its own, which must have been created for its particular locality. Prof. Adams followed with some interesting remarks on the distribution of animals, describing cases which he witnessed in the West Indies, of species of shells occupying distinct horizons, one above and adjacent to another, with the line of demarkation distinct between the species and with hardly any intermingling of the species with each other.

The evening session was occupied with a Report on the Fishes of Winnepisogee Lake, by Dr. Prescott, and by a verbal report on Cayenne Connections, by Prof. Adams, in illustration of which he exhibited some twelve hundred specimens of cloystones, collected in Vermont during the Geological Survey.

On Friday, the 24th, several very interesting papers were read before the Association. The first was on the Natchez Bluff Formation, by Dr. N. D. Gale, which was followed by some interesting remarks on the Transporting Power of Currents of Water, by Prof. W. B. Rogers and Prof. Agassiz. The second paper was on the Absorption of Carbonic Acid by Different Liquids, by Prof. Rogers. Among other curious facts it was stated that sulphuric acid absorbed carbonic acid, volume for volume, very nearly. The next paper was on the Languages of the Aborigines of the South-west, by Mr. Haldeman, and the next following was on the Mounds of the South-west, by Dr. Dickerson. These papers detailed a great many interesting facts, but for which I have no room in this communication.

The fifth paper presented this day was on the Fossils of the Lower Strata of the New York Rocks, by Prof. Hall. These rocks are the same which form most of the shores and islands of Lake Champlain, and since I have devoted most of the summer to an examination of them, the subject was to me one of deep interest. Prof. H. showed conclusively that European types can no longer be made the basis of classification of American fossils. Prof. Agassiz remarked that the less disturbed condition of the strata in America rendered this country more favorable for observation than Europe, and he was glad to see so good a beginning, as Prof. H. had made, in establishing American fossils on a foundation independent of European authority.

The next paper was by Cont. Wilkes, on the Depth and Saltness of the Ocean. He stated that soundings had been made to the depth of 4600 fathoms without reaching bottom—that the difficulties of deep soundings were such that very little had been done towards ascertaining the actual depth of the ocean. He concluded from his own observations that the great value of the sea ran at right angles with the great continents on the continents. The Commander also stated that numerous observations were made by the Exploring Expedition, to ascertain the depth to which the solar light penetrated the ocean, in different parts of the world. This paper led to remarks by Prof. Henry, Prof. Agassiz and Prof. Silliman. Prof. Agassiz spoke in the highest terms of the works of the Exploring Expedition, and pronounced the pencils and crayons, which had been laid before the Association by Cont. Wilkes as specimens, to be the most perfect he had ever seen, and that they were an honor to all concerned in their production. Prof. Silliman deeply deplored that the Government were disposed to publish so small an edition of the results of the Exploring Expedition. He regarded it as a national calamity, and hoped for the honor of America and the advancement of science the world over, they might be induced so to enlarge the edition as to place it in the reach of every searcher after truth. Subsequently, I think, a committee was appointed by the Association to employ its influence in procuring an enlargement of the edition.

When I entered the meeting in the afternoon, Prof. Henry had nearly completed the reading of his paper on Heat, in which I am informed he gave an account of a great number of exceedingly interesting and wonderful experiments. After the reading of this paper, a vote was passed to extend the sphere of the Association so as to embrace all branches of science, and to change its name to that of AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE.

The next subject brought before the Association was that of the Taconic System, by Prof. Adams. This system embraces a group of rock lying between the Green Mountains on the East and Lake Champlain and the eastern margin of New York on the West, and takes its name from Taconic mountain in the western part of Berkshire County, Mass. Prof. Emmons regards these rocks as forming a system of palaeozoic rocks, which is older than the Champlain group, the lowest member of which is the Potsdam sandstone. Others regard them as a more recent formation. Prof. Adams exhibited an actual section of Sinake mountain, in which several members of the Champlain rocks are well exposed in the ascending series up the Hudson River slates. These slates are then much crushed and broken to pieces for a little distance, so as to conceal that which is in place, and then comes a limestone containing fossils, and resting upon that, in contact, is the red sandstone which Prof. E. regards as either the calciferous sandrock or Potsdam sandstone of the New York system. As this section, by exhibiting the sandstone apparently overlying the Champlain group, seemed to be in at to the hypothesis of Prof. E., he endeavored to make it appear that there was a fault between the upper Champlain rocks and the sandstone, which had been overlooked by Prof. A., and that the sandrock which was highest in the section had been thrown up from below, and that the slate upon which it rested was not of the Hudson River group, but the black slate of the Taconic system. A report from Mr. Vanuxem, in support of the Taconic system, was then read, which was followed by a paper by Mr. Haldeman, showing that the fossil, *Atops Trilineatus* and *Trianthus Beckii*, which some have regarded as identical, are not so.

The evening session of Friday was principally devoted to a consideration of the Phenomena of Drift. After the exhibition of a quantity of pure white sand, which is found in abundance in Berkshire County, Mass., and a beautiful glass vase made from it, Mr. Deane read a paper upon the Phenomena of Drift and Glacial Action in New England, in which he stated that the summit of Mount Washington in New Hampshire was the only spot in which this action was not shown by the rounded pebbles and the scratched and striated surfaces of the rocks, and this summit, like the higher portions of the Alps, he supposed to have been above the region of glaciers in the glacial period.

This paper was followed by another on the same subject, by Prof. H. D. Rogers, in which he endeavored to account for the phenomena of Drift, by referring to a paroxysmal surging of the ancient sea which swept along the drift materials. This paper occasioned considerable discussion among the members of the Association, in which Prof. Agassiz remarked, that in support of the glacial theory, he could show the glaciers in Switzerland *now* producing the same drift phenomena, which are exhibited in this country, and he would call upon the opposers of this theory to produce an argument equally strong in favor of their own. This, however, was not attempted.

At the opening of the session Saturday morning, Prof. Johnson made some remarks on the construction of Geological Sections, and read a report on the incrustations of Steam Boilers. He was followed by Comte Pourtales, who read a paper on the structure of the *Holothuridae*, exhibiting specimens and describing a new species.

Prof. Emmons read a paper on the Distribution of Inorganic Matter in Forest and Fruit Trees. He showed that the inorganic matter tends to the surface by an upward and outward movement.

This being the final session, a large number of matters were called up, which I shall not attempt to particularize in their order. Prof. H. D. Rogers exhibited a geological map of Pennsylvania. Mr. Haldeman announced the discovery of a species of Asoia in the Trenton limestone. Prof. Hall reported on the Trilobites, Crinoidea, &c. in New York, and, in opposition to the views of Mr. Haldeman, he regarded the *Atops Trilineatus* and *Trianthus Beckii* as identical. Prof. H. D. Rogers offered some remarks on the geological age of the rocks in Maine; and the business of the session was closed by a paper on the Organization and Objects of the Smithsonian Institution by Prof. Henry. He sketched the biography of Smithson, from which it appeared that he was born in England in 1765, died at Genoa in 1829, leaving $500,000 to the United States of America, to found an institution at Washington, for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.

The business of the session being closed, the President, Prof. W. B. Rogers, after an eloquent and appropriate address, in which he offered a merited tribute of respect to his lamented predecessor, the late Dr. Binney, he adjourned the Association to meet in Philadelphia in September, 1848.

Thus closed one of the most interesting meetings for scientific objects which I have ever attended, and had I time and space I could say much upon the benefits which the cause of science must receive from meetings of this kind. Here the laborers in the field of science are brought together, are aided by the labors and experience of each other—stimulated, encouraged, and then separate as brethren—return to their work, enabled to bring with them to their next annual meeting a still more abundant harvest from their toils.

T.

New York Locofoco State Convention.

The end of the gathering at Syracuse appears to have been worthy of its beginning and its progress. We copy from the Albany Evening Journal a letter vividly describing the final scenes in a political body convened for the high purpose of selecting candidates for the choice of the people. What a contrast with the grieving and harmony and decorum of Whig meetings for the same purpose.

SYRACUSE, Oct. 3.

The long convention is dissolved. There was no adjournment, but at a quarter before two (the Sunday morning), its dissolution took place, amidst more confusion and more than ever before appeared in a political or any other convention out of the New York 6th or the Albany City ward, famous in the history of the proceedings of this city union.

The exhaustion of the gathering storm, which, for four days, have been constantly increasing, gave evidence long before it occurred, that it would not be so quiet. Personal bickerings—gross wrongs to individuals concerning some—packed committees—or, as John Van Buren said, "not committees packed by the honorable chairman, but *most unfortunately constituted*"—whose action seemed partially but the result of a foregone conclusion—a tired determination, and the successful carrying out of that determination, to confer every office, for no reason that I can see, on members of the convention last week, have been identified with their party, and fought its battles so long and so well, and those who thus considered themselves a first expression which, in the expressive language of one of the members, made in my hearing, had "knocked the wind out of the party."

Immediately on the assembling of the convention will I can, and I will give you a sketch of it, Mr. J. C. Smith, of Wayne, introduced a very strong and comprehensive resolution, which, in every sense, was a very fine production. "Well, gentlemen," said he, "I think we have now the dignity and equality of labor, and the duty of Northern and Southern democrats and democrats of all seasons."

An attempt was made by Mr. Beardsley, of New York, the chairman of the second and Hunkers, to introduce a resolution in favor of Mr. Calhoun and the interests, to say the least, resolutions on the public writings of Mr. Calhoun, but the attempt failed, which Mr. Smith had anticipated, and had spoken in his preamble and resolution against the proposition of Mr. Beardsley.

The other resolutions were then made, and at about 10 o'clock of Saturday night, the committee on resolutions, reported by Mr. Tappan, of Oneida, (Hunker, of course,) reported. The reading of the address was dispensed with, on the assurance by the writer, who was at the moment absent, was informed of the contents of the resolutions, that it contained nothing offensive to either side. The resolutions were read, and a motion made that each of them and resolutions be adopted. The first resolution, which was unanimous, that the "Wilmot" proviso, of Mr. Smith, being on the table, be added to those reported by the committee. After various incidental attempts on the part of the minority to prevent any discussion of the resolutions, Mr. D. D. Field, of New York, finally got the floor, and in a strain of argument and eloquence which should have mantled with shame the cheeks of Northern men, and especially those who dare place their name upon, as you noted in the resolutions, supported the motion.

The scene which ensued was exciting and boisterous beyond description. At least a dozen different members were calling "Mr. President, I move you," "I call the gentleman to order," "Sit down," "Go it Preston," "I move to adjourn," "Hurrah," "Hit him again," with shrill whistling, and groans, and groans, and every conceivable noise which was ever heard in an assembly of excited, angry and disorganized men. The president's hammer kept its incessant rapping in vain. In vain did he attempt to restore order. The wind had been a-sowing and now, at half past one o'clock Sunday morning, the whirlwind was reaping in all its wild and unmanageable fury.

Amid this scene of confusion and fury—for a general order seemed impossible—the tall form of the Attorney General—a head and shoulders above any other—was seen in the midst of it, and addressing the chair in that humorous tone and manner for which he is so famous—"Mr. President, shall I preserve order? I am afraid there is to be a row here; we shall all be hulled." He created a general burst of merriment from a part of the house. The eyes and ears were demanded on every question presented. Decisions of the chair were appealed from; amendments were piled upon each other until "most beautiful confusion" everywhere prevailed.

The previous question was finally sprung by the convention, (or what was left of it,) and thus the Wilmot" amendments were cut off by a doubtful-dead majority. Thus ends the question received on the address and resolutions of the committee, and the eyes and ears were demanded on another. Two "long pulls" were in progress when their results were called, except Peter Cagger and another, who voted "No." and Mr. Carter and Condressing, who respected the authority and Mr. Dorcelle, who qualified his "aye."—Mr. Cambreling declared voting on address he had never heard such, and as for the resolutions, he liked Dr. Brandreth (one of the committee) well enough, but he" *could not swallow his pills*."

The *finale* was worthy of the Rounder