ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER

SIC SEMPER TYRANNIS

PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN

ALEXANDRIA:

FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 1, 1858.

☞ A NEW YEAR opens upon us to-day. We tender our readers the compliments of the season, and heartily wish them all, health, happiness, and prosperity!

The old GAZETTE commences to-day its fifty-ninth volume. We are thankful for the measure of favor that it enjoys, and not the less so, that we are conscious of striving, with industry and perseverance, to merit all that we obtain.

For the future, we can only promise renewed efforts to furnish our subscribers with a journal in which they can place confidence, and which will lay before them the news, literature, and politics of the times, in an acceptable form. We shall spare no labor, pains, nor expense, to accomplish this result.

Speaking of the recent course of Com. Paulding, in breaking up Walker's expedition against a neighboring state, the National Intelligencer says:—"There are considerations of public propriety and equity which will suffice to shield him (Com. P.) in the eyes of his countrymen and of his Government from all imputation of blame for the responsibility he has assumed in the matter.—Even should it appear that he has transcended the *letter* of his instructions, it is difficult to conceive that he has violated their *spirit*, if the latter, as is to be presumed, was kindred to that which animated the late Message of President Buchanan in his allusions to this subject."

The New York Journal of Commerce, in an article on the same subject, says:—"It is high time that all fillibusters, and all who sympathise and encourage their lawless proceedings, should know that the masses of the American people are opposed to them, and consider their movements dishonest in principle and directly subversive of progress and civilization; and that the Government will not permit the law to be violated, their policy thwarted and their friendly relations with other nations disturbed, whenever it may please some reckless adventurer to "expatriate" himself for the purpose of seizing what does not belong to him, or of forcing freedom and civilization down the throats of other people."

The Philadelphia American says:—"Commodore Paulding's act is not without precedent. Commodore Porter invaded Spanish territory to suppress a horde of pirates really little worse than Walker's. General Jackson pursued hostile Indians into the limits of a foreign colony. Both were blamed on formal grounds; Porter was most unjustly punished, but both had the hearty approval of the country. So has Paulding. With the points of analogy, however, there are also marked points of difference. The party objecting to Commodore Porter's landing was the government whose territory he technically violated. No such complaint can be apprehended from Central America; but, on the contrary, the hearty thanks of the Walker-haunted country may reasonably be counted on."

The public reception of the President of the United States on New Year's day (this day) will commence at 12 o'clock, at which hour, in conformity with police arrangements, the gates of the enclosure will be opened. The reception will terminate at 2 o'clock precisely.

The reception for the Foreign Ministers, the members of their respective legations, and the ladies of their families, will take place at 11 A. M.

The report of the committee appointed to make an investigation of the affairs of the Massachusetts Middlesex Manufacturing Co., shows that heavy losses have been sustained, the finances badly managed, and a breach of trust committed by the treasurer. The report also says that Lawrence, Stone & Co., of Boston, are debtors to the company to the amount of $227,000, and that to aid in securing the passage of the revised tariff act by Congress last summer the company paid *eighty-seven thousand dollars*!! Here is another field open for inquiry. There must have been an immense "corruption fund" applied in the last Congress. Is it likely to diminish?

On the 21st December Acting Governor Denver issued an Address to the people of Kansas, counselling peace and moderation, and exhorting them to vote peaceably on the constitution question. It will be seen, however, by the telegraphic dispatches, if they are true, that civil war is actually raging in the distracted territory, and that the subject of voting on the constitution has precipitated a resort to arms and the shedding of blood.

The recent speech of John Van Buren, at a Tammany Hall meeting in New York, in which he reviews and censures Judge Douglas, is received by some of the Democratic papers with much favor. The Fredericksburg Herald says, "it is *rich*, beyond precedent, to see John Van Buren reading the "Little Giant" out of the Democratic party."

The schooner A. Canalle reports the wreck of the United States supply schooner Cobb, at Abaco Point, on the 13th December.—The vessel and cargo are a total loss, but the officers and crew were saved and have arrived here at Mobile.

Hiram Paulding comes honestly by his skill in arresting unlawful expeditions. His grand-father was that celebrated John Paulding, the Peekskill farmer, who was one of the three captors of Major Andre.

The farm belonging to the estate of the late Wm. Tompkins, of Spotsylvania county, containing 350 acres, was sold at public sale on the 22d ult., to Mr. Claudius Tompkins at $3 50 per acre.

An "oyster opener" has been invented, "by which the upper shell is separated with ease, the oyster preserved unmutilated, and the liquor saved."

M. A. Thomas de Gamond, a well known French engineer, has published a quarto volume, treating of the project for constructing a Tunnel between England and France. The idea was brought under the attention of the Emperor some time since, and a committee formed to report thereon. A number of scientific gentlemen have lately formed themselves into a club at Paris, and M. Thomas de Gammond's sub-marine tunnel has constituted the first subject for investigation. Most of the journals of Paris have taken up the curious problem, and it has created a certain amount of interest to this "*beau reve*," as the "Siecle" exclaims. It is proposed to cut a tunnel from Cape Grinez, on the French coast to Dover.

The Richmond Enquirer is stirring up the Southern Democratic presses of its way of thinking, to a more vigorous defence of the Administration. It says:—

"Why do we not, to a man, heartily second and support the President in his position? Why is there any, even the slightest, disinclination on the part of Southern editors, to speak in just terms of this action? One would imagine that the surest notions of propriety, if not of expediency, would compel from Southern journals—and especially from the extreme school—the highest commendation of such action? It is not so, however.—At least it has not been so thus far. *We hope a change for the better* will be discovered ere many days shall pass by."

A Canadian gentleman, Mr. Isaac Buchanan, who has just been elected a member of the Provincial Parliament, has created a sensation among his constituents by declaring himself in favor of the form of government existing in the United States, and this avowal of republican sentiments did not in the least diminish his popularity. Mr. Buchanan's partiality for republican institutions may be accounted for, says the New York Times, from the fact of his being a son of the late James Buchanan, for many years British consul in New York, where the liberal Canadian spent the early part of his life.

The Baltimore Sun says:—"A rumor currently prevailed here yesterday to the effect that a heavy defalcation had been discovered in the funds of a banking institution at Cumberland, Md. A well known and highly respected bank officer, it is alleged, is the defaulter, but to what amount is not yet come to light. The creditors of the institution were attaching the property of the officer at a distance to secure themselves from loss. The party implicated has heretofore been considered wealthy and moved in the hightest circles."

The navigation of the North River has been somewhat impeded by ice, but the "soft weather of several days past is likely to reopen it. It is open nearly a month later than last year, though above Rhinebeck it may be considered closed. An attempt is to be made by Capt. Vancox, of the steamer Hero, to keep the river navigable during the whole winter, by means of his boat, which has been sheathed from stem to stern with boiler iron.

It has been said in the newspapers that $530,000 have been paid by the Treasury to members of Congress on account of their pay from the 4th of March until the beginning of the session. It is now said this is incorrect. Nothing has been paid, and the reason given for withholding these arrearages is that there is no money in Washington, applicable to that purpose. It is not intended to pay the members until after the issue of Treasury notes shall place the Department in funds.

The steamship Isabel, arrived at Charleston from Havana, reports that Walker's vessel, the steamer Fashion, had been seized by the American Consul, her papers having been found irregular. A report was prevalent at Key West when the Isabel was there, that a bark had passed that point with 600 men on board who were proceeding to General Walker's aid.

Capt. Engle expects to return to the home squadron on the 5th instant. It is positively asserted that Commodore Paulding will be recalled. Many persons have called on General Walker, concerning whose future movements nothing is known. It is said that he designs asking the government to reinstate him in the position from which he was removed by Com. Paulding!

Mr. Samuel King, of Rising Sun, Ind., died very suddenly on Tuesday last. He became involved in financial difficulties and his creditors in New York came on with large claims, made, Mr. King alleged, without his knowledge, and closed his store. He was so overcome by these troubles that after a conversation with his wife he laid down and was soon found dead.

A mere child, not six years old, died on Sunday, in New York, from the effects of drinking brandy. It appears that the boy, envious of the pleasures its imbibition gave to others, improved the opportunity afforded by his mother's absence to drink largely of the contents of a bottle on the mantel. Congestion of the brain was the result, and next day the boy died.

The Mormon delegate to Congress, Dr. Bernhisel, is described as a little elderly man, with a bald head, spectacles, and so near sighted that when he writes, he is obliged to bend very low upon his desk, and almost touch his paper with his nose. He rarely or never speaks, and is said to be quite a sensible man.

The New York Commercial says:—If Commodore Paulding is not sustained, it will be baneful in the extreme. Officers will be afraid or unwilling to act in any emergency, however obvious the line of duty and patriotism may be, lest they should have misinterpreted the purposes of the Government.

The biennial session of the legislature of Maryland, will commence at Annapolis on Wednesday next, January 6th. Under the constitution, the Governor elect will be inaugurated "on the second Wednesday of January, (the 13th,) or as soon thereafter as may be practicable."

The Secretary of the Navy has placed the United States steam frigate Niagara at the disposal of the Transatlantic Telegraph Company to assist in a second attempt to lay down the telegraphic cable. It is presumed that operations will be resumed some time during the month of June.

Bishop Simpson of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who was the delegate to the Wesleyan Conference held in England, in August last, is now travelling in the East, and we regret to learn that at the last accounts he was ill at Beyrout, in Syria.

The steamer Canada sailed from Boston, for Liverpool, on the 30th ult., with $800,000 in specie.

The Fredericksburg Herald says:—"The proprietor of the Orange Hotel, at Orange C. H., Mr. Eddins, was severely, though it is hoped not dangerously stabbed, by an Irishman, on Sunday night last. The knife struck a rib in Mr. E's breast and glanced."

The dwelling house, near Martinsburg, occupied by Wm. Ryers, and belonging to Daniel B. Morrison, was destroyed by fire on Thursday last. The fire originated by a cat catching fire and running under a bed, and setting fire to some paper.

Col. Geary, one of the numerous ex-Governors of Kansas, is in Washington, and, we see it stated, is decidedly favorable to the President's policy in relation to that Territory.

The Hagerstown (Md.) Herald announces the death of John Gruber, esq., founder of the well-known Hagerstown Almanac, and one of the oldest printers in the United States, at the advanced age of 91 years.

A man committed suicide in Schenectady, N. Y., on the 29th ult.,—and, on the same day, another man committed suicide in Dayton, Ohio.

Washington Lodge, No. 1, of Free Masons, in Norfolk, gave a Turkey on Christmas to every widow who was a beneficiary of the lodge.

The money to pay the interest due on the coupon bonds of Fredericksburg has been forwarded to New York, so that prompt payment will take place.

Rev. Dr. Dorsey, of Jefferson, Frederick county, Md., and formerly of Baltimore, has accepted a call to become the pastor of the Lutheran church at Martinsburg, Va.

Ex-Governor Matteson, of Illinois, is said to be the opponent of Judge Douglas for the Senate.

The ship Grey Eagle, freighted with flour, by Haxall of Richmond, and dismasted off Cape Hatteras, has arrived at Norfolk.

Purser Chas. Murray has been ordered to the new Navy-Yard, New York, and will replace Purser J. G. Harris, detached.

Forrest, the tragedian, who has been dangerously sick, is recovering.

Early Society of Virginia.

Lands were obtained on easy conditions from the Government and otherwise; and provident individuals secured vast estates. This was particularly the case on James River, where the most enterprising and wealthy of the earlier emigrants established themselves. Some of these men, of particular mark and energy, acquired possessions vieing in extent with those of the proudest nobles of their native land. These were perpetuated in their families by entails, the laws regulating which were ultimately rendered more stringent in Virginia, than in England itself. As their lands rose gradually in value, the great low land proprietors began to vie with English nobles in wealth as well as in territory.—Many of them lived in baronial splendor.—Their abodes, it is true, were comparatively mean, as the country did not yet furnish permanent building materials, except at vast cost, nor did it furnish practiced architects to make use of them; but their spacious grounds and gardens were bravely ornamented; their tables were loaded with plate, and with the luxuries of the Old and New World; numerous slaves, and white persons whose time they owned for a term of years, served them in every capacity, which use, luxury, or ostentation could dictate; and when they travelled in state, their cumbrous and richly appointed coaches were dragged by six horses, driven by three postilions. But usually the mistress of the household, with her children and maids, appropriated this vehicle. The Virginia gentleman of that day, with much of the feeling of earlier feudal times, when the spur was the badge of knighthood, esteemed the saddle the most manly, if not the only manly way of making use of the noblest of brutes. He accordingly performed all his ordinary journeys on horseback. When he went forth with his whole household, the cavalcade consisted of the mounted white males of the family, the coach and six, lumbering through the sands, and a retinue of mounted body servants, grooms with spare led horses, etc., in the rear.

In their general tone of character, the lowland aristocracy of Virginia resembled the cultivated landed gentry of the mother country. Numbers of them were highly educated and accomplished, by foreign study and travel; and nearly all, or certainly much the largest portion, obtained an excellent education at William and Mary College, after its establishment, or respectable acquirements in the classical schools kept in nearly every parish by the learned clergy of the Established Church. As a class, they were intelligent, polished in manners, high toned and hospitable—and sturdy in their loyalty and in their adherence to the national Church.—Their winters were often spent in gaieties and festivities of the provincial capital; their summers, when not connected with the public service, principally in supervising their immense estates, in visiting each other, and in such amusements as country life afforded. Among the latter, the chase held a prominent place. Born almost to the saddle and to the use of fire arms, they were keen hunters, and when the chase was over they sat round groaning boards, and drank confusion to Frenchman and Spaniard abroad, and to Roundhead and Prelatist at home. When the lurking and predatory Indian became the object of pursuit, no strength of the Red man could withstand, no speed of his elude, the fiery and gallantly mounted cavalry. The social gulf which separated this from the common class of colonists, became about as deep and wide, and as difficult to overleap in marriage and other social arrangements, as that which divided the gentry and peasantry of England. Such were the Carters, the Carys, the Burwells, the Byrds, the Fairfaxes, the Harrisons, the Lees, the Randolphs, and many other families of early Virginia.—*Randall's Life of Jefferson.*

A People Wanting Paper Money.

The money crisis in Hamburg presents a strong contrast to the financial crisis in this country. Here there is an excessive circulation of bank bills, and, where the banks are without the necessary specie to redeem, the public sees in the banks the cause of the depression, while in Hamburg there is no paper money. An immense amount of silver coin is there placed on deposit in the banks, upon which the Hamburg public desires the issue of paper money, and, in the absence of bank notes, it sees the cause of the terrible crisis. Here the circulation of small notes is disclaimed against, in order to prevent, or at least to prolong, the future return of a similar crisis. In Hamburg there is a general opinion that the issue of notes of small amount will relieve the depression.—*N. Y. Exp.*

Moths in Carpets.

To prevent moths from injuring carpets, says the New York Tribune, buy half a pound of gum camphor, for twenty-five cents and that will save all the carpets in your house for a year, by placing a few little crumbs under the edges of the carpets without moving them.

Arrival of the Arago.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The steamer Arago, from Southampton, with dates to the 16th inst., arrived here this evening.

The British Parliament has adjourned to the 4th of February.

The royal assent has been given to the bank indemnity bill.

Several failures are announced; among them Messrs. Tolderth & Co., Row, Prescott & Co., and Willey & Co., of London; Lister & Co., of Halifax, and Saalfield Brothers, Leeds.

The Danish Council of State, have authorized a loan of £300 000 sterling.

The commercial crisis had become aggravated at Smyrna.

It was reported that the Porte had dissolved the Divans in the Danubian Principalities.

The Niagara arrived out on the 14th.

The detailed accounts from India add nothing of importance to the advices per steamer Persia.

Lord Stratford had quitted Constantinople for Trieste.

At Hamburg, on the 13th, there had been no general revival of confidence, and further failures were expected. The Austrian government has loaned the city of Hamburg 10,000 000 florins, which will be employed in aiding the large commercial houses.

Henry Smith Bright, formerly a large corn merchant at Hull, has been sentenced to transportation for ten years for forgery.

No further progress has been made in launching the Leviathan steamship.

Trade in the manufacturing districts is bad. The markets are inanimate.

MARKETS.—LIVERPOOL, Dec. 16.—Cotton.—Prices are easier, but quotations nominal and unchanged.

Flour generally closed with an advancing tendency; prices advanced 6d.

Wheat has advanced 3d in the week.

Corn closed buoyant, and all qualities have slightly advanced.

Money Market.—Consols 91¾@91⅞.

The Weevil.

A Northern journal complains greatly of the ravages in the wheat of the weevil, an insect which made its appearance in Canada a few years ago, and from thence sent large colonies to the Northern States. The weevil is described as about one-third the size of the musketo, strikes into the pulpy grain, and then out comes a brood of eggs which fall to the earth and there lie ensconced for the next summer ready to eat out the food of man.—From Canada to Southern Pennsylvania the weevil has extended its ravages. In the Genessee valley, the famous wheat region of New York, one farmer who used to get from a certain number of acres 6,000 bushels, derived this year 75 bushels, all told.—Unlike the Hessian fly, who, after achieving his work of destruction passes from the scene of his ravages, the weevil is said to quarter himself on the farmer for an indefinitely long period. It is predicted that in a few years there will be no wheat lands cultivated in New York, if this insect continues its depredations. There is a theory that the weevil is the same as an insect which destroys the English crop, but warmed into intenser malignity by our hot sun. In England, the insect is destroyed by another insect, and it is proposed to import the latter and let him loose upon the farmer.—*Rich. Disp.*

Small-Pox and Vaccination.

Important Suggestion.—Hall's Journal of Health has the following:—"From extended and close observation, the following general deductions seem to be warranted:

1. Infantile vaccination is an almost perfect safe-guard until the fourteenth year. 2. At the beginning of fourteen the system gradually loses its capability of resistance, until about twenty-one, when many persons become almost as liable to small-pox as if they had not been vaccinated. 3. This liability remains in full force until about forty-two, when the susceptibility begins to decline, and continues for seven years to grow less and less, becoming extinct at about fifty, the period of life when the general revolution of the body begins to take place, during which the system yields to decay, or takes a new lease of life for two or three terms of seven years each. 4. The grand practical use to be made of these statements is: Let every youth be revaccinated on entering fourteen; let several attempts be made so as to be certain of safety. As the malady is more likely to prevail in cities during the winter, special attention is invited to the subject at this time."

Servants.

Notwithstanding the decline in agricultural productions the prices of slaves for farm purposes are well maintained. At a public sale of the slaves belonging to the estate of the late John Townshend, in Piscataway district, last week, made by the executor, Mr. Jeremiah Townshend, the first class men servants sold for about $1250. The women at about $1100; boys 16 years old for $1050, and girls 15 years old for about $1000. The gross amount of sales of 80 servants was between forty and fifty thousand dollars. All the servants were purchased by the citizens of this and the adjoining counties.—*Marlboro' Gazette.*

The following report of the sales of servants belonging to the estate of the late Wm. Tompkins of this county, on the 23d inst., shows that there is still money in the country: 1 boy 16 years of age, $1,005; 1 boy 9 years old, $700; 1 man 31 years (not run up,) $700; 1 woman 17 years old, $830; 1 woman and 2 children, $1,160; 1 woman and 2 children, 1,000; 1 girl 12 years old, $640; 1 girl 9 years old, $460.—*Fred. Herald.*

A Novelty in Fashion.

A New York correspondent gives the following description of something new in crinolindom:

"I must give your fair readers of Parisian proclivities an outline of what I saw on Broadway yesterday. A magnificently beautiful young woman, a fair type of "Young America" in crinoline, who has passed the last year and a half in Europe, has returned, bringing with her the latest cut' of the French modiste, and her own independent way of putting it on and carrying it out. It is a closely fitting black basquine, made of coarse stuff, with big buttons and side pockets. Imagine a dazzling young beauty, with a waist sadly wasted; a round, robustious and 'animated bust,' in a blue moire antique skirt of most extended periphery, crowned with a bonnet about the size of a full blown japonica, in yellow kids, with her thumbs in her pockets! There's a dashing, saucy, stunning picture for you to contemplate at your leisure. As the opera critics say, it was decidedly 'effective,' and produced a great sensation."

Singular Accident.

Among the decorations of St. James' (Episcopal) Church, at Greenfield, on Christmas Eve, was a large and beautiful "Star in the East," set some forty feet above the pulpit and lighted by a fluid lamp. In the midst of Rev. Mr. Flint's sermon the star took fire, the evergreens blazing up in a very startling manner. Seeing that the star could not be immediately reached, and unwilling to lose his congregation, Mr. Flint continued his discourse, when suddenly the burning mass gave way and fell upon the reverend gentleman, the fluid lamp striking him on the back, and scattering the blazing fluid in all directions. Fortunately the fire was extinguished before it had done any damage, and Mr. Flint was unhurt. His escape is remarkable.—*Springfield Repub.*

Later from Kansas.

CIVIL WAR COMMENCED.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 30.—Kansas dates of the 24th have been received by the Democrat, of this city, to the effect that civil war is raging in Bourbon county, several conflicts having occurred between the free-State and pro-slavery men. A number of prisoners were taken on both sides. The United States Marshal, with eighty men, demanded the surrender of the free-State men, but the demand was answered by a volley of musketry; whereupon the fire was returned. The fight lasted one hour, and the pro-slavery men finally retreated, with the loss of one killed and two mortally wounded. The Marshal was dangerously injured. Gen. Lane is entrenched on Sugar Mount, determined to fight the dragoons if attacked. A battle is regarded as inevitable.

Exciting debates had occurred in the Lawrence Convention. The committee on resolutions presented three reports. The majority report disapproves of the voting for State officers. The first minority report recommends the nomination of a full State ticket; the second recommends participation in the election for the purpose of destroying the Lecompton Constitution, and that no man be nominated who refuses to pledge himself to crush it; that the Topeka Constitution be submitted to the people, and that loyalty to that instrument be made the test of fealty by the free State party; also, that the Legislature repeal the present code of laws. Revolutionary speeches were made.

Gen. Denver had given up the Territorial arms to the militia. Various rumors are in circulation relative to Fort Scott, but none of an authentic character.

The Camels.

The War Department have interesting despatches from Lieut. Beale, (formerly of the Navy,) superintending the construction of the military road from Fort Defiance to the Colorado, of California. They bear date "Colorado River, California, Oct. 18, 1857." He has arrived there in forty-eight days, exploring and locating a capital wagon road from San Antonio, Texas. Everything on the way was found favorable to his purpose—good grass, water, &c., and a gently undulating country. The hitherto almost entirely unexplored region through which he passed, is destined to be very valuable.—We quote a portion of what he says of the result of the camel experiment, as follows:—*Wash. Star.*

"Unsupported by the testimony of every man of my party, I should be unwilling to state all that I have seen them do. Starting with a full determination that the experiment should be no half way one, I have subjected them to trials which no other animal could possibly have endured, and yet I have arrived here not only without the loss of a camel, but they are admitted by those who saw them in Texas, to be in as good condition to-day as when we left San Antonio.—In all our lateral explorations they have carried water sometimes for more than a week, for the mules used by the men, themselves never even receiving a bucketful to one of them.

"They have traversed patiently with heavy packs on these explorations, countries covered with sharp volcanic rock; and yet their feet, to this hour, have evinced no symptom of tenderness or injury. With heavy packs they have crossed mountains, ascended and descended precipitous places, where an unloaded mule found it difficult to pass even with the assistance of the rider dismounted and carefully picking its way. I think it would be within bounds to say that in these various lateral explorations they have traversed nearly double the distance passed over by our mules and wagons."

A Novel Plea.

But a short time since, as the readers of this paper may remember, a boy in the streets of New York fatally stabbed a gentleman who was walking with his wife. He was arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced to death for the act. It appeared that the gentleman had given no offence whatever to his assailant, and that, consequently, there was no excuse for the murder. Efforts are now being made to procure the pardon of the criminal, and among the reasons assigned why this pardon should be granted, is that of his being an atheist! The Herald says:

"The most outrageous defence that has been set up for Rodgers is that he is an atheist. Whether atheists are allowed by the law of this land to kill people on cheaper terms than the common run of Christian humanity is not clearly stated; nor do we precisely see on what ground the supposed atheism of Rodgers is put forward as so very striking a feather in his cap as to exonerate him from the legal consequences of his crime. Generally speaking, it speaks ill for a man, in this Christian community, to know nothing of the religion which we all profess, and which is freely taught to all; but at all events, it is no glory to be a disbeliever in that religion, and ought not to entitle a man to special privileges."

The Right Talk.

A straight out writer gives the following advice to those young men who "depend on father" for their support, and take no interest whatever in business, but are regular drones in the hive, subsisting on that which is earned by others:

"Come, off with your coats, clinch the saw, the plough handles, the axe, the pick-axe, spade—anything that will enable you to stir your blood! Fly around and tear your jacket, rather than be passive recipients of the old man's bounty! Sooner than play the dandy at dad's expense, hire yourself out to some potato patch—let yourself to stop hog holes, or watch the bars; and when you think yourself entitled to a resting spell, do it on your own hook. Get up in the morning—turn round at least twice before breakfast—help the old gentleman—give him now and then a good lift in business—learn how to take the lead, and not depend forever on being led; and you have no idea how the discipline will benefit you. Do this, and our word for it, you will seem to breathe a new atmosphere, possess a new frame, tread a new earth, wake to a destiny—and you may then begin to aspire to manhood. Take off, then, that ring from your little finger, break your cane, shave your upper lip, wipe your nose, hold up your head, and by all means never again eat the bread of idleness, nor depend on father."

More Indians.

The Indian Bureau have advices that within a day or two there will arrive still another delegation of the red men of our western forests and prairies—Yancton-Sioux, eighteen in number including two half breeds and their interpreters. Their arrival will make quite an army of real "native Americans" among us at this time. As they will probably be quartered with the others at the hotel of our estimable neighbor, Mrs. Maher, a visit there will amply repay the stranger curious in the habits and characteristics of the real sons of the soil.—*Wash. Star.*

Occultation of the Pleiades.

We learn that the beautiful occultation of the Pleiades, last evening, was carefully observed at Cambridge by three astronomers attached to the observatory and an amateur. The immersions of five of the larger stars were well seen, and also (through the great Equatorial) the immersions of three other stars of the seventh magnitude. The thermometer at the time was nearly stationary at from 5 to 6 degrees, and the sky clear, but soon after midnight dense clouds came up from S. W. and put an end to the observations.—*Boston Traveller, Dec 28th.*

Tastings of Punch.

FAIR AND FOUL ILLUSIONS.—For once in the way, we are enabled to praise an advertising doctor, and we seize the opportunity of doing so with delighted avidity. Professor Wiljalba Frikell, describing himself as "Physician to their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Russia," announces that "his new and original entertainment, performed without the aid of any apparatus, entitled Two Hours of Illusions, will commence at 8, and terminate at 10 o'clock." Here we have a physician candidly avowing that his professional practice consists in the production of illusions.—How much more honest and respectable is such a physician than an M. D. who professes to cure diseases by means of homœopathic globules! These illusions are merely harmless, but the illusions of Dr. Frikell are not only harmless but amusing, and hence probably in some degree medicinal. Entertaining illusions are better cures for low spirits than quack medicines.

The Value of Health.—A good constitution is like a money box—the full value of it is never properly known until it is broken.

FLOWERS FROM LE FOLLETT.—Among other particulars of "Fashions for December" our papilionaceous contemporary informs the ladies that—

"Square low bodies for dinner dresses are more in request than the low body of the ball dress."

Square low bodies. My Gracious! Oh! Fancy a low square body in any dress.—How very plain! And a low body in a ball dress would be a perfect fright—wouldn't it?

The softer sex is also presented with the following information:—

"It is said that some of our elegantes intend to introduce the fashion of wearing natural flowers in the hair this winter. We hope it will not prove mere rumor, as no work of art can compare with that of nature.—Such a coiffure must, of course, be very recherche, but it will necessarily be very expensive."

Oh my! Natural flowers in the hair in December?—won't they be nice? In the summer one wouldn't care about them—but at Christmas they will be—oh!—so very, very pretty. Very likely they will be a little dear, but law, what signifies?—and so much the better for frozen out gardeners and people out of employ.

N. B.—The above comments are all fancy. Mr. Punch merely imagines that he hears them. It may be very true that he is a goose.

INFALLIBLE SIGN OF THE NEAR APPROACH OF CHRISTMAS.—The annual prize has been awarded to Prince Albert's pig!

WORDS TO THE UNWISE; OR, THE DONKEY'S DICTIONARY.—ADVICE.—Generally consists, even when the giver is sincere, in recommending somebody else to imitate himself. One tells another what he would do if he were in that other's place, instead of telling him what would be best for him, differently constituted, to do in his own. Advice is very commonly mere dictation; the expression of a desire to control other people's inclinations and regulate their conduct. In reviewing our past career, we, in almost every instance, repent of having taken the advice we took, and rejoice for not having taken that which we rejected. Medical advice is of dubious value, and advice gratis is not worth what it is offered for. Little dependence can be placed on any advice but that of a respectable solicitor.

BANTER.—Is the polite and playful expression of contempt. It is the conversation of gentlemen who despise one another. Nobody dares to banter the queen, or a judge on the bench, or anybody that he fears. The objects of banter are usually those on whom it can, or gentlemen think that it can, be practised with impunity. Banter tires a philosopher as reasonable conversation bores a fool. To rid yourself of the plague of banter you must retort it, but in the retaliation of banter care should be taken to return insult for insult in an elegant and pleasant manner.

THE QUESTION BEFORE THE HOUSE.—Dry as the Monetary Debates may be deemed, they relate to a subject of Immense Interest.

GOOD NATURED THOUGHTS—BY A STUPID HARMLESS FELLOW.—It is not generous to blame youth for the follies of young men.

Good wives, like filberts, will remain good for a long time. It all depends upon the care you take of them, and how you husband them.

Supposing experience does not give us new habits, it teaches us at all events to hide the holes in those we have.

Solid worth is often found in a rough outside. Sovereigns roll repeatedly out of an old stocking.

When a friend is sinking, hope is like the anchor that the Deal pilots take out to a ship in distress, and we should all volunteer in carrying it to them.

It is unkind to boast of the English constitution in the presence of foreigners. Invalids never exactly like to hear a strong man bragging about his health.

The loss of a joyful illusion is always a painful thing. It is like a child looking at a clown after he has washed his face.

A surly reception from a debtor raises a pleasing hope of payment!

If we only said one half of the witty things that, on reflection, we feel we might, and ought to, have said, what clever fellows we should be!

We have often seen a cow part with her milk in the most patient manner, and then turn round, and upset the pail. It reminds us always of a generous action ungraciously done!

An Explanation.

John Phœnix is out on "Brahma." He is confident that he has discovered the key to the mystery. Read his letter to the Mobile Register of the 9th ult.

Ed. Register: The following lines published in the Atlantic Monthly, by R. W. Emerson, esq., have attracted much attention, not so much in consequence of their beauty, or other intrinsic merits, as from the fact that nobody can understand, for the life of him, what the man means:

BRAHMA.

If the red slayer think he slays,
Or if the slain think he is slain,
They know not well the subtle ways,
I keep, and pass, and turn again.

The fact is, that Emerson has lately learned the game of Euchre, and being fascinated therewith, wished to express his feelings on the subject, but being quite unable to do so in the ordinary English, unfortunately got off the above extremely mystifying stanza. A little careful consideration of the terms used, convinces us of this at once. Thus, "the red slayer" refers to the Right Bower, (probably the Jack of Hearts;) "the slain" is undoubtedly the Left Bower, not guarded, and you peceive that Emerson probably euchred his adversary by "passing," keeping the Ace and some strong cards, and coming again after the Bowers are out. Now all this might have been much more simply expressed—as for instance:—

EUCHRE.

If the Right Bower is in one hand,
And the "Left" holds another's place,
Ye little know why I did stand,
I hold three trumps—the King and Ace!

This explanation is made to save Emerson's reputation in the matter; he was an old schoolmate of mine in former years, and we were afterwards engaged in the tin business together—he was always a well-meaning man, and it is a pity that he should be considered a fool, on account of some eccentricities of expression. Very truly yours, J. P.

Extraordinary Murder and Suicide.

On Thursday morning, at an early hour, murder and suicide of a most tragical and distressing character took place at Thornton Heath, about a mile distant from the town of Croydon.

For some years past, Mrs. Mary Smither, a lady of some property, and her two sons, one William Helton Smither, aged 33, and the other Charles Smither, aged 18, occupied the house No. 49, Thornton Heath, and the family were remarkable for the love and affection which seemed to subsist between them. William Helton, the elder son, has been a clerk in the Bank of England, upon which establishment he received a salary of £200 per annum, and Charles has been engaged in the factory of Mr. Bunnitt, engineer, Deptford, preparatory to his entering the Bank of England also, which he expected to do in a few weeks.

William has been remarkable for his steadiness and general deportment, until very recently, when unfortunately a total change came over him, and for some days preceding the awful tragedy in which he was the principal actor, he was known to drink a bottle of brandy. This change there can be no doubt has been occasioned by his becoming a speculator on 'Change, and the ill luck which attended these speculations. On one time bargain alone he is said to have lost as much as 70l, and this sum he borrowed in the beginning of the week to pay over to his stock broker. His losses it would seem were considerable, for, from papers found it appeared that assignments were prepared for the disposal of some life policies, and a bill for 500l, for acceptance from a gentleman in the city, were found among them.

It had been his, William's custom to come down stairs, but for some cause or other for some nights preceding the murder occurrence slept with his brother on the first floor, a proceeding objected to by his mother, who insisted on his sleeping in his own bed, and on Thursday morning the unfortunate lady called out to her son William and asked "if William had left his room," and the answer, that he was in the affirmative.

Nothing, however, occurred to excite suspicion or alarm. The family and brothers went to bed as usual, and on the following morning about seven o'clock, the servant, Eliza Morgan, was awoke as she thought by a noise in her mistress's room, and she at once got up and commenced her domestic work. In about a quarter of an hour afterwards she heard a knocking at the bed room of Mr. Charles, and on going there Mr. William asked her for a wine glass which she took to him, and returned to the kitchen to prepare breakfast. Having waited some time beyond the usual time at which the family came to breakfast, she went to the bed room of Charles and listened for a moment or so, and hearing no noise, she pushed the door open, and the first thing that caught her view was the countenance of her young master with a quantity of colored foam about the mouth and nostrils.

The sight so alarmed her that she retired from the room, and at once ran to the house next door for assistance, and returned with the servant man. Both persons then entered the bedroom where they found both the brothers perfectly lifeless, and a phial and a wine glass on the foot of the bed. The first exclamation of the servant was, that she was sure the shock would kill her mistress, and hesitated for a few moments as to how she should break it to her. In a few moments, however, she summoned resolution, and proceeded to her mistress's bedroom, on the same floor, and on entering it, shocking to relate, found the unfortunate lady numbered amongst the dead also. She lay on the bed her head resting on her right hand, the bed perfectly unruffled, and it was evident that the potent and deadly poison had an instantaneous effect and that she died without a struggle.

Though no human aid could have been of the slightest avail, medical aid was sought after, but it was quite an hour before it could be procured, and at the end of that time Mr. Bottomley, of Croydon, made his appearance, and pronounced all three dead.

Inspector Alexander Frazer of the P. division of police, stationed at Croydon, was on the spot, and took charge of the house and the property, and on learning that Mr. Bottomly had taken away a letter written by the deceased, and also the phial which had contained the prussic acid, he expressed some astonishment and dissatisfaction, particularly as he had not been able to ascertain whether the label on the bottle bore the name of any chemist.

It appears that Mrs. Smither had been ailing for some days, and that her son William had been in the habit of giving her the medicine prescribed for her illness, and by this means had been enabled to give her the fatal dose, which must, in a moment have terminated her existence. It is the opinion of those who had seen him, that the fatal drug must have been poured into the mouth of the youth Charles while he lay on his back, and that the sudden shock to the circulation caused the foam about the mouth and nostrils. It is also believed that the quantity of prussic acid taken by the unfortunate murderer himself was so great that his death was instantaneous.—*London Star.*

What Becomes of Old Boots!

The Shoe and Leather Reporter contains the following solution of the great mystery—where the old boots go to: "Since the rise in leather, there has been a greatly increased demand throughout the country for old boot legs; and mysterious pedlars of an antiquarian cast of countenance, have cleared out all the garrets of New Jersey, to the extreme wonder and delight of the unsophisticated natives. For the last six months, the importations of old leather by the Jersey City ferry boat, have been positively immense, and we recommend to the attention of the collector these untaxed arrivals of dutiable merchandize from a foreign port.—Now boots which are considered old in Jersey would be regarded as a miracle of age in any other country, and the specimens of legs which these travelling antiquarians bring to the Bowery for sale, are so impregnant with red clay, and so utterly destitute of backbone, that the Spartans could not hesitate to acknowledge that they had "outlived their usefulness." Nevertheless, these legs are taken in quantities from retail shops by the shoemakers of Mulberry street and vicinity, and after being submitted to certain revivifying processes, are manufactured and returned in the shape of "Oxford ties." We examined a few of these shoes in the hands of the operator, and saw neat and serviceable looking articles."

Living in Santa Fe.

A correspondent of the Washington Union writes from Santa Fe, New Mexico, as follows:

"As a fastidious and querulous visitor once wrote from the White Sulphur Springs, in Virginia, so might I write. We have four kinds of meat for breakfast, viz: "ram, lamb, sheep and mutton." Chickens are so very high priced that we seldom ever have the pleasure of feasting on them; occasionally we have a chicken pie, which, as Sam Weller says, is very good when not made out of kittens. Potatoes are selling here at $5 ⅌ bushel; chickens 50 cts. a piece; corn $1 50 ⅌ bushel; and other articles of the season at the same rate."

FOR GENTLEMEN.—We have just opened some Fur-lined Buck Gloves, all Fur Hunting Gloves, Buck Gauntletts, and Kid Gloves lined, Chille Scarfs and Russia Fur Mufflers, all of which will be sold cheap, at
MEYENBERG, BRO. & CO'S,
dec 23 Satepin Hall.