THE PLYMOUTH BANNER.

A Family Newspaper---Devoted to Education, Agriculture, Commerce, Markets, General Intelligence, Foreign and Domestic News.

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THE BANNER

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The following verses are from the "Star," a semi monthly paper published at the Graded School, in Plymouth, edited by two of the scholars. Published by request.

The day it was, and towards eve,
Ladies and gents their homes now leave,
And to the school-house now repair
To spend a social evening there.

At six o'clock the scholars all
Together met both great and small,
And soon the bell began to speak,
And soon each scholar found a seat.

Spelling first in order came,
And choosing up now was the game,
Sy Nate and M. at once began,
And to their place each scholar ran.

Six score scholars spelt that night,
And sure it was a lovely sight
To see so many lasses fair,
And lads who could with them compare.

They spelt some half an hour or more,
And then stood upon the floor,
And spelling down now was the game,
The last one up was Olive Jane.

And next in order fine, there came
Two maids, of light about the same,
Who took their stand and read aloud
Their paper to the gazing crowd.

Those maids fair, with talents rare,
With rosy cheeks and glossy hair,
With ruby lips and eyes so bright
They sparkled in the candle light.

Were Mary Hew and Mar Van
Who read their paper to a grand
and none but heart could but admire,
And happy the maids would never tire.

Their paper was the "Peanut," by name,
And pearly treasures from it came,
It came in prose, it came in rhyme,
Puzzles and conundrums fine.

But soon they read their paper through
And having a thing else in view,
Marcus P. then to us spoke,
Who every drowsy power awoke.

Glowing words forth from him came
Which well betold his future fame.
May his bright path be strewed with flowers,
And filled with joy his future hours.

But nine o'clock soon came along,
Without delay I'll end my song
As there was nothing more in store,
The echo I was then dismissed by 'Moir'

So home all went and seemed content
With what they saw and what they learnt,
And hoping all things may go right,
We'll bid you one and all good night.

M. J. W.

From the Boston True Flag.

"Who is Fanny Fern."

"Speak of me as I am; nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice."—[Othello.

In consequence of the recent issue of a work of fiction, the distinguished feature of which is an attempt to embody, in the guise of a romance, a partial account of the public and private history of the literary star whose name graces the head of this article, we consider it due to our readers, who were the first to form the acquaintance of Fanny as a writer; due also to ourselves, to the public generally, and, above all, to the personal friends and relatives of the lady in question, to answer, in as plain and concise a manner as possible, the oft-repeated inquiry, "Who is Fanny Fern?"

Fanny's maiden name was Willis. She is the daughter of Mr. Nathaniel Willis, one of our most industrious and respectable townsmen, now a man well advanced in years. It is scarcely necessary to add that she is sister to N. P. Willis, the brilliant essayist and poet.

Mr. Willis, senior, "commenced life" as a mechanic, and at the time of his marriage worked at the case as a journeyman printer. He afterward published the Eastern Argus, in Portland. Meeting with reverses in that city, he removed to Boston, where he established, and, for many years edited the Recorder, the oldest religious paper in New England.

Mr. Willis has met with a similar experience to that of most men of his calling. He never made a fortune at publishing. At the present time, though aged and infirm, he finds it necessary to devote his failing energies to the publication of that agreeable juvenile, the "Youth's Companion. Yet, notwithstanding his narrow means, Mr. Willis contrived—at how great a sacrifice, only parents can guess—to give his sons and daughters that education which is a poor man's noblest legacy.

In accordance with the course he had wisely planned for his children, Sarah Willard, the veritable Fanny, was favored with an early introduction into the Seminary of Miss Catharine Beecher, in Connecticut. At this well conducted establishment the most popular in the country, at that time, Miss Fanny received her first strong impressions of life and the world. We have never heard her spoken of as a very apt or studious pupil. Staid works of philosophy and learning were not much to her taste. But from the prohibited pages of romance and poems, eagerly devoured in secret, her craving genius derived an active stimulus.

Already had she become a keen dissecter of the human heart, and she found plenty of pleasant practice for the scalpel of her wit among the young ladies of the school. Here, too, the novel and startling experiences of boarding-school flirtation gave their warm coloring to her future life. Fanny possessed a large capacity for this description of knowledge, and her writings show a better memory for those pleasant branches of female education than for the dry rule of syntax and prosody. In fact, the best of her sketches are transcripts of her school girl. for Fanny writes well only when giving the concentrated vinegar and spice of her own vivid experiences.

Our limits compel us to pass over the interval between her graduation at Miss Beecher's school, and the next important step, to which young ladies look forward with such anxious interest. At a period of well matured womanhood, Sarah Willis became Sarah Eldridge. The fortunate husband of the undeveloped genius, was an only child—the son of the late Dr. Eldridge, a highly esteemed physician in one of our suburban towns. Two daughters, the fruits of this union, now reside with their mother in New York. One is about ten, and the other we should judge from her appearance to be some fifteen years of age.

Mr. Eldridge enjoyed a handsome income from his services as cashier of the Merchant's Bank, the largest institution of the kind in this city. Now, we esteem the domestic virtues of economy and prudence; but a penurious mode of life is not so readily pardoned as the opposite extreme of lavish expenditure; and the devoted husband of so spirited a young wife, may certainly be excused for "living" to the extent of his means. But as Othello very promptly observes, "Who can control his fate?" Had the young banker been as wise as he was generous and indulgent, he would have looked forward through the bright vista of the present, to the proverbial "rainy day," liable at any time to befall us. In the prime of manhood he was cut off by a sharp, quick stroke from Death's remorseless hand; and the wife and mother, awakening suddenly from her gay dream, saw affliction and widowhood descend upon her like a pall.

Fortunately for the subject of our sketch, her father, though poor, as we have said, hastened to make what provision he could afford for the comfort of the broken family. Nor did Dr. Eldridge turn a deaf ear or pass on the other side. Some bitter thoughts were doubtless occasioned by the remembrance of the luxuries of which she had been so suddenly bereft. It was hard to sink like a star behind the hills of adversity—to pass suddenly from a gay and splendid career into the obscurity of a more common place and quiet life; and we can excuse the sensitive Fanny for some unreasonable complaints; but thanks to her own stern husband's father, she had the consolation and treasure of a home—a home, which, however modest, was in every respect comfortable and not altogether inelegant.

Sarah Eldredge was now in the full flush and vigor of womanhood—and a widow! It is a wise provision of nature which ordains that the most deeply wounded heart shall not always bleed. Hope springs from the ashes of grief. Time buries the dead past, and lifts the curtain from the glowing future. Night comes, that another morning, with all its glory and freshness, may dawn upon the earth. Why then waste the energies of youth in mourning over graves? They will not give up the dead; already the spirit of the one looks down upon us from blissful spheres, and says, "Be happy!" to our sorrowing heart. Such a voice came to the young widow. She called reason and faith to her aid. She saw herself still blooming and attractive; the same inviting world lay all around her; she longed for sympathy, for change, for life. Her first matrimonial venture proved a happy one; and the memory thereof prompted her to risk another voyage on wedlock's perilous sea. Thus it might have been the very power of love that bound her to her first husband which threw open the welcoming doors to the advances of a new suitor.

Mr. Farrington, a merchant of Boston—a man of energy and upright character—made an offer of his hand. He had himself enjoyed matrimonial experience—was himself a parent—and was well qualified to sympathize with the young widow. They sought mutual consolation in marriage. But scarce was the honeymoon over when that mutual consolation was followed by mutual surprise. Fanny learned to her sorrow that all husbands are not equally fond and indulgent; and the bridegroom discovered that Mrs. F. No. 2 was not the exact counterpart of Mrs. F. No. 1. The contrast was, in fact so vast, and amazing, that it seemed to require solitude and quiet, to consider it in all its bearings. Accordingly, Mr. Farrington resorted to travel and a change of scene, journeyed westward, and has not since been seen on the down east slope of the continent. The slender tie of affection between the happy pair, thus long drawn out, like a thread of India rubber, finally snapped. From the auction marts of one of our western courts, it is said, that Mr. F. gave out three warnings: cried—"Going! going! gone!" and knocked down his wife with the hammer of divorce. Fanny was regularly sold. So the story goes. It is also rumored that she was at one time connubially advertised in the papers.

Internal Improvements.

River and Harbor Message.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In returning to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, a bill entitled "An act making appropriations for the repair, preservation, and completion of certain public works, heretofore commenced under authority of law," it became necessary for me, owing to the late day at which the bill was passed, to state my objections to it very briefly, announcing at the same time, a purpose to resume the subject for more deliberate discussion at the present session of Congress; for, while by no means insensible of the arduousness of the task thus undertaken by me, I conceive that the two Houses were entitled to an exposition of the considerations which had induced dissent on my part, from their conclusions in this instance.

The great constitutional question of the power of the general government in relation to internal improvements has been the subject of earnest discussion of opinion at every period of the history of the United States of America.—Annual and special messages from successive Presidents have been occupied with it, so, perhaps, are speeches on the general topic, and frequently legislation to a partial extent. The conflicting sentiments thus elicited still remain, expressed in Congress or elsewhere as call is expressly to devise if possible, some plan calculated to remove the subject of the embarrassments with which it is surrounded, which they have directed public attention strongly to the magnitude of the interests involved, have yet left unsettled the terms, not merely of expediency, but of constitutional power, in relation to works of this class by the general government.

What is intended by the phrase "internal improvements?" What does it comprehend and what exclude? No such language is found in the constitution. Not only is it not an expression of a conceivable constitutional power, but it has no sufficient exactness of meaning to be of any value as the basis of a safe conclusion, either of constitutional law or practical statesmanship.

President John Quincy Adams, in claiming on one occasion, after his retirement from office, the authorship of the idea of introducing into the administration of the general government, "a permanent and regular system" of internal improvements, speaks of it as a system by which "the whole Union would have been the herald over with railroads and canals," at "strong high wages and constant employment to hundreds and thousands of laborers," and he puts it in express contrast with the construction of such works by the best Union of the States and by private enterprise.

It is quite obvious that if there be any constitutional power which authorizes the construction of "railroads and canals" by Congress, the same power is comprehended turnpikes and common carriage roads; nay it must extend to the construction of bridges, to the drainage of marshes, to the erection of levees, to the construction of canals of irrigation—in a word, to all the possible means of the material improvement of the earth, by developing its internal resources, anywhere and everywhere, even within the proper jurisdiction of the several States.

But if there be any constitutional power this comprehensive in its nature, must not the same power embrace within its scope other kinds of improvements of equal utility in themselves and as equally important to the welfare of the whole country? President Jefferson, while intimating the expediency of so amending the constitution as to comprise objects of physical progress and well being, does not fail to perceive that other objects of public improvement, including public education, by name, belong to the same class of powers. In fact not only public instruction, but hospitals, establishments of science and art, libraries, and, indeed everything appertaining to the internal welfare of the country, are just as much objects of internal utility as canals and railways.

* * * * * *

There being no specific grant in the constitution of a power to sanction appropriations for internal improvements and no general provision broad enough to cover any such indefinate object, it becomes necessary to look for particular powers to which one or another of the things included in the phrase 'internal improvement' may be referred.

In the discussion of this question in the [illegible] of the organization of a general system of internal improvements under the auspices of the federal government, reliance is had, for the justification of the measure, on several of the powers expressly granted to Congress; such as to establish post offices and post roads; to declare war; to provide and maintain a navy; to raise and support armies; to regulate commerce, and to dispose of the territory and other public property of the United States.

As to the last of these sources of power—that of disposing of the territory and other public property of the United States—it may be conceded that it authorizes Congress, in the management of the public property, to make improvements essential to the successful execution of the trust, but this must be the primary object of any such improvement, and it would be an abuse of the trust to sacrifice the interest of the property to incidental purposes.

As to the other assumed sources of a general power over internal improvements, they being specific powers of which this is supposed to be the incident, if the framers of the constitution, wise and thoughtful men as they were, intended to confer on Congress the power over a subject so wide as the whole field of internal improvements, it is remarkable that they did not use language clearly to express it; or, in other words, that they did not give it as a distinct and substantive power, instead of making it the implied incident of some other one, such is the magnitude of the supposed incidental power and its capacity of extension, that any system established under it would exceed each of the others in the amount of expenditure and number of the persons employed which would thus be thrown upon the general government.

This position may be illustrated by taking, as a single example, one of the many things comprehended clearly in the idea of "a general system of internal improvements," namely, roads. Let it be supposed that the power to construct roads over the whole Union, according to the suggestions of President John Q. Adams in 1807, whilst a member of the Senate of the United States, had been conceded:—Congress would have begun, in pursuance of the state of knowledge at the time, by constructing turnpikes; then, as knowledge advanced, it would have constructed canals; and at the present time it would have been embarked in an almost limit less scheme of rail roads.

Now there are in the United States, the results of state or private enterprise, upwards of 17,000 miles of railroads, and 5,000 miles of canals—in all 22,000 miles—the total cost of which may be estimated at little short of six hundred millions of dollars, and if the same works had been constructed by the federal government, supposing the thing to have been practicable, the cost would have probably been less than nine hundred million of dollars. The number of persons employed in superintending, managing and keeping up these canals and railroads may be stated at one hundred and twenty six thousand, or thereabouts; to which are to be added seventy thousand or eighty thousand employed on the railroads in construction, making a total of at least two hundred thousand persons, representing in families nearly a million of souls—employed on or maintained by this one class of public work in the United States.

* * * * * *

In matters of legislation of the most unquestionable constitutionality, it is always material to consider what amount of public money shall be appropriated for any particular object. The same consideration applies with augmented force to a class of appropriations which are in their nature peculiarly prone to run to excess, and which, being made in the exercise of incidental powers have intrinsic tendency to overstep the bounds of constitutionality.

If an appropriation for improving the navigability of the river, or deepening or protecting a harbor, have reference to military or naval purposes, then its rightfulness, whether in amount or in the objects to which it is applied, depends manifestly on the military or naval exigency; and the subject matter affords its own measures of legislative discretion. But if the appropriation for such an object have no distinct relation to the military or naval wants of the country, and is wholly, or even mainly, intended to promote the revenue from commerce, then the very vagueness of the purpose of the expenditure constitutes a perpetual admonition of reserve and caution. Through disregard of this, it is undeniable that in many cases appropriations of this nature have been made unwisely, without accomplishing beneficial results commensurate with the cost, and sometimes for evil rather than good, independently of their dubious relation to the constitution.

Among the radical changes of the course of legislation in these matters which, in my judgement, the public interest demands, one is a return to the primitive idea of Congress, which required in this class of public works, as in all others, a conveyance of the soil and a cession of the jurisdiction to the United States, I think this condition ought never to have been waived in the case of an harbor improvement of a permanent nature as where piers, jetties, sea walls, and other like works are to be constructed and maintained, It would powerfully tend to counteract endeavors to obtain appropriations of a local character [illegible] calculated to promote indiv[illegible]ests.

The want of such a provision is the occasion of abuses in regard to existing works, exposing them to private encroachment without sufficient means of redress by law. Indeed the absence in such cases of a cession of jurisdiction has constituted one of the constitutional objections to appropriations of this class. It is not easy to perceive any sufficient reason for requiring it in the case of arsenals or forts, which does not equally apply to all other public works, if to be constructed and maintained by Congress, in the exercise of a constitutional power of appropriation, they should be brought within the jurisdiction of the United States.

There is another measure of precaution in regard to such appropriations, which seems to me to be worthy of the consideration of Congress. It is, to make appropriation for every work in a separate bill, so that each one shall stand on its own independent merits, and, if it pass, shall do so under circumstances of legislative scrutiny, entitling it to be regarded as of general interest, and a proper subject of charge on the treasury of the Union.

During that period of time in which the country had not come to look to Congress for appropriations of this nature, several of the States, whose productions of geographical position invited foreign commerce, had entered upon plans for the improvement of their harbors by themselves, and through means of support drawn directly from that commerce, in virtue of an express constitutional power, needing for its exercise only the permission of Congress.

Harbor improvements thus constructed and maintained, the expenditures upon them being defrayed by the very facilities they afford, are a voluntary charge on those only who see fit to avail themselves of such facilities, and can be justly complained of by none.

On the other hand, so long as these improvements are carried on by appropriations from the treasury, the benefit will continue to enure to those alone who enjoy the facilities afforded, while the expenditure will be a burden upon the whole country, and the discrimination a double injury to places equally requiring improvement, but not equally favored by appropriations.

These considerations added to the embarrassments of the whole question, amply suffice to suggest the policy of confining appropriations by the general government to works necessary to the execution of its undoubted powers and of leaving all others to individual enterprise, or to the separate States, to be provided for out of their own resources, or by recurrence to the provision of the constitution which authorizes the States to lay duties of tonnage with the consent of Congress.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

Washington December 30, 1854.

The Quaker Wheat.

As an instance of what one man can do to benefit mankind, allow me to give an instance, of which I am personally cognizant. In the winter of 1844-5, I visited North Carolina on financial business for my neighbor and friend, Enoch Taylor, our worthy President; and either accidently or providentially, (I think, by Divine Providence) our brother farmer, David Daily, of Jackson Tp., saw fit to accompany me, journeying from three to five hundred miles out of his way for company's sake. Whilst attending church at a lonely school house in a dense pine forest, in the vicinity of the shallow ford of Deep river, and not far from the far-famed 'Beard's Hatter shop,' brother Daily heard of a new variety of wheat, called there and here 'Quaker wheat.' Having some distant relations or near acquaintances thereabouts, accompanied one of the brothers home, and possessed himself of one quart all told, of the new variety of wheat. This he placed in the end of his wallet, to balance our dinner, brought safely to his homestead, where he now lives and continued to saw and re saw the product which has proven a greater blessing to the people of Preble county than any other accident in her history; and why? is asked mentally by scores of farmers here who are not advised of its properties and qualities. It is the very kind of wheat desired by all; a large berry, thin bran, and it has almost proved impervious to all the evils attending the raising of wheat in this latitude. It, like the Mediterranean, is not so liable to destruction by Rust or devastation by the Fly—stands winter freezing better than most varieties; and take it all in all, it is the best, because it is the surest variety raised north or south of us, yielding from 45 to 50 lbs. of flour to the bushel. So far as we know, it has made at worst (the season of general rust, and this year of general winter freezing and ravages of the Fly) an average crop whilst with the exception of these two years, it has under good tillage increased the average product per acre from twenty to forty per cent. With from ordinary to first rate tillage on good ground, its yield will range from twenty to forty bushels per acre. And so great has it grown in favor in portions of this country, that it is all the go with our wheat growers.

Now mark what this one quart of wheat has done for this people in the short period of nine years. I think I am in bounds of reason, when I aver that this community has been directly benefitted more than $100,000; and had all the increase of seed been only applied to sowing, the advantages would have been still greater—far, far beyond the comprehension of the ordinary thinker; yes, millions and millions of bushels beyond what even a mathematician would naturally suppose. If we estimate the first quart to produce 20 quarts, and continue that amount in arithmatical progression, we have the astounding product at the ninth (the past) harvest, of sixteen thousand million of bushels—quite enough to seed all creation, and breed 'the rest of mankind.'

I have been thus explicit in giving you the pedigree of this 'Quaker Wheat,' because of its paying properties, as also to reach your ear in regard to the necessity and importance of not only the members of this association of human benefactors but all others engaged in agriculture, to increase the productiveness of their farms. If the average yield per acre in Preble county should be, as it can, increased ten per cent.; it would add at least $100,000 to the wealth of the producers of old Preble.—*From Gen. Hendrick's Address at Preble County Fair, Oct. 1854.*

How to bring up a Son.

1. Set him the example in the use of intoxicating drink.

2. Let him have his own way—the 'largest liberty,' so fascinating to the imagination of 'Young America.'

3. Allow him the free use of money, without any restraining sense of responsibility to parent or guardian.

4. Suffer him to wander where he pleases on the Sabbath, and to spend his evenings away from home.

5. Give him free access to wicked companions, who make a mock of all that is good, and contemn all authority.

6. Furnish him with no light aim in life, and no steady employment. It might hinder the development of his genius.

Pursue all or any of these ways, and you will experience a most marvelous deliverance if you have not to mourn over a debased and ruined child.

Thousands of parents have, practically, adopted these rules in the management of their children, and the results have been—exactly what one might anticipate, "Their gray hairs have been brought down with sorrow to the grave.'

☞They are making sugar of pumpkins in France.

Basswood Paper.

The extract below is conclusive proof of the success of the manufacture of paper from *basswood*. We clip it from the Albany *Evening Journal* of the 13th, *actually printed on a sample of the paper*. The texture is firm, the surface smooth, but the color is several shades darker than this upon which the *Blade* is printed. It has an orange or cream tinge hardly deep enough however to attract much attention.

There are doubtless other woods that will answer as good or a better purpose than basswood, such, for instance, as white wood (our forest poplar) and cotton wood.

It strikes us also, if the discovery is successful, that it removes the manufacture of paper into the localities of those forests where suitable timber abounds, or on large streams capable of floating it. As the *Journal* says, the time had almost arrived when a new material for the manufacture of paper was a great desideratum.

Another result may arise from it. Having the skill and material in juxtaposition the United States may be able to defy competition in all countries where paper is imported, and it may become in time, a very great article of export from this country.

To designate any thing as *basswood* in the west, is a great reproach, but we go in for basswood paper, not basswood editors, nor basswood printers, nor basswood matter, but basswood material to print upon.—*Toledo Blade.*

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.—Our exchanges, and the various book publishers with whom we are in correspondence, will recieve this number of the 'Albany Evening Journal' printed on paper made entirely from basswood. We hope soon to issue our whole edition upon this paper, and we should have deferred any reference to it until that period, but for the numerous calls which we have had upon us, from all quarters, for specimens of it. Its inventor, Geo. W. Beardslee, Esq., of this city, kindly furnished us with a ream to print for circulation among those directly interested in the important discovery.

The paper is made from Pulp produced from Basswood Shavings, of a peculiar form thrown off by Mr. Beardslee's planing machine, which has been improved to produce this result. It contains no mixture of rags, or other material whatever, nor sizing. It is from the pure wood alone. The paper furnished us was made at Satterlee's mill, Little Falls, under unfavorable circumstances. The supply of Pulp was so small that the mill had to be served by hand instead of by gauge pumps, the consequence of which was, such irregular feeding as to produce slightly irregular thicknesses of paper. The paper has also been used, with perfect success, by Mr. Gavit, for transferring fine line engravings—a result which cannot be attained by any other ordinary newspaper.

But Mr. B. is not restricted to Basswood. He has made experiments which leave no doubt upon his mind that paper of a texture even superior to that which he has already produced from that wood, can be produced from other native woods, found in equal abundance.

The Pulp is manufactured very cheaply, and by a very simple process—known of course, to himself alone. It can be packed in bags or bales, as compactly as cotton, and sent as readily to any part of the country or world, and at rates which if it should prove available, must ultimately drive rags entirely out of the market.

Thus far Mr. B. has only manufactured so much Pulp as was necessary for the prosecution of his experiments. But he purposes as soon as arrangements can be perfected, to enter largely into the manufacture of the article for market. It can be used in any paper mill, furnished ready for the finishing engine, and capable of producing a weight of paper equal to the weight of pulp used. Consequently, in adopting it, no new machinery will be required, but a great deal of the most cumbersome now used, and much of the most unpleasant part of the work of making paper from rags, may be dispensed with.

This discovery, as timely as it is important, will prove of inestimable value to the world. The necessity of some such substitute for the articles hitherto used in the manufacture of paper, had become imperative. The demand had already outstripped the supply, and the most serious difficulties were apprehended in the future. If Mr. Beardslee has discovered the needed substitute, he will have done more for the world than any living cotemporary. And that he has made this discovery, few acquainted with the qualities of good paper will doubt, with these crude specimens of Basswood Paper before him.

The diplomatic bill now before Congress proposes the following salaries for foreign ministers. Great Britain $17,000, France and China each 15,000, Spain, Russia, Austria and Prussia each 12,000, Brazil and Mexico each 10,000. Turkey, Peru and Chili each 9,000, Switzerland, Rome, Naples, Sardinia, Belgium, Holland, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, the Argentine Republic, New Granada, Bolivia, Equador, Venezuela, Guatemala, and Nicaragua each 7,500.

The inferior appointments, and title of Charge'd Affairs is dispensed with, and all these appointments are to be full missions.

'My dinner don't agree with me,' said a man to his wife, after an extraordinary hearty meal. 'I don't blame it my dear; I saw you jawing it so hard.'

Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.

Photography in fondduffelin

CINCINNATI, Jan. 9 1855.

I have just witnessed some illustrations of the art of *Photographic Counterfeiting*, which I deem highly important, not only to bank officers, but to the public at large. Mr. Fontayne, of this city, one of the best daguerreotypists in the world, has recently made several photographic copies of bank notes, which for surpass, in the perfection of their details anything which has ever been done in the old way of counterfeiting. When these photographs have been carefully taken on the proper bank note paper, they defy detection either by the unaided eye, or by microscopic inspection.

One of these photographs, from a $10 bill, was deposited by Mr. F., with other bills, in the Life and Trust Company, and was received without suspicion. He then informed them that there was a bad bill among them; the money was reinspected, and he was positively assured that it was all good, and requested to point out the defective bill; he did so, and after a general examination by the officers present, the bill was again pronounced good. Another trial was made by presenting a photographic copy of a bill at the principal banking houses. At the banks of Samuel Cozzens & Stephens, Gregory & Ingersoll, and some others, the photograph was received, and, after careful inspection, pronounced a good bill. A still more rigid test was made by presenting photographs and genuine bills to Mr. Booth and other bank note engravers. After the most careful inspection they were unable to detect the photographic counterfeit, for, as I have observed, the minutest details are perfect under microscopic scrutiny.

I think it is obvious from these facts, that our paper money currency is in a dangerous condition, and that it is necessary to give the widest publicity to these alarming developments. If any good master of photography, can, in a short time, and at a trifling expense, flood the country with spurious money, which, even cashiers, presidents, and experts of every grade are unable to detect, we have no security in our paper currency.

I have heard that photographic notes were once taken in the Bank of England. Whether any such [illegible] in this country is no[illegible] certain, we have no [illegible] issue at any time in enormous quantities, and it is especially to put public on their guard that I now announce these facts. An interest is already excited here, and bank presidents are sending their notes to be photographed, to test the power of the art.

It is not only our currency that is assailed by this art, but everything depending on the human pen is liable to counterfeiting. One's autograph may be at any time affixed to a bank check, promissory note, will, deed, letters of credit, or recommendation, or any number of autographs may be affixed to any document the operator may please—the autographs being so perfect, that the writer himself could not detect an error.

It is needless for engravers to increase their skill, as every step they take in advance is followed with mathematical accuracy by Photography, which copies the red or brown backs of the notes as easily as their faces. Possibly there may be some art of printing in colors of great variety, on rare paper, which Photography will not be able to rival. I think banks should offer a premium for the discovery of some peculiar species of paper, the manufacture to be kept secret, and to be devoted exclusively to the issue of bank notes.

Under present circumstances an immense amount of fraudulent money may be issued before the public are on their guard. Science and art must give us new safeguards. There are but two methods of detection of which I have any knowledge at present; they are furnished by *chemistry* and by *psychometry*, neither of which would probably be brought to bear against bills so apparently perfect in all their details.

The chemical test is based on the fact that the black color of the photographic picture being derived from a preparation of silver, its ground necessarily different from the inks used by the engraver and the writer: various tests may be advised by good chemists. I would merely mention one: the photographic picture is immediately destroyed or turned white by washing it with a solution of corrosive sublimate.

As for the *psychrometric* test, it is I believe, worthy of adoption in cases of importance when chemical tests are not convenient. Any individual of psychrometric capacity can derive from one of the signatures on a bank note an impression of the character of the writer; the phototograph does not give this impression, and the difference between the real writing and the mere photograph may thus be distinguished, as I have ascertained by actual experiment on Mr. Fontayne's specimens. I shall give an account of this experiment in *The Journal of Man.*

J. R. B.

☞Lord Brougham, in a merry mood it is said, wrote the following epitaph upon himself:

"Here, reader turn your weeping eyes
My fate a useful moral teaches,
The hole in which my body lies
Would not contain one half my speeches."

☞A Hopeful Californian "breaks out" in the following strain:

"Beneath Mokelumne's dark wave
Is many a precious 'nugget,'
And there this poor's fortune lies—
If some one hasn't dug it!"