

Dear Gazette:—Be content with a few brief sketches from the way-side. When we have set down quietly at home, we will allude in an appropriate way, to the chief points of interest connected with our transit over the Alleghenies.

The two first days after leaving home, were cloudy with constant rain, and fog in the mountains, so as partially to obscure the sublimity of the scenery; but the weather has improved, and we are now enjoying a delightful May morning at the capital.

We stopped at Harper's Ferry 16 hours; and shall bring with us when we return, one of the valuable spears, brought there by John Brown, to be used in liberating the slaves; and also a spot Sharpes rifle bullet, picked up on the plain, after the battle. The curious can see them at the Gazette office after our return. They were generously presented to us by Mr. Barnum, Master of Armory at Harper's Ferry. A more detailed account of our reception, and what we learned at that important point, will appear hereafter; for the present we have to say, that no place since leaving home, have we enjoyed ourselves so well, though it rained incessantly. We commend those who pass over this road, and can take the time, to stop there and see the Government Armory, and converse with the citizens.

Congress is not in regular session, and in some respects the city is considered rather quiet. Three subjects however, are just at this time occupying the public attention. First, the discussion of the Democratic Convention at Charleston, and its adjournment to Baltimore. The approach of the Japann expedition, who are to become the guests of the Government. 60 rooms have been engaged for them at the Willard House. They will be received in a manner honorable to this republic, with military display, &c.—Special vessels have been chartered to receive them at Norfolk, and bring them to the Capital. The third event in prospect alluded to, is the approach over the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad of four hundred editors from the West, which leave Wheeling on this (Friday) morning, in special trains.

Washington exceeds our preconceived opinions, both in its extent and beauty. There are many points of interest. Thus far we have only looked into the Capitol and paid a more protracted visit to the Smithsonian Institute. This is an institution in which days might be spent, both for pleasure and instruction. It contains perhaps the finest and most extensive museum in the world. Its collection embraces the widest range of specimens in the animal kingdom, from that point where all traces of animal life are lost, up to man.

The collections of specimens of art, from foreign countries are large, and possess the highest interest. These embrace collections from the Pecos Islands, the Sandwich, and from China. This institution has to be seen to be appreciated.—It is the property of the Government, and is accessible at all times to visitors. The grounds belonging to it are constituted into a delightful Park with foot and carriage ways, and embrace about one hundred acres. The Washington Monument is gradually rearing its summit towards the sky, and is about three hundred yards from the Institute. It has not yet reached one-fourth of its projected height, the original plan being six hundred feet.

What is Wrong?

The Charleston Convention a Failure!

This body, after some ten days travel has not found the elements of which it was composed sufficiently harmonious to affiliate; and an adjourned meeting is to be held in the City of Baltimore on the 18th of June. This, we presume has been done to give time for the concoction of further schemes for conciliating the pro-slavery wing, without taking the final step which is demanded of the North.—Principles change not; men do sometimes alter their opinions a little, just a little, to suit the times. Democracy, truly thou art a jewel!

But seriously; how is the disruption to be healed by bringing the Convention north to Baltimore? Will Mr. Douglas's prospects be improved thereby? Will the seceding States be likely to be brought into concert at Baltimore, with the northern pressure that will surround them, as they would at Charleston? These are inquiries that must be answered hereafter. It requires more a union than ever fell to our lot, to even make a guess, with regard to the complexion of the Democracy of the coming year.

The whole ship George Henry, which is to sail from New London on the 29th of next month, will carry out Mr. C. F. Hall of Cincinnati, as far as the entrance of Frohner's Strait. From that point Mr. Hall, with one companion, will make an excursion into the arctic regions in search of traces of the remains of Sir John Franklin's expedition. He expects to push on as far as Prince William's Land, where he hopes to find some of the lost navigators, or else further news of them. The route to be traversed in small boats is over 1,000 miles. The passage to the straits and return is given him free by the owners of the George Henry.—Providence Journal

Man and his Relations.

BY S. D. BRITTON.

The Mind as a destructive agent. That the mind exerts a mysterious and wonderful control over the body, must be obvious to every one who has observed the relations of its faculties and affections to the physical phenomena: occur in the trochological changes that occur in the vital laboratories are accelerated or retarded, are rendered irregular or uniform by the prevailing states and incidental exercises of the mind. The most destructive elements in the physical world, when left to spread their whole force on the unprotected human body, are scarcely more disastrous in their effects than the misdirected action of its powers; at the same time the life forces may be augmented and equalized, and wasting form mysteriously renewed by the appropriate exercise and right direction of the mind.

Having proved by repeated references to scientific experiments, that what is usually denominated the nervous fluid in an animal body, is a subtle form of electricity, and that the same is evolved from all parts of the system where there is either chemical or mechanical action. I shall now appeal to facts to illustrate the irresistible influence of this electrical medium—agent of the mind—in the production of the greatest physiological changes of which the human body is susceptible. The facts illustrative of this point are numerous and conclusive, only a few of which can be comprehended in this citation.

The writer's views respecting the power of the mind over the electro-nervous currents and the arterial circulation, will receive strong confirmation from the further examination of the subject. To the careful observer it will be obvious, that mental and moral disturbances produce corresponding physical derangements. As intense love, violent hate, sudden jealousy, extreme apprehension, or any powerful mental impulse, will instantly interrupt the vital equilibrium, it follows that the most aggravated forms of disease may have their origin in the mind. If the individual is more distinguished for vigor of thought than for intensity of feeling the morbid tide of the circulation will flow to their in, and be accompanied by strange cerebral excitement and a flushed countenance. If on the other hand, the person be characterized by cold, unreasoning passion, the vital torrent will rush to the heart, leaving the viscera pale, and causing an accelerated arterial action. Not only a momentary functional derangement is thus produced, but congestion, paralysis, insanity, and death often occur in consequence of this direct power of the mind over the elemental principles and organization of the body.

To insure uniform health and a protracted earthly existence, the corporeal development should be commensurate with the increasing mental activity and power. Any great disproportion will be found to be incompatible with mental and vital harmony. The capacity and intensity of the mind's action is not unfrequently the cause of increasing physical debility, and a premature dissolution of the body. Like a powerful engine in a frail vessel, the mind shakes the slender fabric in every part. At length is some great emergency—when the storms of life break over us with terrific power, calling for heroic effort—the mind suddenly breaks away from its frail and mortal fastenings and the startled voyager finds himself beyond the vicissitudes of Time—floating at ease and gracefully in his immortal argosy—with an Angel at the helm and the great ocean of the limitless life before him.

The intimate connection of the mind with the vital principle is forcibly illustrated by innumerable cases of disease and many deaths, occurring co-incidentally with the previous anticipations of the victims. Whenever such fears and expectations are fostered, they are liable to acquire a dangerous influence over the mind, and in the end, to produce the apprehended physical result. Strong mental impressions are sure to leave their imprints on the body, more or less distinctly according to the active power of the mind and the intrinsic susceptibility of the other. The membranes are delicate chemical surfaces, and the mind—by the forces at its command—electrotrapes the forms and shadows of its thoughts and feelings. It is possible to produce any physiological change or condition which can be comprehended in a distinct mental conception or impression. Let a number of persons meet the same individual during the day, and—without exciting a suspicion of collusion or mischief—assure him that he appears to be ill, and he will soon be seriously indisposed. This action of the mind has in several instances, been carefully excited and manifested by such startling and painful results as should suffice to admonish the ignorant and thoughtless operator, that all similar experiments are, at least in his hands, attended with extreme danger to the health and life of the subject.

This power of mental action and association produces many surprising effects. Impress the mind of the magnetic sleeper that he must wake from his trance at a particular hour, and the vital force will so react on the body—under the mental impression—that it will be impossible for him to sleep beyond the prescribed limit. Moreover, while it requires a powerful effort to drive a man out of his earthly home, so long as he is determined to remain therein, it is quite impossible to restrain or keep him when he has once resolved to depart. The system can in no way be more speedily and mildly deranged, than by fixing in the mind a settled and intense conviction, that the body is exposed to the impending evils of disease or death. Indeed, a dose of arsenic in the stomach or rifle ball inside of the pericardium, would scarcely be more fatal than a positive impression that death is inevitable.

Physicians and others often speak of those who merely fancy or imagine that they are ill. If they mean that physical disease in such cases, originates in the disordered action of the mind, the writer has already expressed his concurrence; but if, on the contrary, such forms of expression are intended to imply that the disease, in all similar examples, has only an imaginary existence, I must dispute the assumption, because the terrible forms of vital derangement are induced in this manner and even death suddenly evoked by the action of the mind. Many a business man has been prostrated by a violent nervous or bilious attack, in consequence of having his acts protested. The rates of

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Sunday Reading.

For the World We Live In.

PRAYER.

Remember thy God when the morning breaks,  
When nature in her glorious morn'g awakes,  
Do thou on the breath of morn'g's pure air  
Send upward to Heaven thy heart's prayer.  
When the sun's bright rays have once more gone,  
When the shadows of night steal gently on,  
When the stars of heaven are beaming bright  
And the moon is robed in her silver light,  
Then call forth thy spirit's exalted powers,  
And to heaven devote the solemn hours.

The prayer will draw thy spirit near  
Our God, who alone can soothe and cheer  
Our God, who thoughtless away from the hills of earth,  
It reaches the soul of his nobler birth,  
It pours us above, where He doth reign,  
And whispers, thy soul shall live again,  
It speaks of the power that bursts the tomb  
When all shall arise in beauty to bloom,  
Then turn from each scene of deep despair  
And lift thy heart to God in prayer.

No earthly chain can force apart  
The links of love in a prayerful heart;  
No power can lessen, no fear control  
The joyous music that fills the soul.  
Would you view the weapons gathered there?  
'Tis the Christian's faith and heart-felt prayer.

The prayer alone that reveals a power  
To cheer the living and to cheer the dead,  
'Tis an unwearied and serene,  
That charms and heals like a beautiful dawn,  
It yields us a joy earth never has given,  
It waits the soul to the gates of heaven,  
'Tis prayer, true prayer that guides us on  
The pathway of life, till the time shall come,  
When the soul shall rise, as we truly sing  
Our praises forever to our heavenly King.  
Cincinnati, April, 1860.

PURE RELIGION.—1. Pure religion is a practical thing—it calls into exercise the purest and best affections of the heart.—It transforms its subjects into the image of their Divine Master—whose life was a life of benevolence and love—and led them, like him, to aim constantly at doing good. As he came to "save that which was lost," and was constantly seeking after objects of benevolence—so will every one wearing his image, be disposed, not only to drop a reluctant penny into the urn of charity as it happens to intrude itself in his way, but he will "visit the fatherless and the widows,"—seek out objects of benevolence, that he may enjoy the luxury of "lending to the Lord."

The heart that is thus disposed, will show itself ever ready to engage in every good work. On all occasions, when the interests of men, whether temporal or spiritual, are concerned, such a person may be relied upon as ready to bear his part in securing or advancing those interests. He will never be found knowingly on the side of evil; for his religion is a religion of "good will to men."

He will "keep himself unspotted from the world." His general deportment will correspond with the state of heart which is indicated by his benevolence, and readiness to do good. He lives above the world, as it regards