

COMMUNICATION.

THE FAMILY OF TROUT SPRING:

OR, THE BENEFIT OF FEMALE EDUCATION IN REARING A FAMILY.

At an early period in the history of the state of Pennsylvania, Albert C. moved with his wife and infant children from the more populous regions of the East, and settled in the then almost unbroken forests of Pennsylvania. Albert was the descendant of a respectable line of ancestry who left Europe to seek in the wilds of America for an Asylum from persecution, on account of religious principles. The family had for years enjoyed a happy mediocrity that removed them equally from the inconveniences of abject poverty and the temptations incident to a life of fashionable dissipation and luxury. Albert married a young woman of his own age, after mature acquaintance, and without any of the crosses and disappointments which have been so sorrowfully depicted by the novelist. This young lady brought him little except warm affection, an unsullied reputation, and a well cultivated mind. Her family were poor, yet respectable, and she had received from her father an education rather above common girls in her station in those days. Albert finding himself at the head of an increasing family, with little prospect of acquiring real estate in an old settlement where land always commands a high price, determined, notwithstanding the delicacy of his wife's health, to try his fortune in what was then called the "backwoods." In pursuance of this resolution, we find him in the year 17.. in a log cabin, surrounded by unbroken forests, acknowledging no fealty to man, & subject to the undisturbed tread of its fourfooted inhabitants. Remote from the aid of fellow man, remote from all the blessings which are derived from social society, we may well suppose that it required the exertions of Albert to provide for the sustenance of his infant family, without supplying any of the luxuries, or even all the conveniences, of life, and without bestowing any considerable portion of his time on the education of his children. In a situation such as we have described, it will be at once perceived that public schools were out of the question, so the education of the family devolved upon Mrs. C.

In the midst of her domestic avocations and multiplied duties, this amiable woman found time to imbue the minds of her children with the love of truth, justice, mercy and all other social virtues. She by her indefatigable industry and acquired skill, taught them the rudiments of an English education, so as to qualify them for the ordinary business of rural life.

It is an established rule that 'ignorance is the fore-runner of crime;' and hence it is said that the inhabitants of newly settled territories are usually a rough, and in many cases, a tumultuous and riotous people. Without admitting the latter assertion in the broad sense in which it is usually applied, it must be admitted, that children reared from schools and without domestic instruction, usually grow up the devotees of sensuality. The human mind will not remain unemployed, nor the hands idle, and consequently the mind conceives useless or vicious designs, and the hands execute them. To extend and direct information into the most profitable channel is, and ought to be, the design of every philanthropist. But in situations like that of Albert C., who is present to perform that office? The wife. If she had been herself uncultivated, who then? Alas none! The child of her bosom would grow up before her face the victim of ignorance and its concomitant vice. She might know and observe the evil, but could only bemoan and not amend; because the mental soil cannot remain vacant, and she could not plant that which she did not possess.

While many tenants of the wilderness have reared up families to drag out lives of useless toil as mere machines—while others have reared them to plant thorns in the pillow of the mother, and a blot upon the father's name, the intelligent companion of Albert C. reared her numerous family in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord"—though tried with all the privations of poverty in a howling desert. Her children have long since grown up, and are respectively settled in the world. They occupy various locations, various situations and perform various duties. They are all highly respectable, and some of them have filled high and important offices in the commonwealth.

Behold here then, the importance of at-

tending to the cultivation of the female mind: Not merely in needle work, music and the fashionable branches, but in the solid sciences. Suppose this lady by her talents and assiduity added but one to the number of useful citizens—suppose by her means but one of her offspring was saved from intemperance and woe—what reward does she deserve? If we look to the number of persons who have grown up untutored, and compare them with an equal number of well educated persons, we always find the proportion of vicious ones amongst the former much greater than among the latter. Hence it is fair to infer, that this assiduous mother may have saved more than one.

If the man who taught two heads of wheat to grow where one had grown, is entitled to the thanks of his countrymen, what thanks are due to her who taught two virtuous citizens to move where one virtuous & one vicious would have grown? The question is beyond the power of language to answer until we ascertain the value of an immortal soul.

Such is the family of Trout Spring and such has been the consequence attendant upon female knowledge. Let daughters be well taught for you know not where their "lots may be cast." S.

A SERPENT-TONGUED INFANT.

TIVERTON, (R. I.) May 22, 1837.

I embrace the earliest opportunity to make you acquainted with such of the facts as have come to my knowledge relative to the "serpent-tongued infant" of which we had casually heard, just previous to my departure for Block Island. Quite unexpectedly, day before yesterday, I found myself in the very neighborhood of this strange and wayward production of nature. My curiosity, as you may well suppose, was greatly excited, and I confess I felt an intense anxiety to examine for myself an object which began to excite so much interest in the neighborhood of its occurrence. Mr. T., a worthy old gentleman in the vicinity, a former acquaintance of mine, with whom I accidentally met kindly offered to accompany me to Mr. W.'s the father of the unfortunate child. We reached there about 9 o'clock this morning, and were received very courteously by Mr. W. and his interesting young wife. After an agreeable introduction, my aged friend stated the object of our visit, and the desire I had manifested to see their unfortunate little child of whom I had just heard. Mr. W. informed us that for several weeks he had, in almost every instance, declined admitting strangers, as he thought their presence had an unfavorable effect upon the child, but as I had come considerable distance out of my way, he was disposed to gratify my wish, the more especially as he thought I might give him some advice in relation to the course he ought, in future to pursue. We were then invited into adjoining room, in one corner of which we beheld, tied in a small low chair a most horribly emaciated little child apparently about 2 years old. I am aware that I shall totally fail in giving you any thing like an adequate idea of the miserable object before us. Imagine, if you can, an infant, or mere child, of about the age above supposed, reduced to a very skeleton, hairless, and covered with a parched and shrivelled skin, dark and unelastic as the corresponding structure in the withered octogenarian. Its little red, fiery eyes, rolling restlessly, in the deep recesses of its fleshless sockets, sent forth horrid flashes of indignation, when the door to its apartment was thrown open.

The little sufferer opened his mouth, and in the place of its tongue, and for a tongue, a serpent's head and neck were thrust out, vibrating and hissing with an intensity to the venomous varieties of that repulsive species of animated nature! I could not, for several minutes muster sufficient courage to approach the object of my curiosity. I was fixed to the spot which I at first occupied, while the serpent headed tongue continued to dart forth and recede with the quickness of thought, its little forked and fiery tongue at the same time playing about the lips and nostrils of the child, equaling in velocity the lightning's flash! Mr. W. the father, gradually approached the child, all the time speaking very soothingly to it, and in a few minutes succeeded in producing quiet—the head receded, the lips closed over it, and the infant exhibited the aspect only of extreme emaciation. But the moment I moved towards the child, even but a single step, the mouth would open, the head suddenly dart forth; and the same dreadful spectacle I have already imperfectly described, would be again presented. The father, however, beckoned me to approach which I did, but never shall I forget the tremendous hissing which came from the serpent-headed tongue of the little sufferer. It was several minutes before quietude could be produced, and even then the slightest motion on my part would cause an instantaneous protrusion of the unsightly organ; accompanied by hissing sound more or less intense according to the fears of the child.

I had several fair opportunities of seeing the strange member, and will endeavor to give you a description of it. Its color is a dark copper, shining, and in places inclining to streaks of green. Its eyes are jet black, and when the light strikes them

favorably, no diamonds ever send forth more brilliant scintillations of light! A bright yellow ring encircles the neck, and really has much the appearance of gold. The mouth of this serpent-headed tongue is quite large, and was always slightly open when the head was protruded beyond the lips. Its little forked tongue, as I have already said, was incessantly in motion. We stayed in the room just 30 minutes, during the latter part of which time the child became very quiet, and took freely of milk, its usual food. The father told me he had known the tongue to bite several times, and once when it fastened upon one of his fingers, much swelling and soreness followed, indeed he was only relieved by a copious bleeding. He informed me also, that the child eat voraciously of milk, & sometimes other kinds of food, but that it preferred the former. The child is of the female sex. He stated further that several eminent physicians and surgeons had been to see the child, and that it had been recommended by one, the eminent Dr. W., that the tongue be extirpated. I coincided in this opinion, and advised that the Dr. be called on to perform the operation.—The father, Mr. W., is about 28 years old, and the mother, I should judge, about twenty-two. She is very beautiful, has been married about five years and this is their first and only child. I have omitted names in this hasty sketch at the request of the parties concerned.

Shin plasters Whigs.—Since Biddle's mammoth rag bank failed, he has all his spaniels busy in circulating small bills in violation of law; this is done for the purpose of driving all specie out of circulation, so that these rag bank shin plaster Whigs may have more ample power to defraud & swindle the unsuspecting laboring, and indigent portion of the community. It furthers their plans for gathering up all the specie, to send to Europe to aid them in their foreign speculations, and it goes to complete the grand design of the enemies of specie currency in this country, in thus nullifying the laws, and measures of the General Government. The shin plaster Whigs want, and seem determined to have, a depreciated paper currency, as its attendant inconveniences to the farmer, mechanic, and laborer, affords a thrifty field to the paper money aristocracy; for shaving, extortion, and speculation.—Even the laws and institutions of the country are violated, to enable shin plaster Colonels to display their allegiance and obedience to Biddle, in following his commands. Even the inflated Colonel of the Bank Whigs, in this county, has issued shin plasters!—Will the democracy of Columbia county tamely submit to these violations of law by the Rag Barons?—*Danville Intelligencer.*

A man named Joannin has been condemned by the Paris correctional tribunal, and fined 36,000 francs for usury. Another 20,000 francs for the same offence. If all the usurers in this country were fined 20,000 francs, a National Bank would be necessary to collect the revenue.

THE LONDON SQUAW.

Most of the readers of the public press probably recollect the publication of a romantic story of a young lady of London, possessed of wealth and great personal beauty, who, two or three years ago, became enamored of Peter Jones, a Seneca Indian, a missionary, and married him, in despite of the remonstrances of friends and the scandal of the world. The Boston Herald informs us that Mrs. Jones migrated to the West, soon after her marriage, with her aboriginal lord; but, at last, having become disgusted with the life he led her, she secretly abdicated his wigwam, and returned to England, in the packet of the 16th of May. During the sojourn of Mrs. Jones in the West, she became the mother of two children, both of whom are dead.

One of the Wonders of the Age.—We have been shown a sheet of paper about a hundred feet in length and two feet wide, printed on both sides by a machine at one operation. This extraordinary invention enables a person to print off any length of paper required for any number of copies of a work or a public journal, without a single stop, and without the assistance of any person except one to put in the rags at the extremity of the machine. The work comes out entire and complete.

This wonderful operation is effected by the placing of the types on stereotype plates on the surface of two cylinders, which are connected with the paper-making machinery. The paper, as it issues from the mill, enters in a properly moistened state between the rollers, which are evenly inked by an ingenious apparatus and emerges in a printed form. The number of copies can be measured off by the yard or mile, according to the demand, or according to the supply of the "raw material." The work which we have seen from this press is Robinson Crusoe, and consists of one hundred and sixty duodecimo pages.

All that is necessary for a man to do on going into a paper mill, is to take off his shirt, hand it to the devil who officiates at one extremity, and have it come out Robinson Crusoe at the other. Mr. Thomas French of Utica is the inventor.

New-York Sun.

A TOAST.—"I give you, Mr. President," said a Massachusetts representative, "I give you Commerce, Agriculture, and Manufactures, the three twin sisters."

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.



"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR."

BLOOMSBURG:

Saturday, June 17, 1837.

Our correspondent "QUERIST" is too personal for insertion. He should remember that jealousy alone conceals slander; and that a person who escapes the sarcasm of a common blackguard will have to participate in his associations. We shall refrain from all abuse of persons in this paper, either editorially or through correspondents, unless public justice demands the adoption of such a course. He can have his communication by calling for it.

Our subscribers at Mordansville & Millville are informed that the packages of No. 6, of the "Columbia Democrat," were sent with a Mr. Conner, of Greenwood, on the day of publication. It is presumed he became *forgetful* on his way home, and thus neglected a duty which he voluntarily undertook to discharge. Hereafter we will be more cautious in intrusting our packages with absent-minded persons.

THE FIRE PROOF BUILDINGS.

The County Commissioners on Saturday last refused to carry the wishes of the Danville folks into effect; and we presume that hereafter the people will not be caught napping on the subject of Fire proof buildings. It was recommended at the last term by a bare majority of the Grand Jury present, and under circumstances to which we had allusion in our first number. We rejoice, heartily rejoice, in this legal decision of the County Commissioners; and to Messrs. BARKLEY and YEAGER we are solely indebted for such an exhibition of integrity to the interests of the people of Columbia county. They defied the threats of the leading "conservatives;" and while they have saved the many from crouching to the few, they have likewise prevented the people from an odious and oppressive taxation for an unjust purpose. To the friends of a central location of the Seat of Justice we need now only say, BE VIGILANT, and your ends will soon be accomplished. *The Danville folks have approved the necessity of constructing new public buildings;* and hence the buildings already in use will hereafter be no ground of argument in favor of the one-cornered location. We are now on a par as respects this question; and with a vast majority in favor of removal, who can doubt the result?

We are pleased to announce that Capt. NEAL MCCOY was on Saturday last elected Major of the 2d Battalion of the forty-eighth regiment. The election was held at Washingtonville; and notwithstanding the Danville folks mustered about a hundred votes, their candidate, B. S. WOLVERTON, met a most woful defeat.

It is rumored that the Cattawissa Rail Road Company are about to discontinue operations. We presume that this course will be adopted on account of the "suspension of specie payments," as neither the contractors nor labourers will have any thing to do with Col. Paxton's "shin-plasters." This will afford another instance of the "horrible consequences of the experiment;" and although contractors and labourers will be thrown out of employment, we opine that the salaries of the President and Engineer will not be suspended. Poor people alone are the ones upon whom such schemes operate.

We are informed that a committee of persons were appointed by a meeting in Danville with instructions to enforce the penalty of the law on those concerned in issuing or circulating shin-plasters. Such a course has been adopted in several other places, where the people are opposed to making "the rich richer, and the poor poorer," by those vile and illegal rags.

BERWICK BRIDGE.—The contractors are progressing in the construction of this bridge, and calculate on having it in passable order by the first of November. They have agreed to finish it before the first of June next, and will doubtless perform their work, notwithstanding some extras, within the limits of their contract.

"THE FAMILY OF TROUT SPRING,"

a well written tale, will be found in another column; and we consider it a compliment to the author, to state the simple fact, that he is at present occupying a seat in the convention to propose amendments to our state constitution. In a note accompanying the "hasty sketch," he remarks: "I freely confess all the obligations to my mother that the children of Mrs. C. owe to their's under every circumstance." It always affords us pleasure to see men in exalted stations exerting those finer feelings of the human heart, in advancing the moral welfare of the community—but such instances now-a-days are very rare indeed. The thirst after office generally absorbs all their leisure hours in devising schemes for their own political preferment; and instead of exhibiting, in their own persons, the reward of virtue and industry, they feign to forget that they once ranked with that class whom they now look upon as plebian instruments of power. The author of such instructive essays exhibits the devotion of all his time to the interests of his fellow creatures; and while he deserves public confidence, will seldom abuse it.—We shall be happy to receive more favours from that quarter.

THE MARKETS.—Flour continues at \$9 per barrel in Philadelphia, and has advanced to \$6 per barrel in Pittsburg. In Bloomsburg it readily brings \$10 per barrel—and hard to get even at that price.

SPECIE—THE BANKS.

In 1828 there was but twenty millions of dollars of specie in the United States, but owing to the wise policy of Gen. Jackson's administration, it had increased last year to the enormous amount of Eighty millions of dollars. This sum was in the vaults of the different Banks when they suspended specie payments about a month since; and if we examine their last report to the Auditor General we find the fact recorded under oath, that they had more specie in their vaults at that time than at any previous period of their existence. Then why stop specie payments? Is it for the benefit of the farmer, the mechanic, or the Workingman? Far from it. The object of the Banks is of a different nature entirely. As monied concerns, they wish to render all classes subservient to the influence of wealth; and, as a political party, they are attempting to force the charter of a National Bank by Congress, to re-enact the scenes of bribery and corruption which we can all recollect distinctly, and to control our markets and our ballot boxes by their circulation of rags. A short time hence, and their intentions will be disclosed. The Congress which assembles in September will be called upon to carry their designs into effect; and if the bargain and sale principle which procured a re-charter of the United States Bank by our legislature be not adopted, it will be owing to the previously ascertained integrity of the democratic representatives. Let the people examine the villainous system of Banking—let them elect none but instructed representatives to carry out their determinations of reform in that quarter; and we shall no more hear of bribery and treachery—of embarrassment in the monetary concerns of our country—of suspension of specie payments—or the illegal circulation of shin-plasters. Look at the concert of action among the Banks from one extreme end of the Union to the other—all pursuing the same oppressive policy at the same time—and all attributing the cause to the operations of one another. Were they not instructed in this matter by the Thirty Five millions Monster! Can FREEMAN bow to such dictation? If so, then must they suffer the consequences; but we know that the same imperious tones which were pronounced by the voice of the country against the Monster and its Sattelites, will again be reiterated with double force and effect. The Monied Oligarchy must be put down, or our civil institutions will be at the mercy of their enemies.

SMALL NOTES.

The *Norristown Register* of Wednesday last, states that in all the suits instituted for recovering the penalty for issuing Shin-plasters, the plaintiffs recovered judgment for the amount (\$5) and the costs.—The *positive language of the law* leaves no alternative but submission to its penalty.—It is gratifying to learn that in every instance of the exaction of the penalty the defendants found no inconvenience in paying the cash. *Poor people cannot easily violate this law.*