

Correspondence of the Free Press.]

New York City, Oct. 25, 1847.

Carey & I commence the first of the "one or two letters," which I promised to write you from during this miniature voyage, and whether this be the last will have the result of three inquiries. Will it pay [—a question requiring no interprets to make it intelligible in this *cui bono* age], would the readers of the Free Press be gratified, receiving an occasional communication from a society, which involves so much activity, which costs such energy and restless enterprise, which is daily so much changing, and exists so general a diffusion, in all the cities of the United States? The third and final point to be determined, did they like to hear from me?—and the only one I can furnish them in fixing this, apart from these matters, may be summed up in a brief comment. I was educated in the school of the U. V. M., a member of the Vermonters, and teaching the Whig. Now, as these are determined, describe the event of my writing, perhaps a woe-ky letter, or a few lines, if unfavorably, I still terminate the matter, and I will not be so foolish as to persist by saying, "I have written you, and I am doing my honor." But, if otherwise, I shall endeavor to send you such sketches by the way, and commendate general intelligence in regard to city events, manners, and schemes, as will benefit that portion of readers who seldom visit this great continent, and who, consequently, can know but little of the people and the power, while it may not be without interest to the remainder of the community, by passing away a few moments at the approaching winter evenings, in glancing at the notes I may be touching men and things, and in comparing their own views on so much more liberal to develop their results on so much more liberal a

will be my aim, mainly, to notice only such as shall be of use in disclosing the leading factors that interest, which is peculiar to a stage and in tracing the outlines of the actual progress and history of this, as distinguished from other cities, in its peculiar location and recreative social tendency.

It is the fact, that New York is more commercial, more enterprising and more intelligent than Philadelphia and Washington; and Philadelphia, more so than the latter cities. The fact is, that New York is the seat of the nation's political learning and the fine arts than them, these certainly must be a wide field for digging inquiry into the causes which have stamped it with a character which it reserves wherever the same spoken, and which impart to each an interest of its own.

And, I conceive, it to be the true object, which a correspondent for a country paper should have in view to trace these peculiarities—these idiosyncrasies, and to show how they are strongly marked and regulated purposes of their own, and to be commercially, by their intent or result, give direction to them. For, surely, he would prescribe for himself less task, should he seek to detail the countless events which go to make up the sum of that motion and bustle of restless cities, which at first arrests the attention of the occasional visitor only as they arrest and disturb his rest.

Interest, which is spent on one can be felt as an interest on another, and is useful, even by the dead and ignorant, as by the wise and virtuous. It is interest which leads upon *robbers*, and stimulates the *thief* to his trade, and the *lark*, which is the sparkling effervescence on the surface of a nation, occasioned by the basest propensities of human nature fighting and combating beneath. Mingle in an enormous ever so much—watch the sliding hour

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J. B. Churchill, Inspector General.  
J. B. Crane, III, Artillery.  
Col. A. M. Fayre, Artillery.  
Lieut. Col. S. H. Lewis, Corps of Top Engs.  
Col. J. P. Taylor, Submarine Department.  
Col. R. E. D. Russy, Corps of Engineers.  
Lt. Col. H. R. Gray, Ordnance Department.  
Lt. Col. W. C. Smith, Ordnance Department.  
J. D. Graham, Corps of Engineers.  
R. DeWitt, Corps of Engineers.  
Maj. G. A. McCall, Asst. Adjutant General.  
E. W. Morgan, Infantry.  
John F. Lee, Ordnance Department, is appointed the Judge Advocate of the court.

The court, we understand, is ordered to assemble on 24 day of November next, at Fort Monroe, where the necessary military station where public quarters can be furnished for its accommodation.