

## The Daily News.

THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 15, 1866.

PARIS GOSPIER.

## THE GUILLOTINE.

The whole *science* of the Académie de Médecine recently occupied with discussion concerning the possibility of sensation in the human head decapitated and separated from the body by the guillotine. The subject has now and then occupied the researches of some of the most erudite and scientific men of the age. Neither attraction nor force of the argument can be sustained by proof, and therefore the subject will furnish food for argument to the end of all time. The inquiry on the present occasion is Dubois d'Amiens, whose elaborate memoir on the subject has excited the greatest interest amongst the medical men of Paris. By dint of research Dubois d'Amiens has discovered the real inventor of the guillotine to have been not the Dr. Guillotine after whom the instrument is called, in consequence of the general belief that it was first employed by him to human sacrifice, but the celebrated Louis, the friend of Voltaire, and secretary to the Academy of Medicine at the time of the revolution, and the doctor most in vogue amongst the aristocracy, whether confined in prison, consigned in garret, or starving in obscure situations throughout Paris. It was by the energetic remonstrances of the great surgeon Louis, concerning the injustice of affording an easy death to the poor by means of hanging, and such terrible suffering in the case of the nobles—who were decapitated by the sword, which, in nineteen cases out of twenty, failed to kill the victim before the third or fourth blow, thus prolonging the bitterness of death, and procuring a lengthened torture to the victim. It was in reality Dr. Guillotine who petitioned the Assembly for a more expeditious mode of execution, and a Royalist journal of the time indicating the petition, published a machine for wholesale execution to be called a "guillotine," so that the hideous thing had found a name before it was invented. The legislative committee had no objection to taking human life, and his report upon the subject was printed in the *Moniteur* of the 22d March, 1792. The report contained a proposition to establish a machine working by the use of steam, upon the principle of the common sash window still in use in England and throughout the north of Europe, which would direct the axe straight upon the neck of the victim and execute immediate decapitation. The usual result with men of science took place in this instance with Louis. He became enthusiastic in the cause he had undertaken to plead and sent for a certain clever mechanic named Smith, who constructed a machine whereof certain experiments were tried upon the corpses of the paupers who died at Bicêtre. By giving the axe the impetus which was required he discovered that heads could be severed in any quantity to the shortest time possible. It was not till the 25th of April following that the instrument was completed. It was tried on a highway robber, and found to succeed perfectly. It was on the 21st of August of that same year that the first political execution took place by means of the guillotine. The ceremony was invested with all the pomp and circumstance of a public spectacle. It took place at midnight, by the light of innumerable torches, and in presence of a tremendous crowd, amid the most awful stillness. From this night the guillotine began its interrupted reign. It was at once accepted, and has never been submitted to the smallest improvement or alteration ever since; but just as it issued from the brain of the surgeon Louis and the hand of the mechanic Smith so does it now execute the decree which condemns it to satisfy the necessity experienced by governments to sweep from the face of the earth all witnesses to the neglect and parsimony of information amongst the people, whose it produced the crime, which, not having been vigilant enough to prevent, they must show themselves powerful enough to punish. The great desideratum of their celebrity was accomplished by the guillotine. It worked bravely as heart could wish. The twenty-one Girondins, all young and brave, and full of life and vigor, were decapitated in thirty-one minutes. The very celebrity with which the machine was introduced has made us take for granted that the pain, if any, must of necessity be but momentary. But M. Dubois, by no means sure of the question, brings forward many examples by which the possibility of not only suffering but of consciousness for many minutes after the separation of the head from the body may be established.

The experiments made at the abattoirs about thirty years ago have been renewed by Dubois, and with the same result—that of a perfect belief in the duration of not only sensibility, but thought, in the head for full five minutes after decapitation has taken place. "Sensation leaves not the human body all on a sudden, but by slow degrees, and the brain survives the rest by three or four minutes." This is the opinion expressed by Dr. Bonchate, who, for the last few years, has devoted himself entirely to the study of this important question. Those doctors who have had the opportunity of examining heads immediately after decapitation, have testified to the existence of sensation in the brain for some little time. The medical man who was allowed to examine the head of La Pommier the instant after it had fallen into the basket, was so terrified at the look of horror expressed in the eyes that he let go his hold, and suffered it to fall back again unable to sustain the frightful glance. Three minutes afterwards he took courage and looked again, when he perceived the face agitated by convulsive movements, which lasted for some time, and which indicated that consciousness had departed from the head it may be restored to animation. His experiment, made upon several sheep at the abattoirs, consisted in the injection of fresh blood, with oxygen, into the veins. The blood, on flowing to the brain, renewed the life in that organ; and Professor Valpin lately expressed his conviction, in one of his lectures, that the same experiment might be made with equal success upon the human head, and that the life and intelligence might be restored for a while even after separation from the body. The experiment is supposed to have been made upon the men belonging to the *Forces Armées*, who were all reanimated at Brest the other day. Should it have proved successful, we shall not be long before hearing of it, as the subject has become one of general interest amongst medical men.

## TELEGRAPH COMPANIES COMMON CARRIERS.

A suit of more than ordinary interest was tried last week in the Court of Common Pleas, of Lancaster county, Pa. It was in the case of M. G. Wenzel against the United States Telegraph Company. The Lancaster *Intelligencer* says:

The question at issue involved the rights and liabilities of telegraph companies, the law regulating these cases being somewhat uncertain, inasmuch as there were very few, if any, tried in this State, and none, we believe, in this country. The main question in this case was the one: On the 10th of October, 1864, the plaintiff, then a dealer in stocks, ordered through his agent, Geo. R. Reed, of the firm of Reed, McGinn & Co., bankers of this city, the purchase of fifty shares of Prairie du Chien Railroad stock.

Mr. Reed immediately called at the business office of the company, then in North Queen street, left the dispatch, paid for its transmission to the firm of Wm. & A. O'Brien, bankers, No. 58 Wall street, New York, with whom Reed, McGinn & Co. did their business. The latter, according to custom, duplicated the order by letter, in which they referred to the order of the plaintiff, and arrived in due course, on the following day, but the telegram never reached New York. Mr. Potts, the operator here, testified that upon inquiry he could only trace it to Philadelphia. It appeared that Messrs. O'Brien, did not see the letter, because they supposed the order had reference to another transaction, and probably required explanation.

During the several days consumed in the effort to buy and to find out where the mistake rested, stocks advanced in price. The order, however, was filled on the 13th of October, in pursuance of another telegram, sent through this or the other company, but at an advance of about \$42.50 more than the stocks could have been purchased for on the 10th, to recover which difference the suit was brought. The court, Judge Hayes, substantially charged the jury that the defendants were a "common carrier," that as such it was responsible for the non-delivery in this case of the telegram sent or ordered; and that the measure of damages was the difference between what the stocks could have been bought for on the 10th of October and what they cost on the 13th, when the purchase was made. The jury returned a verdict for \$42.50 and costs.

General Naglee has planted four hundred acres of his California tract with mulberry trees, and intends to engage in the cultivation of silk.

## SPECIAL NOTICE.

## DISEASES OF THE

## EYE AND EAR.

## DR. GARDNER,

[FORMERLY OF LONDON, ENGLAND.]

## OCULIST AND AURIST,

## OPERATOR

ON THE

## EYE AND EAR.

RESPECTFULLY INFORMS THE CITIZENS OF Charleston and vicinity that he has taken Rooms at the Charleston Hotel, and will be prepared to receive Patients on Thursday, November 8th, until Thursday, November 16th, after which time will visit this city on occasion may require, of which due notice will be given.

## OFFICE HOURS FROM 9 A. M. TO 6 P. M.

And can be consulted on DEAFNESS, NOISE IN THE HEAD, CATARRH, DISCHARGES FROM THE EAR, SCALDS IN THE EAR, ACCUMULATION OF WAX IN THE EAR, OBSTRUCTION OF THE EUSTACHIAN TUBE, and all Acute or Chronic Diseases of the EYE AND AIR PASSAGES.

## ARTIFICIAL EYES

INSERTED WITHOUT PAIN, AND PERFECTLY RESEMBLING THE NATURAL EYE.

## OPERATIONS FOR CATARACT,

## STRABISMUS

OR

## CROSS EYE,

## Artificial Pupil, &amp;c.,

## EYE AND EAR

Skilfully performed, and all diseases of the

## DOCTOR GARDNER.

Principal Office, 84 West 40th st., N. Y.

For reference, testimonials, &c., send for a CIRCULAR.

## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

The Louisville *Journal* says: "The testimonials which Dr. Gardner presents to the public could never have been obtained, except by the display of great skill and learning in his profession. One thing especially commendable in the Doctor's practice is, that he will not attempt an incurable disease for the sake of a fee, but frankly tells the patient whether he can be cured or not. We cheerfully recommend Dr. Gardner to the attention of all our friends who may be suffering from diseases of the eye and ear."

The Richmond *Times* says: "We have no hesitation in saying that Dr. Gardner is the most scientific and successful eye and ear surgeon in this country."

Dr. Gardner's treatment of the eye and ear is wonderful.—*Richmond Enquirer*.

We feel justified in recommending Dr. Gardner to those suffering from diseases of the eye and ear.

The New Orleans *True Delta* says: "We can safely recommend Dr. Gardner as a successful operator on the eye and ear. He will not undertake to treat a case unless a cure can be effected."

The Wheeling *Register* says: "Dr. Gardner is one of the most successful Oculists and Aurists in the country. We advise those suffering from the diseases of the eye and ear to consult him."

## F. CHRISTMAN,

## CHEAP BOOT AND SHOE STORE,

No. 359 King-street,

BELOW GEORGE STREET.

YOU WILL FIND AT THE ABOVE ESTABLISHMENT a full supply of Gent's, Boys' and Youth's

BOOTS, SHOES, GAITERS AND SLIPPERS; Ladies' Misses' and Children's Congress Gaiters; Follish Boots, Balmoral, Booties, Bunkies and Slippers of every description; Boys' Hats of all kinds.

The above Goods I am determined to sell at the lowest possible price. My motto is quick sales and small profits. Give me a call and you will be rewarded.

October 20

## A. S. FREITAS,

DEALER IN

PAINTS, OILS, GLASS, PUTTY, ETC., READY-MIXED PAINTS, IN QUANTITIES TO SUIT PURCHASERS.

No. 174 East Bay.

## PAINTING.

HOUSE, SIGN, SHIP AND ORNAMENTAL PAINTING, Gilding, Graining, Imitations of Wood, Marble, and all other work pertaining to the trade, executed in a neat and workmanlike manner, by

FREITAS & RIDDELL,

No. 174 East Bay.

October 25

## MOORHEAD'S

## CELEBRATED BITTERS.

THE PUBLIC ARE RESPECTFULLY INFORMED that these highly esteemed BITTERS are now made by the same person who made them for over twenty years for Messrs. Moorhead. He having the original receipt, can confidently recommend them equal to any made during Moorhead's life time.

Sold in quantities to suit purchasers at No. 99 CALHOUN-STREET, south side, between Meeting and Anson streets.

September 18

## SOUTHERN

Mutual Life Insurance Company.

C. A. DeSAUSSURE, Agent.

## AGRICULTURAL

## IMPLEMENT WAREHOUSE

## SEED STORE,

No. 140 Meeting street,

OPPOSITE PAVILION HOTEL.

## LITTLE &amp; MARSHALL,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in

## AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS,

MACHINERY, SEEDS, &c.

AGENTS FOR THE

## EXCELSIOR ROLLER GIN,

FOR HAND, HORSE OR STEAM POWER.

THE HAND GIN WILL TURN OUT ONE HUNDRED POUNDS OF GINNED COTTON PER DAY WITH TWO HANDS.

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HAND GINS FROM 15 TO 25 SAWS.

POWER GINS FROM 20 TO 100 SAWS.

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The saving in the erection of buildings such as are required for these Gins and Condensers over the cost of those required for other gins, will far exceed the entire outlay for these improvements. Universal Cotton Gins and Condensers complete for use.

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August 21

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Ledgers, Journals, Cash Books, Day Books, &c., constantly on hand, and made to order, and with any description of Binding. None but the best workmen employed, and the best materials used.

A practical experience of twenty years in the above line, and with facilities unsurpassed, enable me to warrant satisfaction.

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December 14

## REMOVAL.

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HAVE REMOVED THEIR OFFICE FROM NO. 145 Meeting-street to No. 42 MARKET-STREET, below

Meeting-street, where they have on hand an assortment of BUILDING MATERIALS, such as Doors, Sashes, Blinds, Lime, Cement, Plaster Paris, Hair, Sheet Lead, Nails, 3 and 4 inch; Mahogany Plank of various widths and strips, saved out for hand by Mahogany Novel Posts and Ballusters, all at reduced prices.

Mr. E. AUSTIN, Agent, can be found there, who will keep on hand PAINTS, OILS, GLASS, PUTTY AND BRUSHES—all of which will be sold at low prices.

November 6

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Machinery of Every Description.

ALSO,

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October 25

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## MARINE AND FIRE

## INSURANCE COMPANY,

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## NEW ORLEANS.

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October 20

October 11

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July 19

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ACCOUNTANT AND COPYIST.

Collections promptly attended to

OFFICE COR. BROAD AND CHURCH STREETS,

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BOOKS WRITTEN UP, ERRORS DETECTED, BILLS MADE OUT, and all kinds of WRITING.

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September 25

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August 28

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SAW MILLS, CRIST MILLS

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April 28

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April 28

October 11

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July 7