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FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1826.

To the Editors of the Phenix Gazette.

Gentlemen—A writer in your paper of the 29th, over the signature of "Copernicus," asks this question—"Is cold a negative or is it a positive substance?" He states various reasons which induce him to believe an affirmative answer must be given to the first part of his query, and then proceeds to draw, from the fact supposed to be established, inferences in favor of Symmes' Theory of the Earth. In relation to this Theory I have nothing to say; but as "Copernicus" has arrived at a conclusion in regard to the nature of cold which appears to me erroneous, I will offer a few remarks for his consideration.

In stating the arguments which have induced "philosophers generally" to believe cold is a negative quality, he admits one, which I think must have had considerable weight in their minds, because it is one of importance. We see the effects produced by heat, and can trace them with certainty to it as their cause; but all the effects of cold I have ever seen, or heard of, can as well be accounted for under the supposition that it is negative, as the contrary; for in all these we notice the agency of heat, though not existing in that degree in which it has usually borne the name of heat. Until we are able, metaphorically speaking, to hold up to view the substance under discussion, turn it over, and examine its various properties, we have strong reason to believe it does not exist.

This writer adduces the contrast between the effects produced, by pouring sulphuric acid upon pounded ice, in one experiment, and into water, in another, as an argument in favor of his conclusion; but he goes upon the supposition that this phenomenon has never been satisfactorily accounted for. If, in the one case, the absorption of heat, and in the other, its evolution be proven, his argument will fall to the ground. It is a law of nature well known to chemists, that when a substance passes from a liquid into a solid form, or from a rare to a denser state of fluidity, a quantity of latent (unperceived) heat is set free, and thus becomes apparent to our senses. The reverse of this law is equally well known: viz, that when a body passes from a solid to a liquid form, or from a dense to a rarer state of fluidity, heat is absorbed, rendered latent, insensible. When sulphuric acid is poured on snow or pounded ice, the whole mixture becomes liquid; the ice, of course, leaves its solid form—it then absorbs heat; and as the sulphuric acid and the surrounding air have to part with an equal quantity, this circumstance produces the degree of cold which is witnessed. If we pour sulphuric acid into water, though that water be of the same temperature with the ice in the first experiment, yet a contrary effect upon the thermometer is produced, by a change taking place different from the foregoing. In this instance, the water unites with the acid, and reaches a denser state than it was in before. According to the law above quoted, it parts with a portion of its latent heat, which becomes sensible.

It no doubt appeared singular to "Copernicus," that from two experiments, results directly opposite should proceed, when in each instance, the same substances, at the same temperature, were mixed together. But there is a great difference between the quantity of heat contained in ice and in water. The latter parts with a portion of this substance when it becomes converted into the former. If it were not for this, the process of congelation would be a sudden, instead of a gradual operation.—This is rendered more obvious by the fact, that when by artifice a fluid is made to crystallize precipitately, a considerable rise in temperature takes place. The discovery of this fact, has placed within the power of millers a plan, by which they can prevent the accumulation of ice upon their water wheels. They erect over the wheel a house of sufficient extent to cover a portion of the stream—this house has double walls, between which is inserted some substance that will not conduct heat.—During cold weather, a quantity of this agent is set free from the ice which forms below, sufficient to keep the temperature of the whole room above 32 degrees.

"Copernicus" says, in his second paragraph, the smallest degree of heat would be sufficient to expel cold from the polar regions, were the latter a negative quality. We have to take his word for this, for he adduces no proof. It is

certainly not an aberration from the path of true philosophy to say, that where the rays of the sun fall more obliquely, and of consequence impart less heat to the earth and atmosphere, heat there exists in a less degree.

In the third paragraph of his communication, "Copernicus" infers that cold is a positive substance, from the circumstance, that "deep caverns, mines, &c." are not "the coldest regions in the universe." He seems to have lost sight of the fact, that every particle of matter is a store-house of this animating and indispensable requisite to the existence of the whole world.

HERSCHEL.

P. S. If "Copernicus" has leisure to write it, I should like to see his theory, of the manner in which the contact of the sun's rays with oxygen gas produces heat, and the reason why more heat is engendered where the quantity of oxygen gas is greater.

Documents accompanying the President's Message on the Panama Question.

[No. 14 is a letter of instructions from Mr. Clay to Mr. Middleton, published in the Phenix of the 21st inst. and to which the following is an answer.]

No. 15.

No. 49.—Mr. Middleton to Mr. Clay.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, &c. &c. &c.
St. Petersburg, 27th Aug (8th Sept.) 1825.
SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of the answer of the Russian Secretary of State, to my note of 2d July last, by which I had communicated to this Government, in extenso, the instructions I had received by your despatch No. 1.

I think I am warranted in considering this answer to be, in substance, (when divested of diplomatic garb,) in every respect as favorable to the views developed in your despatch, as could possibly be expected to be given by this Government, standing in the predicament it now does. We are left to infer from it, that the proposal that the Emperor shall lend his aid towards the conclusion of the war between Spain and her Colonies, by interposing his good offices in the form of pacific counsel to the mother country, has been communicated to the Allied Cabinets, and I am fully of opinion, that the majority, if not the whole of them, will agree to it. If such should be the event, the Diplomatic Committee, sitting at Paris will be instructed accordingly. The chief difficulty to be overcome will be in the Cabinet of the King of Spain, where it is understood that all parties are opposed to the independence of the Colonies. The necessity of the case, however, begins to be so crying, that a hope may be entertained that even there the counsels of wisdom may ere long be listened to. For obvious reasons we must not expect to learn, officially, that such advice, as that alluded to above, has been given, unless it should be attended to.

I have the honor to be, Sir, very faithfully, your very obedient servant.

HENRY MIDDLETON.

(a.)

Count Nesselrode to Mr. Middleton.

[Translation of a paper with Mr. Middleton's No. 49.]
The undersigned, Secretary of State, directing the Imperial Administration of Foreign Affairs, hastened to submit to the Emperor the note with which Mr. Middleton, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, did the honor to address him, on the 2d July last, accompanying a copy of the despatch from Mr. Clay, in which that Minister, in the name of the Cabinet at Washington, urges the necessity of confirming the general peace, by terminating the contest of the Spanish Colonies against the Government of his Catholic Majesty; of securing to Spain the peaceful possession of the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico; and of effecting these objects by the impartial intervention of Russia.

The principles of the Emperor were sufficiently known to the government of the U. States, to justify the perfect confidence that in expressing a wish for the continuance and confirmation of the peace enjoyed by the world, it did but represent the most sincere desire of his Imperial Majesty, that, in professing a generous solicitude for the rights of Spain, over her Islands in the West Indies, it avowed principles that had long since been adopted by Russia, as the bases of her political system; and that, in anticipating perfect impartiality and true disinterestedness from her intervention, it was not deceived as to the sentiments of the Emperor, in relation to all arrangements in which foreign Powers might be pleased to claim or admit his good offices.

His Imperial Majesty felicitates himself with having inspired this confidence in the U. States of America, & the undersigned is charged to invite Mr. Middleton to convey to his government the assurance of the high value at which the Emperor estimates those sentiments of which new evidence is furnished by its present propositions.

The opinions of his Imperial Majesty as to the question discussed by Mr. Clay in his despatch, cannot be concealed from the Cabinet of Washington. His Imperial Majesty has ever thought that justice, the law of nations, and the general interests in having the indisputable titles of sovereignty respected, could not allow the determinations of the mother country in this important case, to be prejudged or anticipated. On the other side, whenever Spain has wished to discuss the future condition of South America, she has addressed overtures to all the Allied Powers of Europe. It will not be possible therefore, for his Imperial Majesty to change principles in this negotiation, and to institute it separately (isolément); and until positive information has been received of the ulterior views of Spain, in regard to her American possessions, of her decision upon the proposition of the United States, and of the opinions of her Allies in relation to the same subject, Russia cannot give a definitive answer.

She is, however, in the mean while, pleased to hope, that the United States, becoming every day more convinced of the evils and dangers that would result to Cuba and Porto Rico from a change of government, being satisfied, as Mr. Clay has said, in his despatch, with the present commercial legislation of these two Islands, and

deriving an additional motive of security from the honorable resolution of Spain not to grant to them any longer letters of marque, will use their influence, in defeating, as far as may be in their power, every enterprise against these Islands, in securing to the rights of his Catholic Majesty constant and proper respect, in maintaining the only state of things that can preserve a just balance of power in the sea of the Antilles, prevent shocking examples, and, as the Cabinet of Washington has remarked, secure to the general peace, salutary guarantees. The undersigned seizes with pleasure this occasion to repeat to Mr. Middleton, the assurances of his very distinguished consideration.

St. Petersburg, August 20, 1825.

(To be continued.)

From Mr. Topliff's Correspondent.

Batavia, Nov. 19, 1825.—Since mine of the 10th inst. but little of note has transpired relative to the operation of the Native and Dutch forces, at the eastward-some skirmishing has taken place and some of the petit chiefs have surrendered themselves to the Dutch—per this conveyance I send you the Batavia paper which details particulars.

The citizens are relieved from guard duty in this place and undergo drill but once a week. Coffee is held at \$134 for prime lots. No sale for imports, but at great loss. Levant opium will not bring \$650 in interport, Spanish dollars 26 to 28 per cent. Exchange on London, 3-7 to 3-8; do. on Holland, 43 a 44 st. dollar currency.

Government Sale, No. 12th—4000 piculs Coffee, average bid \$1298; 2800 do. Tin, 24 a 24 1/2.

Ship Congress, Kinsman, sailed 15th, for Coves, and passed Anjer, 15th; ship Emily, Copeland, of Baltimore is the only American vessel in port.—Brig Terrier, Copeland, from Boston, for Canton, passed Anjer about 1st inst.

COMMERCIAL.

From the New-York Gazette, March 28.

We gave the substance of the following Decree of the Republic of Colombia, in our paper of Friday last, but have not before been able to lay the official document before them.

Article 1st. On the importation into the territories of Colombia, of any article, the growth produce, or manufacture of the United States of America, and of the territories of the same, the same duties shall be paid; and on the exportation of any article, the growth, produce, or manufacture of Colombia to the United States or its territories, the same duties shall be paid, and the same drawbacks and bounties allowed; whether the importation or exportation be made in Colombian vessels or those of the U. States.

Art. 2. Vessels of the United States entering the ports of the Republic, shall not be subject to any other or higher tonnage duties, light dues, and port or other charges, than those to which Colombian vessels are subject in the ports of the United States.

Art. 3. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is charged with the execution of this act.

Done in the city of Bogota, the thirtieth of January, eighteen hundred and twenty-six, and sixteen of independence.

(Signed) Fran. de Paula Santander.

By the Vice President, charged with the Executive Power of the Republic.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

(Signed) Joseph R. Ravenga.

From the New York National Advocate.

PER FRANCES.

New Orleans, Feb. 28th.

Mr. Snowden:

Dear Sir:—The late gloomy accounts from England of failures, &c. with the annual statement of the stock of Cotton on hand, have surprised the commercial community in New Orleans; and, in place of business changing for the better, it has experienced another unwelcome shock. When an improvement shall take place it is hard to predict.

Cotton continues to arrive freely, and must come to market the more and more plentifully. We have news of the rivers having risen, and may consequently expect heavy arrivals, now every day, from Tennessee and Alabama, from which places none of any consequence has yet arrived. Prices are a shade lower since I advised you last.

PER AZELIA.

New Orleans, 10th March.

Mr. Thomas Snowden:

Dear Sir:—As I expected, Cotton has experienced a still greater reduction in price. The late gloomy accounts from England and France (the former to the 15th and the latter to the 18th Jan.) have had the desired effect of producing this change in the cotton market.

The staple may now be said to have fallen at least 1 1/2 cents per lb. Since the sailing of the Indiana we have received upwards of 10,000 bales, and as much may be looked for in the same period of time to come.

Freights to England brisk at 1/4 of a penny, and Exchange almost at a nominal rate.

From the New York Daily Advertiser March 28.

We extract the following timely paragraph from the Boston Patriot.

"It will afford some relief to those who have been expecting the return of a husband, a son, or a brother, from an European voyage, to know that there are several vessels homeward bound, which have been some three months out; and this circumstance, in connection with long passages, had by recent arrivals, and the fact that the London and Liverpool packets, due at New York, are out of time, makes it evident that the skill of the mariner has been in some degree baffled by strong head winds. No more serious consequences should be apprehended. The long expected vessels will probably follow each other into port in a few days.

To this we may add, as a remarkable fact, that only one of the Liverpool packets is now in the port of New-York: the James Cropper, whose day for sailing is the 1st of April, and all the London packets are out."

Alum.—An extensive mine of alum, capable of being easily worked, has been discovered in France, at the foot of Pic Sancy, (Mont d'Or.)

From the Baltimore American.

With no common sensibility we insert in the columns of this day's American, the subjoined account of the funeral obsequies of Mr. Somerville, our late Charge d'Affaires to the Swedish court. The blessings that have been invoked on the head of the Nation's Guest, seem to follow him in his retirement to La Grange. The dying request of Mr. Somerville must have excited in the heart of the aged patriot those responsive echoes of sympathy which attended every footstep of his journey from one extreme of the United States to the other. Mr. Somerville sleeps the sleep of death in ground rendered dear to the affections of every American citizen.

Say, in this spot with tears of freedom wet,
Destined to be thy couch, beloved Fayette—
Shall no blest spirit from the skies repair,
To guard the hallowed Patriot slumbering there!
Yes—Freedom shall that guardian angel be,
And cry, "this very dust belongs to me."

TRANSLATED FOR THE AMERICAN.

From the Paris Constitutionnel of 23d Jan. 1826.

The inhumation of the corpse of the late Mr. SOMERVILLE, Charge d'Affaires of the United States to Sweden, took place last Thursday, 19th inst. at Courpalay, near La Grange, in presence of the Mayor, of Gen. LAFAYETTE, of the Consul of the United States, of the population of the village, and of many citizens of Rosay, who, notwithstanding the severity of the weather, came to attend at the ceremony.

The authorities of Auxerre having granted to Mr. BARNETT, Consul of the United States, the removal of the corpse, it was provisionally deposited at La Grange, and the place of reception was decorated with a white tapestry trimmed black, with the flag of the United States, (the flag of the Brandywine) under which Mr. Somerville had arrived in France.

Before the removal of the mortal remains of that honorable citizen of the United States, to the burying place, Mr. GEORGE WASHINGTON LAFAYETTE spoke thus:

"Gentlemen, we are here collected together to pay our last duties to the remains of William C. Somerville, Charge d'Affaires of the United States to Sweden.

"A virtuous man, a distinguished writer, a worthy representative of a great nation—Mr. Somerville had the right to expect from us this sad and respectful homage.

"A happy citizen of the United States, who had left them only to fulfil the honorable mission which had been confided to him, for some time past foreseeing with tranquility the approaching end of his life, and wishing to give to his country the last proof of his attachment, had manifested his intention to be interred in American ground.

"He thought that the blessings of a whole nation poured over their adopted son, that so recently yet proclaimed him their friend, his children and grand children, had also consecrated the place of his residence; and the voice of the country and that of friendship, united together to inspire Mr. Somerville with the desire to establish his last abode where already repose two grand children of Gen. LAFAYETTE.

"That affecting desire is accomplished, and the hand of an American veteran is going to shut up the tomb of a good citizen, of a friend, whose memory he will forever hold dear."

The ceremony terminated, Mr. Barnett, consul of the United States, after having retraced the relations of the sweet remembrance which unites his fellow-citizens in the abode of La Grange, and that of the sad occasion, tendered his thanks to the assistants, in the name of his country, for the respectful and honorable marks of interest which they manifested to the memory of Mr. Somerville.

It appears by the following extract of a letter from the venerable Mr. JEFFERSON, that the expedient to which he has felt himself compelled to resort, to convert his property into the means of satisfying the debts which his celebrity and hospitality have in a great measure caused him to incur, has been successful beyond his expectation, and to use his own expression, "become a source of felicity which he should otherwise never have known." The information contained in this letter, must be highly gratifying to the numerous friends of Mr. Jefferson in this city, who had before its publication manifested so decidedly their warm attachment to him, and their readiness to assist him:—

[Baltimore Gazette.]

Extract of a letter from Mr. Jefferson.

"I knew that my property, if a fair market could be obtained, was far beyond the amount of my debts, and sufficient, after paying them, to leave me at ease. I knew, at the same time, that under the present abject prostration of agricultural industry in this country, no market exists for that form of property. A long succession of unfruitful years, long continued low prices, heavy tariffs levied on this and other branches to maintain that of manufactures, calamitous fluctuations in the value of our circulating medium, and, in my case, a want of skill in the management of our land and labor, these circumstances had been long undermining the state of agriculture, had been breaking up the land holders, and land market here, while drawing off its bidders to people the western country. Under such circumstances, agricultural property had become no resource for the payment of debts. To obtain a fair market was all I wanted, and this the only means of obtaining it. The idea was, perhaps, more familiar to me than to younger people, because so commonly practised before the revolution. It had no connection with morality, although it had with expediency. Instead of being suppressed, therefore, with mere games of chance, lotteries had been placed under the discretion of the legislature as a means of sometimes effecting purposes, desirable while left voluntary. Whether my case was within the range of that discretion they were to judge, and in the integrity of that judgment, I had the most perfect confidence.

"The necessity which dictated this expedient cost me, in its early stage, unspeakable mortification. The turn it has taken, so much beyond what I could have expected, has counteracted all I suffered, and become a source of felicity which I should otherwise never have known."

Prospectus.

THE LAW DEPARTMENT

Of the Columbia College in the District of Columbia.

THIS College was founded by an act of Congress, of the 9th of Feb. 1821. Soon after which, its Classical Department went into operation, and a very liberal course of instruction was commenced. Theological, Medical, and Law Departments, have been successively established and organized. The two former, as well as the Classical Department, have been in operation for some time, with a degree of success which has encouraged the Trustees to bring into operation, also, the Department of Law. Indeed, no place seems more fit for the establishment of a Law College, than the Seat of the National Government; where Students from every section of the Union may often meet many of their friends; where the brightest ornaments of the Bar will be assembled; where the best examples of forensic and juridical eloquence will be displayed; where the most important questions arising under the Laws and Constitutions of the several States, and of the United States, and the Law of Nations, will be debated and decided; and where, by observing the manners and practice of the highest and most honorable portion of the profession, the Student will rise above every thing that is low and sordid, and fix his aim on all that is noble, and manly, and honorable. But the advantages which the City of Washington presents, as a place in which to establish a School for instruction in the Law, are so important and obvious, that it cannot be necessary to enumerate them.

The undersigned having been, by the Trustees of the Columbian College, appointed Professors of Law in that institution, will commence a Course of Lectures on the Second Monday of June next, at the City Hall, in the City of Washington.

The Lectures are intended to be continued daily, until the course (which will consist of nearly 400 Lectures) shall be finished; with the exception, however, of one day, perhaps, in each week, and of the terms of the Circuit Court of the United States, for the County of Washington, D. C. Each Lecture will occupy from one to two hours; and the whole course will probably require eighteen months or two years.

In addition to the course upon the usual heads of Municipal Law, strictly so called, (which will be treated as fully and minutely as may be necessary to qualify the Student for actual practice) it is intended to lecture upon the Constitution and Laws of the United States, the Admiralty Jurisdiction and practice of the Courts of the United States, and upon the Law of Nations.

An examination of the Students will take place on every Saturday, upon the subjects which shall have been lectured upon during the preceding week.

A *Moot Court* will be held once a week, for arguing questions of Law previously propounded for discussion, and for trying fictitious causes. In these Courts it is intended that the proceedings shall be regular and formal, as well in making up the record, as in the process and pleadings—so that the Student may, at the same time, acquire a knowledge of the *practices*, as well as of the *theory*, of the law.

The Students, until a Law Library for the School shall be otherwise provided, will have the use of the Libraries of the Professors.

The following is an extract from the Laws adopted by the Board of Trustees, for the regulation of the Law Department:

"Be it ordained, by the Columbia College, in the District of Columbia:

"1st. That there shall be a full course of Law Lectures delivered in the City of Washington, by the Professors of Law, once in every period of twelve months, or such other period as the said Professors shall determine upon, not exceeding two years. Which course shall embrace so much of the Common and Statute Law of England, as may be considered applicable to this country, the Constitution and Laws of the United States, the Laws in force in the District of Columbia, and the Constitutions and Laws of such of the several States, as the Professors may find it convenient to Lecture upon. The first course to commence at such time as the Professors shall appoint, and of which they shall give thirty days public notice.

"2d. Each Student, before he can receive a ticket of the Professors, for admission to the Law Lectures, shall pay ten Dollars to the Treasurer of the College, for the purposes of defraying the expenses of, and increasing, the Law Library, to be expended under the direction of the Professors of Law, for the sole use of the School: shall have his name entered on the College Books, and receive a ticket of matriculation, as evidence that he has placed himself under the government of the Trustees of the College and the Law Professors. He shall also pay to the said Professors of Law, or secure to their satisfaction, the sum of One hundred Dollars, for each course of Lectures he shall attend. But all who shall have attended two full courses of Lectures in this School, may attend any future course, gratis.

"3d. The Students may be admitted at any time; and if any one enter during the progress of a course of lectures, he shall pay only in proportion to the lectures of that course, then remaining to be delivered.

"4th. Each Student shall be subject to the rules of discipline which may, from time to time, be ordained by the Trustees, and administered by the Professors of Law.

"5th. All the Students of Law shall have the privilege of attending, gratuitously, the lectures in the Classical Department of the College, on Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Botany, Natural History, &c. by presenting a recommendation from the Professors of Law, to the President of the College.

"6th. No Student shall be admitted to examination, as a candidate for the Degree of Bachelor or Doctor of Laws, until—

"1. He shall have attended two full courses of lectures.

"2. He shall have read law three years at least, under the direction of a respectable Counsellor of Law, or Judge.

"3. He shall have attained the age of twenty-one years.

"4. He shall have satisfied the Professors of Law of his classical attainments, if he be not a Graduate in the Arts; and also, of his moral character.

"He shall have entered his name with the Professors of Law, as a candidate for graduation, and delivered to them an inaugural dissertation on some head or question of Law, thirty days at least before his final examination. Candidates for graduation may be examined by the Professors of Law, at any time they may appoint. If they shall be satisfied, upon such examination, that the candidate has obtained a sufficient knowledge of the law, to entitle him to the Degree, which he solicits, they shall so certify to the President of the College, and recommend him as a candidate for the public examination; which examination, for the reading and defence of his dissertation, shall be held at the College, (on a day to be appointed by the President,) in the presence of the Board of Trustees, the Faculty of the College, and such others as may be invited to attend. When the candidate shall have passed the public examination, the President and Professors of Law shall certify the same, and recommend him to the Board of Trustees, as an approved candidate for the Degree. If the Board of Trustees shall approve of the same, they shall signify their approbation and consent, by mandamus to the Faculty of the College, who shall proceed to grant said Degree, accordingly, at such time and place as shall be signified in such mandamus."

As it would be desirable previously to ascertain the probable attendance of a respectable class, Students who have a reasonable expectation of attending, will please signify their intentions, by letter, addressed to either of the Professors, at any time before the first of June next.

WM. CHANGH.

WM. THOS. CARROLL.

Washington, March 31, 1826.

One Cent Reward.

RAN AWAY from the subscriber on the 27th instant, JACOB CONNER, an indentured apprentice to the coopering business, about 20 years of age. This is to warn all persons from harboring, employing, or trusting any person on my account, as the law will be rigidly enforced. JOHN KISONDEFFER.

mar 31