

BOOK AND JOB PRINTING. OF EVERY DESCRIPTION. BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, CARDS, BLANKS, CHECKS, HANDBILLS, LABELS, &c.

THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY. Will issue Policies on all kinds of Property, Merchandise, &c. at fair and equitable rates.

CHARLESTOWN, VIRGINIA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1853.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK ASSEMBLY. It is curious to see the circulation of a grand city commences in the morning—the great city that never sleeps.

THE LAW OF LOVE. It was not good nature, but the adoption of the new principles which made Wm. I. old this gentle hearted.

HOME OFFICE—WINCHESTER, VA. JOS. S. CARSON, President. O. F. JERSEE, Attorney.

W. W. RICHMOND, Agent for Jefferson County. August 2, 1853—ly

TESTIMONIALS. We, the undersigned, being solicited to give our opinion as to the character and standing of the Insurance Company of the Valley of Virginia, have no hesitation in saying that we have the utmost confidence in the ability and integrity of the President and Directors of that Company.

HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. Incorporated 1810—Charter Perpetual. Capital \$1,500,000, with power of increase to \$2,000,000.

BALTIMORE LOCK HOSPITAL. WHERRE has obtained the most approved Receipts for the treatment of all kinds of Locks, Gleet, Gonorrhoea, &c.

Take Particular Notice. Dr. Johnson's Invigorating Remedy for Organic Weakness.

Dr. Johnson's Invigorating Remedy for Organic Weakness. This grand and important Remedy has restored strength and vigor to thousands of the most debilitated individuals.

Weakness of the Organs. Immediately cured and relieved. ALL LETTERS POST-PAY—REMEDIES.

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Poetry. TWENTY YEARS AGO. I've wandered to the village, Tom; I've sat beneath the tree.

THE boys were playing some old games, beneath that same old tree; I do forget the name just now—you've played the same with me.

THE river's running just as still; the willows on its side are larger than they were; Tom's stream appears to flow.

THE spring that bubbled health the hill, close by the spreading leech; I've seen it once so high, that we could almost reach.

NEAR by the spring, upon an elm, you know I cut your sweetheart's first beneath it, Tom, and you did mine the same.

MY life has long been dry, Tom, but tears came in my eyes; I thought of her I loved so well—these early broken ties.

ALL FOR THE BEST. All for the best be sanguine and cheerful; Trouble and sorrow are friends in disguise.

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It is necessary for naval defence; therefore an officer should be the superintendent of a ship-yard. Cordage and canvas are necessary to the completion of vessels of war; therefore an officer should be the superintendent of a rope-walk and a sail-loft.

There are just as many, Tom; bare-footed boys at the school-house play-ground, which sheltered you and me; But none were there to greet me, Tom, and few were there to play with us upon the grass, some twenty years ago.

THE old school-house is altered some, the benches are gone; By new ones, very like the same our penknives had defined; But the same old bricks are in the wall; the bell swings to and fro; But just as many, dear Tom, 'twas twenty years ago.

THE boys were playing some old games, beneath that same old tree; I do forget the name just now—you've played the same with me; But on that same spot 'twas played with knives, by drawing and so on; 'Twas twenty years ago.

THE river's running just as still; the willows on its side are larger than they were; Tom's stream appears to flow; But the grape-vine being ruined now, where once we played the game; 'Twas twenty years ago.

THE spring that bubbled health the hill, close by the spreading leech; I've seen it once so high, that we could almost reach; And, kneeling down to get a drink, dear Tom, I saw how much that I am changed since twenty years ago.

NEAR by the spring, upon an elm, you know I cut your sweetheart's first beneath it, Tom, and you did mine the same; Some twenty years ago; I do forget the name just now—you've played the same with me.

MY life has long been dry, Tom, but tears came in my eyes; I thought of her I loved so well—these early broken ties; I visited the old church-yard, and took some flowers to you; Upon graves of those we loved, some twenty years ago.

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"MARRY IN HASTE—RESENT AT HIS OWN." In one of the Western papers we observe an account of a marriage ceremony performed on board of a steamboat, the parties never having met until they began their voyage together to the Crescent City.

The narrative is given with various flourishes of rhetoric as if the affair was a subject of pride and imitation—'No days in the present instance, do we ever may be correct. But, as a general rule, the old proverb is right, which says that people who "marry in haste repent at leisure."

We cannot approve, consequently, of the applause bestowed on a transaction like this. There are foolish couples enough in the world, ready to rush into matrimony without forethought, and prepared to think that it is a very fine thing to have the ceremony consummated in some striking manner, so as to attract public attention, without having the weakness felt by eulogistic newspaper paragraphs. Two weeks some new paragraph appears respecting a pair who have wedded on short notice.

The last one, we believe, celebrated a marriage after a few hours acquaintance. If things go on accelerating in this fashion, American weddings will yet extend to Chinese people, for it will be considered more in the mode to marry without meeting at all.

It has been said that "marriage is a lottery." No one ever questioned that it was, when people wedded on a short acquaintance; but the remark is not true, if made respecting marriages after a due intimacy. No doubt, the closest friendship, before marriage, will be insufficient to meet entirely the mutual characters of the pair to each other. But, in proportion to the length of the acquaintance, and the common sense of lovers, will be their knowledge of the foibles of one another. No is this all. Even in the case of very young lovers, who have not yet taken to observing character, if they are thrown familiarly together, in the social circle of the ladies society, they cannot but assimilate to each other in time, so that the risk of marriage is greatly lessened. But when matrimony is contracted, upon an acquaintance of but a few hours, or even days, the chances are frightfully great that the pair will not suit each other.

Another ridiculous, if not culpable practice, much lauded in some newspapers, is oddity—and there fore peculiar notoriety in the marriage. Some time ago, a wedding was held in Mammoth Cave. Before that, one occurred on a bridge, just at the dividing line, if we remember correctly between two States. All these freaks are perpetrated for a second of publicity. The flow from the same unreasonably spirit which inspires ornate-bridal chambers at hotels, and on board steamboats. It is not flattering to the sex of this country, and it is not becoming to the women who are found to brazen it out, counting on the oddity of the ceremony, or by the marked character of their dress and demeanor.

BEAUTIFUL EXTRACT. I saw the temple reared by the hand of man, standing with its high pinnacles in the distant plain, the stream beat up to—the God of Nature hurl its thunder bolts against it—and yet it stood as firm as adamant. Rev. was in its fall—the gay, the young, the happy and beautiful were.

When it is known, that under the ten years of civil superintendency the special appropriations amounted to but \$126,100, and the ordinary for the corresponding number of years to \$44,100, the public can be at no loss to account for the present external appearance of the Army, when contrasted with former years. One of a civil superintendent has pulled down houses, erected mansions, built large arsenals, commodious shops and store houses, and enlarged and beautified the grounds with the same means! Were all these things essential to the manufacture of arms, which in the estimation of high authority, "superior to any of foreign manufacture?" If not, then this enormous expenditure of the public money, in a civil superintendency, has no corresponding benefit returned to the Government; but on the contrary, a deterioration in the quality of the arms, as developed by the testimony given before the "Board of commissions."

The present superintendent, also states in his communication, that one of his lieutenants allowed the piece workman to have "an influence in fixing their own rates of prices." A superintendent, who has the words above quoted as the only words which he allowed to be an influence in fixing their own rates of prices, I deny it unequivocally. I care not from what source he has drawn his information; it is untrue. I am aware that money is not always a faithful record, and it may possibly have escaped his recollection that the tariff of prices, under which the workmen were paid, at the old mode, was made by the master armorer in whom I was provided for, and the amount of the tariff was modified from time to time by direction of the ordnance office, and no increase of prices allowed, except by the authority and direction of the officers in charge of the Department.

The new tariff was not complete when I was removed. I turned it over to the present superintendent, with a verbal explanation of the progress made by the armorer in the tariff, and I informed him that the whole of it was but an experiment, and that much if not all of it, would, doubtless, have to be changed as experience might dictate. He expressed himself highly gratified by the information, and did me the honor to compliment me upon the order and neatness and admirable condition in which he found the armory. But he had not been long in the armory, before the new tariff had been submitted to the chief of the ordnance corps for approval, because it was incompetent. It had been prepared with great care, according to the light we then had, and in its preparation I was assisted by the master armorer and the inspectors. Nothing was done by me in fixing the prices, without their aid. Every part was examined by every one, and the tariff was modified from time to time by direction of the ordnance office, had entire confidence, and his judgment, not the workmen, influenced my action. Who so competent to judge upon a question of this kind as the master armorer and the inspectors in their respective departments of the work?

There is much more in the superintendent's communication that requires, from its extraordinary character, further comment, but as I have already extended this communication beyond what I expected to, when I commenced it, I shall for the present refrain.

JOHN ROBB, Late Superintendent U.S. Army.

Slowly and surely is a good motto. Impetuous zeal sometimes effects good results, but it is generally in spite of impetuosity, and not because of it. There is always safety in calmness and deliberation. A little forbearance never does harm, but the want of it exercises sometimes rebuffs what it seeks to promote.

Dignity is often a veil between us and the real truth of things. We pierce the veil with its glittering shafts, and let in the "insolent light."

A Vocalist says he counts say "Way down on Old Joe's," if he could only get the pitch.

The young lady who was accused of breaking a young man's heart, has been found over in the bonds of matrimony to keep the peace.

The wife of Orono M. Currier, Speaker of the House of Delegates of Virginia, died at her residence near Fredericksburg on Friday last.

GENIUS AND PERSEVERANCE. An opinion has heretofore prevailed, and still has its believers, that any man's success in life depends mainly upon the natural capacities with which his mind is endowed. Nothing can be more erroneous than such an idea. Where nature makes one great mind, systematic and earnest efforts make thousands.

What is true genius? It is merely ordinary ability seconded by perseverance. To be sure a certain genius is observable among many, the quick and forward scholar never rises at any mediocrity. On the contrary, how frequently is it the case that the thick-headed plodding urethra has pressed forward, and, surmounting every obstacle, reached at length the summit of the hill of success.

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK ASSEMBLY. It is curious to see the circulation of a grand city commences in the morning—the great city that never sleeps.

It is curious to see the circulation of a grand city commences in the morning—the great city that never sleeps. There was a feeble pale all night, the cars beat to and fro; a carriage now and then gave a flutter, but after all there had been a quiet hour.

About half a million of the people had been lying on a "dead level" for four or five hours, some on pillows, and some on cushions, some beneath the counterpane, and some beneath the great blue quilt of heaven. A queer figure they make in the mind's eye, to be sure—400,000 folks, more or less, five or six miles long—lying on their backs—lying in files or rows—lying three or four deep.

In the cellar—that is in the "primitive foundation"—then first, second, third, and so on up to the garret. These hundred thousand people, how ready they were to get up! Two hundred thousand people in their night-gowns; one hundred thousand in white and red; and these one hundred thousand, fifty thousand and curls twisted upon papers, fifty thousand the appearance of having made a pillow of cigar-lighters. Twenty thousand curls hanging on the backs of chairs, or tossed upon the floor. How ready they were to get up! Two hundred thousand people in their night-gowns; one hundred thousand in white and red; and these one hundred thousand, fifty thousand and curls twisted upon papers, fifty thousand the appearance of having made a pillow of cigar-lighters.

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