

Francis Bacon.
(Concluded.)

As the author of original ideas in philosophy, which run counter to opinions entertained for centuries, Bacon had considerable difficulties to contend with in enunciating his doctrines. He seems, however, to have been aware of this, and in throwing new light upon science, sought rather to illumine than to dazzle, rather to awaken than to astonish the mind. Besides, he had sufficient tact to perceive that for successful promulgation of new opinions, it was necessary to establish a certain pre-eminence in the literary and scientific world: and this he effected by the publication of "The Wisdom of the Ancients," and other works on subjects allied to the spirit of his age.

In the year 1611, Bacon was a joint judge of the Knight Marshall's Court. In 1613, he was appointed attorney general, and elected a member of the privy council, and in regard to his great services was allowed to retain his place in the lower house. At this time his professional practice was great. The office of attorney general yielded £6000 per annum; as registrar of the Star Chamber he received £1600 per annum; he had a good estate in Hertfordshire, and his father's seat of Gorbambury, by the death of his brother; besides, he had the income of his wife's large fortune.

On the 7th of March, 1617, he was made lord keeper of the great seal, and on the 7th of May following, he took the office. Some political intrigues, and the use he made of the power conferred by this new office, in refusing to sanction the improvident grants of Buckingham, shook for a moment his stability at Court. Prudence, however, reestablished his footing, and on the 4th of Jan. 1618, he was appointed lord high chancellor of England, and by letters patent dated 11th July, 1618, he was created baron Verulam, and took his seat among the peers. On the 19th of Nov. 1619, he got the farming of the alienation office. Next year he was made viscount St. Albans. In the beginning of 1620 he kept his birthday with great state; and his virtues were celebrated in verse according to the fashion of the day by Ben Johnson. Bacon chose this favorable moment for the publication of his "Organon." This work he had commenced in his early years, and amidst the bustle of professional duties and the excitement of public life, he still went on for years, enlarging and improving, gathering experience in maturer years, and his opinions corrected or confirmed by extended research, and the opinions of the learned men of the day. Twelve times he is said to have re-written this great work, correcting and revising, and at last when occupying the highest position of power and learning in his native land, he launched it into the world to earn from posterity the title given to its first outline, "The Greatest Birth of Time."

The studies and efforts of Bacon were directed towards the clearing every branch of science from the scholastic rubbish which for centuries had gathered around them, marring their development and application, and making the school of philosophy more the arena of unprofitable speculation and dispute, than the home of legitimate science. In his *Norvum Organum*, he points out the true method of studying science. Grasping within his own powerful mind the whole range of human knowledge known in his day, he investigates the relations of the various sciences, and attempts to arrange them according to what he understood as the faculties of the human mind. He divided the sciences into those of the memory, of the understanding, and of the imagination; and however imperfect this division is to be regarded at the present day, it betrayed an effort of no ordinary character, and tended greatly to facilitate the study of science. But the great merit of this work perhaps rests in laying down the important doctrine, that the only way to discover the truths of natural science, is by observation and experiment. But it was reserved for posterity to appreciate the genius displayed in the *Norvum Organum*. It was the product of a strong mind, matured by reflection, but too lofty and original in its conceptions to be appreciated even by the learned of that time. Accord-

dingly, when issued to the world, although it commanded the commendations of a few philosophers whose minds could comprehend its truth, and value, it was assailed by the grossest and the keenest ridicule of the wits of the time.

The life of Bacon, after this, is a melancholy exhibition of moral turpitude in the character of a great man. The easy circumstances which he enjoyed might have placed him beyond the reach of temptations. He is said to have been embarrassed by the rapacity of servants. But this can afford no palliation for the perversion of justice, which characterized Bacon's official career, which struck him down from his lofty elevation, and consigned him in dishonor to the grave. The charges brought against him were, malversation in office by taking bribes, and violating justice by his decisions in the court of Chancery.

On the 15th of March, 1620, Sir Robert Phillips reported for a committee appointed by the House of Commons, to inquire into the charges brought against the Lord Chancellor, and stated that two charges of corruption had been found tenable. To the sifting of these charges, the Commons directed their attention; and after much discussion, the case was referred to the House of Lords for their decision. Struck down by the discovery of his guilt, Bacon sent in a confession to the lords appointed to try him. This first confession, however, was unsatisfactory to the judges, who demanded an ample statement of the minute details of his crimes. With this Bacon complied, averring to a deputation sent to wait upon him, to inquire if the confession was a voluntary act. "It is my act—my hand—my heart: O my lords, spare a broken reed." He was stripped of his offices, disqualified for public life, banished beyond the precincts of the court, subjected to a fine of £40,000, and to be imprisoned in the Tower during the king's pleasure.

After a short confinement in the tower he was discharged, and shortly after received a licence to come for a time within the precincts of the court, and afterwards a pardon "for all the frauds, deceits, impostures, corruptions, bribes, and other malpractices of which he had been found guilty." He was even summoned again to attend parliament; but he scarcely ever emerged afterwards from the seclusion of private life, and the pursuit of scientific studies. Some friends he had still left, but he sought his chief consolation under public odium, and the stings of his own conscience, in the walks of philosophy. He published his works on Natural Philosophy, and a history of Henry VII. after his disgrace. From science he sought what enjoyment yet remained for him on earth, and from this he received his death. While making some experiments, the retort he was using burst, and the fragments struck him on the head and stomach; fever and defluxion ensued, and he expired in the house of the Earl of Arundel, at Highgate, on the 6th of April 1626, in his 66th year, leaving no issue.

The accomplishments of Lord Bacon were unrivalled in his day, and his character displayed the phenomena of great originality combined with a most extensive range of acquirements. He was a poet and an orator, a lawyer and a statesman. In the philosophy of experiment and observation, he was pre-eminent; the metaphysical and the physical were both congenial to his genius, and although the taint of immorality has induced many to doubt the extent, and to depreciate the excellence of his knowledge and ability in every department, except his method of studying nature, an impartial and searching examination will fill us with admiration as we successively trace his steps in almost every branch of intellectual exertion. In his will he says, "My name and memory I leave to other nations and to my own countrymen when some time be passed over."

Cough Syrup.

Take Thoroughwort, Hoarhound and Pennyroyal, of each a good handful, and boil them in just water enough to extract the strength; then strain off the liquor, and add an equal quantity of molasses, and boil until it forms a candy. Eat freely of this every time an inclination to cough is felt, and your cough will soon leave you.

Statistics of Human Life.

Dr. Alex H. Stephens of this city recently delivered an address before the State Medical Society, in which he stated that throughout the civilized world the duration of human life has increased, and is steadily increasing with the advancement and diffusion of medical science:

"In the city of Geneva, in the 16th century, one individual in 25 died annually. For the 18th century, one in 34; at the present time, one in 46. With us the mortality is greater, one in 40, the proportion of childhood being larger, and childhood being the period of the greatest mortality. In the British navy, among adults, none of whom are very aged, the mortality is only about one in 100. Seventy years ago the mortality in the British navy was one in every ten. In 1808, one in thirty; 1836, 13 8 10, among 1,000; a diminution to less than a seventh of the rate in 1770. In the American army, with a corps of medical officers not excelled by that of any other country, the mortality is little over one in 300 per annum. In London the mortality in the middle of the last century was one in 32. In the year 1838, the mortality was one in 36. Within the last twenty years the mortality of Russia has been one in 27; Prussia, one in 36; France, one in 39 07; Holland, one in 39; Belgium, one in 43 01; England, one in 53 07; Sicily, one in 32; Greece, one in 30; Philadelphia, one in 24 03; Boston, one in 45; New York, one in 27.83. The immigrants have made our mortality greater than that of our sister cities; in other respects it has diminished with the advance of medical science. These statistical statements might be multiplied at great length, but enough has been given to show conclusively the prodigious extent to which human life has been lengthened, with the advance and diffusion of medical science, beyond its duration in former periods, and beyond its present duration in the less enlightened countries of Europe."

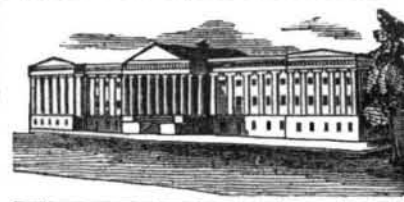
There are some people who are ignorantly prejudiced against the members of the Medical profession. Were they acquainted with the labors, and philanthropy of many eminent physicians and surgeons, they would have very different opinions about them as a class. All the great writers on domestic comfort, cleanliness, ventilation and every other subject that has called attention to those sanitary reforms, which during the past century have been instituted in various countries, have belonged to the Medical profession. There is still a wide field before them, not in pointing out the evils, that they have done, but agitating their removal.

Novels and Insanity.

In a Report of the Mount Hope Institute on the Insane, by Dr. W. H. Stokes, he says, in respect to moral insanity: "Another fertile source of this species of derangement, has appeared to be an undue indulgence in the perusal of the numerous works of fiction, with which the press is so prolific of late years, and which are sown broadcast over the land, with the effect of vitiating the taste and corrupting the morals of the young. Parents cannot too cautiously guard their young daughters against this pernicious practice.—We have had several cases of moral insanity, for which no other cause could be assigned than excessive novel reading. And nothing is more likely to induce this disease than the education which fosters sentiment instead of cherishing real feelings—such as result from the performance of active benevolence, sacred duty of ordinary life, and of religious obligations—which awakens and strengthens the imagination without warming the heart; and to borrow the language of an eloquent divine places the individual 'upon a romantic theatre—not upon the dust of mortal life' "

Area of the United States.

The Area of the U. States is now nearly 4,000,000 square miles, equal to the support of 200,000,000 of population, leaving the country then less thickly settled than the State of Massachusetts. The Continent, when enclosed in the arms of the Union will be equal to the support of 500,000,000. The child may now be born who will see all this realized; we are on the eve of mighty events. This Continent will yet be under one government.



LIST OF PATENTS.

ISSUED FROM THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,

For the week ending March 27, 1849.

To Robt. D. Porter, of Harper's Ferry, Va., for improved conical valve in Twyers. Patented March 27, 1849.

To William Van Anden, of Trenton, N. J. for improved feeder and nippers for Screw cutting machinery. Patented March 27, 1849.

To John Spangenberg, of Jefferson Parish, La. for Clarification of Cane Juices. Patented March 27, 1849. Ante-dated Sept. 27, 1848.

To Nathl. B. Powers, of Lansingburgh, N. Y., for improvement in Printing Floor Oil Cloths. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Nathl. C. Sanford, of Meriden, Conn., for combined convex and concave Augur. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Wm. E. Bleecker, of Albany, N. Y. for improvement in Cooking Stoves. Patented March 27, 1849.

To J. A. Gray, of Albany N. Y., for improvement in Piano Fortes. Patented March 27, 1849. Ante-dated Sept. 27, 1848.

To A. G. Polhameus, of Nyack, N. Y., for combination of adjustable Saddle Winch. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Benj. H. Otis, of Cleveland, Ohio., for improvement in self acting Cheese Presses. Patented March 27, 1849.

To E. W. Carpenter of Lancaster, Pa., for improvement in adjusting the position of plane irons and regulating the throats of Planes. Patented March 27, 1849.

To W. A. Arnold of Rochester, N. Y. for improved Sash Fastener. Patented Mar. 27, 1849.

To Johnston Small, of Bridgewater, Pa., for improvement in Corn Shellers. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Whiting Hayden, of Windham, Conn., for improvement in guides for Warpers. Patented March 27, 1849.

To James Barnes, of Springfield, Mass., for elliptical or oval truss frames for Bridges. Patented March 27, 1849.

To F. M. Ray, of New York City, for improvement in Caoutchouc springs. Patented March 27, 1849.

To J. J. Richardson, of New York City, improvement in Thrashing and Grain separating Machines. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Jno. Crum and A. Larwill, of Ramapo, N. Y., for improvement in Splint Broom machines. Patented March 27, 1849.

To J. L. Burdick, of Norwich, N. Y., for improvement in Printing Presses. Patented March 27, 1848.

To P. S. and W. H. Chappell, of Baltimore, Md., for improvement in artificial Manures. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Daniel Woodbury, of Perkinsville, Vt. for improvement in Grain Separators. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Jos. J. Couch of Bridgewater, Mass. for improved Machinery for Drilling Rocks. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Horace Bushnell, of Hartford, Conn. for improvement in air heating Furnaces. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Grenville Parker, of Worcester, Mass. for improved Canal Steamboat. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Jos. Ives of Bristol, Conn., for improvement in Spring Lancets. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Emanuel Harmon, of Cleveland, Ohio, for improvement in Shading Pictures by metallic leaves. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Samuel Mallard, of Staten Island, N. Y., for improvement in Dyeing. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Jno. J. Sturgis, of New York City, for improvement in Type Casting Machines. Patented March 27, 1849.

To Alexander Bennett, of New York City, for improvement in self-lighting Lamps. Patented March 20, 1849.

To Jonathan Haines of Union Grove, Ill., for improvement in Harvesting Machines. Patented March 27, 1849.