NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 18, 1848.

Progress of Science.

When we look back upon the dark days of science—the time when the false philosophy of Greece reigned supreme in college and cloister—when truth was trampled beneath the iron footsteps of spiritual tyranny and pride, and compare the state in which the civilized world was then, with its present state, we will be struck with astonishment by the contrast. Then—and it is not long since—the art of printing was unknown. Then both nobles and people of universal Europe, with but a few exceptions, could neither read nor write. "Darkness covered the land, and gross darkness the people." And when Gallileo arose to unseal the book of philosophical truth, alas, he had at the fire and altar—to sacrifice the princely price of his conscience to ignorance and bigotry. Then chemistry was confined to a few tricks of legerdemain, and the science of practical mechanics—in comparison to what it now is—was as the rude image of the South Sea Islander, to the finest group that ever came forth from the inspired chisel of Canova. Then the power of every monarch in Europe was a unit—now it is, in the majority of cases, merely nominal. Then a Henry, and a Louis had but to say, "rebellious subject thy head shall roll from the scaffold," and it was done. But now the scene has changed, the once serfs of Europe have become men, and kings have been made to experience the trite saying of Boswell's father to Dr. Johnson in reference to the fate of Charles I., "he was taught that the neck of a king had a joint, as well as that of a subject."

"To what," it may be asked, "are we to ascribe the great changes which have been made in the social condition of Christendom, during the last two hundred years?" One thing we know, under the feudal system the Baron covered himself in his coat of mail and with his iron cased lictors ruled his peasantry as lord supreme. What was it which broke that feudal power? Allison says, "it was the discovery of gunpowder." On the field of Marston, the heart of the mail clad cavalier—invincible before to the shaft or the spear of the peasant, was pierced by the ball of the marksman, and the monarch made to feel the might that slumbered in a peasant's arm"—War we deprecate in almost every sense of the term, but there is much truth in the assertion of the great historian.

We may justly attribute the great social advancement made in the world since the art of printing was discovered, to the art of printing itself. An educated people may be led by reason, not driven by brute force, and as the art of printing has advanced and knowledge been disseminated among the masses, so in proportion, have freedom and correct ideas of justice been restored to their birthright in the human mind.

Mechanical Books.

We have now made such arrangements as will hereafter enable us to supply our friends and subscribers with any books of the Mechanical and Scientific kind which they may desire, and we trust they will not be backward in making their wants known. In another part of our paper will be found the commencement of a catalogue of works which we can furnish, with the prices also given. It has required much time, labor and expense to make up this catalogue because the works embraced in it are most of them rare and of a peculiar character. We trust that our exertions will be appreciated.

Machinery for Sale.

There is a good chance now for the purchase of a splendid wood Planing Machine, a Portable Saw Mill and other machinery, at prices far below their cost. Any one who can command a trifling capital can easily double the amount by embracing this opportunity. See advertising page.

Cholera.

At this momentous crisis, when both the public and professional minds are so wholly engrossed with the anticipated ravages of so terrible a scourge to the human race, as Cholera—should it reach our shores—and especially when multitudes of opinions are being expressed in almost every possible form of publication, we feel it incumbent on us to take a brief survey of the malady.

Various theoretical and hypothetical disquisitions have been entered into by eminent physicians, attempting to explain the phenomena, nature, cause, prevention and treatment of Cholera; but without any practical utility: some ascribing its pestilential approach to a fungous origin—others its connection with impurity—some attributing it to its epidemic character—others to a volcaic origin, and so on. Differing as doctors generally do, it is, nevertheless, curious, however, to observe how often in the treatment of Cholera, where the views entertained of the nature, origin and mode of propagation of the malady are at variance, that the plans of treatment recommended are nearly identical: some advocating "Venesection"—others preferring as curative measures stimulating emetics—artificial heat, calomel with opium and the "saline treatment."

Again, hydropathy and homœpathy have not been without their advocates: cold strong coffee and cold water with cold decoctions of Peruvian bark are recommended. The preventitives to Cholera, according to homœpathists, are a globule or drop of camphorated spirit, *or a plate of bright copper next the skin!* But doctors likewise differ among homœpathists as well as allopathists.

There is no SPECIFIC for Cholera, wherewith, on all occasions, to avert its fatal progress, any more than for another disease.—Such pretensions may be safely left to empirics and to charlatans. On the other hand the differences of opinion and the proposed remedies prove highly beneficial; for it provokes discussion and eliminates *truth*. It is by a difference of opinion alone that we can arrive at just and correct conclusions. All experience attests that Cholera must be combatted according to the symptoms which present themselves. The results arrived at by the consideration of the greatest number of opinions is that the preliminary diarrhœa is best to be treated by astringents. The professional man may choose, according to the age and temperament of his patient and the severity of the symptoms between the simple chalk mixture and added astringents—no doubt a multiplicity of agents of the same class are advantageous. However it is one of the most positive results of multiplied experience that the use of much opium retards, if it does not impede recovery in the after stages—and in cases where conium and hyoscyamus with mercurial preparations are employed, it is evidently the safest as it fulfils two indications—to allay diarrhœa and restore the functions of the liver.

Where the malady begins with vomiting or with purging combined the best treatment, should the constitution admit it, would be emetics of salt and water or of mustard to give tonicity to the stomach, which may be followed up by the administration of quinine in combination with iron, and alkaline effervescing draughts. Should such treatment combined with mustard poultices fail to combat the severity of the attack; then carbonate of ammonia—camphor with brandy and water and calomel and opium or calomel in large doses may be had recourse to. Strong stimulants internally and externally are likewise beneficial—such as naptha, assafœtida, &c.—If calomel fail in its action, Croton oil must be tried.

Plans of treatment, as above enumerated, varied according to symptoms and the slight differences of formula, favored by individual practitioners, appear to meet at once the various opinions entertained as to the nature and origin of the malady and the slight differences of treatment pursued by the profession.

A few words as regards preventitive measures from the increments of Cholera The City of New York from its position being so adjacent to the sea—surrounded by water and built comparatively on high ground ought to escape from the ravages of Cholera. This can only be done by adopting such measures as shall be best fit to ameliorate the FILTHY condition of the city. Let a competent Medical Committee be appointed. The Corporation need the utmost vigilance! Clean streets—thorough ventillation—cleanliness of person and temperance of diet, we feel assured will secure our citizens from the blasting influence of Cholera.

Iron Carriages.

The tendency of the last few years to substitute iron for wood has been shown in ships, ploughs, and other machines. It has even been attempted in houses; but here, we believe, without that success, which is shown in extensive use or practice. "A gentleman of the north of Scotland," says Chambers Edinburg Journal, "is now experimenting, with good ground of hope, on the introduction of iron carriages. He proposes that the bodies of such vehicles should be formed entirely of iron frame, the panels of plates of galvanized iron, and the axles of iron tubes filled with wood; the wheels to have for spokes double rods pyramidally arranged, or on what is called the suspension principle. The advantages proposed are—first, a lightness as about two to three; second, a saving of cost in about the same proportion. Thus, a pony-carriage, which, of the usual materials, would weigh five hundred weight, is only about three when constructed of iron; an omnibus, which, of the ordinary construction, would be twenty to twenty-four hundred weight, can be formed of iron at about eleven. The same in respect of external decorations and internal comfort. A carriage of this kind effects an important saving in the motive power. If successful as an invention, it must be of no small importance to humanity, both in sparing the muscles of individual horses, and allowing of a greater share of the fruits of the earth going to the use of human beings. For use in tropical countries, there is a farther advantage in the non-liability to cracking and shrinking, and the unsuitableness of an iron frame for becoming a nest of noxious insects. Apart from the mere substitution of one material for another, which is the leading feature of the invention, much is claimed for it on the ground of the superior springs employed in these carriages. They are spiral, and vertically arranged, working in a case, with an apparatus which precludes their falling from their perpendicular."

Suspension carriage wheels have been long in use in America, and within a short period a valuable improvement has been made on hollow carriage axles and the manner in which the wheels are connected to the same, by W. L. Lewis of Clarendon, Orleans County, N. Y. and for which he has made application for letters patent.—ED.

Inventors and Fairs.

Many inventors who had articles exhibited at the Fair of the American Institute, that were original and new, have felt disappointed to see prizes awarded for old and well known articles, while the new articles were passed over in silence. New inventions certainly present prior claims to all others and we know that no attention has been paid to new inventions, any more than old ones. There certainly should be a distinction. The Franklin Institute has been somewhat blamed also, but we cannot speak confidently on this point. On the catalogue of prizes, No. 1 class should always be for new inventions.

The Robbery at Washington—$1500 Reward.

An advertisement will be found in another column, from the Commissioner of Patents, offering a reward of fifteen hundred dollars for the recovery of the property stolen, and the detection of the robbers who broke into the United States Patent Office, at Washington, on Wednesday night last week.

Isham's Patent Sand Paper.

We believe that the Sand Paper made by R. H. & J. G. Isham of this city is found to be much superior to any in use. It is made in a peculiar manner, for which they have obtained a Patent, and is sold as cheap as the cheapest. They have a large manufactory at 71 Fulton st. New York.

War against Labor Saving Machinery.

To shake off the yoke of the oppressor, we behold the Germans of Europe grasping the musket and bayonet, and shouting aloud for *Liberty and Faderland.*

In the midst of sanguinary struggles—struggles against home oppression, very different scenes are enacted, in comparison with battling against a foreign foe, and like the bigotry which the Christians displayed in destroying pagan temples, and the Reformers in destroying the ancient cathedrals, so are an excited people always apt to vent their vengeance blindly. By late accounts from Europe, we learn that the populace in Berlin—enlightened and educated Berlin, have displayed the most remarkable hostility against a machine having been employed to do some work there and a number of laborers having been dismissed who were previously engaged at work—when crowds of them proceeded to destroy the machine and demand employment. Two battalions of the Burgher Guard, which had been ordered out, could not restore order, but were compelled to use firearms on their being attacked by the laborers. Towards afternoon the whole city was thrown into alarm, and the affray had become a regular fight between the laborers and the Burgher Guards. The latter were using their arms freely, and when they had finally succeeded in suppressing the row, five laborers had been killed, and many wounded. In the evening the fighting between the workmen and the Burgher Guards recommenced. Barricades had been constructed in the streets near the Copnickerfield, and attempts were made by the Burgher Guards to take them by storm, which at last they accomplished, but not without a fierce and sanguinary struggle.

We point to this event as a dark spot in the history of modern improvements, and as we are the advocate of improvements in the useful arts, and of honest industry also, we instance this circumstance as a beacon to warn and exhort both people and men of capital in our own land. The causes of revolt among the intelligent people of Berlin by the introduction of new labor saving machinery must have been great indeed. To the credit of America be it spoken, our people have encouraged, never destroyed machinery to lessen labor, but then our people know not (may they never know it) the depth of that misery in the European working classes of—

"Begging a brother of the earth,
To give them leave to toil."

The Law of Libel.

A very important decision for printers has been made by the tribunal at Senlis, France. A certain Mr. Zellanger wishing to have a letter, written by him to the Minister of War, put into print, was refused by sundry printers in Paris, Rouen and Senlis, on the ground that the letter contained some strong language which might compromise them; Mr. Zellanger appealed to the court at Senlis, which decided that if the author chooses to assume the responsibility expressly, the printers can in no-wise become answerable for the expressions of the former.

Counting Room Almanac.

Messrs. Oliver & Brother have favored us with a beautiful Counting Room Almanac for 1849, and request us to inform our subscribers that they are for gratuitous circulation in this city, Brooklyn and Jersey City, and may be had free of expense by applying at their office corner of Nassau and Fulton sts.

The article on the Telegraph is deferred to next week—when we shall publish a cut of the first Alphabetic Printing Telegraph.

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