

## MISCELLANY.

### THE COMET.

The Comet! he is on his way,  
And singing as he flies;  
The whizzing planets shrink before  
The spectre of the skies.  
Ah, well may regal orbs burn blue,  
And satellites turn pale—  
Ten million cubic miles of head!  
Ten million leagues of tail!  
On, on by whistling spheres of light  
He flashes and he flames;  
He turns not to the left or right,  
He asks them not their names;  
One spurns from his demoniac heel—  
Away, away they fly;  
Where darkness might be bottled up  
And sold for Tyrian dye.  
And what will happen to the land,  
And happen to the sea,  
If in the bearded devil's path,  
Our earth should chance to be?  
Full hot and high the sea should boil,  
Full red the forest gleam—  
Methought I saw and heard it all  
In a dyspeptic dream.  
I saw a tutor take his tube  
The Comet's course to spy:  
I heard a scream; the gathered rays  
Had staved the tutor's eye.  
I looked—his curious organ rolled  
Like a long perished clam,  
I listened—all I heard him say  
Was "parallax" and "d—mn."  
I saw a poet dip a scroll  
Each moment in a tub;  
I read upon the warping back  
"The dream of Belzebub;"  
He could not see his verses burn  
Although his brain was fried;  
And ever and anon he bent  
To wet them as they dried.  
I saw a pillow and a cur—  
He silently drew near,  
And snatched from off the blackened  
frost,  
His master's broiling ear;  
I saw a beggar and a wolf,  
Each watched the other's eye;  
Each fainted for his morning meal,  
And both were loth to die.  
I saw a roasting pullet brood  
Upon a baking egg;  
I saw a ciple search his hands,  
Extinguishing his leg;  
I saw nine geese upon the wing  
Towards the frozen pole,  
And every mother's gosling fell  
Crisped to a crackling coal.  
I saw the ox that cropped the grass  
Writhe in the blistering rays;  
The herbage in his shrinking jaws  
Was all a fiery blaze.  
I saw huge fishes, boiled to rags,  
Bob through the bubbling mass;  
I listened, and I heard the dead  
All sizzling in their graves!  
Strange sights! Strange sounds! O ghostly dream!  
Its memory haunts me still;  
The streaming sea, the crimson glare;  
That wreathed each wooded hill.  
Stranger! if o'er thy slumbering couch  
Such fearful visions sweep;  
Spare, spare, O spare thine evening meal,  
And sweet shall be thy sleep.

[Selected.]

From the *Western Republican*.  
CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

We have been politely furnished by the President of the Lyceum, (Dr. Cotten) with the following communication, being extracts from his Lecture, delivered before that body on the 21st ult. In these days, when so many exaggerated statements are going the rounds, we are certain our readers will take a deep interest in the subject; and the able and scientific manner in which it is treated in the present communication, is sufficient to command it to general attention.

### CELESTIAL PHENOMENA, FOR THE YEAR 1832.

The celestial phenomena for the present year, are of an interesting character, and unusual occurrence.

The following is a brief statement of the most striking of these phenomena, as they will be visible at Marietta. The first in order of time, is a transit of the planet Mercury across the Sun's disk, on the 5th of May. Transits are of very rare occurrence, and can only take place when the Planet is directly between the Sun and the Earth, or, as it is called, at its *inferior conjunction*; in which case, it will be seen as a dark spot passing over the Sun's disk. This phenomenon can only take place with two of the planets, *Mercury* and *Venus*, whose orbits lie within that of the Earth; but, inasmuch as the orbits of all the remaining planets are exterior to that of our Earth, it is evident that they can never interpose between the Earth and the Sun. The whole of this transit will be visible throughout Europe, a great part of Africa, and the most easterly part of North America; but to no part of the United States will the *beginning* of this transit be visible. It will be first visible at this place at sunrise, or about 5 o'clock, A.M., which will be ten hours and a half after its commencement. The planet will first appear to touch the Sun on its transit across the Sun's disk. It is probable that this planet will be visible to the naked eye, should the sky be clear, but it may be more distinctly seen with a common Telescope.

The second of these phenomena, is an

eclipse of the Sun on the 27th of July.—This eclipse is the second of a series of five remarkable eclipses of the Sun, visible in the United States between 1830 and 1838. In itself, this eclipse will be greater than any other of the whole series, or indeed, than any eclipse that will be visible on the Earth for many years; inasmuch as the extent and duration of total darkness on the Earth will be much greater than usual.—The extent of total darkness in the progress of this eclipse, will occupy a space on the Earth's surface about 10,000 miles in length, and 200 in breadth, and the duration of total darkness from its commencement to its termination, will be about three hours and twenty-four minutes. The greatest duration of total darkness at any one place, will be about six minutes. Although this eclipse is in itself, unusually great, yet to us it will appear the least of the series, because the central track of this eclipse will be near the equatorial region of the Earth, and of course very much to the south of this place. To us the Moon will appear to touch the western edge of the Sun's disk, a little above its middle, at 20 minutes past 5, A.M. when the eclipse will seem to commence. The greatest obscuration at this place will take place about 10 minutes past 7; at which time the Sun will be eclipsed nearly five digits on its south western side. At this moment, the centre of the Phenumbra or Moon's shadow, will be passing through the West Indies, more than ten thousand miles south of this place. This explains the reason why this eclipse will be so partial here; because we are situated so far from its central track. This eclipse will terminate about 8 o'clock, A.M. at the very lowest point of the Sun's disk, having continued about an hour and forty minutes.

The last phenomenon which I shall describe, is that of a *Comet*, which will probably make its appearance in the course of the year. Comets are supposed to be opaque bodies, like our Earth, which revolve about the Sun in orbits very unlike those of the planets. These orbits are very eccentric ellipses; so that, at one time they approach very near the Sun, some of them even nearer than the planet Mercury, and again recede to an immense distance, sometimes far beyond the orbit of *Herschell*.

Comets are distinguished in a remarkable manner from the other heavenly bodies by a lucid *train* or *trail*, which always extends in a direction nearly opposite the Sun. The tails of Comets are of various lengths; sometimes they are hardly to be discerned, and at other times they extend through 90 or 100 degrees of the visible heavens, reaching from the zenith to the horizon!

Comets are supposed, from the apparent size they sometimes assume, to have approached very near the Earth. One is said to have been visible at Rome, during the reign of the Emperor Nero, whose apparent magnitude equalled that of the Sun. Astronomers have been much baffled in their attempts to calculate the return of Comets. As yet the period of but three of them is known with certainty. The first of these is a Comet which last appeared in 1750, and will probably again return in 1835. Both of the others will return in the course of the present year. The former of these is known by the name of *Encke's Comet*, because its last return was correctly computed by Professor *Encke*, of *Sieburg*, in Germany. It is but a small body, having a period of about 3 years and 4 months. It will be nearest the Sun about the 7th of May, at which time it is believed it will be too far south of the Equator to be seen at this place, but will be visible in South America.

The other Comet, which will return this year, called *Biel's Comet*, after the name of the astronomer who first saw it at its last return in 1823. This Comet revolves round the Sun in a period of about 6 years and 8 months.

Much has been said in the periodicals, both in Europe and America, of the appearance of a Comet during the year, within 60,000 miles of the Earth's orbit, which is about one fourth the distance of our Moon, and serious consequences have been apprehended from its near approach to the Earth, should the Earth happen to be in the part of its orbit nearest the Comet. It is probable that the Comet above mentioned, will cross the plane of the Earth's orbit very near the track of the Earth; and should the Earth be at that moment in the corresponding part of its orbit, the most serious effects might follow.

Perhaps the mutual attraction of these bodies would bring them into actual contact, with a tremendous concussion that might destroy a portion of this fair creation! Or perhaps this Comet, thus coming within the sphere of the Earth's attraction, might be arrested in its progress towards the Sun, and henceforth be made to revolve around the Earth as a centre, and thus form a second Moon to our Globe! The fact, however, is supposed to be, that this Comet will approach nearest the Earth's orbit, about the 28th of November. It will consequently cross the Earth's orbit many millions of miles eastward of the Earth. Had this Comet come down about four weeks later, it would then indeed have approached very near the Earth, probably much nearer than our Moon; and in that case, some of the singular and perhaps disastrous effects above mentioned might have resulted!

The following particulars have been ascertained respecting this Comet. It will cross the orbit of Mars, on its descent towards the Sun, about the 6th of September, at which time it will rise about 15 minutes before 9, P.M. about 50 degrees north of east. It may not, however, be visible to us so early as this. It will be nearest the Earth on the 23d October, at which time it will be distant about 51 millions of miles. At this time it will rise about 35 degrees north of east, at about 10 o'clock, P.M.

It will approach nearest the Sun on the 28th of November, and will then be distant from it about 85 millions of miles; it will, therefore, come within the orbit of the Earth, but not within that of Venus. It will be brightest about the 13th of November, at which time it will rise a little before 10 o'clock, P.M. and will pass the meridian at about half past 4 in the morning, at an elevation of about 70 degrees above the horizon. The elongation from the Sun, and elevation above the horizon, will present the greatest possible advantage for observing the Comet, as at that time it will be visible through the whole night. As it is not, however, supposed to be a very large body, its appearance may probably be less striking than that of some that have occasionally appeared.

From the *Genesee Farmer*.

### ASPARAGUS BEDS.

Every spring I am asked, if I have any asparagus roots to spare?—“No,” is my constant answer. “But you have a large bed, and why not spare some roots?” “Because I do not choose to cut my bed to pieces.”—“Well but I want a bed; my folks are very fond of it, and I have got to go and dig up a ditch three feet deep, and fill it up with stones and horse manure, and they say it will never come to maturity from the seed.” “Who says so?” “Why I don't know exactly, but I have always heard so.”—“You have heard too, I suppose, that if you first see the new moon over the left shoulder, you will have bad luck through the month, haven't you? Now I will tell you how to have an asparagus bed. Select the spot in your garden where you want it to grow. It is best on the south side of a fence or building. Manure it well with stable dung, ashes, lime, or any warm strong manure. Then dig it up as deep as you would dig a bed of beets or parsnips. Knock the dirt to pieces with your spade or rake, and make it fine. Let the bed be five feet wide and as long as you please. Take your rake handle and draw four straight lines lengthwise with the bed one foot a part; then draw parallel lines across it a foot apart also, which will leave your bed marked into squares of a foot each.—Now get a paper of seeds at the store which will cost you sixpence and —.” “But how shall I know whether it is the big or little kind? Now I want the great kind. They say there is asparagus grows in old garden, at Fort Slusher near the falls at Niagara, as large as your thumb. That's the sort I want.”

“Very well; you will have that sort when your bed is old enough if you take good care of it. But hear me through. Get your paper of seeds.—At the intersection of each line drop two seeds, and cover them an inch deep with earth. Do this in the month of May. In two weeks your asparagus will be up. Now all you have to do is to keep it clear from weeds or grass. In the fall, if any places are missing, take a crown and roots out of some of the thickest of the others and supply them. Cover up the bed with stable litter, six inches thick, and in the spring rake it off and stir up the ground lightly. Mind and keep your bed clean this year and for ever after, and cover it with litter next fall, as before; and then the next spring, just two years after planting, you can eat as much fine asparagus as your family will want.”

“Lo! is that all? I always thought as how it was a great deal more trouble than that. I want to know if that is the way you made your bed?”—“Why to be sure it is, and I never begged a root of asparagus in my life.” “Well, well, I will try it as soon as the ground opens”—and away he goes.—“But I say, my friend, do you take the *Genesee Farmer*?” “No.” “Hum, I thought so.”

ULMRS.

### MEANER THAN A NIGGER.

A blacksmith, who lived back in the country, on a cold winter's day had gone to town for a jug of rum. Returning from the grocery, he stopped at a tavern by the way to warm his fingers and toes, and chat with inns host.

The latter valued himself on a practical joke: wherefore turning over the son of Vulcan to some bar-room loungers to be flogged, he, with a knowing wink or two at those in the secret, slyly emptied the rum from the blacksmith's jug, and fill'd it with water. The latter having finished his chat, bade mine host good night, and made the best of his way home.

It was late in the evening when he arrived, and he invited a neighbor of his, who had accompanied him from the tavern, to walk in and take a drop of the creature to warm his stomach. The invitation was accepted; glasses were procured, and the jug unstopped. But when the blacksmith turned it up, expecting to hear the liquor say, *good! good! good!* lo, to his astonishment it said nothing at all. It was entirely frozen up. The reader may imagine the disappointment of the blacksmith and his expectant neighbor; for who has made his mouth up for a good thing—whether eatable, drinkable, or laughable—can bear the disappointment of his hopes with equanimity? The blacksmith could not, as shall appear presently in the account given by his neighbor.

The latter calling again the next day at mine host's *Boniface*, chuckling hugely over the trick he had played, asked him what the blacksmith said, when he found that his rum had turned to water.

“What did he say? why, he raved and tore round like a madman; and swore that you must have done it. Oh no, says I, it couldn't have been the landlord, it must have been some nigger.”

“And what did he say then?”

“What? why, he flew in a greater passion

than ever, and swore that Heaven never yet

made a nigger mean enough to be guilty of such a trick!”

This reply stuck in the memory of the landlord's neighbors so long, that he wished

a thousand times he never had enacted the unlucky joke which gave rise to it; for whenever afterwards he did any thing a little out of the way, they would exclaim, with a shake of the head—“*No nigger was ever mean enough to be guilty of that!*”

**Paper and Glass.**—It is computed that there is manufactured in the United States \$7,000,000 worth of paper annually, and \$2,000,000 worth of glass.

A robber, seized for stealing snuff in the shop of a tobacconist, by way of excusing himself, if he had never heard of a law which forbade a man to *take snuff*.

### JUST RECEIVED,

per Steam Boat Arab,

700 pounds Leaf sugar;  
1 cask Pepper;  
1 do. 4th proof Brandy;  
1 do. Holland Gin;  
1 do. Port Wine;  
1 do. Teneriffe Wine;

and for sale by

SHAW & PROTZMAN.

April 28, 1832.

### SALE OF THE Michigan Road Lands,

IN THE STATE OF INDIANA.

BY authority of an act of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, approved February 2d, 1832, entitled “An act to provide for selling the Michigan road lands, to open that part of the Michigan Road between Logansport and Lake Michigan, and for other purposes,” the undersigned will offer to public sale to the highest bidder in tracts, as the United States lands are sold, with such variations in those sections the road passes through, as is provided for in 3d section of said act, on

MONDAY THE FOURTH OF JUNE,

AT THE TOWN OF

### SOUTH BEND,

In the county of Saint Josephs,

so much of the Michigan road lands as will produce a sufficient sum to refund the state the amount advanced, and the amount due for contracts heretofore made, all the sections through which the road passes, will be first offered for sale in the following order, to wit:

In township 34 n. range 4 west, sections 34, 35 and 36.

Township 37 n. range 3 w. in east, north west, south east, west s. w. half, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, n. east, north west, south west 12.

Township 37 n. range 2 west, south east, south west 7, north east, north west, south half, east half, north west, south east, west s. n. east, south west 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, fraction 29, south 33.

Township 23 north, range 5 east, fractional sections 35 and 36.

Township 29 north, range 6 east, fractional 11 south, 12, 13, 14, fractions 15, 19, 20, 21, south 22, east, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, fraction 30, 31, south 32, 33, 34.

Township 28 north, range 5 east, south 1, 2, south east, east half, south west 3, fraction 9, south 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 28, fraction 29, south 33.

Township 23 north, range 6 east, south 5, 6, 7, 8.

These lands were selected by the undersigned, and are generally of a superior quality, and are in a part of the state of Indiana, that is improving as rapidly as any other part of the western country. The lands in the vicinity of the Wabash and Erie canal, are in the vicinity of the Wabash and Erie canal, which is authorized to be opened by the state of Indiana.

A second sale of said lands will be held at Logansport, in the county of Cass, commencing on Monday, the 15th of October next, where all the lands that remain unsold, will be again offered for sale, together with the sections yet to be selected, to complete the road grant.

WILLIAM POLKE, C. M. R. L.

Vincennes, March, 17, 1832.

### DISMANTLING.

THE partnership heretofore existing, under the firm of *Moore & Pepper*, was dissolved on the first of March, by mutual consent; all these indebted to the said firm, either by note or account, will please settle the same with either of the subscribers, who will be found, at all times, at the store of A. C. Pepper; also, all those who have claims against said firm will present them for settlement.

A. MOORE,  
A. C. PEPPER.

Rising Sun, April 10, 1832.

### NEW GOODS.

THE subscriber has just received from *Philadelphian*, and is now opening, a splendid stock of

### GOODS

At his old stand; where he is prepared to wait on his Customers and all those who may think proper to give him a call.

JOHN P. DUNN.

March 17th, 1832.

### CO-PARTNERSHIP.

THE undersigned having entered into a partnership, as traders, under the firm of *Shaw & Protzman*, respectfully inform the public that they have commenced business in the room lately occupied by *Br. Pinckard* as a Drug Store, where they will be pleased to receive custom.</p