

LETTERS ON HAYTI.

The Rev. Loring D. Dewy, who has visited Hayti with a view of facilitating the emigration of free colored people from the United States to that Island, has furnished for the N. Y. Observer, several letters on "the country, its government, its institutions, the state of society, and the condition of the emigrants," from which the following are extracts:

The Country.—This island is mountainous to a great extent, yet has many extensive plains, beautiful valleys, and one desert in the interior. Its climate is delightful and salubrious, being made so by its mountains and the trade winds. Its water is excellent and abundant; and its soil most fruitful. The immense wealth it poured into France, while in a state of colonial dependence upon that kingdom, testifies most fully to the richness of its soil, and the abundance of its productions.—These are so well known, that I need not enlarge. Suffice it to say, that the means of subsistence and of the acquisition of wealth, are offered the emigrants under the greatest advantages, and enterprise like that which is displayed in our western states, would meet with double reward, and be subject to far fewer obstacles and difficulties in the attainment of its object.

Government.—The Legislative power is vested in a President, Senate, and Chamber of Deputies. The President is elected for life by the Senate, and takes the oath to support the constitution, annually. The Senate consists of 24 members, who are chosen once in nine years by the Chamber of Deputies. The Chamber of Deputies is composed of three members from Port au Prince, two from the principal city of each department and one from each county: they are elected once in five years by the people. All males of twenty years & upwards are allowed to vote. The Judiciary is independent, and the judges are appointed during good behavior. The powers of the different departments of the government, and the rights of the people, are defined by the constitution. The Napoleonic Code, adapted to the circumstances of the country, is the law of the land.

Hayti has never been assisted in gaining independence, or acknowledged or named by any nation, the Haytiens relied for security only on their arms; as they are not yet acknowledged by France or any other government, upon their arms they still rely. This gives a military character to their government, yet it is not, as has been asserted, a military government, but a government founded on modern principles of checks and balances, and in pursuing an enlightened policy.—Since the union of the whole island, under the present administration, an obvious improvement is remarked by visitors to the island, and at the present moment, and for two years past, perfect harmony has prevailed. The President is very popular & much beloved, and the government everywhere is assuming the appearance of stability and permanency.

Revenue.—The government is supported by duties on imports and exports, by licences, and the surplus of the church revenue, after deducting what is expended in the support of the church and clergy. The church revenue is raised by a tax on burials, masses, and marriages, which of consequence falls only on the Catholics, as Protestants are at liberty to bury, pray and marry after their own forms, which subject them to no tax. Hence the establishment is not supported by dissenters.

Literary and Humane Institutions.—The literary institutions, except the Lancasterian schools, are on the French plan. The hospitals are also French. Lancasterian schools and very good hospitals, are supported in all the principal towns, at the expense of the government. A Lyceum for liberal education is well supported at Port-au-Prince. In all the public seminaries education is without expense, except for board and books, and in the Lancasterian schools even books are furnished.—Common schools, and schools for the polite accomplishments, are found in very good numbers in the cities, but are very scarce in the country. The great mass of the people in the country are unable to read, and the efforts of the government to support schools are often so little appreciated, that in some instances, schools have been relinquished for want of scholars.—Those who know how difficult it is to influence illiterate parents to send their children to school, will not be surprised at this fact, when they recollect that the Haytiens over 30 years of age, almost without exception, were born in slavery, and of course were never taught to read in early life.

There are three printing establishments on the island; two at Port-au-Prince, and one at St. Domingo. From the presses at Port-au-Prince two weekly papers and one monthly work are regularly issued, and

one weekly paper is published at St. Domingo. The prices of these publications are high.

The Sabbath.—The Sabbath, according to protestant notions, is not known in the Island. The public offices are shut, and the wholesale stores generally, but the day is devoted to marketing in the morning, and to amusements in the afternoon and evening. Immense numbers of people from the surrounding country flock into the large towns on Saturday and Sunday, and from noon of one day to the noon of the next, bustle & trade fill the market place. The drum, at six o'clock on Sabbath morning, summons the soldiers to the review, which lasts till nine o'clock. The militia are called out once in three months, at the same time and for the same purpose. The churches are open for mass and preaching on the holidays. This perversion of the Sabbath takes away from the people that instruction it was designed to furnish them, fosters their vicious propensities, & leaves them to grovel in ignorance and superstition, and the evil effects are great and obvious.

State of Society.—French manners and customs, affected by the Roman Catholic ceremonies, prevail throughout the island. Native Africans brought to Hayti in early life, show you all the gesture, ease, politeness, action and variability of the French character, and this character extends more or less to all classes. In the lower classes it is modified by the effects of slavery that still remain, and much that was brought with their fathers and mothers from Africa. Many African customs and superstitions are found mingled with those of the Roman Catholic religion. Paganism, which gives gods to hills and streams, has its prolific progeny in Hayti, and to the imagination of many a native, this god in the shape of some scaly monster or clawed dragon is seen occupying some hidden cave or hole of the earth, ready at all times to protect his hill or stream from sacrilegious depredations. Sorcerers and witches, with charms and incantations, in all the shapes known in Africa, hold their sway, and scatter their terrors over thousands who have inherited the ignorance of their fathers. The higher classes, especially men, are mostly infidels of the French school. Many of them were educated in France, and many youth of both sexes are still sent to France for education. Some are highly distinguished for talent and cultivation. Parisian style, elegance, and refinement adorn many of their mansions, and spread splendor over their public amusements. The female holds about the same place of degradation as in France, and the intercourse of the sexes is on about the same footing. Marriage, however, is becoming more frequent, and obvious improvement in the state of society, in this respect, is taking place.

CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS.—The laws, in general, are wretchedly defective in the apportionment of punishment to the enormity of crimes; and it would almost seem as if they had been made with a view to the respectability of criminals or the dignity of offences. We see that, in Philadelphia, a certain John Branson, who, in about 7 months, contracted debts to the amount of \$35,438, and then petitioned for the benefit of the insolvent laws, has been found guilty of *fraudulent insolvency*—and, from what is stated, no doubt justly. But mark the tenderness of the court—by the laws of the state, such offenders may be punished by imprisonment only, or imprisonment and hard labor; but it being certified by a "respectable physician," that the state of the prisoner's health would not permit him to labor, he was gravely sentenced to be imprisoned for the term of one year, during which he will live on the very fat of the land; and it would seem that he can very well afford it.

By the proceedings had, we are bound to believe that the person was guilty of the offence with which he was charged, and that he defrauded persons out of tens of thousands of dollars: now what sort of justice is there in simply confining this man for twelve months, allowing him to live on the best that the market will furnish, and the sending of a poor creature to the penitentiary for seven or ten years, to hard labor, solitary confinement and bread and water, who may have stolen some article of the value of 50 or 100 dollars?—Ought not the amount of the damage sustained by society to grade the punishment—and should not the cool, deliberately calculating fraudulent debtor, rather suffer, than the simple thief, who, perhaps impelled by want, or giving himself up to a momentary indiscretion, appropriates to his own use the property of others? There is as much difference, in my opinion, between the offences, as there can be between murder by poison, and manslaughter in an affray: & while it is my most earnest wish that the laws may be ameliorated as to unfortunate and even to impru-

dent debtors, I am not the less zealous that those who are fraudulent should take up their residence in our penitentiaries, with kindred counterfeiters and thieves.—Niles.

From a Philadelphia paper.

ELECTIONEERING.—Mr. John Pett, jr. of Schuylkill co. has announced himself as a candidate for sheriff—in the latter part of his advertisement he says, "In making this application, I wish it to be understood, that it is not my intention to take the rounds of the county—to go from house to house with a view to corrupt your morals by what may be termed a liberal course of debauchery and an illiberal course of bribery—shaking those hands I never shook before and which I do not intend again to shake after the election—by handing round a capacious snuff box well filled with scented snuff, carrying with me a pair of saddlebags stuffed with chewing tobacco cut to convenient lengths to distribute in all directions—treating to whiskey on all occasions—swearing white is black and black white, making promises I never intend to perform; and by some fabricated story to excite your sympathy and extort promises of votes and favor which you would be base enough to fulfill. I leave this course to other candidates. If you think me worthy your support and confidence elect me."

ACIDS.—In summer, at which season the blood is very much disposed to putrescency, it is advisable to increase the proportion of vegetable food, and to make use of acids, such as vinegar, lemons, oranges, and the like, provided that they do not disagree with the stomach and bowels, which is the case in those constitutions where too much acid is generated in the stomach. This may frequently be known by feeling the sensation of hunger in a painful degree. In such constitutions cold provisions as well as cold drink, are often preferable to hot.

EFFECTS OF TEMPERANCE.—Under this head the Boston Medical Intelligencer says:—

"We find, from the registers of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, that as a consequence of their temperance, one half of those that are born live to the age of 47 years, whereas Dr. Price tells us that of the general population of London, half that are born live only 23 4 years! Among the Quakers, 1 in 10 arrives at 80 years of age; of the general population of London, only 1 in 40. Never did a more powerful argument support the practice of temperance and virtue."

CRIMES.—We have heard much of the immorality of manufactures. The county of Providence, R. I. is the greatest manufacturing district in the United States, and is also very populous; but, on the 13th July, not one person, charged with the commission of a crime, was confined in the jail of that county.—Niles.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL.—The U. States' Engineers, under the command of Capt. McNeill, have finished their surveys on the Casselman's river and Wills creek route, and have proceeded to Pittsburgh, to examine the route from that place to the lakes. From the conversation of the Engineers, on completing their examinations on the Wills creek route, it would appear that it is practicable, 39 1-2 miles shorter, and 405 feet lower than the Deep creek route, and by lengthening the tunnel, thereby lowering the summit of the canal, an abundant supply of water can be obtained; consequently, on an impartial view of the matter, no other can compete with the Casselman's & Wills creek route.

The Deep creek route would require 100 more locks—each lock, it is said, would cost in its construction 16,000 dollars; thus, in lockage alone, the difference would be 1,600,000 dollars; besides, the loss of time in passing them, and the constant employ of hands for their management. On the Deep creek route, there will be 39 1-2 miles more canal to make, estimating each mile at 8000 dollars, the amount will be 316,000 dollars; this sum added to the 1,600,000 dollars for additional lockage, will amount to the enormous sum of 1,916,000 dollars.

Somerset Whig.

TEXAS.—The Arkansas Gazette of June 23th, says, "A gentleman who returned a few days previous, from the southern counties of the territory, informs us, that very late advices had just been received there from Mr. Austin's settlement, on the Colorado, in the province of Texas, stating, that a great and unusual rise of that river had taken place, this spring, which had overflowed and destroyed nearly all the corn and other crops of the settlers. This distressing calamity happened so late in the season, as to prevent the possibility of replanting, and great suffering was anticipated by the settlers in consequence of the loss of their crops. Game was exceedingly scarce, and many of the inhabitants

were obliged to subsist on wild horses or mustangs. A large portion of the settlers were in indigent circumstances, and the prospect of all by no means favorable."

CARAMANIAN SHEEP.—One of this celebrated breed of sheep, is on Mr. Shotwell's farm, at Woodbridge, New-Jersey. He was taken from on board a Turkish vessel, bound to Constantinople, and presented by the Greek admiral to Capt. Gerry, from whom he passed into the possession of Mr. Stockwell. He is above the common size, his fleece grows so long as to hide his feet—it weighed 21 pounds, and it was thought would have yielded 4 or 5 pounds more, but for the occasional clippings of it that had been made to gratify the curiosity of different persons. His frame is good, tall, broad, and the color of his wool a dark brown. The breed will be encouraged, for it is valuable.—Niles.

IMPROVED BRICK KILN.—Mr. L. R. Baker, of Washington city, has invented several new and valuable improvements in the construction of brick kilns, and in the hitherto difficult, dilatory and expensive operation of burning, by which he says the whole contents of a kiln may with facility be burnt, fit for fronts, with about one third less fuel than is generally made use of, and in half the usual time. Persons wishing to avail themselves of these improvements, may obtain further information by application to Mr. John Frank, Brick-maker, at the city of Washington, who is authorized to sell rights to such as are inclined to purchase.—Hartford Mercury.

NEW AMERICAN SPELLING BOOK.

As Mr. RUTEN'S New Spelling Book, adapted to Walker's principles of English orthography and pronunciation, is esteemed superior to any other in the Western country, or perhaps in the U. States, an excellent set of stereotype plates has been prepared for the printing of it, and its future editions will therefore be uniform and correct.

Among the recommendations already given to this work, the following may be sufficient to lay before the public.

From the Rev. Horace Holley, L. L. D. President of Transylvania University. (Directed to the author.)

DEAR SIR,—I have examined your "New American Spelling Book," and find it worthy of a cordial recommendation to the public, for the use of families and schools. I hope you will meet with success in its distribution, and that the favorable opinion which it deserves will become general.

HORACE HOLLEY.

From the Rev. Elijah Slack, A. M. President of Cincinnati College, and from the Rev. Joshua L. Wilson, D. D. (to the author.)

DEAR SIR,—Approving the principles and appreciating the merits of your "New American Spelling Book," we cheerfully recommend it to the friends of learning; and we entertain a hope that it will prevent much erroneous teaching, and save many pupils from the labour and regret of unlearning their juvenile studies when they ought to be treading the higher branches of education.

J. L. WILSON.
ELIJAH SLACK.

As the object and advantages of this useful work, are clearly expressed in the preface, we shall here publish it, hoping it will be extensively read by the teacher of youth.

PREFACE.

In most of the universities and colleges in the United States, as well as in England, Walker's made the standard of English orthography and pronunciation. His system is every day becoming more popular, and it is now generally admitted that it will continue to prevail. All dictionaries of the English language, except those of Walker and Johnson, are by almost universal consent, bad, and that of Johnson, in its late editions, has Walker's plan of pronunciation incorporated with it.

As we have now a popular and permanent standard of our language, all spelling books and elementary works of the kind, ought to be adapted to its principles. So far as this fails to be effected, schools will be erroneously taught, and many will wish to be correct scholars, will find much time and labour necessary to repair the defects of their early education. This is a misfortune invariably attending the use of Webster and several other elementary works now extant. Thousands whose first year of study were spent principally in learning to read, and write their native language, have learnt with regret, when entering upon higher branches of education, that they had many things to unlearn, and some of their former studies to repeat.—Others, less careful about correctness, though perhaps in many respects, good scholars, are continually in the practice of bad spelling and bad pronunciation.

To furnish the rising generations of our country with the means of avoiding these disadvantages, and to render the rudiments of a complete education more easy the present work is offered to the public. In preparing it, the author has studiously endeavored to avoid whatever is unnecessary, and to fill its pages with matter suitable for the improvement of young minds. Most of the words in the spelling lessons, with the exception of proper names, have been taken from Walker's Critical Pronouncing Dictionary, with strict attention to their orthography, accentuation, and the sound of the vowels. The lessons in reading have been carefully selected, and are such as will not only facilitate the progress of the pupils, but excite them to study, and give them a taste for the sciences. The tables of Scripture proper names, alphabetically arranged, and accented according to Walker's key, will afford an important advantage not to be found in any other work of the kind now in use. Should this book answer the purpose contemplated, by making the path of the learner more easy, and preparing young minds for a correct and complete education, it is expected that the friends and patrons of learning will give it their support.

The above work is sold at the office of the Cincinnati Gazette, and may be had of the author.—Price 12 1-2 cents single, and one dollar per dozen. Cincinnati, August 2, 1835.

PRINTING.

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