

From the *Nevia* (Ohio) Transcript.
West Point.

Our opposition to this institution is predicated upon information concerning it, which if true, (and we believe it is,) justifies all we have said; but if it be false, why then our remarks have been built on a false foundation, and will of course fall to the ground; and we, when convinced that we have been deceived, will cheerfully retract our assertions, and acknowledge our error. But we are told that this institution is necessary to enable us to have competent officers to command our armies in time or war? That it is necessary for this is certainly a mistake. War always brings congenial talents into play. The science of war is acquired in actual campaigns, and on fields of battle, and military talents are discovered as occasion admits, as Paulownia developed his. Where were Bonaparte's best generals educated? In the ranks, amidst scenes of hardship and feats of *brilliant battle*—amidst *disastrous chances* of moving accidents by flood and field.

Of our breadth-scapes in the imminent deadly breach.

Ney, the 'bravest of the brave,' came from the ranks. Junot had the worst epaulettes of sergeant replaced with silver for his merit. *Murat la beauva breuer*, was the son of a pastry cook. While Napoleon was reviewing his troops in Italy, a private soldier approached him, 'General,' said he, 'you ought to do so and so.' 'Get away, you rogue,' said Bonaparte; yet he declared this private soldier suggested the very thing which he had already determined upon himself. Give me conscripts, said a French marshal, and I can lead them anywhere, for they are ignorant; but our veterans know when an undertaking is practical as well as we; we cannot deceive them. These anecdotes are merely referred to, to show that the science of war can be and is taught successfully without a military academy.

A college education unaccompanied by talents will never make a man an able officer. As cadets are received at West Point by partiality, and before it is ascertained whether they possess talents or not, it is by no means unreasonable to presume that block heads are admitted, remain the whole time, graduate, and receive commissions, whom all the colleges in the world can do no more manufacture into skillful officers, than they could create talent where it did not exist.

'What's a' your jargon of your schools, Your own names for horns and stools, Your nature made you fools?

What stars ver' grimy stars? Yell better take up quides and stars, Or kowloon hammers?

Where were our gallant Generals of the revolutionary war educated? With courage in their hearts, good sense in their heads, a love of country to animate them, and an enemy to contend with, they learned the art of war in opposing the enemies of their country; in the manner that Peter the Great learned to defeat Charles the twelfth, by having frequently taken lessons from him. Were they not brave, skillful, and eventually successful? It is not our intention by these remarks to suggest an idea derogatory to the advantages of a college education; but to show that with all its advantages, it cannot make skilful officers without the proper materials to work upon, and the people's money is thrown away upon some beings *'who gang in storks and come out asses, plain truth to speak'*, and then expect promotion in the army because they were born with a silver spoon in their mouths, they were enabled to obtain an education at a particular place, and at the expense of the public, in preference to the ill-starred sons of poverty and of parents, who are unable to educate themselves.

It is said that if cadets return to private life, the education is not lost to the public, as they will be of immense advantage by disciplining our militia. Disciplining the militia, forsooth! Bonaparte if he were alive, with Captain Duggetty for a drill sergeant, could not discipline our militia under our present defective system. We are opposed to the institution as at present conducted—because we believe poor people are taxed to educate the sons of the rich; because it is the nursery of upstart pride and puny aristocracy; because it engenders a spurious spawn of nobility and places them over the heads of men of sterling worth, tried courage, and undoubted patriotism; because it grants exclusive privileges to some, to the exclusion of others, contrary to the spirit of our republican institutions, and because we can do very well without it, and appropriate the money requisite to keep it in operation, to objects of greater merit and more unquestioned utility. For these and other reasons, which are as plenty as blackberries in harvest, if West Point be not thoroughly reformed, we hope it may share the fate of M's Overdone's house in the suburbs; that is, be *'plucked down.'*

Extraordinary Mistake.—At an early hour on Thursday morning, the dead body of a colored man, about thirty years of age, was found in Franklin street, by a watchman, who immediately communicated the circumstance to the coroner. In the course of the day an inquest was held on the body, and the jury having no evidence who the deceased was, nor how he came to his death, found the usual verdict in such cases, and the body was conveyed to the alms house in order to be interred. While on its way thither, a person who was passing, happened to see it, and recognized it to be the son of a respectable colored man named Aaron Wood. The person who thus recognized the body, immediately went and informed Wood, who proceeded to the alms house, and after satisfying himself that he beheld the body of his son, claimed it and conveyed it home. A very elegant coffin was purchased, the body put in it, and preparations made to bury it yesterday morning. The friends of the deceased had assembled to attend the funeral, and the coffin was about to be carried out of the house, when to the astonishment of all present, Wood's son walked in, in perfectly good health, from an excursion which he had been making in the country. His father could scarcely believe the evidence of his senses, or be persuaded that what he beheld before him was more than a mere phantom. On being convinced, however, that it was really his son, he sent back the dead body to the alms house, in the costly coffin which he had purchased, as he thought, for the interment of his own son. *New York paper.*

Paris, Sept. 26.—The annals of duelling afford no such extraordinary instance as the following, which we find in a Swiss Journal:—A woman of a robust frame, aged 66, residing at Chenev Bougerie, had been upon terms of animosity with a baker for 28 years, and had frequently challenged him to meet her sword in hand. They had in fact two several combats, from which the Amazon retired both times wounded. But nothing daunted, she again forced her adversary to meet her a third time, and they had a rencontre, a few days since, at Vitteite when the fair Armida was so severely hurt, that for three days her life was despaired of. She is, however, now fast recovering, and avows her resolution to enter the field again as soon as she has recovered her strength.

Alabama.—There is great reason to apprehend that actual collision will take place between the military force of the United States and the militia of Alabama. At the last accounts, the United States troops were in motion to remove the intruders from among the Indians. All who have not crops or families, are to be removed immediately. Time is given to the remainder until the 15th of January. On the other hand, the militia in the vicinity, and on the lands, are mustering, and preparing for resistance. The question between practical nullification and treason, may soon be put to issue, in its most injurious character. *Cincinnati Gaz.*

How to get a tight ring off a finger.—Thread a needle flat in the eye with strong thread, pass the head of the needle with care, under the ring, and pull the thread through a few inches towards the hand; wrap the long end of the thread tightly round the finger, regularly all down to the nails to reduce its size. Then lay hold of the short end of the thread and unwind it. The thread passing against the ring, will gradually remove it from the finger. This never-failing method will remove it in the tightest ring without difficulty, however swollen the finger may be.

LIFE OF A PAUPER IN ENGLAND.—The Rev. Mr. Storer, a clergyman of London, has in a vein of happy humor illustrated the abuses to which the facilities of obtaining public assistance are liable. He supposes a young weaver of twenty-two marrying a servant girl of nineteen. Are they provided against the prospects of a family—do they economise—tail—re-trench? No; they live in Spitalfields, and rely upon the charitable institutions. The wife gets a ticket for the Royal Maternity society; she is delivered for nothing—she wants baby linen—the Benevolent Society supply her. The child must be vaccinated—he goes to the hospital for vaccination. He is 18 months old, he must be got out of the way—he goes to the Infant School; from thence he proceeds, being 'distressed,' to the Educational Clothing Society, and the Sunday Schools. He remains five years; he is apprenticed gratis to a weaver; he becomes a journeyman; the example of his parents is before his eyes; he marries a girl of his own age; his child passes the ancestral round of charities; his own work becomes precarious; but his father's family was for years in the same circumstances, and was always saved by charity; to charity then, he has a gain recourse. Parish gifts of coal, parish gifts of bread are at his disposal, Spitalfield's associations, soup so-

cieties, benevolent societies, pension societies; all fostering the comfortable luxury of living gratuitously; he comes at length to the more fixed income of parish relief; he begs an extract from the parish register, proves his settlement from the charity school indenture of his apprenticeship, and quarters his family on the parish with an allowance of 5s. a week. In this uniform alternation of voluntary and compulsory relief, he draws towards the close of his mendicant existence. Before leaving the world, he might, perhaps, return thanks to the public. He was born for nothing; nursed for nothing, he has been put out in the world for nothing, he has had medicine and medical attendance for nothing, and he has had his children also born, nursed, clothed, fed, educated, established, and physiced for nothing!

Singular Coincidence.—The N. Y. Commercial Advertiser says:—There is now confined in the debtors' prison of that city, a gentleman, who less than five ago, figured splendidly among the private bankers of London. He is confined for a debt of eighty thousand dollars—at the suit of a former Sheriff of London—at the suit of a former sheriff of London—who is also an inmate of the same prison, on executions for several large amounts. The banker is dependent upon charity for his food. What strange vicissitudes of fortune!

REMARKABLE CASE.—The Paris Academy of Medicine lately reported the case of a man who died in July last in that city, delirious, and in the right ventricle of whose heart was found imbedded a needle, which extended into the cavity. No trace of a circatrix by which the needle might have entered, could be discovered on the exterior of the body. He had been suffering for some months from shivering and pain in the side. *Spirit of the Age.*

Massachusetts.—The election for governor in Massachusetts resulted in no choice. The whole returns from the polls had not been reported, but enough has been ascertained to give the fact that there was no choice. The polls heard from, give Davis 11,954; Adams 9,935; Morton 7,752; Allen 1,263.

On Saturday evening, the 9th instant, the baggage-trunks of the stage passing between Dunstable N. H., and Lowell, Mass., were cut by some villains, with the intention of robbing it. The baggage, however, remained on the rack, out of their reach, but several trunks were taken, which were subsequently found on the road. On the same night a horse was stolen from the stable of a neighboring tavern, probably by the same villains.

A good Shot.—On Wednesday week, as Mrs. Harlow Crosby, of Edgartown, Mass., was sitting in her house, she perceived a large hen-bawk pounce upon one of the hens not far from the house. She seized a loaded musket, and took such deliberate and sure aim that she killed the hawk, without in the least injuring the hen, which was already in its talons. This is the same lady who, a few years since, shot a large black snake in the window of her house.

Two colored women were recently abducted from Alexandria, (D. C.) conveyed to Kentucky, and there sold by a fiend calling himself Thompson. Proper measures are about to be taken in Alexandria to obtain their freedom, and, if possible, to arrest and punish the person or persons engaged in their abduction.

A daring Mail robbery was committed at Union Town, Pa. on the morning of the 12th inst. The circumstance is stated in the *Genius of Liberty*, printed at that place: "Just before day the mail drove up to the post office, the driver blowing his horn. The post master stepped to the window and gave it a rap to let him know that he was heard. The driver then threw down the bag which contained the way mail between Cumberland and Union Town and drove off. In a minute or so after, Mr. Campbell stepped out to get the bag, and lo! it was gone. Search was made in vain. And it was no where to be found, until daylight revealed it about one hundred yards from the post office, by the side of the main street. A hole, nearly a foot long, was cut in one side and pillaged of its entire contents.

It is supposed that the mail contained very little besides newspapers."

The productive power of Great Britain and the United States, with the aid of machinery, is equal to that of the whole human race without it.

The empress of China died on the 15th of July, at Peking. All the people are commanded to wear no tassels on their caps for seven days, and to leave their heads unshaved for one hundred days.



THE MESSENGER.
Printer's Retreat, Indiana.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1832.

ENLARGEMENT.

Sometime since, we promised to enlarge our sheet, during the first quarter of the third volume. This, we have not been able to do; because our large, new press is not quite finished. We hope, we will be able to do it within the next month—perhaps, at the commencement of the new year.

SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia, will be energetically urged during the present congress. We are opposed to slavery in every shape, and hope to see it abolished, not only in the district but the whole union. We had our feelings much injured about one month ago, on our passage down the river from Pittsburgh, on board of the steam boat *LADY BYRON*, capt. Hart. We had a pretty good number of passengers on board; in fact, as many as could be accommodated with comfort. At Guyandott, the captain took on board some hundred and fifty SLAVES, chained and manacled in a shameful, shocking, barbarous and disgusting manner, who were stowed away and huddled in a department of the boat, on the boiler deck, appropriated to the deck passengers, scarcely large enough to accommodate half the number, and which had already been taken possession of by a number of male and female passengers—the white passengers became indignant and enraged at the insult, and endeavored to take refuge in the upper part of the boat allotted to the cabin passengers. Here, a commotion between the officers of the boat and the white deck passengers—the officers forcing the passengers to go below—for a moment, the scuffle was alarming to those not accustomed to the manners and customs of slave holders—dealers and their friends; as one or two dirk knives made their appearance. The cabin passengers now became dissatisfied, formed a meeting and appointed a committee to wait on the captain and remonstrate with him on the impropriety of keeping the slaves on board. The captain promptly gave assurances to the committee, that the slaves should be landed at the first suitable point on the Virginia shore—this satisfied the complainants. In a short time the boat stopped, but, instead of landing the slaves, the white passengers were set ashore. They were landed near a small log cabin, in no way calculated so afford them either shelter or comfort, as it was raining at the time. One of the negro drivers was himself, a negro, and used the lash pretty freely on the slaves.

PHILADELPHIA.

On our recent visit to the city of Philadelphia, we spent considerable time in visiting the various public buildings, erected in that city and its neighborhood, by the general government—the state of Penn.—the city authorities—and by private companies.

The Naval Asylum, the Arsenal, the Mint and in the Navy Yard, by the United States.

The New Prison and the House of Refuge, by the state.

The Water Works, by the city.

The Arcade and Exchange, by private companies.

From each of which we took descriptive notes, from which and other authentic sources, we will endeavor to lay them before our readers, commencing with the

United States Naval Asylum, NEAR PHILADELPHIA.

This building is beautifully situated on the eastern bank of the Schuylkill river, a short distance below South street, on the Gray's ferry road. It is on the highest point of land between the mouth of the river and Fairmount. The ground on which the edifice is located is said to be fifty feet above high water mark.

The front of the asylum is 386 feet, including a centre building of 112 feet. The centre is embellished with a marble portico of eight Ionic columns. The proportions and details of the whole, we were informed, were taken from the temple on the Illyssus near Athens. The wings consist of a granite basement, supporting a marble superstructure—is three stories in height and piazzas to each story, front and rear, sustained by eighty-eight iron columns, on granite piers. The roof the centre building is covered with copper, and that of the wings with slate. The whole of the interior is vaulted, and is in every respect fire proof. The dormitories on the flanks of centre building amount to 180 rooms, each well lighted and ventilated, being calculated for the reception and accommodation of about four hundred men. The extremities of the wings contain a hall—work shop—operating room and offices, all of which communicate with the piazza and passages in the centre and outside of the building. At the extreme ends of each piazza are ranges of water closets for the convenience of the invalids. The basement story of the centre building contains a dining room, one hundred and thirteen feet in length, together with a kitchen, washhouse laundry, pantries, store rooms and a furnace for conveying heated air throughout the house. This story communicates with

the principal and third stories by means of double flight of beautiful marble steps—the principal story of the centre building contains in front, eight parlors, intended for officers' quarters—a chapel, fifty-six feet square in the rear, which receives its light from a lantern in the dome. It has a direct communication with the passage in the centre and with the piazzas. The surgeon's apartments—infirmaries—apothecaries' rooms—bath rooms and closets are adjacent to the chapel. The third story of the centre building includes chambers for officers—for the insane—dormitories—bath rooms and closets. The whole cost, was about \$325,000. William Strickland, of the city, was the architect.

The above asylum is for the accommodation of old superannuated seamen—it was erected and will be supported from a fund, created by deducting a small sum monthly from seamen's wages. We feel a pride in acknowledging the fact, that we contributed a small mite in aid of this fund, during the few months we served under the illustrious PERRY, on Lake Erie, in 1815. K.

Extract of a letter from a friend of the editors, dated

Washington city, Nov. 25.

The president is in fine health and so are the secretaries. The president will return Mr. Clay's land bill with his objections—he will urge the reduction of the price of public lands to one dollar per acre to actual settlers. It is said by some, that South Carolina will secede from the union, unless force bill shall be repealed—that they have commenced expensive works at Charleston for defence.

An attempt will be made by the friends of Mr. Clay and of the United States bank to re-charter that institution—another party will attempt to charter a new bank—another party, with the president, will oppose both measures; so, that it is to be feared a restricted re-charter and a new bank will both fail. Some high bank men will oppose a restriction upon the re-charter of the old bank, which will, in all probability defeat a re-charter—and many of the friends of the old bank will, from disappointment, vote against a new one. I hope that the members of congress will untie aside sectional feelings; party spirit; and personal interest, and act with an eye single to the good of the country and the prosperity of the people.

The congress will open with a war of debate—the deposits and the election of public printers, (upon the ground of mistake in the count of the votes, and that for the 22d congress to elect an officer for the 23d is, and was unconstitutional and void) will, of course, array the parties—prove the mettle of each member, and try the extent of bank influence.

NEXT GOVERNOR.

Several persons have been named as candidates for the office of governor, viz. Samuel M. May, James P. Drake, William Graham and Noah Noble.

The first named, in all probability, be taken up by the Indianapolis convention, on Monday next.

PRICES AT NEW ORLEANS, N. Y. 9.
Floor, \$4 50 per barrel—Corn, 8th per bar el—Lard, 10 per pound—Hay, 62h per 100 pounds—Whiskey, 31 per gallon.

CANALS.—France in 200 years constructed 60 miles—England, in 79 years constructed 2752 miles—and the U. States in 14 years, constructed 2200 miles; 900 of which were in Pennsylvania.

MESSAGES.

In our next, we will endeavor to give an epitome of the messages of president Jackson and governor Noble.

NEXT PRESIDENT.

Andrew Jackson, has recently been named in a Philadelphia paper, as a candidate for a third term of this office.

Martin Van Buren has his name announced 'by authority.'

John M. Lane has been nominated in Baltimore. And

Richard M. Johnson has his friends, who will support him for said office.

RESIGNATIONS.—Stephen D. Miller, of South Carolina, and George M. Troup, of Georgia, have resigned their seats in the senate of the United States.

William L. Garrison, editor of the *Liberator*, had been arrested on five writs, for as many libels on individuals in Canterbury. We are sorry that these distinguished citizens of Canterbury have not been laved with such propriety as to render it unnecessary to bolster up their reputation by an appeal to law.

A revolution in Paris, to abolish all regal power, and set up REPUBLICANISM, is talked of. May the God of the universe, direct them how to accomplish their wishes speedily and without bloodshed.

Ira West Gardner, convicted of the murder of his daughter, was executed at Warren, Ohio, on the 1st ult.

The general assembly of Tennessee, after debating two days, passed a bill extending the laws of the state over the Cherokee territory within the limits of that state, by a vote of 23 to 19. It had not yet passed the senate.

Richard M. Johnson, of Scott county, Kentucky, has been a member of congress for twenty-six years in succession.

The British government has lost one hundred and fifty thousand dollars by the defalcation of the post-masters in Ireland.