Weekly American.

Auburn, Wednesday, April 13, 1859.

DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION.

Whilst we never entertained any doubt whatever that the true interests of the people of this country required them to preserve and perpetuate the Union of the States under the present, or an amended Constitution we have never supposed it in as much danger of dissolution at any time as many hate pretended. If it is ever dissolved, it will be like a breaking up of an old family, after such a series of jars as shall convince the majority that their interests and comforts will be promoted by a separation. There have been jars in the family of States, but they have been the jars of ambitious politicians, rather than of the body of the people, either North or South. And although they involved a question upon which the South is very tenacious, it has been so evident always that they would be greater sufferers than the North by a dissolution, as to impress us with the belief that they would flinch at a crisis, when such a question should come up for discussion, and the politicians themselves have never seemed to us to be really in favor of a dissolution; they have merely desired to enjoy the privilege of crying "wolf" *at bidtum*, without any desire to have the "wolf" come.

For six or eight years past, the ambitious politicians of the Southern States have followed up the practice of holding a Southern Convention annually, ostensibly to consider their planting and commercial interests, but really to demonstrate on the slavery question. At these conventions they have usually made long speeches, and passed long strings of resolutions, in which they have each time set up some new claim for the slave power, for the purpose of having it operate on some approaching election, or upon the next Congress. Such a Convention for the 9th of May next, at Vicksburgh, is now called, and the Southern newspapers are full of suggestions and speculations concerning what that Convention will do. At the last two annual meetings of that body, it resolved in favor of re-opening the slave trade, and at the last meeting, it will be recollected, a clergyman was brought into the service to prove that Christianity and humanity would be promoted by such a trade. It was said that it could be only through the importation of benighted Africans that they could be brought under the influences of the Gospel. Mr. C. A. L. Lamar was probably induced to become a missionary in that religious and philanthropic undertaking, and the slave trade may be said to be fairly opened. The Vicksburgh Convention will undoubtedly reiterate those former resolves, and enter largely into the new doctrines of protection of slavery by Congress, for this is the moving, active question which is to be thrown into the Presidential Congress of 1860.—And the speakers thereat will probably threaten, as usual a dissolution of the Union, if Congress shall not accede to this demand. But such threats will not have many terrors for Northern ears. They have been too often repeated to terrify many persons, we should think, even in the South. The principal effect will be upon the members of the Convention, who will probably congratulate themselves when it is over, upon having made a terrible noise.

But although there is no danger of a dissolution of the Union, there is great danger that this convention will take another aggressive stride for the extension of slavery into the new territories, and for protecting it there, and unless the Opposition shall have a working majority in the next House of Representatives, we are inclined to believe that they will accomplish their object within two years. It is for this reason that we have been anxious that Americans and Republicans should unite in Maine, New Hampshire and Connecticut, in returning members to the next House of Representatives, who will put an end, if possible, to this unholy crusade for negro slavery.—And it is for this reason also, that we are indulging the hope that there will be union nominations of candidates for President and Vice President, to be supported in 1860. It has become entirely obvious to us that a divided Opposition to that policy will be rewarded only with another defeat.

THE ADVERTISER AND MR. KIRKPATRICK

But for an unnecessary fling at the American incorporated in it, the Advertiser of yesterday contained an excellent article on the management of the State Prison here, by the present Agent and Warden, and we think he might, with propriety, have extended his commendations to the Superintendent of the Asylum also. We have no criticisms, however, to make on the article, for all it said of Mr. K. we believe to be substantially true. We sincerely believe that Mr. K. is discharging his duties well for the State, and that if he shall be clothed with the power to get up a discipline there, he will accomplish that object, which will improve the finances still further.

The prison greatly needs re-roofing, and we hope the Legislature will make the appropriations requisite for that object. It needs several additional cells, in order to enable the officers to lock the convicts separately. If the Legislature shall take an enlightened view of this subject, the monies for that object also will be appropriated.—An expenditure of $20,000 there for all purposes, is absolutely needed.

WALK IN, GENTLEMEN.

We tender our thanks to several gentlemen of the Republican party, particularly from the country towns, who have within the past month, interested themselves in increasing the circulation of the American. "We pledge ourselves that it will be our constant endeavor to furnish them a paper worthy of their support," and that while, as a news journal it will be found serviceable to them, it shall also ever be found true to the great doctrines of Human Freedom and a pure ballot box. At our present rate of increase, we shall soon be able to distance all competitors in our circulation in the county.

THE AVERILL ORE BED.—We perceive that Inspector Rhodes and Ex-Inspector Russell are busily engaged at Albany, in pressing through a bill to ratify the unwarranted purchase, by former State officers, of this nearly exhausted ore bed. We do not pretend to understand all the points involved in that controversy, but we conclude that there was something wrong in that purchase, else the courts and all others who have had the matter under consideration would not have had so many scruples about approving of the purchase. It is safe to presume that the owners of that bed would not have been willing to pay a commission of $25,000 for selling it, unless they regarded it as being worth less than $100,000. And we think it safe to conclude that such *sagacity* as Messrs Rhodes and Russell appear to feel, is prompted by something more than patriotic love for the State.

THE WAY LAWS ARE ENACTED.

There is a way provided and sanctioned by custom for the transaction of business in legislative bodies. This way is, for the most part, indicated by the rules which the body adopt, for the government, and which it empowers its presiding officer to enforce. In the House of Representatives and in our Assembly, the presiding officer is a constituent member of the body chosen to preside over the rest and to utter their decisions; and in that sense they authorize him to speak for them. He is styled "the Speaker," and addressed as "Mr. Speaker," by the members on the floor. In the Senates, the presiding officer is not a Senator, but is elected for the purpose of presiding over Senators, is styled "the President," and addressed as "Mr. President." The presiding officer of each of these bodies is usually allowed by the rules to appoint the Committees; but sometimes the body reserves that right to itself. The Committees are Standing Committees and Select ones, and are expected to consider the several matters referred to them, and to report from time to time, their conclusions to the House or Senate to which they belong. If the matter referred be such as to require legislation, as it generally does, and the Committees report favorably, they generally report by bill; that is, they report a written law on the subject which is called a "bill," and which is ordered to be placed on the calendar of bill, to be acted upon thereafter, called the "general orders" of the House. In the routine of each day's business, the Speaker commences with the reading of the minutes of the preading day, and announces an approval of them before calling up any other business, and when that is disposed of, he calls up the next order as it is arranged in the rules, and so on until he calls the list entirely through, if the business admits of it. An adjournment for the day stops the call, of course, and sometimes before all the different heads of business are reached.

It has frequently happened in this State that our Assembly, finding itself near the close of a Session, totally unable to pass upon all the bills reported by Committees and placed on the general orders, has authorized the Speaker to appoint a Select Committee to look over the general orders and select from it such bills as it shall consider the most important, and report them to the House to be disposed of. As this Committee when the practice begun was looked upon as having some analogy to a gristing mill, it came, in time, to be called a "grinding committee," and by that euphonious name it is generally known. It has no power to do any thing whatever, except to select bills and report them to the House.

Why this procedure is so generally considered objectionable, or why such a Committee should be considered any more corruptible than any other, we could never understand. It does not assume to legislate at all on any bill; it merely reports certain bills already drawn, introduced, considered by a standing committee and by a standing committee reported favorably upon to the House for its action. The House then has the responsibility of disposing of the bills so reported as it pleases. If it chooses to send them to another select committee to be again reported upon, it does so; if it does not choose to send them to another committee, it does not do so. If they are passed into laws, the House passes them after a full reading of them by sections. We are, therefore, unable to appreciate the force of the ridicule which the Tribune heaps upon the practice of appointing such a Committee in our Assembly.

"HAVE WE SPIES AMONG US?"

We believe that the office of a spy has ever been regarded as an ignoble one, requiring, as it does, the exercise of the lowest cunning, duplicity and guile—the essential characteristics of falsehood and treachery in the greatest national emergencies, when rival armies have been deployed to protect or defend the interests of their respective countries, the spies who lurked about the camps, have been regarded as the meanest of men, and properly doomed to suffer on the gallows, whenever their office has been discovered. If they have ever been useful in any degree whatever, it has been when they were employed as secret informers of the movements of war, and yet even then the fate of Andre was theirs, whenever their mercenary and treacherous purposes came to light. In no instance have they been regarded with any degree of public favor, or esteemed as being engaged in an honorable employment. If they have been tolerated at all, it has been only upon the idea that human treachery belongs to the strategy of war.

If this has been their character when employed, at the times when spies were most needed, what rank shall we assign them when they volunteer for lucre in time of peace, to serve as such against their own immediate neighbors? Can we assign them the rank which was held even by the tories of the revolution, who informed the British officers of the weakness, poverty, or temporary embarrassments of our garrisons and camps? We refer to the spies among us in the employ of the two or three mercantile spy houses in the city of New York. These men undertake for a consideration to watch the business affairs of their neighbors, to pry into their domestic concerns, and to report them to their principals for the purpose of having that information conveyed through secret and irresponsible channels to the information of wholesale dealers in the city of New York. This information may be of any character which the imperfect knowledge, prejudice, or business rivalries of the spy or his friends may happen to dictate, or which he may choose to give to gratify personal pique or revenge; and the party injured finds himself without remedy, because the blow has come from a hidden hand.—Such instances are frequent all over the country; and have become a real grievance in the business community. Have we any such in Auburn?

GOVERNMENT OF CONVICTS.

We publish to-day, a part of the speech delivered by the Hon. G. B. Hubbell, member of Assembly from Westchester, in the Assembly, whilst the new State Prison bill was under consideration in that body. It does not advocate the restoration of the cat-o'-nine tails to the hands of Prison officers, but it takes strong ground in favor of clothing them with power to maintain discipline; and it forcibly combats many of the false notions which have prevailed in respect to convicts. It is undoubtedly true, that the safest path to pursue in this matter, is midway between the extremes of great severity on the one hand, and a morbid sympathy on the other. The convicts in our prisons should be firmly, but kindly and considerately governed; and as much force as shall be absolutely necessary for that object, should be authorized by the Legislature.

☞ Mr. Patterson has introduced a bill in the Senate, providing that no person dying and leaving a wife or parent, shall by a will devise or bequeath to any benevolent charitable, scientific religious or missionary society, association or corporation, in trust or otherwise, more than one third part of his or her estate after the payment of his or her debts.

PRESENT FORM OF THE WAR.

Notwithstanding all the rumors of a gun powder war which came by the last steamer, it appears that the rumors which the same steamer brought of a diplomatic war instead, have the best foundation. The orders which were issued to the army and the navy, as well of France as of Austria, were war-like as such orders always are, even if given in the time of the profoundest peace, but, as we have said before, in European Governments' movements which are war-like merely, do not necessarily imply that either party intends that a war shall occur. We have seen enough of this to know that nations, like the chivalry of our dueling states, often make a blusterous show of fight, and send an I accept challenges with the intent and expectation of having some third party intervene to prevent bloodshed. Both France and Austria desire the world to understand that they are brave enough, strong enough, and willing enough to fight each other on land and sea, and each of them wishes the other to believe that it will fight unless its demands are acceded to, but they undoubtedly expect that some third nation interested in preserving the peace of Europe, will intervene to stay their hands. They wish to flourish their words and their weapons, but they have a greater wish to be held so that they cannot strike.

This idea of ours which we have so often expressed, seems to be entirely applicable to the present dispositions and behavior of Napoleon and Francis Joseph. Both of those Sovereigns have very well known, ever since the termination of the Crimean war, that if any misunderstanding should arise between them in relation to the Italian States, or any thing else, that their mutual ally, Great Britain, would volunteer to pacify them, or would propose an arbitration. This is the usage of allies in such cases—an usage which they could count upon with certainty. It now appears that as soon as it became known to the British Ministry that Napoleon and Francis Joseph were at variance respecting the protectorate existing over certain Italian States, Lord Cowley was dispatched to Vienna to propose some plan of adjustment. In this, whilst he seemed to fail to produce any immediate reconciliation, he succeeded in bringing the five powers to agree upon a diplomatic congress, to which the subject shall be submitted for arbitrament. And so the war of gun powder has been converted into a war of words and paper to transpire in some neutral city, probably the Hague. The present result is, that confidence is restored in money matters, stocks and consols have risen in price, and the news papers of London, Paris, and Vienna are filled with commendations of the conciliatory spirit which the belligerants have recently exhibited.

A SIGN TO BE NOTICED.—Those Northern politicians and newspapers who desire to have the slavery question left out of party platforms, tell us that there is little danger of slavery being extended into the territories hereafter. But this language is only for the meridian of the free States. The language of the South, and of the Southern press, is very distinctly in opposition to any such notion. They say that slavery is already firmly planted in the territory of New Mexico, and "that the position affords the best facilities for extending the institution in the very direction most inviting to it." They say that Arizona and Nevada are destined to fall under the sway of the South, while we, at home, are being told that "there is no use of prohibiting slavery in the new territories, because it won't go there." How is this to be reconciled?

NATURALIZATION OF FOREIGNERS.—A question has been raised at Cincinnati whether the State Courts possess the Constitutional power to grant certificates of naturalization. The point is founded on the idea that as the power over the subject of naturalization is exclusively national in its character, and vested by the Constitution in Congress alone, it cannot be delegated to any tribunal outside the machinery of the general government. In other words, that a national matter cannot be reduced even by Congress to a mere State matter. Judge McLean has decided that it is competent for Congress to clothe the State Courts with such a power, but the question will be carried to the Supreme Court at Washington.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM PARAGUAY—A BLOODLESS VICTORY.—A communication from Gen. Urquiza, addressed to the Government of the Argentine Confederation, dated Feb. 5, is published, conveying the intelligence that while Commissioner Bowlin had declined his mediation for the settlement of the difficulties with Paraguay, he had accepted Urquiza's friendly offices, and through that means all differences between the United States had been settled on a friendly and satisfactory basis. There is as yet no news as to the terms of the agreement, but that an agreement had been made, seems to be rendered certain by Urquiza's manifesto, and by correspondence received both at New York and at Philadelphia.

REGISTRY BILL.—The several Registry Bills before the Senate, have been referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Messrs. Diven, Noxon and Wetmore, with power to report complete, from which we infer that it is the intention of the Senate to pass something on that subject. The debate has been earnest and protracted on the details of the several bills proposed, but we do not perceive any such opposition to the principle of registration as to indicate the defeat of the measure.

MRS. HARTUNG'S SENTENCE.—A bill has been introduced into the House to commute the sentence of death passed by the Court of Oyer and Terminer upon Mary Hartung for the murder of Emil Hartung, to imprisonment for ten years at Sing Sing prison.—This is probably the first time in the history of State legislation when a bill for such a purpose has been introduced. We have no means of knowing whether the bill will be passed, and we are not certain that it *can* be constitutionally enacted.

SHORT SENTENCE.—The U. S. Marshal Tyler, at Detroit, convicted of manslaughter in the killing of Capt. Jones, of the brig Concord, while serving process upon him, was sentenced in the U. S. Circuit Court on Monday. The Judge concluded his address to the prisoner as follows:

Your offence was committed on the 29th of November, and you have been kept in prison since, a period now over four months. This is taken into consideration, and as, by the 3d section of the act of the 3d of March, 1857, the punishment of manslaughter, as to the imprisonment and fine, is left discretionary with the Court, this Court do now sentence you to pay a fine of $1 to the United States, and to be imprisoned in the jail of Wayne county, State of Michigan, for and during the period of thirty days.

The Judge blamed Tyler for carrying deadly weapons, and for crossing the United States boundary to serve civil process, but "the Court considers this verdict substantially one of acquittal, for if the act had been committed within the civil jurisdiction of the United States, such must have been its character, from the public declaration to the Court."

Correspondence.

For the American.

WHY CANNOT WE ACT TOGETHER?

Some few days since, an old and familiar friend, and one with whom we had acted in county Conventions as early as eighteen hundred and thirty-two, accosted the writer with the above inquiry. It was a question well calculated to call up past associations, and involuntarily drew forth the interrogatory, "who do you mean by we?" The reply was ready. "I mean those old associates with whom we used to act in years gone by. Dr. Hurd, Ezra W. Bateman, Joseph Bishop, Stephen Fessenden, Samuel S. Conley, Brownel Richmond, Philip Wolfy, John I. Brinkerhoof, Ezekiel A. King, Horace Chaffee, John W. McFadden, Rory R. Riley, Harvey C. Beach, Robert Hume, the Sheldons of Sennett, and others like them, whom I could mention." Well may the question be asked, "why cannot such men act together *again?*" There is, in truth, no good reason why they cannot but many why they should. The causes which separated them have ceased to exist. Disgusted with the ungentlemanly interferences of new comers, and the dictatorial conduct of individuals without established character, at Auburn, they imperceptibly withdrew, more or less, from active political life. They should now return. There never was a time when their counsels were more needed, or would be received with more kindness than the present.

Look at the state of things. Public institutions, formerly controlled with dignity and propriety by our own citizens, without lots or rebellion, are now controlled by men brought here from a distance, enterprises commenced and abandoned, after hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended upon them, towns involved in useless and expensive litigation, through the uncalled for and unwarrantable, as well as heretofore unheard of interference of a few individuals at Auburn, with heavy and useless taxation, oppressive to the poor, and burdensome to the rich—the question may and will be asked, why is all this? Is it not because just such men as those above mentioned, have of late years retired from active local political life, and given up the control of matters and things in this county, to just such as have of late controlled them? It is time, full time, that a stop was put to such things, that men of prudence, of judgment, and of discretion, took upon themselves the duties and obligations which belong to them. All that is wanting, is for them to resolve to do so. They would not stand alone. They would soon find co operating with them, such men as Christopher G. Post, Harry Lyon, Edson Bishop, James Niblo, John T. Smith, Peter C. Wycoff, Jesse Reynolds, Samuel Bell, H. V. Howland, Alfred Lyon, Leonard Searing, William I. Cornwell, S. Giles, Worthington Smith, Jacob C. Dewitt, the Peases of Fleming, and Wiley of Victory and others, not only ready and willing, but desirous to be associated with them in their efforts to redeem the county, and restore it to its former character and standing in the State and district. Why not do it? Why stand back and neglect to act, while your taxes are increasing, and the local management of your own town affairs are being taken out of your own hands? Now is the time to remedy the evil. It is in your power to do it. Commence at once, then, to discuss the subject. Talk about it with your neighbors and friends. Attend the primary meetings. See that proper and appropriate resolutions are passed. That the right kind of delegates are elected, and let us have one of our old fashioned County and District Conventions next fall. Where are the Rannceys of Locke, the Barbers of Summerhill, the Wrights and Smiths of Moravia, the *Adams, Averys* and *Kings, of* Genoa? Are they *all* dead? If not, let them show themselves in our County and District Conventions. Let us have their counsels and advice in the management of our political affairs. These ideas may appear strange and peculiar to the little circle in Auburn, who have of late undertaken to control the entire affairs of the county, pecuniarily and politically, but it is hoped that they will be excused by them, when assured that the writer is an old resident of the county, and has some attachment for old associates and friends, as well as some respect for their character and virtue. *

For the American.

TRAVELS ON HIS "SHAPE."

It has been conceded time, and again, that the Advertiser, in its editorials, if not always *original* is, in more respects, than one, not peculiar only, but indeed quite inimitable. But notwithstanding the military, the literary and the *plagiary* characteristics which the editor of the Advertiser is known to possess, and which have been conceded him, the picture drawn by the editor, *of himself*, is doubtless as truthful a picture of *Peck* as could be taken by the most expert of photographers, and, therefore—as we do not know that a copy right has been secured—we will take the liberty to present it to the readers of the American:

"NOT OUR WAY.—The American intimates that the communication in *our* paper of Friday, signed "Many Americans," might have been written by us. We beg leave to say to that paper that THAT IS NOT OUR WAY OF DOING BUSINESS. If we have any thing to say touching the course of that Journal, we shall never hesitate to let it appear in its "LEGITIMATE SHAPE."—*Advertiser of Monday.*

There, gentlemen! as the *showman* sometimes says, (I do not know whether Mr. Peck ever made use of the phrase in *his shows*, however.) "There he is"—I mean Peck—"as large as life and twice as natural." What self importance "sticks out" in that word "*our* paper!"—there is no fear of "going to protest on that. It shows that Peck regards himself "some pumpkins," and that *other people* must, as a matter of course.—And with what military gusto he repells the "intimation" of the American that the communication signed "Many Americans" might have been written by him! Peck's portraiture of himself in this particular, is so very striking, that we are led to believe he must have sat at his editorial table, booted and *spurred*, when he drew this likeness of himself. And how well has he preserved this military feature in the measured phraseology he employs in the words, "we beg leave to say to that paper, the American, &c." The masterly condescension which characterises these eight little words should stamp Peck a *gentlemen*, whether he "looked as well as the devil," or not. But that there should be nothing wanting to harmonize this master piece of Peck's pencil, he has introduced that other characteristic of all great chieftains and soldiers, *frankness*. We will turn the picture towards you again—now you have it—"we beg leave to say to that paper that THAT IS *not our way of doing business.*"

I am somewhat an admirer of the *fine arts*, and I do not like to see a good thing observed too carelessly. I wish the *harmony*, therefore, of this portrait to be observed particularly. "The American intimates that the communication in *our paper*," &c., "*might have been written by us.* We beg leave to say, &c., that THAT *is not our way of doing business.*"

Now, those who have access to the Advertiser, will perceive at once how truthfully the phrase, "*that is not our way*," blends with and qualifies "might have been written by *us*," and must perceive the harmony also thus produced.

Let it not be said, again, hereafter, that editorials or communications in the Advertiser are written by Mr. Peck; for he says emphatically that "THAT IS *not our* (his) *way of doing business.*" No, sir, Mr. Peck —since he has become a military man—"travels on his "*shape*."

We are not *unfait* with all the "shapes" of "the school of the soldier," and therefore do not know precisely what kind of a "shape" a "*legitimate shape*" is, but if Mr. Peck shall ever give *another exhibition*, we will willingly give our stylling to see him in his "*legitimate shape*." As the Press, however, generally receive "free tickets" to all the "*shows*," perhaps Mr. Peck will give us a *sight* "gratis." Rather, however, than lose the usual "showman's" courtesy militate against "*our advantage*," we will pay our *shilling*. So *get out your bill*, Mr. Peck, and put yourself in a "*legitimate shape*."

BRIMSTONE.

For the Daily American.

WHAT EDITORS SHOULD BE—WHAT SOME ARE.

Editors of public journals hold important and very responsible positions. What they do, or fail to do, affects positively or negatively, interests of the first importance. If the journal be a daily one, visiting us as regularly as the returning sun, coming daily into our families, occupying the attention of each of its reading members, and exerting upon them an influence corresponding to the intellect, culture, taste, and general character of its editor, its importance, it is clear, is correspondingly increased.

Who has failed to note the eagerness with which a fresh paper is seized when dropped by the carrier; and the avidity with which its contents are scanned by all the household? These daily visitors occupy a vast amount of our time; much more than is commonly appreciated. It is perhaps safe to say that each of the nine or ten hundred dailies issued in this city, is read by the various members of the families which they enter for two hours in the aggregate, or more than eighteen hundred hours by all who read them, an equivalent of full one hundred and fifty working days being daily devoted to an examination of our city dailies alone!

From this view of the time devoted to the reading of the daily papers issued in this city, and of their consequent influence, for good or for evil, we can readily see the force of the declaration, that few positions are more important in their influence upon the tastes and characters of the people, than those of newspaper editors. If, then, their positions are thus influential, their qualifications for them should certainly be correspondent. An editor of a daily journal should be a man *wide awake*, and of active intellect. He should have had careful culture, either by his own individual investigations, or by the aid of skillful teachers. He should be a close, careful, and discriminating student. As he is the caterer for a town, and as the intellectual repast which is to be daily served up, depends upon his capacity, industry, and taste, it is clear that, rightly performed, his duties are by no means sinecures. But that, if he would discharge them properly, he should have industry and judgment to collect the right material—ability and taste as a writer to comment intelligently and forcibly upon current events, and a consequent representative influence upon his readers; such an influence indeed as would give weight to his opinions with them, and on which from his researches, care and fidelity, they could safely rely. *Such our editors should be.*

WHAT SOME OF THEM ARE.

Generally our best editors have risen from the case. They were, however, industrious, active, careful, skillful compositors. They were men of mark there; and when, as the result of careful industry and ample preparation, they assumed the editorial chair, they did not dishonor it; but carried into it the same industry and care which had won success in the humbler sphere. Some, however, there are, who, by certain favorable turns of the wheel of fortune, have been placed in the editorial seat, and who, though bred to the trade, had hitherto been found blundering, and lazy and inefficient, as printers, where anything depended upon them, in every subordinate position. But when raised to the dignified position of editorial mentors, they have attempted to supply the want of capacity, culture, and fitness, by the adroit use of the products of the labors of others. You will often see these indolent editors, *writing* their leading editorials, with the Tribune on one knee, the Evening Journal on the other, and other prominent papers spread before them. Their *leaders* thus produced are found, not to be an abridgment or condensation of the articles in the aforesaid papers, which would have required some ingenuity and labor, but a careful appropriation of the very language of the articles themselves, leaded out and looking quite respectable as leaders. Lest a too frequent commission of these bold larcenies should arouse the resentment of the true owners, the short and easily written phrases, "The Tribune says," "The Evening Post says," "The Evening Journal says," &c., head the *important editorial* articles of such Journals for weeks together. Having no literary resources, such editors, in the practice of their profession seldom write any *thing* original, except under strong excitement, and, when an arrow from some electric brain has pierced their lymphatic nerves. You will then hear a few *original* and *spasmodic* ejaculations of "envy, hatred and malice." Hence the original articles which such editors produce, are generally, of a personal and malignant character.

But I have not time now to extend the contrasts further, and will only suggest to the publishers of our illustrated papers, that a fine embellishment would be a delineation of one of these lazy, inefficient editors *writing his editorials*, and of course conspicuous among the subjects, would be a bright pair of scissors and sundry mutilated papers, from which said editorials had been derived. CREDIT.

P. S.—I beg the editor of the *Advertiser* not to become excited as he reads this, and pounce, in his anger, upon the writer, for, if he will look at it carefully, he will see we don't refer to him at all, and of course will not put on garments which appropriately belong to others.

THE REGISTRY LAW.—There is a growing apprehension that this measure will fail in the Senate, although we do not yet give it up. Our Exchanges are commenting variously upon this matter, and it cannot be disguised that the American journals are generally regarding the measure as lost for the session. The Republican papers favorable to the law, hold a more hopeful tone. The New York Tribune is confident, however, that the law will pass.

Miscellaneous.

THE MYSTERIOUS BODY AT ALBANY

SUPPOSED CLUE TO THE FATE OF MRS. BRENNAN.

A few days since we published that the body of a female had been found in a box at the depot of the Hudson River Railroad in Albany.

The following letter from Matsell & Co., in relation to the body so mysteriously discovered, and supposed to be the remains of the late lamented Mrs. Brennan, will be read with interest:

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL POLICE GAZ., New York, April 4, 1859.

Seeing that you have copied an article from the Albany Evening Journal, in relation to the mysterious body discovered at the railroad depot Albany, and connecting it with that of the lamented Mrs. Brennan, and for fear that any false impressions should get abroad in relation thereto, we beg leave to state that a body has been found as stated. We dispatched one of our officers to that city to make a thorough investigation.

From the report he made to us on his return to this city, it appears that the entire head of the female has been stripped of hair, skin and flesh, bearing no marks by which she could be identified, except two front teeth. The hands, and the toes of the feet remain entire, but as he was unable to identify the body by them, we have telegraphed to Mrs. Brennan's brother, Dr. Crane, who is at present in Philadelphia, to return immediately to see if he can identify it. The size of the skeleton answers exactly to that of Mrs. Brennan, but a circumstance exists which tends to preclude the idea that it is the remains of that lady.

The body has evidently been impregnated with a fluid for the purpose of preserving it from decay, but which did not prevent it from drying up. The left arm has been cut off with a saw, between the shoulder and elbow, which would not have been done if it had been intended for anatomical purposes. Respectfully yours,

G. W. MATSELL & Co.

A MAN BURNS HIS OWN CHILD TO DEATH.

The Wabash (Ind.) Intelligencer of last week describes the trial and conviction of a man named William Joy, for burning his own child to death. The wretch was sentenced to only eighteen years' imprisonment, probably on account of the youth of the principal witness, a little daughter of the prisoner. The deed was perpetrated in the fall of 1857, but until now, through fear of the father, the daughter dared not tell the following fearful story:

John, a child about four months old, was quite unwell, and had been so for some days, and was consequently fretful, and had cried considerably during the night, and disturbed her father. Early in the morning her father called to her, and told her to get up and make a fire. She did so—made the fire principally of brush, because there was no other wood prepared. After the fire began to burn, the child continued to cry and fret, her father became enraged, and snatched the child from its mother's arms, tore every particle of clothing off it, and then took it by one arm and one leg, and held it over the fire until it was burned in several places to a blister.

He then struck the little sufferer two blows with his hand, leaving upon its body the marks of his fingers, and then threw it into the cradle or bed. His wife and daughter struggled to get the child away from him, but were unable to do so, and when Mrs. Joy found that he was going to burn the child to death, she ran out of the house, to prevent seeing the sight, and to get out of hearing of the child's screams. Joy took down his gun, and pointing it at her, compelled her to come in. He then left the house and did not return, as we understand, for a day or two. Four days after this terrible scene, the little suffering child died and was buried. None but Joy and his wife, and two young daughters knew anything about the cause of its death. The neighboring women, who came in and assisted to lay out the child, found it so mortified and decayed that they could not wash it, or even take off the clothing upon it. Joy told his wife and daughters that if they ever said a word about it he would kill them, and they believed him, and so kept the horrible secret.

THE OLD POLICE SUSTAINED BY THE COURT OF APPEALS.—The Judges have given their opinion upon the New York Police law.

The majority of the Court pronounce the dismissal of the old members not legal, and therefore void.

The parties to this case, in legal phraseology, were "The People ex rel. McCune vs. The Board of Police of the Metropolitan Police District."

McCune is one of the old police force of New York city. The act creating the Metropolitan Police gave to him and his comrades the option of serving in the new organization. He, with a large number of others, esteemed the act unconstitutional, and refused to recognize or obey the Albany-created Commissioners. The question was, whether this proceeding on the part of McCune was to be regarded as a refusal to accept the office of patrolman—an office which he insisted had no legal existence—or whether it was to be deemed insubordination in that office, exposing the offender to removal, but until the removal should be actually effected by trial and judgment, leaving him in possession of the office and entitled to its emoluments. A majority of the Court have held that the latter is the true view of the case. This decision entails on the city an expense of over a million dollars.

☞ A war seems to be threatened in the West Indies, between Denmark, or rather the Danish Governor of St. Thomas and Santa Cruz, and the Republic of Dominica. During the late civil war in Dominica, some armed vessels in the service of Buez, then at the head of one of the contending factions, seized two Danish schooners as they were entering Port-au-Platte, then held by the opposite party, and which Buez's squadron claimed to be blockading. The vessels thus seized were carried off to Curacoa and sold. A claim for indemnity having been lately made by a Danish agent, the Dominican Government declined to recognize him, on the ground that he was commissioned not by the King of Denmark, but by the Governor of Santa Cruz. Thus repulsed, he soon came back again in a Danish war steamer from the St. Thomas. The Dominican Government appear to have taken the guns of the steamer as a good commission enough, and professed themselves ready to negotiate on the subject; but the only negotiation with which the agent would have anything to do, was the payment of $150,000 by way of indemnity, without stopping to inquire as to the legality of the capture, or the liability of the present Government for the acts of the captors. This the Dominicans would not agree to, and by the latest accounts, (March 15,) the port of St. Domingo was blockaded by the Danish steamer.—*Tribune.*

WHAT IT COSTS TO FLOG A SCHOOL TEACHER IN VERMONT.—At the term of the Essex County, Vt., Court, just closed, J. P. Hayward obtained $700 damages against Wise Hopkins of Guildhall. The *Caledonian* mentions the following circumstances of the case. Hayward was teacher there and had punished Hopkin's daughter by obliging her to occupy a lower seat in school. The teacher was invited to Hopkin's dwelling to board, and in the course of the evening, he asked the teacher why he made his daughter occupy the lower seat. Stepping out of the room, he got a lower chair and asked him to occupy it, which he refused to do. Upon which Hopkins sent the teacher with a large oak whip stock until he was unable to resist, and afterwards refused to let him go, but went before a justice and entered complaint against himself, plead guilty, and was fined $1.00 and costs. The trial at the County Court, to which the case was carried up, occupied three days.

There are occasional showers of meteoric stones, which some philosophers think are sent off from the moon. When we see and hear the multitudes of dogs in some of our western cities, we are tempted to wonder if there has not been a shower from the dog-star.

STRAWBERRIES AND APPLES.

We cut the following debate from the New York Tribune, on the culture of strawberries, and the renovation of old apple trees. It discloses facts which we commend to the careful attention of our readers:

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FARMERS' CLUB

Monday Noon, April 4.—The meeting today was not quite as full as usual, though about one hundred men and women were present.

Robt. L. Pell acted as Chairman. The Secretary, Judge Meigs, read a variety of extracts of useful articles from Foreign and American Journals.

Strawberries.—R. G. Pardee—It depends upon fair treatment to make this plant bear abundantly every year. But it needs experience of the different sorts, to be successful, because the varieties have different habits. In Spring, rake back the straw from the crown of the plants, and let it lie between the rows. Sprinkle with soap suds every few days. Pull out the weeds as fast as they appear. I never cut off runners. In October, I rake off all the lightly struck runners, and then select vigorous old or new plants to stand for bearers next year, and turn under the others, and cover in the fall again with straw or leaves. The ground being well prepared in the first place, don't need continual working. The most prolific bearer is the Wilson seedling. I do not esteem Peabody's seedling as a fine flavored berry. Hovey's seedling is not so good as the Boston pine. Very few know what a good strawberry is. I once stimulated my vines so much that they grew all leaves and stems, and no fruit. In preparing ground for a bed, I would fork it very deep, say two feet, and dress with ashes or leaf mold, never with animal manure. I would put rare plants in rows three feet apart, and two feet in the rows. Cover the ground half an inch deep with tan bark. If I could not get tan, I would use sawdust, or leaves from the woods. Straw or salt hay, or rowen, will do for a mulch. There are four things that will prevent you from growing strawberries.

First: You do not prepare the ground well.

Second: You must have a good variety of plants.

Third: You must not use any kind of animal manure, and nothing that will make the vines grow rankly.

Fourth: You must keep the ground clear, but you must not use the hoe; hoeing destroys more strawberry plants than anything else. Use your fingers and the fork to get out weeds and loosen the soil.

In preparing for a bed use the lime and salt mixture freely. While growing, use soap-suds; also, solution of muriate of potash, one or two ounces to a pail full of water. Nitrate of soda in the same proportion, is a good substance also to apply to strawberries.

Wm. Lawton—I think a great deal of Peabody's new strawberry. It is a prodigious strong grower. The leaf stalk is long and fruit stem short. I think the flavor excellent. It has a peculiar aroma and flavor. I know many persons utterly condemn it; I do not.

Soil for Strawberries.—Solon Robinson—There is this one fact to be borne in mind in regard to good soil for strawberries. In any southern exposure, where the soil is sunny and rich in leaf mould, strawberries can be successfully grown by simply digging the ground deep before setting out the plants, without using any manurial substance whatever.

R. G. Pardee—High manuring will force runners and leaves, and such plants will not bear fruit well. It never injures plants to cut off runners. Don't let your varieties of berries run together. The strongest growers will drive out the best bearers. The Early Scarlet sends out runners very strong. I would set a board between varieties, to prevent their running together. To fructify Hovey's seedling, I would not require staminate plants nearer than thirty feet. I would have a bed ten feet square of staminates to one of one hundred feet of pistillates.

PROF. MAPES.—An excellent thing for a strawberry-bed is tanbark liquor, not too strong. The reason that field-strawberries are higher flavored is probably because there is more tonic acid to be obtained by the plants in the fields than in the garden. A good plan for field culture is alternate beds and paths. Prepare the paths well in Spring, and let the runners set on them, and then turn under the old vines. Mulch is particularly useful. A gentleman at Derby, Conn., covered his beds with slabs, edged to a width of four feet long, and laid them down bark up, with notches in the edges through which the plants grew. The plants grew well, and have produced well and kept clean. After bearing the crop, he lifts the slabs and loosens the soil, and lays down the slabs again. If runners are wanted for new plants, the slabs are taken away.

Mr. Pardee—I arranged a mound of earth with clam shells all around, with strawberry plants between them, watering at the top and letting it run down. It is upon the same principle as the slab theory, and makes a very pretty ornament, and the crop was very large. April is the best time to set plants for Autumn. One who will attend to it will succeed best in the season after fruiting. I can transplant plants all the Summer months.

Prof. Mapes—I find potash, phosphate, soda, all excellent for strawberries.

Judge Meigs—I have found the broken bark of the wood pile an excellent dressing for strawberries.

Renovating Old Orchards.—Prof. Mapes—There was an old orchard on my place that had ceased bearing, which I fully renovated and afterward cut down, because I cannot afford the shade. The land is too valuable to grow large trees upon. I can produce fruit upon dwarfs more economically. All old apple orchards are deficient in lime, but the lime must be properly prepared to be of use. The caustic soda wash spoken of last week will clear them of insects and fungi. I sub-soiled the old orchard which was in grass, and applied lime. I recommend ten bushels per acre, sowed in a caustic state on the surface. Lime is only soluble in large quantities of water. The next spring I applied phosphate of lime. This orchard was then in vigorous bearing, and had not before borne for years. The grass crop was also more than doubled. Run the sub-soil plow up and down hill and it will serve to drain the land.

A Jersey Farmer said that he had pursued the course recommended by Prof. Mapes in an old orchard, but without full success. I would be very glad to know what to do to prevent the decay of apple-trees. I have not used the sub-soil plow, nor under draining.

Prof. Mapes—I only run the subsoil lifter furrows some four feet apart, without disturbing the soil. Lime and manure should not be applied at the same time to orchards. The plowing is an important part of the treatment. Mr. Vreeder, of Albany, a German, working for me, practices removing the earth from the apple tree roots in the fall, and that has completely renovated an old tree on my farm. I have great faith in the value of cutting off the long runners of tree roots.

Adrian G. Bergen—I wish I could make the apple trees on Long Island produce as they did thirty years ago. The trees have generally failed. I believe trees are failing all