

bought for sugar plantations or for speculation, so that land demands a good price, not so while we were here before. But then it was impossible to inspire the people to buy, and now, that it is known how valuable land is, the means to buy is beyond their reach, especially so, since Gibson has completely fleeced the people of all that they had, and, as a "burnt child shuns the fire," so the natives have received a scare they will never forget. I am speaking now, of the saints, or baptized natives. You could not be made to believe how completely and entirely Gibson has robbed the Saints. Every pretence imaginable has been resorted to, to obtain money, even threats, and as the people supposed him to be a Prophet, as he put himself to be, from the Bible, (See Rev. 11:4 & 5) they feared him and gave up their last chicken and even their houses!

I will send you a few letters that passed between one of Gibson's Agents and a white brother on this Island, with whom we are now stopping, which I wish you to read and afterwards give them into the hands of Elder Geo. A. Smith, perhaps they may be interesting to him to read. You can imagine what lengths Gibson would go to with the Natives, when he would sanction or encourage such things as are written in these letters. He is a black-hearted villain, and in my opinion would not scruple at anything to accomplish his wicked designs. He fully believes, "Tis mean to rob a hen roost of a hen, but stealing Thousands makes us gentlemen" and when it comes to incest, which the Natives have made bold to tell us, is verily so, and they can prove it by Eye Witnesses, it is horrible to think of!

William and I have visited all the Saints on the Island of Oahu, and found them apparently glad to see us, but out of 400 that were in the Church on the Island when we were here before we only found 20! And with a few exceptions they, as well as those they have since baptized we found as ignorant of the truth, and as destitute of the true spirit of the Gospel, as though they had never been baptized! On this Island, we have found some 4 or 5 old members, all the rest are lately baptized, ignorant and inexperienced, save the sad experience they have so dearly bought from Gibson, which has made all cautious, and many very shy of us.

Our manner of living has been very good for the kind, so far, but as, to an experienced eye,—"Straws show the way the wind blows," and "coming events cast their shadows before," We are not at a loss to determine our fate, should we not succeed in obtaining land, and establishing a home, and have to remain here any length of time. But we are confident all will work out right. We feel that we have nothing to fear, if we do right; and we hope by the assistance of the faith and prayers of the saints to be able to do right.

The foreign population of these Islands, almost universally, are speculators and almost wholly regardless of Religion. Their example before the Natives most powerful, and Religion is every day becoming less important and attractive to them, and invariably return to their old customs of Idol worship.

The corruptions of sailor life, and profligacy in all their sea ports, are ruinous to the nation. Well may they say, as they often do "Go and preach to your own race, and convert them, then come to us!" Who would not be a minister of the Gospel to these poor Natives under such circumstances!—As an individual, I feel for these poor red skins but I would almost as leave preach war and the sword to the destruction of the whites and white influences, as exerted upon these lands by the majority, as to try to benefit this people, by preaching the Gospel to them under existing circumstances. But the Lord knows better than I do what is for the best, and I feel willing and cheerful in trying to do as well as I can in my weakness, his bidding.

Give my love to all my friends, and as you are among the number ones of that class, accept much of it yourself.

I am very truly your friend, etc.,

J. F. SMITH.

[For the Desert News.]

#### NOTES FROM THE SCRAP-BOOK OF AN OLD REPORTER.

Lecture on Astronomy, by Professor MURPHY, Shoemaker.

Astronomy of all the sciences deductive, that is, where the mind can infer from the greatness of research, and the depth of discovery, is of all others the most infinite and speculative. When we are informed on the outset of this science, that ninety millions of miles intervene between this earth and the sun, and the distance from one planet to another—we are lost in the arithmetical distances, and take for granted much that is true, as well as much that is absurd. Indeed, in our juvenile conceptions, it is all taken for very truth, just as we believe 'Baron Munchausen,' 'Jack the Giant Killer,' or 'Gulliver's travels.' And even in our more discretionary, and advanced years, we are in some measure confirmed in referring to the prognostications of astronomical observations, such as eclipses, the appearances of comets, and the other phenomena of heavenly bodies. Again we have connected with this science, a host of star gazers, who profess to be as well acquainted with the whole Zodiacal catagory, as a watchmaker is with the machinery of a time-piece, the would-be fortune-tellers of a decayed Egyptian conjuration!

Traveling in the North of Scotland, in profession as a news gatherer, I was much taken up with the appearance of a placard intimat-

ing a lecture on the above science. By Professor Murphy, Shoemaker! a genius of extraordinary calibre, who had discovered, that the scientific and star-gazing fraternity were no better than our quack doctors, in their audacious assumption to cure every disease incident to humanity by the application of boiling water, wet sheets, sweating powders, injections, and emetics. Ergo—he came forth publicly to set their theories at rest by exposing their fallacy and to prove their allegations to be utterly at variance compared with the facts and sublimity of his discoveries! As this public announcement was rather an oddity of the kind, at the hour appointed I was seated in the hall amidst a crowd of novelty-loving infidels, to hear what no other man dared to dispute, viz: that which was so far beyond the reach of vulgar discrimination. The lecturer faithful to his appointment was on the platform, at the hour specified, dressed in habiliments rather derisive of the cloth of the profession; clothed in a red flannel shirt, short corduroy pants, blue stockings, hob shoes, yellow night cap, and leather apron. Before him on a table, he placed his new y invented orrery made with a few laths, turning on a pivot, called by him an eccentric chuck; at the point of each lath was stuck a potatoe, larger and smaller, to represent the Sun, Earth, Moon, and other worlds, said to be planets, by ancient and modern humbug philosophers.

He made his introductory speech in accents broad, and quaint, throwing aside every rule of grammatical construction as an art, as despicable as the science to which his lecture had a direct reference, namely, *learned humbug*.

He eulogized the sons of Crispin as a class of men naturally enlightened and gifted by nature first and last, leaving the emphasis on the word *last* as a far-fetched witticism on that class of tradesmen, who only know where the shoe pinches, and of which profession he was proud to be ranked. It was on his shoemakers stool, he had thought over, and matured his present discovery, and invented his unrivaled orrery! He made an apology for the potatoe, which he said were the best substitutes for balls made of wood, which he meant to have as soon as his pecuniary means could afford.

After this lengthy lubricious speech, He said, that he would now proceed to show the learned profession to be quite opposite to his discovery; that he could prove we had *neither heat nor light* from the Sun, which was the great error of the learned world. When making this remark he very emphatically and expressively put his finger on one of the largest potatoes, suppose said he this world which we inhabit, was ninety millions of miles distant from this potatoe, which represents the Sun and the other the Earth, and suppose total darkness to intervene to within sixty miles of this lesser potatoe, how could light ever reach it? Mark that gentlemen! This is the grand question. Now my intelligent friends, continued he, I will show you, (if not prepossessed or prejudiced) how we have light and heat without the Sun. You have all seen on a clear, calm, warm day what we call the zephyrs, that curling light in the air. Well, these zephyrs are nothing more, nor less, than the exhalations of gas, drawn from the Earth which form small scales or glittering particles like mirrors; these when united by myriads, form what is called the atmosphere, which extends over the entire surface of this earth.

Now, having said this much about the Earth let me say a word or two about the Sun. Now mark as I said before, this great centre of our planetary system is so far removed from us, that is the Earth, that we could not have light nor heat from it, were it not for the nature of its composition. Now the Sun is to us as a looking glass, or mirror is to our face, if the glass were not plated with mercury on the opposite side, we could have no reflection; so it is with the Sun. It is, if I am allowed the expression a mercurial body! At this period of the lecture Mr. Murphy, being all over in one stream of perspiration, searched the pockets of his inexpressibles, then donned his yellow night cap in quest of something to wipe his face, but whether dropped or mislaid of such an article he applied his leather apron over his smoking phiz, to the no small diversion of the spectators, who were so jammed together, that they all looked as if they had just come out of a hot bath. There stood the professor looking as serious as Newton when he discovered the Georgium Sidus, gazing at his potatoe orrery, while the audience were convulsed in one continuous roar of laughter, at the strange metamorphose of the professor's proboscis which was one Nebula of blacking, that appeared as a stellar star, on the red ground of a thunder cloud. Gentlemen, resumed the lecturer, as I before remarked, the sun is a mercurial body by which influence or attraction the exhalations are illuminated, producing light and heat on this potatoe, which represents the Earth. And just in proportion to the position of the Sun and the revolution of the Earth in its annual and diurnal motion, will the light and heat be to us. For instance, in midsummer when the influence is verticle, the heat of our atmosphere will be thirty degrees greater than in winter, in which season the Sun is nearer to this earth by some millions of miles than in summer, showing clearly the truth of my discovery, viz: that it is the atmosphere and not the Sun alone, to which we are indebted for light and heat.

The lecturer at this point of his animadversions illustrated his remarks by holding a lighted candle to a mirror showing by its position, the refraction and reflection, to be more,

or less as he moved his hand from side to centre. He showed also how we had light by attraction, and how darkness intervened from this globe to the Sun, by throwing the shade of the candle light into a room, on the opposite side of the Hall, where the light struck the wall through the darkness. "There" said he, triumphantly, if I had not this piece of plated glass to apply to the candle light, there would be no such light on the wall of that dark room, and if I had no candle light this mirror, would be as dark as pitch.

Moreover, to prove that heat, and light are not derived from the rays of the Sun (as it is termed) but from our atmosphere, we have only to look at our highest mountains where the snows of winter never melt, and at the base of which, summer wears a perennial bloom, indeed, on some mountains we have the temperate, torrid and frigid Zones all the year through.

During the course of the lecture, the potatoes were turned on their axis by the eccentric pivot to show the position of the planets and to illustrate their distances in the varied seasons of the year. Mr. Murphy whether learned, or illiterate showed considerable point in his simple methods of proving his theory, and by the end of the lecture he had so tickled his incredulous audience, that those who came to laugh at his rude attempts, and wilder speculations, retired wondering at his assumption, and no less truthful hypothesis.

As there was no charge made for admittance, a hat was handed round the Hall, when a handsome quantity of silver and copper coin was donated, so much so that the frail coffer could hardly retain the reward of his indomitable hardihood.

Mr. Murphy in a very obsequious way thanked the audience, and said that on the following evening, he would prove that the Moon was no planet, and would prove also to them by ocular demonstration that the Moon was a condensed body of atmospherical particles drawn from the Earth and sailed, or moved on the outer verge of the atmosphere in an altitude embracing the presence of the Sun, by day and night, except when the Earth intercepted the great mercurial influence of the centre of our solar system.

He intimated that on to-morrow evening his Orrery would be fitted up to show, that Venus would take its course right through the body of this supposed world called the Moon! And would conclude by describing the nature of Meteoric bodies being composed of the same combustible matter, illustrated by squibs attached to the Orrery, the centrifugal force of which, would ignite the fireworks, and burst the potatoes. Three loud cheers responded to the farcical intimation of the lecturer who bowed himself very gracefully out of the Hall, waving his yellow night-cap to the thundering response of his auditory. I retired to my lodging amazed at the ignorance and stupidity of human nature, being pleased with such trashy garbage given in the shape of intellectual discovery.

#### FOREIGN NEWS.

By the arrival of the Novia-Scotian, we have one day later news from Europe, to the 27th.

At the last meeting of the London Conference, on the 25th of June, the representatives of the German Powers read a declaration in which they threw upon Denmark the whole responsibility for the failure of the Conference. A letter from the Emperor of Russia announced that he had ceded his claims to Holstein to the Grand Duke of Oldenburg. This involves a repudiation on the part of Russia of the treaty of 1852. A vote of thanks to Earl Russell, the President of the Conference, was unanimously passed. Earl Russell expressed a hope that at all events the independence of the Danish monarchy would be respected. Marshal Wrangel has been ordered by his Government to recommence hostilities on June 26, and an immediate attack upon Alsen was expected. Prussia, in conjunction with Austria, will propose to the Federal Diet to declare war against Denmark.

The Tories of England are preparing a great onslaught on the Ministry. The Times declares in favor of non-interference.

The steamship Germania, from Southampton June 29, arrived here on the 10th. Her news has been anticipated by the Peruvian, but we receive by her three days' later for eign files.

Earl Russell and Lord Palmerston on the 27th of June laid the papers relating to the London Conference on the tables of the two Houses of Parliament, and declared that they deemed it the best policy for England to remain neutral in the Danish war. On the 28th Mr. Disraeli gave notice that on the following Monday he would move a vote of censure against the Ministry for their policy on the Danish question. Mr. Kinglake gave notice that he would move an amendment to Mr. Disraeli's motion. It was considered probable that Mr. Kinglake's amendment would be carried by about 20 majority. The unconditional war party in Parliament appears to be very small. Even at a meeting of the Tory members only one speaker declared in favor of a war policy, while Earl Derby was very distinct in denying that a censure of the policy of the Government implied any warlike demonstration.

Hostilities between the Danes and Germans have recommenced, and it was reported that the island of Alsen had been captured by the Germans.

It is said there are two Confederate steamers cruising outside Cherbourg, preparing to challenge the Captain of the Kearsarge.

The Emperors of Russia and Austria and some other European rulers have been holding a consultation at Kissingen.

The Danish blockade of the German ports has been renewed.

By the arrival of the Australasian we have two days later news from Europe.

Hostilities between the Danes and the German Powers were re-opened on the 26th of June. On the 29th the Prussians succeeded in capturing the Island of Alsen, with nearly 3,000 prisoners. Two small Danish vessels were blown up to prevent capture, and the iron-clad Rolf Krake injured. Austria and Prussia have come to a full understanding about the conduct of the war. They will propose conjointly to the Federal Diet to declare likewise war against Denmark. The Germans, it is said, will occupy the whole of Jutland as a pledge, will collect the taxes, "and employ the proceeds to meet the military expense." It is stated, moreover, that Schleswig and Holstein united would be placed under the administration of the great German Powers—that is, Austria and Prussia—until the Federal Diet decides on the respective claims of the Augustenburg and the Oldenburg dynasty.

Two boarding-house keepers—one residing in Liverpool and the other in London—have been committed for trial on charges of having violated the Foreign Enlistment Act, by engaging men for service on board the Confederate steamers Georgia and Rappahannock. Both prisoners have been admitted to bail.

Mr. Dayton had given a grand dinner to Capt. Winslow of the Kearsarge and all the officers that could be spared from duty.

According to a correspondent of the *Independence Pelge*, an iron-plated vessel left Bordeaux two days after the defeat of the Alabama to take the place of the latter.

In the House of Commons, on the 1st of July, the Oxford University Test Bill was rejected by a vote of 171 against 173, a majority of 2 against the Government.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

STONE SHELLS.—A private letter from an officer at Bermuda Hundred, says:

The rebels have just unmasked a battery which they had constructed behind some trees and have been throwing in shells, with no great damage however. They are using stone shells—a new article to me in warfare. I have read of their use in Oriental countries, but did not know that they were used by enlightened men. The shells are made of stone, in conical form. Some are a foot long, with a hole which contains the fuse and combustible material, the same as in any shell. The advantages claimed for these shells are that they fly into more fragments and are cheaper, but they are less reliable for accuracy. The stone is a kind of quartz.

NEBRASKA has voted not to organize a State Government as yet. In this, we think she has decided wisely. She had but 28,841 inhabitants in 1860. She has no more than 60,000 now; and she could hardly fail, by making herself a State, to double her local taxation—a serious consideration in these days. Whoever expected to be Governor, U. S. Senators, etc., are doubtless annoyed by this vote; but the great mass of the people can bear the disappointment of this class with unshaken fortitude. Nebraska will be coming in as a State, with a population of 100,000 or over, in season to vote for President in 1868.—[New York Tribune, July 16.]

A DELICATE COSTUME.—A Paris letter, in speaking of riding at Longchamps, says:

"Now and then came a turn-out so very exquisite that all eyes were fixed upon it; one in particular, a phaeton, looking as delicate as a sea-shell; the coachman and footmen in white liveries faced with scarlet. The occupant, a fair creature, looking almost too fragile to be trusted out of a glass case, but all in keeping with her surroundings, wore a pale violet (*de Pa me*) silk dress, edged with ruffles of silk a shade darker; a palatot of the same color as the dress, trimmed in the same way; a white lace bonnet, with a soft crown, a spray of delicate flowers falling backward toward the cape; and holding in her delicate lilac kid-gloved hands a parasol of lilac silk of exactly the same shade as the dress."

The immense building now being erected at Chicago for the Democratic National Convention will, it is estimated, accommodate 15,000 persons. It is 728 feet in circumference by 200 in diameter.—[Exchange.]

If grant should happen to capture Richmond and defeat Lee before the 29th of August there will be a large building to let somewhere in the "Garden City."

AMBITION knows no bounds. 'Louis Napoleon is backing Spain in its demands upon Peru, no doubt with the intention of giving his legions a taste of the land of Pizarro. He is also deep in Madrid politics, plotting the abdication of the Queen and the succession of her young son, the Prince of Asturias, under the regency of the Dowager Queen Christina.

A BRAVE REGIMENT.—A letter was received in Stockton lately from a member of the 139th Pennsylvania regiment, sixth corps, Army of the Potomac, stating that the regiment, which crossed the Rappahannock with 472 men and 36 officers, fighting in all the battles, came out of the fierce contest at Coal Harbor, June 2d, with but 72 men, all told, fit for immediate duty.