THE WATERING PLACES.

Our Newport Correspondence.

NEWPORT, R. I., July 20, 1852.

The Hotels and the Maine Liquor Law—George T. Downing's Yacht House the most Prosperous Establishment of them All—The Wholesale Dealers and Retailers—The Real Effects of the Liquor Law.

The Fall River boats touch twice here every night—once in going to, and again in returning from, New York—and, though they are crowded with passengers, very few of them remain at Newport. The great bulk of those from the South and West, in search of health and pleasure, pass on by this the most pleasant mode of travel to Boston, *en route* to the White Mountains, and avoid Newport as they would a city of the plague. The cause of this is the despotic Maine Liquor law, which came into operation here yesterday. The local daily paper labors hard to show that the law has had no effect in keeping away the summer visiters. But everybody here knows that this is not the fact, and the best proof of it is a reference to the arrivals at the hotels, now in the very height of the season. At the three hotels, yesterday, the arrivals were as follows:—Ocean House, 22; Atlantic, 11; Bellevue, 8. In a Saratoga paper, just arrived here, I find that the arrivals at a single hotel of that watering place fill half a column. The Bellevue House, which is the smallest, the most aristocratic, and furnishes the best table, is nearly filled, not with the votaries of fashion, but with those who seek for quiet enjoyment and repose. The Atlantic Hotel, which is the most ably conducted, and second in size, is not so full as the Bellevue House, but far better filled than the Ocean House, which is the largest and most fashionable, though by far the worst managed of the three. The Ocean House is not more than half filled. The cottages are for the most part occupied with the stiff-haired, straight-laced, cold water class. But these people spend no money, and cannot compensate for the class that has been driven away. The same observation applies to the hotels. You will meet staid old dowagers and ancient gouty gentlemen—spinsters of forty years and upwards, and bachelors who have long since despaired of ever getting a wife; but the young, the active and the gay are not there as they were in former years. They seek a more congenial atmosphere elsewhere. The Southern people, who spend their money so freely, are almost wholly driven away from Newport. From any point south of New York, you will scarcely see a name on the books of the hotels. This is felt and spoken of by all.

But you will be told that though the Maine law has come into effect, it is already a dead letter, and will not be carried into execution. People, however, at a distance, will not come to Newport trusting to the mere sufferance of the petty authorities of so mean a city for the exercise of that individual liberty which they have enjoyed from their cradle, which is the birthright of every American, and which they can enjoy unshackled at other watering places on every side. Men of spirit and independent feeling, and of sound morality, do not wish to set the law of the place where they reside at defiance, nor do free born Americans wish that their use of wine and other drinks should depend on the mere will of the majority of a common council. It is true that liquor can be got at certain bars by calling for something else, and giving a knowing wink to the barkeeper, who will scrutinize your features to see that you are not an informer, while at other bars they sell openly, and at the hotels two or three bottles of wine are brought to the table. But gentlemen do not want to drink by stealth, and the result is that wine, which is the paying and profitable department of a hotel, is scarcely drank at the Newport hotels at all.

The only man who is doing a thriving business here, at present, is George T. Downing, of New York, so celebrated for his oysters. For the last five years he has come for the summer months to Newport, where he supplies oysters in every shape, game suppers, and ice creams. His establishment is called the Yacht House, and is right opposite the Atlantic Hotel. At this house he gives private dinners and suppers, in a number of apartments fitted up for the purpose. His customers are chiefly from the hotels, especially the Ocean House. Parties of gentlemen, and often of ladies and gentlemen, not satisfied with the fare or attendance at the hotels, go there to get a *recherche* entertainment, cooked and served up in a style that cannot be approached at any other establishment in Newport. He has his game, and oysters, and liquors, &c., direct from New York, and all are of a superior quality, so that when anything nice is wanted people go to Downing's. George evades the law in this way: He does not sell any champagne, or other wines, but he gives it gratuitously, taking care however to charge it on the supper or dinner at large. The drink is his chief source of profit. He also supplies dinners and suppers, and ices to the strangers residing in the cottages. George Downing has more than an acre of real estate in the best part of Newport, with seven stores on it, let to various persons, besides a range of stables which he hires out for the season. He is about building on the same property two cottages to let. Such is the flourishing business done by a gentleman of color, in consequence of the incompetence and ridiculous self-conceit and mismanagement of the hotels. His ice creams are as much superior to anything you can get at the hotels, or any where in Newport, as his oysters are superior to all others. George not only has the best viands, but he has the art to cook and prepare them best for table.

The wholesale liquor houses are closed. On Saturday last, Newton gave a large quantity of liquor away to all who applied for it. This was by way of clearing out his stock. Pitchers and demijohns were sent to him from every quarter, and it is said that one little girl came the seventeenth time with her pitcher, when at length Newton observing it, told her to tell her father to send somebody else next time. Such terror has this law inspired, that one druggist refused to sell alcohol on Monday. The person applying for it, however, got it in another establishment. The interpretation given to the law by some wholesale dealers is curious. They say that any liquors ordered before the law came into operation, may be supplied and delivered to the retailers at any time hereafter, without violating the law. And on the same principle the retailers say they will supply their customers. Thus, practically, the law is a farce, except to do mischief. There is more drank than ever by the drunkards, and larger quantities of liquor have been laid in before the 19th. Many of the Sons of Temperance, it is well known, have secured an extra supply. It is only the moderate men who do not abuse the gifts of the gods, and who, being the most numerous drinkers, are the real support of the trade—it is only those who are deprived of their accustomed beverage by this most fanatical and absurd law. And Newport is seriously injured by it.

ATLANTIC HOTEL, NEWPORT, R. I., July 22, 1852.

The Common Council and the Maine Law—The Informer Refused his Certificate—The Origin of the Law in Rhode Island—How the Whigs were Entrapped—How the Hotel Keepers have Protected Themselves from the Operation of the Law—How it Works—Interview between George Downing and a Bishop—Newport Behind the Age—Progress of Root Beer and the Colic—Cold Water Balls—The Belles of the Hotels—The Owners and Occupants of Cottages—Symptoms of Poverty in the Hotels—Extreme Dulness—Curious Fashions—Dangerous Abandon—Excursions by Night—Progress of Demoralization—George Downing and Faro Table—Proposition for a New Hotel—The Mountains of New Hampshire.

There have been two meetings of the Common Council here, during the last two or three days, and the subject of the Maine law was warmly discussed, though you will look in vain for any intelligence on the subject in the local paper, which is called *The News*, somewhat on the principle of *lucus a non lucendo*—that is, *lucus*, a grove which is dark, is derived from *luceo*, to shine. *The News* is so called because it gives no news. At one of these meetings of the Common Council, Captain Pratt, who was appointed the common informer, by a town meeting during the last month, applied to the chairman for his certificate. The chairman, who is the only temperance man left in the Board, refused to sign it, because the object of this appointment was to throw ridicule on the Maine law, Captain Pratt being appointed by the very town meeting which passed resolutions denouncing the measure. The Captain likes a good glass of wine, of course, in moderation; he cannot see objects animate or inanimate, unless they are very close to him; and he communes in church-yards by night, with the spirits, not of alcohol, but of the other world. The Common Council have refused to appoint a public vender of liquor for medicinal and sacramental purposes, and the friends of the sick have consequently to apply to the hotels and public houses for it. It is curious enough that the Common Council elected for the purpose of carrying out the law, consists of the hotel keepers, publicans and sinners; and thereby hangs a tale about the origin of this movement.

The temperance party at first applied to the democrats to assist them in passing the law. The democrats declined. The whigs were next applied to, and were caught in the trap, and the democrats, glad to find them there, did not offer a strong opposition to it. Weaver, of the Ocean House, a leading whig politician, and Lawrence, the democratic candidate for Governor, had an understanding between them that the law was to be defeated, and Weaver promised his influence to accomplish that object. When it came to the scratch, however, Weaver backed out, and preferred going with his party, or perhaps he found that he had raised a monster he could not quell. The whig party intended to humbug the temperance men, and having obtained their aid in electing their candidates to office, made up their minds to be beaten, as it were, by the democrats on the liquor question. But the democrats knowing this game, would not beat them, and determined to allow them to have enough of the Maine law. And now, the best of the joke is, that the very men who passed it will not carry it out, or rather they carry it out partially. While the hotels are securely enjoying a monopoly of the sale of liquor for the present, most of the small retailers and all the wholesale dealers are so scared that they are afraid to sell a drop. The sale of more than five gallons constitutes a common seller or wholesale dealer, and the penalty for the first offence is $100, and the second $200. The sale of any quantity under five gallons constitutes a retailer, and the penalty is $20, &c. Notwithstanding all the precaution of the Newport people to render the law nugatory, they have not succeeded. The hotels are better protected against its operation than other public houses, for the hotels only sell to their guests—strangers—while the customers of the other public houses are chiefly citizens. Now, the law says it must be on the information of three citizens that the premises can be searched, and not upon the information of strangers and sojourners. The hotels, therefore, continue to sell openly, while the other places are closed. Families in cottages, who have not brought liquor with them, labor under the greatest disadvantages. A rather funny incident occurred with a cottage-holder—a bishop—here yesterday. The Bishop, who is an invalid, called at the Yacht House, and said he felt quite debilitated from not being able to get wine on account of the Maine law. "Don't let that trouble you," said Downing, "I can let you have some." "Have you any claret?" asked the Bishop. "Yes," said George, "in bottles, but not on draught. I have very good Scotch ale. What would you think of that?" The Bishop said that was an excellent thing to give strength, and he would try some. So Downing served up an excellent lunch, consisting of the choicest titbits, and a bottle of the best Scotch ale. The Bishop said grace before and after meat, and felt himself vastly refreshed in the inner man. When he called for his bill, the Bishop observed that Downing was charging nothing for the ale. "That is all right," said Downing, "I don't sell ale or other strong drinks, I give them free, but I charge a decent profit upon the eatables." "Oh," says the Bishop, laughing, "I see how it is: then I will come here every day and pay you for the use of your room, and seeing the scenery from your windows, and you can let me have a bottle of that Scotch ale for nothing." "Agreed, sir," replied Downing, "and anything else you require, from Heidsick to the best Otard." This is one example from many.

It is said here by some that no three citizens can be found who will agree to give information, and swear they suspect any individual has liquor on his premises. But many will not trust to this kind of sufferance for the enjoyment of liberty. The great mass of the citizens of Newport are poor, as you will see from the dirty, dingy appearance of their houses, and the poverty of the business part of the city, which forms quite a contrast to the majority of the cities and villages of New England. The few handsome dwellings in the upper region are, for the most part, occupied by nabobs, some of them being from Boston, and some from New York, and some from other quarters. Men of wealth who reside here do not invest their capital in Newport, but in other places. There are only one or two factories, and they but of small account. There is no water power for manufacturing purposes. There is no enterprise here—little or no trade—it is extremely dull in every sense of the word. The city is half a century behind the age, and has made little or no progress, while Providence is going ahead. The people chiefly live upon the strangers who come from other parts of the Union in the summer season, and hence their aversion to the Maine law inflicted upon them by the rural districts, and the politicians of their own city, and from the apathy, and want of talent, influence and circulation of the miserable daily paper that represents them. Newport, with its 10,000 inhabitants, is adapted by nature for a watering place, and is never likely to be anything else; but even in that respect it stands in a fair way of being ruined by the Maine law. Some of the opponents of the law here, say that if they cannot get liquor privately they will have an insurrection. But the temperance party say they will not permit the law to be defeated, and that when the Legislature meets, they will have it so amended, that its operation here will not depend upon the will of the Common Council, or the inhabitants of Newport.

The root beer and similar establishments are flourishing; but a great many who drink this "perilous stuff" complain of colic, and other strange commotions in their intestines. In this hot weather people will have something to drink besides cold water, and those accustomed to mixing a little brandy in the water find these other strange drinks do not agree with their stomachs.

To-night there is to be a cold water ball at the Bellevue House—fifty cents admission for outsiders; so you may guess what sort of an affair that is to be. The pretty Miss Hislop, of New York, is staying at the Ocean House, and Mrs. Tenent, of Philadelphia—a very dashing lady—is at the same establishment; she dresses better than anybody else. Miss Trot, of Philadelphia, is the belle of the Bellevue House. General Scott's two daughters, and his son-in-law, Colonel Scott, are here. Colonel Preston, of South Carolina, occupies a cottage in Newport. Prescott Hall, the United States District Attorney, owns a cottage. The Hon. George Bancroft and family own a cottage, and are occupying it at present. Among the other occupants and owners of cottages are the following—Albert Sumner, Benjamin D. Green, Charleston, S. C.; Professor Norton, Cambridge, Mass; Judge Swann, Columbia, Ohio; Allyn Otis, Boston; Mrs. Ritchie, Mr. Parkman, son of the late Dr. Parkman, Boston; W. H. Wetmore, New York (the finest house on the island); Robert H. Ives, Providence; Mr. Breese, New York; William S. Vose, R M. Mason, Boston; Morgan Gibbers, New York; Mr. Wright, of New York; Hon. David Sears, Boston; Mrs. Grant, Boston; Mrs. Peckham, Mr. Groffe, George Tiffany, Clement C. Moore, Jos. Tew, Mr. Richardson, Geo. T. Downing, New York; John Vars, Gideon Lanton, Thos. Coggerhall, Col. Gates, Chas. Hunter, Dr. Charles Davis, Charleston, S. C.; Robert Ray, Hon. Isaac P. Hazard, George A. Colvert, Richard Ray, James Lenox, Mrs. Maitland, R. S. Maitland, Geo. M. Coster, New York; Mr. Parkin, Le Grande Canon, Troy; Mr. Coit, Misses Bent, Boston; J. Dwight, Springfield; Mr. Lewis, Philadelphia; J. Auchincloss, N. York; Mr. Greenough, the sculptor; Rev. Mr. Mead, Henry Tiffany, Mr. Appleton, G. Howland Shaw, David Sears, Jr., Israel Thorndike, Mr. Brown, and Mrs. Dr. Parkman, Boston.

The three principal hotels here have engaged between them the Germania band, of Baltimore, which discourses most excellent music every night to the listless guests of one or other of these establishments, and to all the outsiders who come to hear. None of them can afford to pay for a band exclusively for itself, and they thus club for music, to keep up the drooping spirits of their inmates. It is up hill work, however, and like galvanizing a corpse. Everything seems flat, spiritless, and dead. They have a hop every night; but it is languid and tame, and only few take part in it. The majority prefer promenading in the long halls, or lolling on chairs and sofas, indulging in the most insipid, vapid small talk imaginable. The whole thing is the very embodiment of dullness itself.

Last night, it was the turn of the Atlantic to get the music, and, according to the arrangement, the guests from the other two hotels went there—some in carriages, but the majority walked, the ladies in their bare hair, and dressed in the pink of fashion. Indeed, it was revolting to all ordinary ideas of propriety, to see bevies of them in the shades of night, and without a lamp of any kind in the streets, tripping along without a gentleman to protect them from insult. In fact, many ladies seem to think, when they come to Newport, that they may cast off all conventional restraint, and just do as they please. Hence you will see married ladies, who come here without their husbands, driving out and flirting at an awful rate with young swells. You will see giddy girls at these hotels, without any father or mother, or male protector whatever. I know one instance of three or four sisters who are here alone, and are among the gayest of the gay—one of them very charming, and like a rose just blown into womanhood, exposed to all the temptations and seductive arts of unprincipled men. What the consequence of all this is likely to be, I leave you and your readers to judge. Here there are blacklegs, and gamblers, and pickpockets, who travel under feigned names, and lie in wait for their victims. It is very funny to see ladies of the highest respectability waltzing and gallopading with these.

All propriety of dress seems to be abandoned here. One lady will walk into the breakfast room in ball dress, another will sit down to breakfast or tea with her bonnet and shawl on, and, in fact, every one does that which is most pleasing to her own taste, no matter what spectators may think of it. There is a sort of *abandon* among some of the young ladies here that omens ill for their own future happiness and the peace of their families. The manner in which bathing is conducted here is highly objectionable. A familiarity takes place between the sexes in the water that, to say the least, is anything but seemly.

Many of the seductions of thoughtless girls, and of married women, which come to light in the newspapers, and many which never come to light, have their origin in the hotels of Newport. I would as soon shoot my daughter, if I had one, as let her come to this watering place, and mingle with the crowds I see around me.

The progress of demoralization is rapid here, and the cant about the Maine law is the most disgusting of all abominations. Last year a house of fashionable vice was established by females from New York. The Common Council arrested the whole batch, and sent them to prison. They had no authority for this, and the women brought an action against them, which is still pending. And now, instead of one, there are two houses of this description in full blast, and a gambling den open at all hours, for all comers, and without any disguise whatever. By-the-by, yesterday, when I was at the barber's shop, in Downing's block, George T. Downing and the proprietor of the gambling concern happened to be there. George, who supplies him with game suppers for his "pigeons," and thus knew him, asked what effect the Maine law, and the articles in the HERALD about it, would have upon the visiters?

FARO—A very great effect.

DOWNING—Are there not a great many visiters here now?

FARO—Not near so many at the hotels as there were last year.

DOWNING—But there are a good many in the cottages.

FARO—Yes, of the straight-haired kind; but they are good for nothing. The Southerners, who have money to spend and the heart to spend it, are not coming this season, thanks to the Maine law and the HERALD.

Downing acknowledged the corn, and said he was afraid he was going to suffer himself this season, though his business had been every year increasing for the last few years. "But," he added, "when they hear that the Maine law is likely to be a dead letter, will they not then come?"

FARO—No, not at all. They will not trust to that; besides, it is now too late. They have made their arrangements, and made up their minds to go elsewhere for the season.

With these words, Faro—whose eye I had caught upon me several times—gave me a piercing glance, as if to take my weight and measure, and form a conclusion as to the length of my purse, and whether there was anything green in my phiz. What judgment he arrived at I know not; but, on going out, he gave Downing an order for a game supper, not forgetting the crisped potatoes, *à la* Saratoga lake—a secret which the great oysterman, some how or other, has got possession of, to the infinite chagrin of the hotels. In the list of Downing's property, which I gave you in my former letter, I omitted to mention a handsome cottage adjoining his Yacht House. It was occupied last season by Colonel McMurray. Downing does all the pic nic business of Newport, besides what he supplies to private families in cottages, and the supper and dinner parties ordered by the guests of the hotels. It is not at all wonderful that he should make money by the latter, for the food is bad, the cooking bad, and the attendance very bad in the majority of them. The fish sometimes absolutely smells, and they insert in their bill of fare dishes which they have not, and if you ask for one of these, the waiter will come back and tell you it is all gone. Again, when you ask for one dish, another will be brought to you, and the same waiter will come to you three times and ask you what you want, after your giving him the order twice before. If you are not very smart you will get nothing to eat at all, and a dish upon which you cast a longing eye, will be snatched away from you like a flash of lightning just as you are going to try it, and you will never see it again, thus leaving you pretty much in the situation of Tantalus in the infernal regions. Then the eternal clatter and the noise of the servants whistling, and singing, and clapping of doors, reminds one of the same locality. There is ample scope for a new hotel, and George Downing could not do better than start one upon a large scale. The other three, or at least two of them, might then close up, as they will probably do anyhow, from the operation of the Maine law. In Newport there is no Marvin, or Howard; the hotel keepers are totally ignorant of the business, with one exception, and he is only a second rate.

The atmosphere is very warm and moist and oppressive, for the last two or three days. Your clammy clothes adhere to your skin, and the feeling is most uncomfortable, except on the seashore, which is a long way from the city.

How different from the elastic, dry, bracing air of the mountains and lakes of New Hampshire. How any one who has ever been there can stay for three days at Newport, I am at a loss to conceive, unless that they have not money to bring them any further, or prefer dull inanities, as stupid as a thrice-told tale to the glorious charms of nature in her most lovely aspect, and the rollicking mountain breezes which bring healing on their wings, and the exercise which restores vigor and strength and tone to the system, and inspires you with the feeling that you are a new man or woman. The number of sickly, wan faces that meet your eye at the hotels of Newport, proclaim that this is not the best place for health of body or mind, or for true enjoyment. The only thing for which Newport is at all valuable for strangers, is its bathing facilities. But comparatively few avail themselves of this, and with many persons salt water bathing and sea air do not agree. By inserting this communication, you will confer a lasting benefit upon many of your readers in the South.

Our Niagara Correspondence.

NIAGARA FALLS, June 28, 1852.

Interesting Physiological Fact—The City and Falls of Niagara.

Coming up to New York, from Buffalo, within a few days, I picked up a few items, which may be of interest to your readers.

On board the steamer Hendrick Hudson, going up to Albany, I ascertained that there is no longer any such thing as "niggers." A Southern gentleman addressed a colored porter, on board the boat, thus: Gent.—"Do you belong to this boat?" Colored person—"Yes, sir." Gent—"Where is the nigger who took charge of my baggage?" Colored person, indignantly—"There ain't no niggers on board this boat, sir." (Southern gentleman dumb.) A great physiological and political fact was revealed to him. He will, probably, make a note of it.

The opening of the new railroads from Canandaigua to Elmira, and from Rochester to Lockport and Niagara Falls direct, are all the talk. The former has been open some time, but the latter is just ready to receive passengers. The cars commence running regularly this week. They are both fine roads, but the Rochester and Lockport road is said to excel, in its appointments, any road yet built in the United States. It has all the latest improvements. This new road to the Falls will make a great change in the current of fashionable travel to the Falls. Very few persons, going from New York or Boston, will now visit Buffalo first, as before, but will come direct to the Falls by this new route. The Ogdensburg and Lake Ontario route will also command a large share of travel, and thus Buffalo will become only a place of transit, not a place for stopping over night, as formerly. It will lessen the pleasure-seeking visiters at Buffalo, at least one-third.

The people are beginning to visit the Falls in great numbers. Yesterday (Sunday) at dinner, the landlords of the principal hotels assured me that they had nearly as many guests at table, as any day last season.

The new hotel, to be called the "International House," is not quite finished, but will be ready for guests about the 15th of July. It is a very large stone house, but not very beautiful as yet, though it may be, when the verandah, &c., is completed.

The Clifton House, on the Canada side, is in fine condition, and rapidly filling up. They have six cottages, for families, attached to the house, and everything looks in the most perfect order. The new park is a great ornament, though the trees are yet small.

The fall of Table Rock, and the constant crumbling of the banks near the Horse Shoe Fall, have made a great change in the aspect of the scene—but not for the worse, I think, as even these changes are so full of interest that they compensate for every thing that has been lost.

Going under the central or middle fall, on the American side, and into the "Cave of the Winds," is now the great feat of the day, and entirely eclipses the adventure of the same kind on the Canada side, so they say—and I am perfectly willing to take the current report for truth, without a personal test.

Niagara city—do you know it is a city, with a real charter and a real city government? Well, it is. Niagara city has risen in five years, from three hundred inhabitants to the dignity of a city—and they do things in city style here, I assure you. It is a whig city, too, and will go for the hero of Lundy's Lane, though they all say they would rather have Webster, and they think the Fillmore men will prefer to vote for Pierce, rather than for a Seward man. But Lundy's Lane is hard-by here, and if there is any thing in a name, Niagara ought to go for Scott. THE DOCTOR.

Croton Water.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Your correspondent, "Common Sense," is no common man. He has discovered the cause of the deficient supply of water.

It is the officers of the department that cause the mischief "at the High Bridge, where the water overflows, and runs by the thousands of gallons per minute into the Harlem river." Aye, that's it. If these stupid officers would only make this surplus run through the pipes on the bridge—which pipes are already full—why then, there would be more water delivered in the city.

Seriously, there is a small overflow of water at the gate house on the Westchester end of the High Bridge. This assures the fact that the pipes lying on that bridge are not only full, but under pressure of a head sufficient to accelerate the flow of water through them, and thus increase the daily quantity delivered. "Common Sense" may possibly see the philosophy of this, and that while there is any trifling surplus in the Croton river, it is better to use that surplus as a head at the High Bridge, than to let it run uselessly over the dam at the source of supply. SUPPLY.

INTERESTING LETTERS.

Our New Hampshire Correspondence.

CONCORD, N. H., July 21, 1852.

The Slander upon Gen. Pierce's Character Disposed of by Documents, Facts, and Figures—Whig Testimony to His Sobriety and Moral Conduct—The Professional and Political History of Gen. Pierce.

In a former letter I told you that the respectable whigs here were utterly disgusted with the base attacks made upon the personal character of General Pierce, of whom all classes of citizens feel proud. I also warned the calumniators that it was better to let his character alone, as an investigation into their allegations would rebound with infamy upon their own heads. I shall now prove that I was right, by unquestionable documents. I addressed a note to each of the gentlemen whose names are signed to the subjoined letters. The following is the correspondence:—

A correspondent of the NEW YORK HERALD, who encloses his card, having visited Concord for the purpose of learning the history and personal character of General Pierce, the democratic candidate for the Presidency, and having seen charges in certain newspapers affecting the moral character of that gentleman, the writer applies to you for authentic information upon the subject, as having the best opportunity for knowing his habits—not that he believes, or ever did believe, those statements, but that the truth may come out in such a shape that it cannot be gainsayed.

Concord, July 19, 1852.

CONCORD, N. H., July 19, 1852.

DEAR SIR—In reply to your note just received I am happy to state that I have been well acquainted with Gen. Pierce ever since he became a resident of Concord, in 1838, during most of which time I have been the keeper of a hotel. For a considerable period, he and his family boarded at my house, and I was necessarily conversant with his daily habits, and am most ready to bear witness from my own personal knowledge, to the purity of his private life and character. The false and infamous charges to which you refer, and which a most malignant partizan spirit has put in circulation, need no refutation here, where Gen. Pierce is personally known; and although a political opponent, I feel the utmost disgust at this foul attempt to prejudice him in the estimation of those who do not enjoy the honor of his personal acquaintance. The testimony of respectable men of all parties, in this town, will show Gen. Pierce to be unsurpassed in the full and unexceptionable discharge of all the duties pertaining to the gentleman and the private citizen. Yours respectfully, WILLIAM WALKER.

CONCORD, N. H., July 19, 1852.

Dear Sir—I cheerfully reply to your note of this date. Gen. Pierce and his family have boarded with me since November, 1850, and do so still. I have always been a whig myself, and have uniformly voted with the party opposed to Gen Pierce in politics and am mortified, that, through the agency of any member of our party, there should be occasion to deny imputations so entirely groundless as those which, for party purposes, have been put in circulation. I am sure that among honorable men of both parties, who have had an opportunity to know Gen Pierce well, you would find no unfavorable testimony against him, as a private citizen. While we do not like his politics, we are ready to award to him all respect and honor in other respects. I never knew the least foundation for any charge against his private character, and do not hesitate to say that I do know the reverse of those charges to be true. With much respect, your obedient servant, WILLARD WILLIAMS.

Who are the writers of these letters? Mr. Walker is an old gentleman, sixty-five or seventy years of age—a man of property, who has retired from active business. He is not only highly respectable, but one of the most truthful, intelligent, and high-minded men in Concord, or in the State. Mr. Williams is a mechanic, at the head of one department of the extensive carriage manufactory of Mr. J. Stephens Abbott, in this town. He is one of its best and most respected citizens, whose honor and truthfulness no one would attempt to dispute. What are the politics of these gentlemen? Democratic? Not a bit of it. They are both strong whigs; but they both feel mortified at the shameless attempts of members of their party to disparage and injure the private character of General Pierce, and they have borne this willing testimony, which is alike honorable to them and to the leader of the opposite political party in New Hampshire. What will the New York *Tribune* say to this? Will it insert these letters in its columns? We shall see. Upon this part of the subject I may add that such is the character of General Pierce for sobriety, that two years ago he was appointed one of a committee at a great temperance meeting at Concord, to request the public houses to abandon the sale of liquor; and Mr. Gass, of the American House, assured me that though he has kept a hotel for twenty years, and his house is the place where General Pierce's friends all come, he never saw or knew of him to drink two glasses of liquor during that time. Perhaps there is no instance of a public man drinking so little in his lifetime as General Pierce.

So much for the charge of being "a drunkard and a sot." The charge of cowardice I have already effectually disposed of. There is one charge that remains. It is against his political consistency—a charge so foolish that every person here, of all political shades of opinion, regard it as the most foolish imaginable. For sake of consistency, Pierce, in full reliance upon the triumph of principle in the end, has risked again and again the temporary defeat of his party, and some of the wisest politicians of the State deemed him imprudent till they saw the result. Let me give you a brief outline of his professional and political history, which I have gathered from the best sources of information.

In 1827, General Pierce went to the bar. In 1837 he was elected by the Legislature to the United States Senate. In 1839 he removed from Hillsborough to Concord. In June, 1842, he resigned his seat in the United States Senate, for the purpose of devoting himself to his profession. New Hampshire stands A No. 1 for its bar, and among them all there has not been one so successful as General Pierce—none who has won so many and lost so few cases. For a whole term he has not lost a single case. This success, it is unnecessary to say, required extraordinary study and devotion to his profession, and it is utterly inconsistent with the ridiculous charge touching his habits. His ambition was to stand high in his profession, as he had a very high standard before him—Daniel Webster, Ezekiel Webster, (his brother, said to be better than Daniel), Jeremiah Mason, Richard Fletcher, (one of the Judges of the Supreme Court), Ichabod Bartlett, Levi Woodbury, and John Sullivan, the only man that ever successfully withstood the immortal Henry Clay on the floor of Congress. General Pierce now stands a head and shoulders above the whole bar of New Hampshire. There has been no important case in which he has not been engaged on one side or the other, or has had the offer, for the last eight years. He is unsurpassed as a criminal lawyer; and there is one thing for which he is remarkable, and stands almost alone. He has never been known to take a position in court from which he has found it necessary to retreat. He is quick as lightning, yet clear as a bell. But, to return to his political history:

In 1845, John P. Hale, a regular democrat, addressed a letter to his constituents against the annexation of Texas. The State Legislature of the previous year instructed their Senators and representatives to vote for the measure. General Pierce received intelligence of the letter of Mr. Hale at four o'clock in the afternoon. It was in the latter end of December, and the snow fell fast and furious. He started at once, in this snow storm, taking with him Mr. George, his apprentice, and proceeded to Dover, the residence of Hale, a distance of forty miles, to consult the friends of that gentleman in reference to his intentions. He learned that it was the fixed purpose of Hale to bolt from his party upon the annexation question. He decided at once that Hale must be denounced and thrown overboard. Hale at that time had been in Congress from New Hampshire for two years, and had been nominated by the democratic party for a new election. Pierce had a new convention immediately called, and another man—John Woodbury—was nominated instead of Hale. There were thus three candidates—the whig candidate, Woodbury and Hale. The result was, that there was no election by the people, there being no majority. Woodbury had within two or three hundred of a majority. Hale had not within 15,000 of it. At the next State election, in 1846, Mr Hale having taken the stump for himself, and the whigs and abolitionists having coalesced, the democratic candidate for Governor was defeated in 1847, and the Legislature was under the control of the whigs and abolitionists, Hale being at the head of this coalition. In that session, Colby (whig) was elected Governor by the Legislature, he being the first and only whig Governor of New Hampshire since 1828; and Mr. Fogg, the present editor of the *Independent Democrat*, (abolition paper,) was elected Secretary of State. In New Hampshire the law is to elect a Governor and State officers every year; but the party rule is to elect the same men, if possible, for the second year. In the year 1848, the next year after the defeat of the democrats, General Pierce took the field for the purpose of redeeming his native State. Under his leadership, the democrats were triumphant by a majority of 1,100 for Governor, and securing a majority of twenty-five in the House of Representatives, Jared Williams was elected Governor; and the abolitionists and whigs were turned out of office. Mr. Fogg, the present editor of the *Independent Democrat*, was removed from the Secretaryship of State. He then commenced abusing General Pierce, and, from that time to this, has continued to abuse him, in co-operation with D. S. Palmer, who was also once Secretary of State under different auspices. In 1849 and 1850, the democrats were triumphant by 3,000 and 4,000 majority. In 1850, the democrats nominated Rev. John Atwood for Governor, for the election of March, 1851.

In the fall of 1850, Pierce presided at the Constitutional Convention, and he had there and then heard that Rev. Mr Atwood had been tampered with by the abolitionists, and had expressed himself, in a letter to some of them, against the Fugitive Slave law. Pierce had an interview with him. He consented to retract the letter, and to write another in favor of the law; but subsequently decided to say merely that the first letter was hasty. Pierce would not stand this vacillation. He got a new convention called, and Atwood was thrown overboard, having only two votes, and Dinsmore was nominated, though he had been elected the two previous years. This was only a month before the election, and many sensible democrats thought it was a dangerous experiment. Pierce, however, was decided. He said he would stand upon principle, if there were only three to stand with him. Atwood went on abolition principles. Pierce was again successful, though Mr. Atwood was a Baptist minister in good standing, and very popular.

Thus, it will be seen that the Fugitive Slave law was the test question, and that General Pierce was its champion. What has the Washington *Republic* now to say for itself? General Pierce's friends here say that they next expect to hear him charged with being in favor of the enactment of the alien and sedition laws, or a re-charter of the United States Bank. In either charge there would be as much propriety as in that contained in the *Republic*.

In June, 1851, Martin was nominated for Governor, the election to come off in March, 1852. Atwood again came forward on abolition principles. Martin was elected by 13,000 majority, with 25 majority in the House of Representatives. These political movements were the boldest and most successful ever attempted in the United States, and no man but one who had the entire confidence of his party, and who possessed the highest ability, could possibly succeed in them. Never, perhaps, was any man, in any State, so much the embodiment of his party as Frank Pierce. It is calculated that in the coming election for President, the State will give him 10,000 majority.

That he has not sought the Presidency, directly or indirectly, is known and believed of all parties in this State. In fact, his taste lay more in his profession than in public affairs. In 1842, as I have stated, he resigned the office of United States Senator. In 1845, he was appointed by the Governor, according to the constitution, to fill the unexpired term of Levi Woodbury, who had accepted a judicial office. He declined the office. Subsequently the democratic party unanimously nominated him for Governor. He declined the honor. In 1846, President Polk offered him the Attorney Generalship, and would have given him anything else he desired, but Pierce declined all.

I have collected these facts in no spirit of partisanship, for I am no party man, but in the spirit of fair play, and as a homage to justice and truth. If he is defeated, let it be on principles, and not by calumnies.

I shall conclude by what a New Hampshire lady said to me, in the cars, when leaving Concord:—"Is that President Pierce?" she asked, having seen him talking to some gentlemen at the depot. "Not yet President, madame," I answered. "If he is not, he ought to be," was her emphatic reply. VIATOR.

Our Washington Correspondance.

WASHINGTON, July 21, 1852.

The Codfish Dispute—The Candle Lighted at Both Ends—Retaliation of the British Government for the Selfish Conduct of the South—Niggers versus Lamp Oil, &c., &c.

The course of the British government in relation to the Nova Scotia fisheries, it is said, has, in some measure, been superinduced by the restrictions imposed upon British subjects in relation to the fisheries on the coast of Florida; and also the course of South Carolina, and other Southern seaboard States, with respect to British colored seamen.

Prior to the cession of Florida, in 1819, and for some time after the cession, the British Bahamians carried on all the wrecking, fishing and turtling on the coast, and amongst the keys of Florida. The wrecking privilege is a very valuable one, being estimated at a million and a half dollars annually. The fishing for the Havana market alone, is estimated at several hundred thousand dollars per annum, $100,000 being annually paid to the Captain General of Cuba, for the monopoly of the sale in that city alone, and large quantities of turtles caught in those waters are shipped to Europe and every part of the United States.

The wrecks on the Florida coast and keys were formerly carried into Nassau and New Providence for adjudication. On the acquisition of the Floridas, the British were excluded by the Americans from all these privileges; and the exclusion became more rigid upon the passage of the British Emancipation act, in 1835, inasmuch as the crews of many of the British fishing smacks and wrecking vessels were composed of colored emancipees. Since 1829, the people of Florida have claimed the exclusive property in and control over these fisheries, and denied the right or power of the federal government to interfere with them. Upon the incoming of every new administration, since 1824, application has been made to the federal government by the British ministers, in behalf of the British Bahamians, for the privilege of participating in these immunities. It has been asked, not as a right, but as a favor from the American government. Reference being made by the federal government to the local authorities of Florida, the privilege has, in every instance, been promptly refused; and for several years past, in addition to the general ground of exclusive right in the State, the necessity of excluding the British colored seamen has been urged.

The refusal of the British Bahamian authorities to deliver up the fugitive slaves who had committed murders and robberies in Florida, and also had fled with the plunder across the straits to the Bahamas, although the federal government despatched a vessel of war to demand them upon the indictments found, and depositions showing their crimes, has caused excited feeling in the South. The ground taken by the Bahamian Judges that the resistance to, and homicide of, a master, by a slave, is not murder, but a political offence, not included in the extradition clause of the treaty of 1842, as expressed by Lord Ashburton to the abolition committee in New York, has also strengthened the Southern feeling.

All these causes have doubtless operated on the minds of the British public, and brought about the retaliatory measures which are likely to increase the price of codfish. It is considered, however, as rather severe that the retaliation of the British government for this course of the South should be visited upon the Yankee abolition fishermen. Niggers, in this instance, have got the start of codfish and mackerel; and if the abolitionists suffer, they are at least deserving of sympathy.

The official correspondence upon the subject of the Florida fisheries and British free niggers is highly interesting, and I will send you copies at the earliest opportunity. X.

WASHINGTON, July 22, 1852.

The Fisheries—Statements in the Herald Confirmed by Mr. Webster—Mr. Crampton's Visit to Massachusetts—Question at Issue—Proposed Reciprocity of Trade with Canada—Difficulty as to the Application of the Law of Nations, and the Adjustment of the Misunderstanding.

The statements that were published in the *Herald* early in the month, relative to the measures that are being taken by and under the sanction of the British government, to enforce the convention of 1818, which prohibits American fishermen from taking and curing fish on the fishing grounds and shores of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward island, have be n fully confirmed by the official notification of the Secretary of State, which has appeared in the papers of this week. With respect to what was stated, as to the future movements of Mr. Webster, for the benefit of his health, in connection with Mr. Crampton's tour to the North, we find that gentleman has already met him at Boston.

It is not probable, however, that any arrangement will be concluded by those gentlemen while away from the seat of government, although some private chit-chat may take place on the subject over a dish of chowder, that may influence the mind of the Secretary of State in relation to accepting the invitation to take a cruise in the Devastation steam frigate.

With reference to the subject at issue between the two countries—for Mr. Webster evidently dissents from the doctrine which the British government seems determined to enforce, and who considers the rights and interests of the United States as having been abandoned by the American parties to the convention alluded to—it involves a plain question of national law—that of the right of a nation to exercise exclusive sovereignty over all the bays, harbors, and inlets of the sea coast, and within cannon shot of its shores; and the only course to be pursued is to induce Great Britain, if possible, to place American and British fishermen on the same footing, and to make the former, during the fishing season, temporary denizens of the British provinces.

During the last few years, efforts have been made by the people of Canada to obtain from the United States what is termed reciprocity; that is, the admission of the productions of either country into the territory of the other free of impost—those of Canada being, at present, subject to a nominal duty on importation, which is withdrawn on shipment; and, in exchange for this, it was stated in the Canadian Legislature, last session, by Dr. Hincks, the leading member of the government, that the province is authorized by the parent State to concede to American vessels the right to navigate the river St. Lawrence to the sea.

In addition to this, it has recently been proposed, on the part of Canada, to allow American fishermen greater privileges on the sea-coast, to which, as might be supposed, the Eastern provinces, and even Lower Canada, are opposed, where the provincial fishermen enjoy great natural and national advantages, but who cannot compete with those of the United States, owing to the bounty granted by Congress, and the imposition of a high rate of duty on foreign caught fish, when imported. They are enabled, however, to make a superior description of fish, which is cured when caught, thus rendering it better fitted for the South American and Mediterranean market. A large proportion of this description of fish finds its way to the United States, being purchased by the American fishermen, in exchange for rum, sugar, and molasses—for which, of course, they obtain the bounty allowed by Congress.

Whatever arrangements the British ambassador may enter into with the Secretary of State, must be in accordance with his instructions, and expressly authorized by the British government; and the granting any privilege to American fishermen, beyond what they already possess, will doubtless be opposed by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; and the agricultural influence in Congress will, doubtless, be sufficient to prevent the adoption of reciprocity.

If discussions can be protracted till after the next meeting of Parliament, when the return of a liberal majority may drive the Derby ministry from power, better terms will then probably be obtained; but, in the mean time, as Mr Webster observes, the fall fishing will be jeopardized, if not ruined, for the present year, as the American fishermen will be restricted to deep sea fishing; and they will be prevented from purchasing British cured fish, on which to obtain a bounty on their return to port, from the national treasury.

A mistake is made by the correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun*, of this morning, when he asserts that the claims of the British government have never been enforced, as I have seen fifteen or twenty American fishermen brought into Halifax harbor at a time, for a violation of the terms of the convention. That was, however, when the present ruling party in England were before in power. That all waters within a line drawn from one headland to another, are within the jurisdiction of the country in which they are situated, is an admitted axiom of national law, beyond which the Court of Admiralty alone can take cognizance of offences that are committed there. X.

Our Buffalo Correspondence.

BUFFALO, July 17, 1852.

The Letter of Americus—The Scott Ratification Meetings—The Weather, &c., &c.

Your editorial in Thursday's HERALD, and the article of Americus, have fallen into the Scott camp like a whole load of bomb shells, interspersed with several Paixhan shot. However, "Dear Hawley," of the *Express*, insists that it is only one of the HERALD jokes, and is perfectly well understood.

The great Scott ratification meeting here, on Tuesday evening, was, in verity, a small affair. There were not, at any time, including a large number of democrats, over six hundred persons present, and this in a city of over 50,000 population, and after two weeks of preparation. The speeches were unique affairs. Your townsman, Mr. Ullman, made a long talk about the canals, and argued, *in extenso*, that the whig party were the only true friends of internal improvement, and therefore General Scott should be elected President. Few of his audience could see the *sequitur*; and all agreed that he might be very well to speak in New York, but he was not enough for Buffalo. Senator Babcock said he had voted fifty-three times for Fillmore, and for the platform, and Mr. John L. Talcott said he voted fifty-three times for Scott, and against the platform. Both reside here—Mr T is the eldest son of the late Attorney General Talcott; in personal appearance he looks like Prince John, and resembles him much in his wit and humor. Mr. T., however, is a profound lawyer, and his character—he being a prototype of Mr Fillmore—differs somewhat from John's. Great efforts are being made to get up a great affair at Niagara. Special post office agents and secret inspectors are very active, travelling in every direction. Railroads and steamers agree to charge half price, and no stone is left unturned to induce a full attendance. It is a lovely place for a meeting; but if the delegates are swindled as much as casual visiters at the falls, it will cost each man a small fortune. Speaking of the falls, if you wish to enjoy the view, breath the fresh air, and feel the *dolce far niente*, go the Clifton, on the Canadian side, and you will be satisfied.

To show the whig harmony here. I state a fact, which I will prove if necessary, that at the time of the nomination of Scott, a Fillmore whig bet a Seward whig $50 each that Scott would not carry New York, Pensylvania, and Ohio, $150 in all.

The weather here is beautiful, and though every thing around is parched and dried up, the crops seem to have suffered little. The steamers on the lakes—and their name is legion—never did half the business they are doing now. Thousands arrive and leave here daily.

What is Greeley doing? Can't you stir him up more frequently? People like to hear him snarl, and having established a raw, you always hit him on the identical spot. BROWN.

Our Canadian Correspondence.

QUEBEC, July 19, 1852.

Arrival of the Steamer Albatross—Meeting of Parliament—Election of L. J. Papineau—Fillibuster Movement in Upper Canada.

On Saturday, about 2 o'clock P. M., the steamer Albatross, the first of the New York and Quebec line, came into this port. It was intended to have given her a proper reception, by firing a royal salute, &c.; but by some negligence, this was omitted. A report was circulated soon after her reaching the dock that Daniel Webster was on board, which caused much excitement among our quiet *habitans*. There were, however, but few passengers, and those unknown to fame. There is some talk of a public dinner being given to the officers of the boat.

The government *Gazette* announces the meeting of Parliament in one month from to-day—the 19th of August. The new Parliament building will then be ready for their reception. An important session is anticipated, and the city will no doubt be crowded with visiters. A new hotel is very much needed here—there are but two worthy of the name, and they are crowded to repletion. Great numbers of Americans visit the city daily, arriving in the morning, and returning by the evening boat to Montreal.

The election in the district of the Two Mountains has resulted in favor of L. J. Papineau (the leader of the Lower Canada liberals in '37) by an immense majority. Mr. Papineau is a violent radical. The government candidate (so called) was a very moderate man, in every respect. Mr. Papineau is a man of splendid talents—an orator, a scholar, and a gentleman. He was supported by the ultra liberals—red republicans—and also by the tories, in opposition to the so-called government candidate. It is said that Mr. P. will be offered the Speakership of the House. A contemplated grand *filibustero* invasion of Upper Canada by the supporters of General Scott in the United States, has caused much excitement here. Representations have been sent to the government upon the subject, and considerable feeling is manifested. I shall be able soon to give you the full particulars; but it is evident that there is a movement on foot that is calculated to disturb the peace of the two countries. I shall be able, in a day or two, to raise the veil from certain proceedings, which, I trust, will make the sensible people of the United States and Canada pause and reflect upon the great drama which is being played before them, and which, if persisted in, will lead to bloodshed and revolution.

I have a number of documents on the subject, which I shall submit to you very soon. ORION.

Senator Chase's Letter.

KINDERHOOK, (around Lindenwold,) July 21, 1852.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK HERALD.

SIR—

The letter of Senator Chase, of Ohio, to Sandy Hill Butler, published in your paper of the 20th ult., is regarded here as a great curiosity, and a deserved attack on ex-President Van Buren, Prince John, Parson Butler, and Preston King, the high priests of the Buffalo platform. It shows that a sincere man, though possessed of commanding talents, may be the dupe of the designing. If Senator Chase had employed his rare powers of mind to discover the motive of the Buffalo rally, in an effort simply to multiply the chances of the defeat of Gen. Cass to the Presidency, he would have spared himself the necessity of inflicting upon the country five columns of good English, in an attempt to show that he was sincere, and that he supposed Parson Butler and the other members of the committee were generally so, when they framed the Buffalo platform, and asserted therein what he supposed was a great principle of human freedom. The Buffalo humbug, like anti-masonry, has served its day, and the end designed by it, and now the Mahomets of that imposture laugh to scorn the dupes of the shallow artifice. Talk to them of sincerity and inconsistency, and it only increases the burst of merriment, to redden the cheeks of the deluded.

It reminds one of the anecdote of a Judge of one of the central counties of New York, who, during the anti-masonic excitement, put up for the winter at the Columbian Hotel, Albany, where he was constantly annoyed by the anti-masonic members of the Legislature. He swore he would not remain there any longer, and went to the Eagle Hotel. He told some of his friends at the Eagle the reason of his leaving. They told him he had not mended the matter, as he had now got with Seward, Granger, Spencer, and others, who were the high priests of anti-masonry. "But," said the judge, "the d—d fools down at the Columbian really believe in it—the high priests at the Eagle do not; they go anti-masonry from policy."

Now, if Mr. Chase had the sagacity of the Judge, he would see his position; but, like the anti-masons at the Columbian, he is too sincere to suspect insincerity in others. KINDERHOOK.