

show that the disturbance of the nervous system, which is produced by mesmerism, may and does occur in certain stages of disease, and is not infrequently present in nervous affections where we have not hitherto suspected its coincidence.

20. Mesmerism may, for the above reasons, be employed to relieve, temporarily, affections of a nervous character, when the usual means fail; but it should be used always with caution, and only when the failure of all ordinary measures renders its application a matter of necessity.

21. The claims to a peculiar medical institution, set up by magnetic persons, or their exhibitors, is destitute of foundation. The pathology is usually absurd, the prescriptions are inefficient, dangerous, or ridiculous, and after sixty-eight years, mesmerism has not detected a new theory of disease, or suggested one useful remedy.

In conclusion—I may be, perhaps justly, charged with giving to the subject of mesmerism an undue importance, and bestowing on it, a disproportionate share of time and attention. The results, being chiefly negative, add almost nothing to our stock of knowledge, and the pretensions now demonstratively overthrown, being discarded already by common sense, and the antecedent labors of others, scarcely observed, in the opinion of the world, a passing notice. But I think I am justified in my laborious justification, by the interest still felt in the subject, over a large part of the civilized world, by the want of a digested and comprehensive treatise, and by the bearing of the phenomena on the practice of medicine, and on the physiology of the nervous system. Perhaps, too, it may not be unimportant to the guardians of public and private morals, the administrators of justice, and the conservers of it, by a judicious discipline, to learn, without unsuspected physical agencies as at work on the human frame, at all times, and in all places. They may thus be enabled not only to guard against abuses, but to make indulgent and charitable estimates of the character and extent of crime and error.

Doubtless, the mesmerists will say that I pay too little attention to the testimony of others on many of the points in which I differ from them, and others may allege that for all that part of the subject which I admit to be true, I give too much weight to my unassisted personal labors and observations. To both, I may with truth, and without undue pretension reply, that I did not expect to settle any question definitely by these researches. They were made carefully and honestly, and the results set down without exaggeration or extension, for the purpose of making as close an approximation to an obscure truth, as the time and opportunity would permit. Others, following in the same exact path, may either weaken my conclusions; but sure I am, that it is only thus that we shall finally settle these vexed questions, and not by opinions founded on unrecorded observations, or vague generalities derived from loosely kept records. While I find volumes of conclusions, I discover no tables to which I can refer for support or refutation. I see many edifices, but I discover no foundations for them, and naturally infer that as they rest on no solid bases, they are without weight, and made of imagination.

As to the charge of refusing the testimony of others, I answer, that their evidence is so conflicting as to destroy itself. The most substantial proof, that of distinguished medical men, is usually on my side, and if I have not availed myself of that, how can you complain who give opinion on the other side? Few are competent to observe, in a question involving medical knowledge, and scientific attainment. He who would truly understand such phenomena, must know all that is known of the nervous system, and much that is taught as physical science. He must have studied the human mind in health and disease, and have examined the kindred complaints of somnambulism and catalepsy. Now, it is not a little remarkable that the authors who have written in favor of the higher claims of mesmerists, have not been thus prepared, while those more accomplished observers have decided against these claims. Let me illustrate this further. Phenomena are observed in the heavens—among the stars. Every one sees them—but to whom do we look for the explanation by which these phenomena are so fashioned into fact? For how many thousand years did the constellations glaze across the zenith, in nightly brilliancy, shrouded by millions of eyes, before the scientific phenomena assumed to the human understanding the shape of a fact? Until revealed by Copernicus, it was a bright illusion—the very opposite of that which it seemed. If this illustration does not lessen the confidence of ignorant observers in their powers of discrimination, I am at a loss for means to teach them their hierarchy, which can only give much value to the observations on any one, however otherwise prepared for investigation. The stars are often described with distant places and events, which can only be ascribed to them by the knowledge of the spiritual inspection? Or are they intended to allure and more intelligible means of discrimination? It is not less true, that there is sometimes the manifestation of strong personal sympathy between mesmerized and subject, but there are not unexpected instances of error in the most obvious explanation of this phenomenon. The distance is less as to the appearance, than as to the view to be justly taken of them. The story and airy beings that darkened for ages the valley of the Book of Mountains, were not a delusion and terror of the ignorant peasantry, and more competent observers perceived them to be the shadows of human beings, cast by the rising and setting sun in exaggerated shadows on a screen of clouds. That which had been a faithful phenomenon, became an error above fact. The shadowy things of artificial somnambulism have long enough displayed their visionary forms on the side of human inquiry. It is time to give them their true position, and to prefer them from the hands of phantoms, and place them in the hands of philosophy. I can believe that I have done as much as to bring philosophy to the subject, as to believe and restrain. I will be satisfied if my labor has not been in vain.

The discussion of Dr. Mitchell's communication was on motion of Dr. Darsch, postponed until the stated meeting in October.

Stated Meeting, October 4th, 1842.

Dr. Otto, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Present—Messrs. Allen, Benton, Buchanan, Clayton, Fulton, Henderson, King, Linn, McRoberts, Mangum, Merrick, Phelps, Sevier Smith, of Connecticut, Smith, of Indiana, Surgeon, Tapaw, Walker, White, Williams, Woodbury, Wright, and Young—24.

Nays—Messrs. Archer, Bagby, Barrow, Bates, Bayard, Berrien, Calhoun, Choate, Conrad, Crafts, Dayton, Evans, Graham, Huntington, McDufer, Miller, Porter, Rivers, Simmons, Sprague, Tallmadge, and Woodbridge—22.

The bill finally passed by a similar vote: Ayes 24.

Congress, Monday Feb. 6.—In the Senate, Mr. Archer moved the re-consideration of the vote by which the Oregon bill was passed, and Mr. Linn objected to the motion as irregular.

After some conversation the motion was laid over till to-morrow.

Mr. Tallmadge called up his exchange bill, and went into an elaborate argument to show the necessity for the immediate action of Congress on the currency question.

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The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to prevent the carrying of mailable matter by private express. It was debated at length by Messrs. Porter, Conrad, Merrick, Choate, Miller, Walker and Simmons; and, without coming to any definite conclusion thereon, the Senate adj.

In the House Mr. Cowen, reported a bill for the relief of Amos Kendall (which provides, in case the verdict against him is confirmed by the Supreme Court, for the United States becoming his surety, and for his release from prison, within whose limits he is now confined in consequence of damages adjudged against him for an official act as Post Master General. The bill was committed to the committees of the whole on the State of the Union.

Mitchell's communication read at the last stated and adjourned meetings, being in order.

Dr. B. H. Coates remarked, that as no one appeared disposed immediately to open the discussion of the important question submitted for the consideration of the Fellows of the College; and although he had himself seen few experiments, and had not particularly studied the subject of mesmerism, he would take the liberty to introduce the debate, by asking a question of Dr. Mitchell. He had been, certainly, much interested in the able and lucid paper read by the latter, but was not ready to go over it in detail, and had made no preparation for this by taking notes.

If he understood Dr. Mitchell correctly, the latter explained many of the phenomena of mesmerism by *dreaming*; and perhaps correctly so. Now does not this also explain a fact which Dr. Mitchell has cited as evidence of *nervous induction*, or the influence of the nervous activity of one person on another? He alluded to the production of catalepsy or palsy, by certain mesmerizing processes. If so, he considered this as equivalent to referring it to the imagination; for is not *dreaming* an act of the imagination?

Is it not true, that the condition called mesmeric clairvoyance and somnambulism, which Dr. Mitchell explains by *dreaming*, and which he thinks may be guided and led by slight sounds, and other surrounding circumstances acting upon the sharpened senses, is not unfrequently accompanied by hysterical symptoms, often including temporary catalepsy, palsy, &c. And are not these as likely to be guided and led on by ordinary *dreaming* and the sharpened senses, as are the visions of clairvoyance? In illustration of this view of the subject, Dr. Coates related the case of a young woman who had been under his care in the Pennsylvania Hospital, who had five temporary attacks of entire paralysis of one arm, from hysteria, produced by a moral cause.

Dr. Mitchell replied, that it was his belief, that the influence exerted by the operator, upon the mesmerized person, was purely physical. So much so, that he has known the phenomena of the mesmeric state, produced by passes made by an individual who was himself ignorant of their effects. He believed also that the same result has often followed in cases where the mesmerized persons were entirely ignorant of the intentions of the operator.

It was possible, however, in the highly excited and susceptible state of the nervous system induced by this condition—if the idea of catalepsy or convulsions were to possess or be induced in the mind of the patient, for these actually to occur—but he did not suppose they could take place, if the patient were ignorant of their phenomena.

Dr. Mitchell here stated three cases which occurred in one family, illustrating the effect of mental impressions.

One of the greatest difficulties in examining the subject of mesmerism is, that the physical and mental impressions of its subjects are so mixed up, that it is exceedingly difficult to separate them. To understand the phenomena thoroughly, we must dissect them, if possible, of mental co-operation.

Dr. Mitchell was asked by one of the Fellows, to state some of the main arguments in favor of the theory of nervous induction.

Dr. Mitchell replied, that those which occurred to him at the moment were, 1st. The necessity of the proximity of the operator to produce the mesmeric sleep, and the almost immediate awaking of the patient, in many cases, if he retired from him for a few yards. The duration and intensity of the mesmeric sleep being, as a general rule, in proportion to the proximity of the operator to his patient, whilst inducing the mesmeric state. 2d. The comparatively short time required to throw a patient into the mesmeric slumber, whilst sitting or in the erect posture. 3d. The necessity which there exists for the mind of the operator to be intently fixed upon the object which he desires to accomplish; this, it is true, is not necessary in the case of individuals who have been repeatedly mesmerized, as the patient soon acquires the faculty of assuming voluntarily the mesmeric state, or aiding by his volition, very effectually, the efforts of the magnetizer. 4th. The effect produced on the limbs of an individual by passes made from the centre toward the periphery, and the change which is wrought in the condition of the limbs by passes in the contrary direction. 5th. The method by which the patient is awake; and the fact that the time required for this purpose, is altered according to the greater or less distance of the operator from his subject.

Dr. Mitchell considered that the doctrine of the transmission of a fluid either from the magnetizer or his subject, is disproved by the fact, that a number of individuals may be put to sleep, one after the other, by the same person, and awake by another, without either being in the slightest degree sensible that he had parted with or received anything from the patients operated upon.

Dr. Wood remarked, that he presumed few persons now doubted the occurrence of the physical phenomena produced by the process described by Dr. Mitchell. The only question in his mind—Are these induced by the operation of the individual's own mind, or are they to be entirely ascribed to the influence exerted upon him by another? The only way to test this, would be to operate on a person wholly unconscious of what is about to be done. Dr. Wood inquired whether Dr. Mitchell has had an opportunity of determining this point?

Dr. M. in reply remarked, that this was a very difficult question to answer, inasmuch as no patient could be mesmerized, for the first time at least, without contact; and this very contact would of course apprise the individual that he was about to be subjected to an experiment of some kind. After the first time, however, he conceived it to be possible to produce the mesmeric phenomena without the knowledge of the patient.—This he had himself repeatedly done, if the testimony of the individuals could be relied on. He has succeeded in inducing mesmeric sleep in a lady whilst in the midst of company, and during a conversation that had no relation whatever to this subject, the lady being entirely unaware of his intentions, so far as he could judge from her manner both before and after the sleep. He would refer to a case in point, related to him by Dr. Not, President of Schenectady College—a gentleman whose testimony would be implicitly received. A young lady, residing in the family of an Episcopal clergyman, whom the Doctor had repeatedly magnetized for the removal of an obstinate cough, being on a visit to his house, was

at his suggestion, so seated one evening, in the midst of a social circle of friends, that the Doctor could approach her unperceived. The lady was placed with her back near to a baize door, that led into a dark entry communicating with another room. The Doctor placed himself, secretly, in the entry behind this door, and by these manipulations, soon threw the lady into a complete mesmeric sleep. Re-entering the room, he ascertained this fact, and then returning to his former position in the entry, he awoke her. The lady exhibited no indication that she suspected the agency by which the sleep was induced, but remarked that she could not permit Dr. Not to magnetize her any more, as she was fearful now of the spontaneous recurrence of the mesmeric sleep. The same experiment was repeatedly performed, before the lady discovered the agency of the Doctor. Now this case would appear to afford conclusive evidence of the possibility of mesmeric phenomena being induced without any knowledge on the part of the person operated on of what is about to take place; and yet so readily do persons repeatedly operated on, fall into the mesmeric state, even upon the slightest hint or suspicion that it is about to be induced in them, that it is difficult positively to determine how far, in the case just referred to, the lady's consciousness was or was not concerned in the production of the sleep, which Dr. Not very honestly believed he had produced entirely without her knowledge.

Dr. Mitchell remarked, that there was another mode of answering the question propounded by Dr. Wood. He would appeal to any gentleman present, whether the mere consciousness on the part of an individual that something unusual was to be performed upon him, could possibly produce the very peculiar and striking phenomena of the mesmeric state—phenomena so characteristic that he did not believe they had ever been observed in any condition of the system, other than that produced by mesmerism. Such an idea could not for a moment be entertained—and hence, this itself afforded, in his opinion, a satisfactory answer to the question: are the mesmeric phenomena the result of a purely physical cause, or to be attributed solely to the operation of the patient's own mind? It seems then to be proved that the first cause of these phenomena is purely physical, but that subsequently they may be induced by mental causes alone.

Dr. B. H. Coates suggested that the facility which a person acquires, of falling spontaneously into the mesmeric state when he has been frequently subjected to the mesmeric action, is by no means surprising, it being analogous to what we observe in many other of the phenomena of the animal body; for instance, a child after it has once learned to take a few steps alone, rapidly acquires the power of walking. The movement of certain muscles, as the occipital frontalis, or the muscles of the ear, which are at first excited with difficulty, become by frequent trials entirely under the control of the will.

Dr. Evans inquired, whether any patients laboring under insanity or dementia, had been experimented on by Dr. Mitchell, and what were the results in such cases? Dr. E. had himself seen the attempt made in ten or twelve cases, in persons of both sexes, but without success.

Dr. Mitchell replied, that he had tried to induce the mesmeric phenomena in three cases of mania, but had not succeeded in either. It was his impression that any disturbance of the nervous system, or any infirmity of the mind, offered an impediment to the success of the mesmeric influence. The most healthy and robust persons were, according to his experience, the most easily mesmerized.

Dr. Pepper stated, that several years ago, he had seen some experiments instituted on this subject, on some of the insane patients at the Blockley Hospital. The effect produced in these cases resembled very closely the phenomena of hysteria and catalepsy.—He was not satisfied, however, as to what influence the imagination of the patient might have had in producing these results; and suggested the trial of a series of experiments upon the pupils at the blind school, without the intention of being communicated to them. These experiments were accordingly instituted, and although he was not present when they were performed, he was informed on good authority that they failed in every instance. He would like to know Dr. Mitchell's experience on this point.

In answer to this inquiry, Dr. Mitchell re-affirmed his belief, that an individual could not be mesmerized for the first time without contact, and hence the difficulty, even in a blind person, of experimenting without a knowledge on the part of the subject that something unusual was to be done. The very fact of the impossibility of producing any impression, in new cases, without contact, is in itself an argument against the imagination being the successful agent in the case, inasmuch as if this were the case contact would not be necessary. Dr. M.'s opportunities for experimenting on the blind had been very limited. Several years ago he visited the institution for the purpose, and the late Mr. Friedlander selected one of the female pupils for the subject of experiment. She was taken into Mr. E.'s private room, and told that Dr. M. wished to try an experiment upon her; she submitted, and in fifteen minutes all the peculiar physical phenomena of the state were induced—she was thoroughly asleep. On awakening she complained of dizziness, as though she had been drunk, and of a severe pain in her limbs—for which she was obliged to go to bed, and was sick for several days. Some time after he tried the same experiment upon another blind girl, and under similar circumstances, she complained in a few minutes of shooting pains in the limbs, and becoming alarmed, refused to allow the experiment to proceed.

Dr. Pepper did not consider these cases as entirely satisfactory, inasmuch as the subjects were informed beforehand what was to be done, and a moral impression was thereby created.

Dr. Darsch considered the influence of the imagination negatory, inasmuch as the mesmeric phenomena could be produced in children before the imagination became active. Something very similar occurred also in animals, as was evinced in the 'charming' of birds by serpents, and other equally curious phenomena. In regard to the physical phenomena of the mesmeric state, he had not a doubt; clairvoyance, transference of the senses, &c., he thought were

not within the present discussion. How these peculiar effects were produced he would not attempt to explain, the magnetic theory of Mesmer may or may not be the correct explanation. He was fully sensible, from his own experience, of the power which the fixed eye, the hand, and the will of one individual, may exert over another who subjects himself to its influence.

THE NAVAL COURT MARTIAL ON THE SOMERS AFFAIR.—The reader will observe that this Court has decided not to admit Messrs. Butler and O'Connor as attorneys for the relatives of Spencer.

It is to be presumed, or it ought to be presumed, that Government have selected a Judge Advocate of sufficient ability to manage the case; and, therefore, it seems to us there can be no propriety in admitting two Lawyers for the relatives of Spencer to aid him. Indeed, if this were done for Spencer's relative, the same should be done for Cromwell's, and the same for Small's, so that the proceedings under the Court Martial would be likely to have no result.

We see it taken for granted that no civil process can now reach the officers of the Somers. We are not so sure of this, and we should not be surprised to see the same counsel now employed before the Court Martial hereafter employed to bring these officers before the Civil Courts.

CONGRESS.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

Washington, Feb. 2, 1843.

There are now but twenty-six working days remaining of this session, and there is much business of importance yet to be transacted. If the doings of the House this afternoon are any indication of the manner in which a hungry minority who are too impatient for their dinners after four o'clock has arrived to do any business, intend to obstruct the efforts of those who are willing to work, there will be but a very small portion of the business completed that is already waiting the action of Congress. I look upon it, however, as a settled matter that nothing of any great interest will be done. It is understood that a currency plan has been for some time maturing in the hands of a senator who possesses much originality and vigor of mind joined to a great fund of business experience and general knowledge of the wants and wishes of the great business interests of the country, but I have no belief that any plan whatever, will be adopted at this session. There are some propositions before the Committee of Ways and Means of the House for various modifications of the Tariff, which if I see any prospect of their being adopted, I will send you in due time. There is one that I will mention—that to impose a duty on tea and coffee—a matter about which there has been of late years more demagogic than one would suppose could possibly arise out of such a subject.

The Locos are particularly solicitous that the present Congress adopt their earnest recommendations, made in private, that these articles be subjected to duty, because they are well aware that if it be not done by this Congress it must be by the next, though not a mother's son of them will vote for the measure. Some of our Pennsylvania Whigs, too, are afraid of the outcry which is sure to be got up in that enlightened State against any man who dare vote to lay a duty upon these articles—so that between them and the Locos it is probable that the two or more millions of dollars that might be properly raised from these most legitimate and usual subjects of duty will be lost.

Some of the Locos are very desirous that an extra session of Congress be held next summer, and it is their talk about it that has created such a design. The President, as I am informed, intends no such thing, and the more intelligent and less needy of the Locos themselves wish to avoid it, for they can see that it is fraught with danger to them.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3.

BANKRUPT LAW.

Mr. Berrien, from the Judiciary Committee, reported the House bill repealing the Bankrupt Law, with amendments essentially changing its character, intended to sustain with modifications the existing law.

Mr. Berrien said the bill was very long. He stated, however, generally, the views of the committee.

The voluntary clause is repealed—a majority of creditors is rendered necessary to a discharge—corporations not included.

The following are some of the grounds on which the committee thought the act should not be repealed.

That overtrading would be prevented, as well as undue credit checked, by arming the creditor with the power of forcing a failing debtor to go into liquidation before wasting his assets. Again, that the benefit of the law had been extended to a portion of our citizens, and a repeal would be a denial of justice to others whose claims were no less strong, and who might have been restrained by motives that should command our respect.

That by the decision of the question in one of the courts of a State, her citizens had been deprived of the privileges of the law, while at the bankrupt law is the exercise of a beneficent power, and one which the experience of all commercial countries has found necessary; the power to enact which is vested by the Constitution in Congress, and cannot be exercised by the States.

That it will prevent stay-laws, ruining both creditor and debtor, impeding the collection of debts through the medium of State tribunals.

That such a law will extend the protection of Government to a class of citizens who though poor and unfortunate, should not be beyond the pale of protection.

Mr. Benton submitted a resolution calling on the President for documents concerning the late Treaty in its relations to France.

The Oregon bill then coming up, was debated by Messrs. Choate Benton and others. A motion to refer it to the Committee on foreign Relations was lost, 23 to 24; on another to strike out the clause relating to the land bounty was likewise lost by the same vote, and a third ordering the bill to a third reading was carried 24 to 23.—the division in each case being as follows: that is the votes given below in favor of the bill were against re-committing it and against

striking out the bounty to settlers. Vote on the passage.

Yea—Messrs. Allen, Benton, Buchanan, Clayton, Fulton, Henderson, King, Linn, McRoberts, Mangum, Merrick, Phelps, Sevier Smith, of Connecticut, Smith, of Indiana, Surgeon, Tapaw, Walker, White, Williams, Woodbury, Wright, and Young—24.

Nays—Messrs. Archer, Bagby, Barrow, Bates, Bayard, Berrien, Calhoun, Choate, Conrad, Crafts, Dayton, Evans, Graham, Huntington, McDufer, Miller, Porter, Rivers, Simmons, Sprague, Tallmadge, and Woodbridge—22.

The bill finally passed by a similar vote: Ayes 24.

Congress, Monday Feb. 6.—In the Senate, Mr. Archer moved the re-consideration of the vote by which the Oregon bill was passed, and Mr. Linn objected to the motion as irregular.

After some conversation the motion was laid over till to-morrow.

Mr. Tallmadge called up his exchange bill, and went into an elaborate argument to show the necessity for the immediate action of Congress on the currency question.

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The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to prevent the carrying of mailable matter by private express. It was debated at length by Messrs. Porter, Conrad, Merrick, Choate, Miller, Walker and Simmons; and, without coming to any definite conclusion thereon, the Senate adj.

In the House Mr. Cowen, reported a bill for the relief of Amos Kendall (which provides, in case the verdict against him is confirmed by the Supreme Court, for the United States becoming his surety, and for his release from prison, within whose limits he is now confined in consequence of damages adjudged against him for an official act as Post Master General. The bill was committed to the committees of the whole on the State of the Union.

PEOPLE'S PRESS.

Middlebury, Feb. 15, 1843.

DONT FORGET.

The proprietor contemplates calling next week of Wednesday and Thursday, on his subscribers on the Route of Mr. Sprague, and hopes to receive what is due for the last year. Our means of continuing the paper without pay are about exhausted.—We must have help, and we doubt not we shall obtain it from those who can appreciate the importance of sustaining an efficient whig paper in this country.

H. BELL.

February, 14th 1843.

THE SUBTREASURY.

Viewing the Subtreasury simply as a plan for the safekeeping of the public monies, nothing could have been devised so stupid and hazardous. Stripped of all its paraphernalia, it was nothing more or less than permitting those who collected the revenue to keep it till called for, or ordering them to deposit it in the hands of a multitude of receivers all over the Union—apparently to keep it in a strong box to which they held the key.

What individual who had ten thousand dollars, would not deem it more safe in the hands of Middlebury or Vergennes than in the hands of any individual in the county with a very few exceptions? The hazard of a loss when entrusted to well regulated banks, under the checks which nine or ten directors exercise over the property and each other, is vastly less than in the hands of a single individual uncontrolled by any will or conscience but his own, and reaping the sole fruit of a betrayal of his trust.—So judged the founders of the United States Bank by which the public never lost a dollar. So judged Gen. Jackson when he seized upon the deposits in the national institution and placed them in pet banks where they might have been comparatively safe had no party schemes been indulged in their selection. But when Martin Van Buren deemed it necessary, for perpetuating his tottering reign, to enlarge the power of the sword, he devised the subtreasury scheme, which so far as the safety of revenue is concerned is as wide from common prudence as its projector was from common honesty when he conceived it. Millions of money are too great a temptation for men of the highest reputed integrity, and far more so for officers whose merits are too apt to be determined by the value of their partisan services.

As far as we have had any experience of this short lived subtreasury scheme it has wofully verified, what prophecy clearly foretold as to the mischievous speculation which would flow from it. It has proved a project wondrously fitted to demoralize one portion of the people, and swindle another out of their hard earnings. The defalcations of Jesse Hoyt, an account of which may be seen in another column, who was a favorite subtreasurer under Mr. Van Buren, fairly illustrates the systematic robbery and plunder to which the nation would have been subjected had the subtreasury been fully developed. Hoyt collected the money, & as he had a right to do either to keep it in his own pocket, or deposit it in a bank subject to his own order and not to that of the government, as in former times. He now proves a defaulter to the amount of \$220,000, and it is not probable that the government will ever be able to collect a dollar of it from him or his sureties. This sum added to the defalcations of Price and Swartwout, amounting

to a million and a half swindled from the people in a single city. Had not the subtreasury scheme, which is virtually trusting the national treasures in the hands of a multitude of individuals, been arrested by the overthrow of Martin Van Buren and Co., similar scenes of public peculation would have been enacted throughout the Union, and if possible upon a larger scale than previously practiced by the legions of pimps and panders who for years have been permitted to live and fatten upon the public spoils. And yet this odious subtreasury which of all the measures of the rejected administration received a double brand of condemnation from the people in 1840, is to be revived by the very first exercise of locofoco legislation in the next congress.—It was never claimed as the merit of the subtreasury that it would regulate and restore the currency for the people, in whose financial affairs Van Buren studiously denied the power of interference. And utterly failing as a safe depository of the monies, it is truly astonishing that a design should be entertained by it former supporters again to saddle it upon this hitherto abused and quack ridden nation.

THE RANDOLPH CONVENTION.

After the publication last week of the proceedings of the Randolph Convention as given by a correspondent of some one of the papers, our eye met a partial denial of its correctness, in relation to the open revivals of the notorious emissary of locofocoism St. Clair, of an understanding between him and the leading locos in relation to the nomination of Judge Williams.

The correctness in the main of the statement first made is however again affirmed by the following communication.

THE RANDOLPH CONVENTION.

EAST RANDOLPH, JAN. 28th, 1843.

MESSRS. WALTONS.—In your paper of yesterday I noticed an extract from the Lamoille Standard, giving a version of the Rev. Mr. St. Clair's remarks relative to the proposed nomination of Mr. Williams for Governor by the Locofocos. Different from the account given by your Randolph correspondent.

Now I was present at the Convention, and gave particular attention to the movements of the Rev. gentleman inasmuch as he seemed to be sole proprietor of the convention, and leader par excellence of the party in Vermont and New Hampshire, and as I understand the matter, neither the version of your correspondent, or of the Lamoille editor is very far from correct.

The facts are these. In the forenoon of the first day the Rev. emissary informed the convention of the fact that the leaders of the democratic party had proposed to him that if this convention would adjourn without making a nomination for Governor, they would bring out Mr. Williams as their candidate, and the 'Liberty' party might then nominate him as their old candidate, &c. The gentleman made some further remarks, but it did not clearly appear whether he was for or against complying with the proposition. He seemed to state it as an important fact for the consideration of the convention; and I do not believe he intended to commit himself at that time. But many of his political friends understood his non committal remarks as your correspondent did, and it occasioned considerable agitation among the 'Liberty' men. The Rev. leader was probably remonstrated with during the recess, and advised to correct the impression many had received in the morning. At any rate he came in early in the afternoon, and after promising 'that many misunderstood him in the morning,' went on by way of explaining what he had then said, to make the remarks attributed to him by the Standard.

The Editor of the Standard was probably not present in the morning, and your correspondent not in the afternoon, as it was soon after dinner.

I hope the Editor of the Standard will correct his account of the matter, so as to include the whole of the transaction; for I think it important that the facts should be understood, as far as least, as the position and language of the Rev. politician are capable of being defined and reported.

Truly yours,
"W."

From the Lamoille Standard.

VT. WATCHMAN—MR. ST. CLAIR.

The Watchman of week before last in giving the proceedings of the recent Third party Convention at Randolph, under the head of 'more bargaining attempted,' says,

'The Reverend emissary from New Hampshire informed the convention that leading members of the Democratic party wished him to use his influence to put by the nomination until after the locofoco convention, and that if the abolitionists would do it they (the locos) would nominate Williams and then the abolitionists could fall in!'

This statement is so wide of the truth and so cruelly unjust, that we feel bound in common fairness, to correct it, and give the facts as we know them to have been, which we should have done last week but for inadvertance. On the afternoon of the first day of the meeting, while the subject of raising a committee to nominate a state ticket was under consideration, Mr. St. Clair arose and said, he had heard it intimated by men in the Democratic party, that Judge Williams would undoubtedly be their choice for Governor, if they could have the privilege of first bringing him into the field. For this reason, he hoped the convention would proceed to make a nomination for Governor immediately, so that the news might reach Montpelier previous to the nomination of the Democratic convention, which was to be held the day but one following, and thus prevent their bringing out the same candidate. The avowed and apparent object of Mr. St. Clair was to avoid what the Watchman charges him with endeavoring to effect, viz: an amalgamation with the Democratic party in the choice of a gubernatorial candidate.

The Watchman will undoubtedly make the above correction in justice to the accusations as well as to themselves.

Judging from the tone of the Tyler papers there is evidently bad feeling between the President's friends, and those of Mr. Calhoun. It is believed that Mr. Tyler prefers Mr. C. to Mr. Van Buren. It is now thought that in case Mr. Tyler should fail of being himself a candidate for the Presidency he will favour the election of Mr. McLean, of Ohio.

SINGULAR PRESERVATION.—A few days since Mr. Emilius Twichell was at work on the new bridge which crosses the creek at Quaker Village in Weybridge, in shingling the roof. Suddenly the scaffolding gave way, and he was precipitated at least forty feet upon the rocks below, the scaffolding and its contents following him to the descent. He was found standing upon the rocks where the water flowed over to the depth of about one foot, and with assistance was enabled to walk home, when he was confined a week by the terrible concussion which his frame experienced, but otherwise received no essential injury.

A VAN BUREN DEFAULTER.

The Washington letter of the New York Express, which will be found in another column, gives the particulars of the defalcation of the late Collector of New York, Jesse Hoyt. The sum which this Van Buren office-holder pocketed during his brief official career, and 'under the full operation of the Sub-Treasury law,' amounts to TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS! For the loss of this quarter of a million of the public money the people may thank Martin Van Buren. When the defalcation of Colonel Swartwout was first published the locofoco papers sought to screen Mr. Van Buren from any responsibility therefor by insisting that he had never been favorable to Swartwout's appointment. But they have no such plea in the present instance. Jesse Hoyt was appointed by President Van Buren. For years previous to this appointment Hoyt's personal as well as political relations with Van Buren were of the most intimate nature. His habits, capacity, and character were perfectly well known to Mr. V. B. And at the very time that the President bestowed upon him this lucrative office he knew perfectly well that Hoyt was overwhelmed in debt and bankrupt in credit. When the appointment was announced every body anticipated that Hoyt would 'follow in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor,' Swartwout, and the result has fully justified the general expectation.—*Albany Journal.*

RAIL ROAD MEETING.

At a meeting holden in the city of Vergennes, Tuesday, February 7, 1843, to consider upon and adopt proper measures in view of the proposed construction of a Rail Road through the State of Vermont, Capt. John Sherman was appointed Chairman, and Henry C. Lawrence, Secretary.

Upon motion of Samuel Barker, it was resolved to appoint a Committee of seven persons to correspond with gentlemen in other towns, and adopt such other measures as will in their view tend to promote the object of the meeting. The following gentlemen were appointed upon said Committee: Capt. John Sherman, Gen. S. P. Strong, Wm. H. White, Esq., Gen. V. Lawrence, Samuel Barker, William Bart, Esq., and Hiram Adams, Esq.

The meeting was addressed by several gentlemen upon the importance of the object for which they were convened, and the proper course to be pursued under the circumstances. George Rich, Esq., a civil engineer, gave the meeting much interesting and useful information upon the subject of the construction of Rail Roads, their cost, expenses, income, &c.

The Committee were instructed to call a public meeting when they shall be prepared to report upon the matters committed to their charge. The meeting then adjourned.

JAH L. SHERMAN, Chm.
H. C. LAWRENCE, Sec.

FROM MATAMORAS—CONFIRMATION OF THE CAPTURE OF THE TEXIAN ARMY.

By the arrival of the schooner Doric, we have a direct confirmation of the intelligence received by the late steamer from Texas, that the division of the Texian army under Colonel Fisher and Greer had been captured at Mier.

On the 10th December General Ampudia received a despatch from General Wool, informing him that the Texians, 800 or 1,000 strong, had taken Llordo, and that the Greer, Well, had been compelled to fall back; that the Texians were taking the northern route toward Matamoros. On the receipt of this intelligence Gen. Ampudia left Matamoros with two battalions ofappers and miners, in quest of the enemy, and reached Mier, 50 leagues distant, on the 22nd Dec. A body of Texians, under the command of Colonel Fisher and Greer, had, in the meantime, crossed the river in the night and attacked the town in the night. The Mexican troops stationed in that neighborhood immediately went to the assistance of the city when an engagement took place which lasted seventeen hours.

Every house and street was desperately defended. After the battle had been maintained on both sides with determination and obstinacy for such a great length of time, the Texians, finding themselves surrounded on all sides, resolved to surrender, and finally capitulated on honorable terms. It is feared, however, that the articles of surrender will not be faithfully complied with on the part of Mexico.

The Mexicans report their loss during the engagement at 420 killed and 130 wounded. The loss on the part of the Texians was 70 killed and 11 wounded. This great disparity evinces the superior skill of the Texians in the use of fire-arms, and the surrender of the invading army after so slight a loss would lead us to suppose that they only surrendered after having exhausted their ammunition. The success of the Mexicans after suffering so severely, speaks favorably of their courage and perseverance.