St. John Chronicle.

AND COLONIAL CONSERVATIVE.

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THE ST. JOHN CHRONICLE

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WILLIAM DURANT,
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Mutual Insurance Company.

Joseph Fairweather, Esquire, *President.*
J. W. Lawrence, Zebedee Ring, S. L. Tilley, S. K. Foster, } *Directors.*
J. M. Robinson, Esquire, *Solicitor.*
Isaac Woodward, Esquire, *Secretary.*
Applications for Insurance against Fire to be made at the Office of the Secretary North Market Wharf.

Provincial Insurance Company.

TORONTO, CANADA WEST.
For Marine and Fire Risks.
ST. JOHN N. B. AGENCY:
LOCAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Charles McLauchlan, George Thomas, Thomas Beer, R. N. } Esquires.
I. WOODWARD, *Agent.*
Office—Wiggins' Brick Building, Princess-street, over the Telegraph Office. Aug. 19.

CHARLES W. WELDON,

Attorney at Law & Notary Public.
OFFICE—Over Messrs. Ranney, Sturdee & Co Prince William-street, St. John, N. B.
May 28, 1852.

SOAP & CANDLE MANUFACTORY.

GEORGE WOODS,
West side Water Street, between the Ferry Landing and Fish Market,
ST. JOHN, N. B.
August 29.

WM. SLEETH,

Manufacturer of Monuments, Tablets and Architectural Ornaments,
IN MARBLE, FREESTONE AND GRANITE.
May 1. Duke Street, St. John, N. B.

DOOLEY'S

MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE HOTEL, Post Office Building, State Street, Boston.
Terms—ONE DOLLAR per day.

THOMAS GOW,

Plumber and Gass Fitter,
NEXT ADJOINING MERRITT'S BRICK BUILDING,
WATER STREET.

HOUSE and SHIP WATER-CLOSETS; Hot Cold, and Shower BATHS; Forcing, Lifting, Condition, and Engine PUMPS; SHIPS' SCUPPERS, &c. &c.—on the most approved principles LEAD PIPE of all sizes, and SHEET LEAD constantly on hand.
LEAD BENDS made to order.
July 2, 1852. THOMAS GOW.

[illegible] have obtained the Victory.

KENNAY & SCRIBNER.
PIANOFORTE MANUFACTURERS
South side King Square, St. John, N. B.

HAVING taken the First and Second Prizes, and the Diploma for their instruments, at the Provincial Exhibition, beg leave to inform the public that they can supply Pianofortes at the following prices:

	£	s.	d.
Square Front Mahogany Piccolo,	30	0	0
Rosewood O. G. Piccolo,	35	0	0
Do. Elegant do.	40	0	0
Cottage,	42	0	0
Semi-Cabinet,	45	10	0
Full Cabinet,	50	0	0
Elegant, with French front, tuss legs, and circular bottom,	65	0	0

The whole of the above Instruments are 6 4-3 Octave to A above.
N. B.—All Instruments manufactured by K. & S. will be warranted for three years.
Every description of English and American PianoFortes tuned and repaired. March 18th.

SEEDS! SEEDS! SEEDS! 1854.

Per steamer "Arabia" the Subscriber has received from London a supply of the following SEEDS warranted fresh and true to their kinds:
BEET—Long Blood and early Turnip;
CARROT—Long Orange, Early Horn, White and Yellow Belgian, Long Surrey Altringham;
CABBAGE—Early York, Drumhead, Large Battersea, Green Globe Savoy, Morning Star, King of Cabbages;
CELERY—White Solid;
CUCUMBER—Early Frame, Long Prickley;
CRESS—Double Curled;
LETTUCE—Drumhead, Victoria Cabbage, White & Cabbage, Cos;
NASTURTIUM—Red, Crimson and Yellow;
RADISH—Long Salmon, Short Top, Turnip;
TURNIP—Swedish, Laing's Swede, White Flat Yellow Aberdeen, Early Stubble, White Globe;
THYME, Marjoram, Sage, Summer Savory; together with an assortment of FLOWER SEEDS.
May 19, 1854. W. O. SMITH.

TO ARRIVE

Per Lisbon and Barbara from London—
600 KEGS Brandram's No. 1, White LEAD; 100 kegs Red, Yellow Green, Black and Blue Paint; 15 casks Crome Yellow, Prussian Blue, Brunswick Green, Vandyke Brown, Indian Red, Quaker Green, Raw and Burnt Umber, Raw and Burnt Tarrode, Sienna; 4 tons Raw and Boiled Linseed OIL; 5 cases INDIGO; 1 bbl. NUTMEGS; 20 cwt. Carbonate of Soda, in 1 cwt Kegs; 1 Ton Washing SODA; 1 1-2 ton ALUM; 10 cwt. Cream of Tartar; 20 cwt. Blue Vitriol; [illegible] gross assorted Pickles; 600 lb CLOVES; 6 cwt. Alexandrian SENNA; 2 cases Liquorice; 10 cwt. GLUE; 3 cases Salad Oil; 10 kegs Coleman's Mustard; 1 case Spanish Annatto; 1 case Gold Leaf; 3 casks Hemp and Canary SEED.
May 5. S. L. TILLEY.

LEECHES.—1 Case superior LEECHES.—
May 12. S. L. TILLEY.

May, 1854. NORTH AMERICAN CLOTHING STORE.

SEARS' BRICK BUILDING, NORTH SIDE OF KING STREET.
R. HUNTER.

HAVING Removed his place of Business from the South side of King-street, to his present Stand, and having received per late arrivals from Great Britain and the United States his Spring and Summer Goods, now offers for sale to *Wholesale and Retail Purchasers*, the largest, cheapest, and most varied assortment of Goods ever previously exposed for sale by any Clothing Establishment in this market.

The stock in part consist of—
BROADCLOTHS, Cassimeres, Doeskins, Russel Cords, Alapacas, Moleskins, Homespuns, Tweeds, Cashmeres, &c. &c.
VESTINGS—A rich and splendid assortment, in various materials.
The clothing Department comprises
COATS, VESTS, PANTS, in every description of material in use, and of all qualities and prices, Cut in the most fashionable styles, and made up on the promises by the best Workmen the city can supply.
OVERALLS, Oil Clothing.
To the FURNISHING Department particular attention is invited, as it comprises a very general assortment of Shirts, Collars, Shirt Fronts, Neck Ties, Hosiery, Gloves, Braces, Gents' and Ladies' Carpet Bags, Trunks, Umbrellas, Hats, Caps, &c.
Gents who would prefer selecting the Cloth and leaving their orders, can have their garments made in the most fashionable style, by the best of workmen, and the shortest notice.
No second price—all Goods marked in plain figures.
Please observe that it is the *Brick Building* you go into.
May 12, 1854. R. HUNTER.

NEW GOODS.

Just received per Ship "Aquatic," and now in course of opening—
LADIES superior Black Cloth BOOTS;
Ladies Spring Instep Merino Walking Boots;
Ladies White and Black Satin Slippers;
Ladies Bronze Kid Slippers;
Ladies Black and Bronze "Schottishe" SHOES;
Ladies Enamelled Exhibition Slippers;
Misses Bronze and Black Kid Slippers;
Misses Enamelled Exhibition Slippers;
Misses white and black Satin Slippers;
Misses Cashmere and Prunnella Boots;
Ladies Bronze Kid Polka Boots;
Children's Bronze Kid Shoes;
Children's Boots and Shoes, in great variety;
Gentlemen's Patent Dancing Boots;
Youths' Patent Dancing Pumps;
Boys' Patent Dancing Pumps;
Boys and Youth's Patent Elastic Side Boots.

DOMESTIC WORKS.

The Subscriber would call especial attention to his Gentlemen's Dress BOOTS, City make; also to his Men's Boys' and Youths' BOOTTEES, of every sort required for Town or Country wear Women's and Girl's House SLIPPERS; Children's Boots and Shoes, of various styles.
For sale wholesale and retail.
February, 1854. S. K. FOSTER.

JOHN BARRY,

Silver Smith, Jeweller & Engraver
North side of King Street, St. John, N. B., a few doors below the *Waverley House.*

MANUFACTURER of all kinds Silver Plate viz: Tea, Table, and Dessert Spoons; Forks, Ladles, Fish and Butter Knives, &c. &c.; also, Silver Cups of different patterns, which he will furnish Cheaper than any other House in the City. The above work is warranted to be made of Sterling Silver, and for neatness of style and superiority of finish challenges competition.
JEWELLERY made to order and repaired. —All Kinds of ENGRAVING neatly executed.
Traders, Pedlers, and others furnished with plain Gold Finger RINGS *cheaper* than can be imported. In all cases punctuality may be relied on. Cash and the highest price given for Old Silver.

Carding Machine for Sale.

THE Subscriber offers for sale his Carding Machine, which is in the best of order, and is now in operation at Wiggins' Carding Establishment at the Grand Lake.
Also, 15 acres excellent Tillage LAND, with a good Frame Dwelling HOUSE, and other Buildings belonging to the establishment. The water privilege is second to none in the County.
STEPHEN S. WIGGINS.
Grand Lake, (Q. C.) June, 1854.

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber having taken out a License as an AUCTIONEER for KING'S COUNTY, takes this method to inform the Public that anything intrusted to his care will receive the best attention, with moderate Terms. J. D. MABEE.
Hampton Village, K. C., Sept. 29, 1854.

BURNING FLUID.—5 brls. superior ex "Themis," from Boston.
March 24. W. O. SMITH.

Ship for Sale.

THE HULL and Spars of a new Ship now on the Stocks at Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, of the following dimensions, viz.:
Length of Keel, 121 feet;
Breadth of Beam, 26 "
Depth of Hold, 13 "
Can be launched early in September—will be sold on accomodating terms. Apply to G. M. BURNS.

German Toys.

On Consignment.
THE Subscriber has just received 6 Cases of GERMAN TOYS, which he will Sell by the CASE at a very small advance.
Ladies' Frizzettes, Braids, Ringletts, &c. &c.
August 4. [Courier] WM. MAJOR.

Children's Socks and Stockings.

45 DOZEN Pairs Children's White Cotton SOCKS and STOCKINGS, very superior quality, for sale cheap by A. A. COUGHLAN.

ON HAND—A Full Supply of

BALM 1000 Flowers; Morrison's PILLS;
Holloway's PILLS and OINTMENT;
Locock's PULMONIC WAFERS;
Redding's RUSSIA SALVE;
Cockle's Anti-Billious PILLS;
Lyon's KATHAIRON;
Barry's TRYCOPHEROUS;
Buchan's Hungarian BALSAM;
Snohn's Elixir of Health;
And all the new proprietory MEDICINES, with a superb assortment of fine French, English and German CHEMICALS, Glass Ware, Drugs, Essential OILS, &c. &c. Warranted pure and genuine.
July 21. FELLOWS & CO.

TEN Barrels Northern Clover SEED—For Sale by G. M. BURNS.
April 11. South-Market-wharf.

BURNING FLUID—Per schr. Boston, from Boston, a few barrels superior Burning FLUID.
November 11. S. L. TILLEY.

MORRISON'S PILLS.—Just received and for sale by
oct. 28. FELLOWS & CO.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON Fire and Life Insurance Company.

Instituted in 1836.
Incorporated by Special Acts of Parliament.
Capital, Two Millions Sterling.
Unlimited liability of the Stockholders of the Company.
Subscribed Capital, £1,500,000.

	£	s.	d.
Instalments called in,	197,197	10	0
Accumulated funds,	346,972	4	9
	544,169	14	9

THE 18th annual General Meeting of this company was held at Liverpool on the 16th Feb'ry last, when the following Report of the business of the Company during the past year was submitted:—

"The increase in the Fire Insurance Business must be satisfactory to the Proprietors, as shewing the rapid and safe progress which the Company is making. The receipts for the first year have increased considerably over those of 1852, while the losses have materially diminished.

	1852.	1853.
Receipts,	£98,654	£113,612
Losses,	59,091	42,846
Profits,	£39,563	£70,766

These results show, notwithstanding the very numerous and destructive fires that have occurred both in this country and especially in America, that great caution has been exercised in taking risks, on the part of those on whose judgement the Directors must necessarily in a great measure rely. The reserved fund now amounts to £143,712.

The Officers for the current year at Liverpool are:
TRUSTEES:
Sir Thomas Bernard Birch, Bart., M. P.
Adam Hodson, Esq., S. H. Thompson, Esq.
DIRECTORS IN LIVERPOOL:
T. Brocklebank, Esquire, *Chairman.*
Francis Haywood, Esq., Joseph C. Ewart, Esq. } *Deputy Chairmen.*

Thomas Booth, Esq.	Harold Littledale, Esq.
Francis C. Braun, Esq.	William Lowe, "
William Earle, Esq.	Alex. McGregor, "
George Grant, Esq.	John Marriott, "
Francis A. Hamilton, Esq.	Thomas Sellar, "
Thomas Haigh, Esq.	Charles Saunders, "
Robert Higgin, Esq.	John Swainson, "
Jas. Aspinal Tobin, Esq.	George Holt, "
Geo. H. Lawrence, Esq.	Hugh Hornby, "

Swinton Boult, Esq., *Secretary.*

The Agents at St. John, N. B., begs the attention of parties desirous of effecting Insurance against Fire on their property, to the position of the Company, as shewn from the foregoing extract from the annual report, and to the important fact that every Shareholder of the Company is liable to the extent of his means for claims on the Company.
EDWARD ALLISON, ADAM JACK, } Agents, St. John, N. B.
August 18, 1854.

S. K. Foster's HOME MANUFACTURES,

For Spring and Summer Trade.
GENTLEMEN'S best Walking BOOTS English Leather;
Boys' Calf and Kip BOOTS;
Youths' Calf, Kip, and Grain BOOTS;
Gentlemen's Patent Wellington Dress BOOTS;
Gentlemen's Elastic Side Walking Boots;
Gentleman's Patent Calf Elastic Side Dress BOOTS;
Boys' and Youths' Patent Elastic Side Boots;
Boys and Youths' Calf, Kip, Patent and Grain BOOTTEES;
Gentlemen's Calf, Patent, Kip and Grain *Bottees*;
Misses' and Children's Patent and Fancy Boots and Shoes;
Women's and Girls' Strong BUSKINS;
Women's Cheap House SLIPPERS;
Wholesale and Retail.
April 7. S. K. FOSTER.

Dedicated by Special Authority to the Queen of England.

In Parts at 1s. 3d., and Divisions, handsomely bound in Morocco cloth, gilt, 9 4-2

The British Colonies,

THEIR HISTORY, EXTENT, CONDITION, AND RESOURCES;
Illustrated with Maps of each possession, and Portraits of the most celebrated Promoters and Defenders of the Colonial Empire of Great Britain.

Adapted for the use of Statesmen, Merchants, Manufacturers, and intending Emigrants, containing the best authenticated statements relating to the geography, geology, climate, animal and vegetable kingdoms, character, customs and social state, religion, education and crime; agriculture, manufactures, mines, and fisheries; the most recent official details concerning the population, government, taxation, and expenditure, imports and exports customs' duties shipping, defences, staple products, live stock, cultivated and waste lands, banks, coins, paper money, weights and measures, wages, &c., with a copious Colonial Gazetteer, and every description of useful and interesting information.

BY R. MONTGOMERY MARTIN, ESQ., Editor of "The Illustrated Atlas, and Modern History of the World."

It has been deemed that full and correct information concerning the Extent, Condition, and Resources of the British Colonies would be acceptable to all classes of the community, and strengthen the natural ties arising from Kindred Common Origin, and Language.

Published by John Tallis 160 London. Office in St. John over Kemp & Adams's Market Square.
ROGER HUNTER, AGENT.
Saint John, April 21, 1854.

Geneva, Ale, Barley, &c.

Landing from the ships "Barbara" and "Lisbon" from London—
20 HHDS. fine Pale GENEVA;
50 Brls. Stout PORTER, "I. W. Bridges & Son;"
60 brls. East India Pale ALE, "Herberts;"
2 cases best Bengal Indigo; 4 cases No. 1 Starch;
30 kegs F. and S. F. MUSTARD;
20 do. best Ground Ginger;
4 cases Servants' Friend; 1 cask Nutmegs;
1 case Liquorice JUICE;
5 casks Pickles, 2 do. Sauces, } "Crosse & Blacks."
Ex "Selecia" from Glasgow—
2 Puns. Campbelton WHISKY;
10 hhds., 10 qr. casks } Fine Pale GENEVA;
20 matts Wine Bottles; 10 bales bottle Corks;
25 barrels fine Pot BARLEY;
5 bales Wrapping PAPER;
75 boxes Tobacco Pipes, 25 do. Woodstock, do } very superior;
10 casks Washing Soda; 2 do. Blue Vitriol;
1 cask Copperas; 2 brls. Cream Tartar.
For sale by ROBERT ARMSTRONG,
July 7. No. 7, Dock-street.

Intelligence Office.

MR. CROWLEY'S SCHOOL and INTELLIGENCE Office having been closed a few weeks on account of the Cholera, will be re-opened on the 7th inst., for business.
Persons interested may apply immediately at his old stand, Princess-st. Sept. 7.

Poetry.

BE NOT THINE A VOICELESS HEART.

Burst the seals, incumbered spirit!
Speak and write the gushing thought!
For I know thou dost inherit
Gifts that glorious deeds have wrought.
Act! where'er, whate'er thou art,
Sleep not with a voiceless heart!

Pray for strength the truth to utter;
Keep the gems, but let them shine;
Let the fount of feeling water
Thee and all thou callest thine:
And until thy thoughts depart,
Ne'er be thine a voiceless heart!

Furls the falcon oft her pinion?
Dims the eagle's restless eye?
Be not thou sloth's grov'lling minion;
Up, and write thy name on high!
Sell no thoughts in mammon's mart,
Yet keep not a voiceless heart!

Hark! the heart neglected waileth!
"Droops the wing too long at rest;"
Mind, inactive, palsied faileth,
Idly, weary, and unblest!
Let it labor, fill its part,
Knowing ne'er a voiceless heart!

Gush not fancies freer, brighter,
When their wont is but to flow?
Dance the spirit's footsteps lighter
When is hushed the plaint of woe?
Thou an aimless dreamer art,
If thine be a voiceless heart.

Be the chain of silence broken;
Boldly speak the truthful word!
Peace shall bless thee; by this token
Thou shalt know thine utt'rance heard
Wisdom, Pleasure, Power, nor Art
Dwells within a voiceless heart.

LAURA LISLE.

Miscellany.

SEBASTOPOL.

The first view of Sebastopol, when seen from the sea, is most imposing. After the eye of the traveller has glanced over the capacious harbour, studded with vessels of war of all sizes, he sees a noble town, with its numerous churches, barracks, and other public buildings, rising up in the form of an amphitheatre, here crowning the heights, and there shelving down to the sea; where stately houses and vast magazines are seen mingling with the tall-masted ships lying at anchor in the various creeks and bays that branch off in every direction, all attesting the importance of the principal naval station in the Russian empire.

Sebastopol, like Odessa, was a miserable Tartar village little more than sixty years ago. About that time, a Frenchman, who happened to be travelling in the Crimea, was struck with the natural advantages of a position which he at once saw, if properly fortified, might be made one of the first naval stations in the world. On his return to St. Petersburg, his observations into that effect happening to reach the ears of the Empress Catherine, engineers were despatched to the Crimea, whose report confirming that of the stranger, works were instantly commenced; but whether through intention or neglect, the name of the Frenchman, the author of so valuable a suggestion, never transpired; and from that time this famous stronghold of the Russians in the Black Sea has continued to increase in strength and importance.

The principal harbour, called the Roads, stretching inland to a length of more than four miles, is so capacious, and the anchorage so good, that the fleets of nations might ride in it, safe from every wind; and such is the great depth of water, that a man-of-war of the largest size can lie within a cable's length of the shore. Besides this, there are five other small bays, branching off in various directions, equally commodious; and singular enough, the great harbour, together with the small bays, are all lined by a continuation of capes, strong and easily defended, as if formed by the hand of nature expressly for a naval station.

The whole of this may be seen from the upper part of the town, and here the traveller will be able to estimate the difficulties and dangers that any hostile fleet must encounter which should attempt to break through a barrier so admirably defended by nature and art. Here, as his eye ranges from the Black Sea, he will behold a roadstead, or rather, a river like arm of the sea, unimpeded either by shoal or rock, penetrating inland to a length of at least six marine miles, protected by a series of forts capable of maintaining a cross fire on any enemy who should have the hardihood to attempt to fight its way into the interior. Communicating with this he will likewise distinctly see its various bays and creeks, all perfectly sheltered from every wind, and like the great roadstead itself, sufficiently deep to receive the largest man-of-war.

That called South Bay, lying at the foot of the hill on which he stands, is the most important; its length is upwards of half a mile, and it is completely sheltered by a range of limestone cliffs. Here vessels are rigged and unrigged, and may lie as securely as if they were enclosed in a glass case. Beyond this bay, and connected with it, is a snug creek, in which he may see immense works carried on for the purpose of forming a basin for the repairs of vessels of the line. He can also see Ships Bay, Careening Bay, and Artillery Bay, all possessing every advantage which nature and art could bestow on a maritime position; the latter, which bounds to the town to the west, is only used for commercial purposes.

Each of the four large forts which protect the entrance consists of three tiers of batteries, each fort mounting 300 pieces of artillery. Besides these, there were other plans of the most colossal description of defence, ready to be carried into execution, at every angle where a gun could be placed that might play advantageously on an enemy's fleet.

The fortifications of Sebastopol have been much criticised; it is said that a hostile squadron would soon silence the forts, with three tiers of guns, because, being built in a position too high above the sea, their guns, if pointed horizontally, could at best only injure the rigging of a ship. The interior arrangements of the forts are also objected to, on account of the contracted dimension of the rooms in which the guns are worked, and the insufficient ventilation, which, after a few discharges, would render it extremely irksome for an artilleryman to do his duty. Again, the imprudence of the Government is blamed for employing a species of soft limestone in the masonry of a three-storey battery mounting 300 guns, which, it is contended, would be shaken to pieces after a few discharges of artillery. Above all, much stress is laid on the fact that Sebastopol labours under the great disadvantage of being utterly defenceless on the land side, and therefore might be taken by any enemy who should land a few thousand men on the coast of the Chersonesus, and at the same time make an attack by sea.

We must not, however, give implicit credence to the statement and opinions of those travellers who assert that Sebastopol may be so easily captured. Many of the internal arrangements of the forts might, no doubt, be improved; and the stone used in the fortifications, which has been objected to by some person for its softness, has been prized for that very quality by other engineers, as less likely to be shattered by a bombardment. But the efficiency or the imperfections of the fortifications, fortunately for Sebastopol, have yet to be proved; and, with respect to the supposed weakness on the land side, when the defences are completed which Captain Toothatin and the English engineer, Mr. Upton, informed me were in contemplation, Sebastopol will have nothing to fear from that quarter.

Is it likely that so energetic a man as the Emperor of Russia, with the whole science and talent of Europe at his command, would have neglected to take the necessary precaution for defending so important a maritime position as this? But Sebastopol labours under an evil which, up to the present time, has defied all the ingenuity of man to remedy. These waters swarm with a species of worm that attacks the bottoms of vessels, and often renders them unserviceable in a few years. With the hope of removing this evil, the government went to the enormous expense of filling the basins with fresh water from the Tcerni-Retchka; but lo! when the canal was completed, it was found that the muddy waters of the river, which so much pains had been taken to procure, increased the vermin.—*Turkey, Russia, the Black Sea, and Circassia, by Captain Spencer. Published by George Routledge.*

SLAVE AUCTION IN VIRGINIA.

As soon as all were seated, there was a general examination of their respective merits, by feeling their arms, looking into their mouths, and investigating the quality of their hands and fingers—this last being evidently an important particular. Yet there was no abrupt rudeness in making these examinations—no coarse or domineering language was employed. The three negro men were dressed in the usual manner—in gray clothing. The woman, with three children, excited my peculiar attention. She was neatly attired, with a coloured handkerchief bound round her head, and wore a white apron over her gown. Her children were all girls, one of them a baby at the breast, three months old, and the others two and three years of age respectively, rigged out with clean white pinafores. There was not a tear or an emotion visible in the whole party. Everything seemed to be considered as a matter of course; and the change of owners was possibly looked forward to with as much indifference as ordinary hired servants anticipate a removal from one employer to another.

While intending purchasers were proceeding with personal examinations of the several lots, I took the liberty of putting a few questions to the mother of the children. The following was our conversation:—

"Are you a married woman?"
"Yes, sir."
"How many children have you had?"
"Seven."
"Where is your husband?"
"In Madison county."
"When did you part from him?"
"On Wednesday—two days ago."
"Were you sorry to part from him?"
"Yes, sir," she replied with a deep sigh; "my heart was almost broke."
"Why is your master selling you?"
"I don't know—he wants money to buy some land—suppose he sells me for that."

There might not be a word of truth in these answers, for I had no means of testing their correctness; but the woman seemed to speak unreservedly, and I am inclined to think that she said nothing but what, if necessary, could be substantiated. I spoke, also, to the young woman that was seated near her. She, like the others, was perfectly black, and appeared stout and healthy, of which some of the persons present assured themselves by feeling her arms and ankles, looking into her mouth, and causing her to stand up. She told me she had several brothers and sisters, but did not know where they were. She said she was a house servant, and would be glad to be bought by a good master—looking at me, as if I should not be unacceptable.

I have said there was an entire absence of emotion in the party of men, women, and children, thus seated preparatory to being sold. This does not correspond with the ordinary accounts of slave sales, which are represented as tearful and harrowing. My belief is, that none of the parties felt deeply on the subject, or at least that any distress they experienced was but momentary—soon passed away, and was forgotten. One of my reasons for this opinion rests on a trifling incident which occurred. While waiting for the commencement of the sale, one of the gentlemen present amused himself with a pointer dog, which, at command, stood on its hind-legs, and took pieces of bread from his pocket. These tricks greatly entertained the row of negroes, old and young; and the poor woman, whose heart three minutes before was almost broken, now laughed as heartily as any one present.

"Sale is going to commence—this way, gentlemen," cried a man at the door to a number of loungers outside; all having assembled, the mulatto assistant led the woman and her children to the block, which he helped her to mount. There she stood with her infant at her breast, and one of her girls at each side. The auctioneer, a handsome, gentlemanly personage, took his place, with one foot on an old deal chair with a broken back, and the other raised on the somewhat more elevated block. It was a striking scene.

"Well, gentlemen," began the salesman, "here is a capital woman and her three children all in good health, what do you say for them? Give me an offer. (Nobody speaks.) I put up the whole lot at 850 dollars—850 dollars—850 dollars (speaking very fast)—850 dollars. Will no one advance upon that? A very extraordinary bargain, gentlemen. A fine healthy baby. Hold it up. (Mulatto goes up the first step of the block; takes the baby from the woman's breast, and holds it aloft with one hand, so as to show that it was a veritable sucking-baby.) A woman still young, and three children, all for 850 dollars. An advance, if you please, gentlemen. (A voice bids 860 dols.) Thank you, sir—860; any one bids more? (A voice says, 870; and so on the bidding goes as far as 890 dollars, when it stops.) That won't do, gentlemen. I cannot take such a low price. (After a pause, addressing the mulatto), "She may go down." Down from the block the woman and her children were conducted by the assistant, and, as if nothing had occurred, they calmly resumed their seats by the stove.

The next lot brought forward was one of the men. The mulatto beckoning to him with one hand, requested him to come behind a canvass screen, of two leaves, which was standing near the back-window. The man placidly rose, and having been placed behind the screen, was ordered to take off his clothes, which he did without a word or look of remonstrance. About a dozen gentlemen crowded to the spot while the poor fellow was stripping himself, and as soon as he stood on the floor, bare from top to toe, a most rigorous scrutiny of his person was instituted. The clear black skin, back and front, was viewed all over for sores from disease; and that there was no part of his body left unexamined. The man was told to open and shut his hands, asked if he could pick cotton, and every tooth in his head was scrupulously looked at. The investigation being at end, he was ordered to dress himself; and having done so, was requested to walk to the block.

The ceremony of offering him for competition was gone through as before, but no one would bid. The other two men, after undergoing similar examinations behind the screen, were also put up, but with the same result. Nobody would bid for them, and they were all sent back to their seats. It seemed as if the company had conspired not to buy anything that day. Probably some imperfections had been detected in the personal qualities of the negroes. Be this as it may, the auctioneer, perhaps a little out of temper from his want of success, walked off to his desk, and the affair was so far at end.

"This way, gentlemen—this way!" was heard from a voice outside, and the company hied off to the second establishment. At this office there was a young woman, and also a man, for sale. The woman was put up first at 500 dollars; and possessing some recommendable qualities; the bidding for her was run as high as 710 dollars, at which she was knocked down to a purchaser. The man, after the customary examination behind a screen, was put up at 700 dollars; but a small imperfection having been observed in his person, no one would bid for him, and he was ordered down.

"This way, gentlemen—this way, down the street, if you please!" was now shouted by a person in the employment of the first firm, to whose office all very willingly adjourned—one migratory company, it will be perceived, serving all the slave auctions in the place. Mingling in the crowd I went to see what should be the fate of the man and boy, with whom I had already some communication.

There the pair, the two cousins, sat by the fire, just where I had left them an hour ago. The boy was put up first.

"Come along, my man—jump up; there's a good boy!" said one of the partners, a bulky and respectable looking person, with a gold chain and bunch of seals; at the same time getting on the block. With alacrity the little fellow came forward, and mounting the steps stood by his side. The forms in front were filled by the company; and as I seated myself I found that my old companion, Wide-awake, was close at hand, still chewing and spitting at a great rate.

"Now, gentlemen," said the auctioneer, putting his hand on the shoulder of the boy, "here is a very fine boy, seven years of age, warranted sound—what do you say for him? I put him up at 500 dollars—500 dollars (speaking quick, his right hand raised up, and coming down on the open palm of his left)—500 dollars. Any one say more than 500 dollars? (560 is bid.) 560 dollars.—Nonsense! Just look at him. See how high he is. (He draws the lot in front of him, and shews that the little fellow's head comes up to his own breast.) You see he is a fine, tall, healthy boy. Look at his hands."

Several step forward, and cause the boy to open and shut his hands—the flexibility of the small fingers, black on the one side, and whitish on the other, being well looked to. The hands, and also the mouth, having given satisfaction, an advance is made 570, then to 580 dollars.

"Gentlemen, that is a very poor price for a boy of this size. (Addressing the lot.) Go down, my boy, and show them how you can run."

The boy, seemingly happy to do as he was bid, went down from the block, and ran smartly across the floor several times; the eyes of every one in the room following him.

"Now, that will do. Get up again. (Boy mounts the block, the steps being rather deep for his short legs, the auctioneer lends him a hand.) "Come, gentlemen, you see this is a first rate lot. (590—600—610—620—630 dollars are bid.) I will sell him for 630 dollars. (Right hand coming down on left.) Last call. 630 dollars once—630 twice. A pause; hand sinks. Gone!"

The boy having descended, the man was desired to come forward; and after the usual scrutiny behind a screen, he took his place upon the block.

"Well, now, gentlemen," said the auctioneer, "here is a right prime lot. Look at him; strong, healthy, able-bodied; could not be a better hand for field-work. He can drive a waggon, or anything. What do you say for him? I offer the man at the low price of 800 dollars—he is well worth 1,200 dollars. Come, make an advance, if you please. 800 dollars said for the man (a bid). thank you; 810 dollars—810 dollars—[illegible]—850— (several bids)—820—830—840—850—[illegible] at 860—going. Gentlemen, this is far below his value. A strong boned man, fit for any kind of heavy work. Just take a look at him (addressing the lot). Walk down. (Lot dismounts and walks from one side of the shop to the other.—When about to reascend the block, a gentleman, who is smoking a cigar, examines his mouth and fingers. Lot resumes his place.) Lively, gentlemen, be quick (continues the auctioneer); I must sell him, and 860 dollars are bid for the man—900 dollars. (A fresh run of bids to 945 dollars.) 945 dollars once—945 dollars twice (looks slowly round to see if all were done)—945 dollars going—going (hand drops)—gone!"

During this remarkable scene, I sat near the middle of the front form with my note-book in my hand, in order to obtain a full view of the transaction. So strange was the spectacle, that I could hardly dispel the notion that it was not all a kind of dream, and now I look back upon the affair as by far the most curious I ever witnessed. The most intelligent Virginians will sympathize in my feelings on the occasion. I had never till now seen human beings sold; the thing is quite new. Two men standing on an high bench; the white and the other black. The white man is auctioneering the black man. What a contrast in looks and relative position! The white is a most respectable looking person; so far as dress may be concerned, he might pass for a clergyman or churchwarden. There he stands—can I believe my eyes?—in the might of an Anglo-Saxon, waving the air with his hand, as if addressing a missionary or any other philanthropic meeting from a platform. Surely that gentlemanly personage cannot imagine that he is engaged in any mortal sin! Beside him is a man with a black skin, clothed in rough garments. His looks are downcast and submissive. He is being sold just like a horse at Tattersall's or a picture at Christie and Manson's—I must be under some illusion. That dark object, whom I have always been taught to consider a man is not a man. True, he may be called a man in advertisements, and by the mouth of auctioneers. But it is only a figure of speech—a term of convenience. He is a man in one sense, and not in another. He is a kind of man—stands upright on two legs, has hands to work, wears clothes, can cook his food (a point not reached by monkeys), has the command of speech, and, in a way, can think and act like a rational creature—can even be taught to read.—But nature has thought fit to give him a black skin, and that tells very badly against him. Perhaps, also, there is something wrong with his craniological development. Being, at all events, so much of a man—genus *homo*—is it quite fair to master him, and sell him, exactly to suit your convenience—you being, from a variety of fortunate circumstances, his superior? All this passed through my mind as I sat on the front form in the sale-room of Messrs. ——, while one of the members of that well-known firm was engaged in pursuing, by the laws of Virginia, his legitimate calling.

Such were a forenoon's experiences in the slave market of Richmond. Everything is described precisely as it occurred, without passion or prejudice. It would not have been difficult to be sentimental on a subject which appeals so strongly to the feelings; but I have preferred the simple truth. —*W. Chambers.*

GOUT A DISEASE OF CLEVER MEN.—The following piece of consolatory statistics is taken from Mr. Spencer Well's new work on Gout:—Among the present members of the Houses of Parliament, those who are known to be subject to gout are among the most distinguished for an ancestry rendered illustrious by high thoughts and noble deeds, for their own keen intelligence, for the assistance they have afforded to improvements in arts, science, and agriculture, and for the manner in which they have led the spirit of the age. If it were proper to mention names, I believe I could prove this to be the case; and I never met with a real case of gout, in other classes of the community, in a person not remarkable for mental activity, unless the tendency to gout was clearly inherited. It is perfectly true that butlers, hall-porters, and other individuals, in equally easy circumstances, are often subject to gout; but many such persons are the sons of parents who have lived in similar situations, and have received from their predisposition. I have seen a great many examples of the rule, and scarcely an exception, that when a person in an inferior station is subject to gout, he or one of his parents was not similarly affected, he is a person of superior abilities or attainments.

A correspondent of a Wabash [illegible] paper, complimenting a singing master, [illegible] thus: "And I look forward with confidence to the time when Charleston shall be as celebrated for learning and music as Jericho was for [illegible]."