

now sufficiently express my abhorrence of conduct so highly reprehensible, because I consider it as a base effort to poison the very source of justice. And I trust in God, I have the approbation of the jury, of the counsel, and of every one that hears me, for now ordering you off the table."

It is impossible to describe the effect that this address had on all present.

The counsel for the prosecution closed their case. The counsel for the prisoner declined calling any witnesses.

The learned Judge then recapitulated the evidence with great precision, and explained the law to the Jury; who, without any hesitation, returned a verdict of *Not Guilty*.

### LITERATURE.

From the *New-York Journal of Commerce*.

#### WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY.

Dr. Johnson defines lexicographer, "a harmless drudge." Not more so we presume than an Editor,—but as men are more sensible of the aching of their own bones than those of others, we do not wonder at the definition. In a language like ours, so copious, so various in the signification of terms, so irregular, and so diverse in the origin of words, it is certainly a herculean task to form a complete vocabulary, with a full list of definitions, etymologies, &c. This Dr. Johnson attempted to do in three years, except that he did not trouble himself much with etymologies,—and our countryman, Mr. Webster, has done it (more perfectly than it was ever done before) in 20 years. He has done it amidst a host of prejudices which would have discouraged most other men,—not so much against himself personally, as against the very idea of an American Dictionary of the English Language,—and he has finally come off victorious, having found a liberal sale for his work, and what is better, the general approbation of intelligent men who *have examined it*, throughout the country. Not that every item in its 2000 pages has been approved,—for even in gold there is generally some alloy,—but that *taken as a whole*, it is acknowledged to be the best, or at least among the best, of similar works which have ever been given to the public. In addition to the commendations of various newspaper prints, it is highly applauded in the *North American Review*; and even in England, bids fair to find a favorable reception. The *London Magazine* for June, in a "review of Reviews," notices the article of the *North American*, at considerable length; and on the strength of it bestows very flattering encomiums upon Mr. Webster and his Dictionary. We make the following extracts:—

The most important article in the present number of the *North American Review*, is that on Dr. Webster's English Dictionary. From the account given of this work by the Reviewer, it would appear to be one of the most valuable contributions our literature has yet received from our trans-atlantic brethren. Dr. Webster has, it seems, devoted 20 years of his life to his task. The publication appears in two volumes quarto,—and, in so far at least as respects the general character of its contents, may be considered as modelled upon Johnson; though the entirely new manner in which each of its departments is treated makes it, even in regard to plan, a new work. In so far as we may judge from the present paper, Dr. Webster's qualifications, as an English etymologist, appear to be of the first order.—We have, indeed, nowhere met with a more enlightened exposition of the principles of etymological science than is given in the article before us. It was a subject of which Dr. Johnson knew absolutely nothing. His Dictionary is one of the most wonderful works ever completed by a single individual; and has many real merits of the highest sort;—the amount of which, as is well remarked by the present writer, is only to be sufficiently estimated by a comparison of what he has done, with the performance of the most successful of his predecessors. But if we allow that he has given us, in the first place, nearly a complete vocabulary of the language as actually living and in use when he wrote,—that secondly, his great reading within a certain range of our literature has enabled him to illustrate his definitions with an abundant selection of the most apt quotations,—and thirdly, that his definitions themselves are often distinguished by a precision and

felicity of expression, such as scarcely any other pen could have rivalled in that very difficult species of writing—we shall have admitted every thing, we think, that can be fairly advanced in commendation of his work by its warmest admirers. But, considered as a Dictionary of the English language, its deficiencies are, notwithstanding all this, of the most serious description. Even as a mere vocabulary, it did not, in the state in which it was given to the world by its author, contain any thing like a complete display of the treasures of our noble tongue. Dr. Johnson's knowledge of English Literature, indeed, scarcely extended beyond the reign of James I.; and just as, in writing the *Lives of our Poets*, he chose to begin with Cowley,—so in compiling his Dictionary, he scarcely sought for its materials from any period antecedent to the commencement of the seventeenth century.—Yet for two centuries previous to this time, the English was a formed and cultivated language; and could boast of its classics and its native muses. The reign of Elizabeth was its golden age—the time at which its powers displayed themselves in their greatest vigor, and were made flexible, so as to produce the most varied, harmonious, and expressive forms of diction. Of the writers of this period, however, Dr. Johnson's Dictionary was not even an interpreter—far less a store-house of the riches of expression to be found in their pages. A passage from Dr. Webster's work, quoted in the present article, gives us some curious information as to the numbers of words contained in some of our standard Dictionaries. "The Dictionary of Walker," says he, "has been found by actual enumeration, to contain in round numbers, thirty-eight thousand words. Those of Johnson, Sheridan, Jones, and Perry, have not far from the same number. The American edition of Todd's Johnson contains fifty-eight thousand. In the work now submitted to the public, the number has been increased several thousand."

We cannot doubt, from the account here given us of it, that Dr. Webster's work is one well worth the attention of every student of the English language; and that in some most important respects it is generally superior to any thing of the kind, that has yet been produced among ourselves.—Even among the author's own countrymen, we observe it stated, it has been pretty generally deemed rather a hazardous enterprise for an American to undertake a Dictionary of a language which may be fairly supposed to be spoken and written in its purity only among another people; and this prejudice may doubtless be counted upon as likely to operate still more strongly on this side the water. The notion is obviously, however, more a prejudice than any thing else.—The intercourse of nations is now so intimate, that whatever literary stores are open to an Englishman are equally open to an American; and for the making of a Dictionary of the language, it really, therefore, can matter little whether an individual reside in London or New-York. We can very well conceive how the political institutions and habits of a people should exert an influence on certain descriptions of their literary produce,—but not on their dictionaries. It is in our opinion, in the highest degree creditable to America, that the encouragement she affords to learning, has been already sufficient to give birth to such a book as this of Dr. Webster's seems to be.

#### REMARKABLE PRECOCITY OF TALENT.

*Sigismund Baron Von Praun*. This youth who is distinguished for his early and very extraordinary proficiency in the arts and sciences, was born at Tynau, in Hungary, on the 1st of June, 1811, where his father resided, as Colonel in the Austrian service. In his second year he was able not only to read with fluency, but to give a connected sketch of the history of the world. On the 11th of November, 1813, (being then 29 months old,) he was admitted into the second class of the gymnasium at that place; and at the examination of the 26th of August, 1814, he received the first prize for German reading and writing, the Hungarian language, the catechism and drawing, in preference to 70 scholars, who were much older than himself.—At the public examination on the 17th of March, 1815, being three years and nine months old, he received the same honors for the Latin and Arithmetic. But the most extraordinary was his astonishing proficiency in music. In this third year he made himself perfectly master

of the violin; and at the last mentioned examination, he performed on the most difficult instrument a composition by Ployel, with universal applause; a year after he gave his second concert before Prince Schwarzenburgh, and the principal Hungarian nobility; and from this moment the fame of this prodigy spread itself over Europe. In the summer of 1816, he gave several concerts at Vienna, and presented a great part of his receipts to the Invalid fund, for which the Emperor honored him with the order of Civil Merit. In 1817, the commencement of his 6th year, he began his professional tour, passed through Italy in a kind of triumph, and received from the Duchess of Parma the order of Constantino, from the Pope the Golden Spurs and the Order of St. John Lateran, was created Palsgrave, and rewarded with a gold medal and a very flattering diploma by the Royal Academy, before which he had exhibited with much *eclat* his proficiency in the sciences. In his thirteenth year he completed his legal studies, and received eighteen Royal honorary diplomas from Italy, Austria, France, and the Netherlands. He had scarce attained his 15th year, when he had acquired the reputation of one of the first players, and was the author of several works, among which a beautiful manuscript in seven languages excited great attention. His high reputation increased with his subsequent tours through Italy, Austria, Holland, France and Germany, of which a longer detail would be superfluous here, as the accounts published in the journals of the countries which he visited cannot be forgotten by the public. He is at present at Nuremberg, and will next visit Berlin.—*London Literary Gazette*.

Eichborn, the elder of the University of Cottingham, has been in the habit of studying 16 hours in a day during the last 55 years.

It is calculated that there are fifty thousand persons alive in Germany, who have written and published books.

The longevity of the German literati is remarkable. Professor Streumeyer, of Gouguen, is delivering his one hundred and sixth course of lectures; Eichborn his one hundred and first; Heyno died at 86; Knaster at 81; Michaelis at 74; Hallar at 70; Kant at 80; Jacobi at 76; Wieland at 81; Klopstock at 79; Goethe is now 77, &c. No law superannuates them. All are hard students and voluminous authors.—*Dwight's Germany*.

### THE SEASON.

From *The City Gazette*.

We regret to be informed, that in the English settlement on Long Greek, between Washademoack and Sussex Vale, Rye, which generally has been considered a sure crop, is this year likely in a great measure to fail. This is supposed to be in consequence of being winter killed, and also of a heavy snow storm which fell late in the Spring. We are not aware how it may be in other parts of the Country.

Since writing the foregoing, we have been informed by a person from Sussex Vale, that although the heavy and continued rains, and cool weather which prevailed in May and June, prevented the crops from coming forward as early as usual; yet the late dry warm weather, has greatly revived them. In that quarter none of the Rye is winter killed, wheat, upon low wet ground has been partially injured, but upon dry grounds it looks well, a few late planted potatoes, perished in the ground, but their places has been supplied with Buckwheat. As the Indian Corn succeeded remarkably well last year, a greater quantity than usual has been planted this year; and it has lately assumed a promising appearance. Our informant says, generally, that more than usual seed of every kind has been put into the ground this season, that appearances warrant a favorable anticipation, that grass also has much improved, and that the husbandmen, are looking forward with hope, to an abundant harvest.

From Mougerville we learn, that the crops are thought to be nearly, if not quite, three weeks behind the growth usual at this season of the year.