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AN ORATION

Delivered by Rev. S. Beach Jones, D. D., Monday, July 5th 1858.

The Fourth of July 1776, with the stupendous Revolution it commemorates, deserves and demands an appropriate celebration. It was the birth-day of American Independence, and it is even more than this. It is one of the grand epochs of the world's history. It marks the onward and upward progress of the human race, in its career of freedom and knowledge. It is in the political history of mankind, what the Reformation of the 16th century is in the religious. When, on the 31st of October 1517, Luther nailed to the doors of the church at Wittenberg his Ninety-Five Propositions, and challenged all persons to discuss them, he asserted the right of Christ's people to govern themselves by Christ's word. When, from "Independence Hall" in Philadelphia, our fathers declared the once dependent colonies of Great Britain, "free and independent states," they affirmed the right of self government, for a people competent to govern themselves, and they affirmed this, as a divine right; appealing to God himself, the source of this right, to vindicate it in their behalf. That the principles announced by our sires, on the 4th of July 1776, were no visionary, utopian sentiments, we, their sons, are living and grateful witnesses. When they published to the world the noble "Declaration" to which you have just listened, they spoke as the representatives of less than three millions of people; the inhabitants of thirteen feeble colonies, dependent until then on a mighty monarchy; scattered sparsely along a coast of fifteen hundred miles; and hemmed in within narrow limits, by numerous and formidable tribes of savages. To day, these thirteen dependent colonies are thirty two independent sovereignties; united under our constitution and common government; and comprising, within their limits, thirty millions of people. "The United States of America," by the concession of European monarchs, now rank with France and England, among the first-rate powers of Christendom. If its commerce does not exceed it, at least equals that of England herself; so long the Queen of Commerce, and Sovereign of the seas. Its wealth, in intelligence, in the useful arts, in religious knowledge, unsurpassed by any nation; in the general diffusion of these blessings, equaled by no nation even by England herself. And all this within a national life of eighty-two years.

During this same period, France, one of the most enlightened of European nations, has thrice risen in rebellion against its arbitrary prince; twice established for itself a republican form of government, and thrice relapsed into base subjection, either to a military despot, or to the rule of monarchial legitimacy. Poland, Hungary, Italy, and some of the United States, have attempted to change their political institutions; and to create a government after the model of our own; but with no better success than France. In our own hemisphere, and in each of its continents, the colonies of Spain have thrown off the yoke of their mother country, and organized what they call republics. But the name of Republic, as applied to them, is a pitying misnomer. Their republics are wretched caricatures and hieroglyphs of our own. They have exchanged royal rule, for the tyranny of unscrupulous factions, and the horrors of anarchy; immeasurably worse than Spanish domination.

There is something so remarkable in the spectacle presented by our own nation, as contrasted with the fate of others, who have attempted to imitate our example, that we may well and profitably enquire to-day, why such different results in these experiments of self government? The causes of this amazing contrast are appropriate themes of consideration to-day; because they suggest to us how we may most successfully perpetuate and transmit to posterity the goodly heritage purchased by the wisdom, valor and virtue of our fathers, and sealed and consecrated by their precious blood.

We must not be deluded by the shallow falacy, so often commencing, by superficial declamations—that our revolutionary fathers were suddenly transformed from abject subjects, to proud and enlightened freemen. The "Declaration of Independence" did not make freemen of our noble sires; they were freemen before; else, that "Declaration" had never been made. The principles promulgated in that memorable instrument were not then for the first time discovered, nor announced. It was not heroic valor alone that achieved our independence; nor has it been chiefly the intelligence of American citizens that has guarded and preserved what their fathers won. The God of Nations purposed to give this goodly land, with its glorious institutions to our fathers and their sons; and for one hundred and fifty years, he had been preparing a people for their predestinated allotment. How he prepared them, the history of these colonies, and of their mother country, informs us.

Providential Preparatives of the Revolution of 1776.

The history of other colonial settlements presents no parallel with that furnished by our own. In their character, their principles, and the motives which brought them to these western wilds, the early and most influential settlers were unique. God, by his providence, sifted and winnowed the nations of Europe, for seed with which to plant America. It was not with the sordid motives, which now carry emigrants to California and Australia, that the most influential colonists resorted hither. They came expressly and avowedly to enjoy that measure of freedom, which had been denied them in the land of their birth; and the freedom which they most coveted was freedom in matters of religion.—They had suffered for their advocacy of the rights of conscience in those sacred; and their sufferings for religion's sake, had led them to adopt views of civil freedom, which otherwise they had never understood. The champions of religious liberty have fought the battles of civil and political liberty; so that

If we wish to trace the progress of civil liberty, we have but to measure the progress of the conflict for religious rights. The Puritans of New England, the Scotch, the Irish, the Huguenots, the Baptists, the Quakers of the middle States, were all of them fugitives from religious persecution; and they brought with them to this wilderness, those germs of freedom and independence, which quietly grew and fruited for a century and a half.

The very forms of ecclesiastical government and usage, common to the great majority of the early settlers, were favorable to the growth of political liberty, and to the formation of habits of self government in matters civil. The fundamental ecclesiastical principles of the Congregationalists, Baptists, and Quakers were those of spiritual democracy. The church government of all the Presbyterian bodies, whether of British, Dutch, or French extraction, were strictly republican. One avowed ground of the hatred manifested by the royal Stuarts to their Presbyterian subjects was, that their church government was republican; and, therefore, unfriendly to royalty in the state. And for a like reason, did the monarchs of France detest and persecute the Presbyterian Huguenots. Thus the very religious usages of a majority of the colonists, familiarized them with private rights and republican forms. Their former persecutions, too, made them acutely sensitive to all encroachments on their privileges. Hence, when a project was set on foot for the establishment of a hierarchy in the colonies, modeled after that of the mother country, they, the Congregationalists of New England, and the Presbyterians of the Middle States, met in a convention of delegates, to devise measures of defence against what they had so much reason to dread. Hence, too, on the eve of the conflict, the Presbyterian Synod of New York and Philadelphia addressed a Pastoral Letter, earnest to their churches, exhorting them to stand up for their civil and religious rights. Hence, too, after the war had been unleashed, the Clergy of what were then the two leading denominations—the Congregationalist and the Presbyterian—almost to a man espoused their country's cause; some of them becoming members of "Committees of Safety," some members of State Legislatures, one of them a leader in the National Congress; many of them chaplains; and some even officers and private soldiers in the continental army. Thus their religious principles served to train many of our fathers for the work of founding and maintaining a civil R. public.

But there were many, who, though neither Congregationalists, Presbyterians nor Baptists, were still as ardent devotees to liberty and the rights of man, as any of these. They were trained by other influences. In reality, if not in all, the charters granted to the colonies, the rights of "freedom of Englishmen" were explicitly secured to the colonists. In some of the Colonies, the rights of electing all their magistrates and of fixing their salaries, were guaranteed. In others, these rights—though not originally granted—were by degrees, either formally acquired, or virtually secured. The election of their own principal legislative authorities, the people to the form and the reality of republican government.

In addition to all this, the process of colonization was going on contemporaneously with the great struggle for religious and civil liberty in England. The discussion of the momentous principles involved in that struggle served to enlighten those who had emigrated to America, as well as those who followed them at a later date. The emigrants who fledged hither during the first century of colonial history, and who served to mould the condition and character of the colonies, were of all men their best qualified to found a virtuous community and a free nation.

The very remoteness of the colonies from the centre of political power, subverted the cause of political freedom. Lower in the State, the colonial legislatures—situated more fully at the extremities, than near the centre. There were comparatively few governmental officials in the thirteen colonies; and, therefore, the patronage of the crown was limited. Had the crown of England been able to count as many employees in the colonies, as our national government can now number; the day of national independence would long have been deferred. That patronage has a marvelous power to blind the eye, and tie the hands of pensioned placemen.

The scattered condition of the population, too, favored the growth of freedom. There were then few large towns, and scarce any that deserved the name of a city. The vast majority of the inhabitants were agriculturists; the mechanics and manufacturers together composed scarce one fifteenth of the whole population. A planter's or farmer's position and employment serve to foster a spirit of independence.—He is free from a multitude of municipal restraints absolutely necessary to the inhabitants of a city. As a freholder he can call his own soil his own. He stands upon his own soil; and is "monarch of all he surveys." From the vast extent of territory, and the ease with which even the poor could become possessors of soil, the number of freholders was large. And yet, while to an extent unknown in any other country, the number of independent proprietors was large, and the means of comfortable living abundant there was little opulence. Wealth was widely distributed. There were no privileged orders; and no such great families of overshadowing influence, as are to be found in the nations of the Old world. With the exception of the few manorial estates, found chiefly in the province of New York; there was scarce a trace of feudalism in the land.

The influence of slavery itself was eminently conducive to the growth of freedom among masters. The master of slaves is a little monarch and possesses as jealous of the privileges of his caste, as we the barons of England, who in the 13th century, at Runnymede, extorted "Magna Charta" from King John; or as the nobility and gentry of England, who in 1688 drove James II. from his dominions, and enacted their immortal "Bill of Rights." The

Southern slaveholder, accustomed to "command, could not easily learn to submit" to encroachments on the rights of his "order"; nor allow himself to be reduced to a level with his slaves. Hence, when the struggle came, while no inconsiderable portion of the wealthier class in the northern states sided with monarchy, the most wealthy planters of the South were generally the most ardent devotees to the cause of liberty.

In addition to these preparatives for national independence, Divine Providence had caused the colonies to be the seat of the great experiment of union for common interests. Exposed continually to destructive invasions from the Indian tribes, who then completely encircled them; the colonies once and again combined their forces, to resist and chastise their common foes. As early as 1690, representatives of all the northern colonies met in Congress in New York, to devise measures against the Indian enemies. Unaided, too, by the mother country, they had a naval force, they had in 1745 combined their forces and captured from the French the town and fortress of Louisbourg, in Cape Breton; then the strongest military post, in North America. Thus, by their united efforts against the Indians and French, they learned the power of union, while they acquired the spirit of self confidence, and the habit of self reliance.

For more than a century, too, had the colonists been disciplined by their contests with charters of liberties, with their Proprietary lords, or with arbitrary Monarchs. These early struggles with petty despots, or with British monarchs, prepared them for their final struggle with the British Parliament; which, by the progress of events in England, had begun to exercise some of the despotic prerogatives of earlier kings. To teach them how to appreciate their advantages, and how to take advantage of their opportunities, Providence had been diffusing more and more widely the blessings of liberal education. Some of our most illustrious patriots had received their literary and professional training in the best universities of Europe. This was especially true of our southern statesmen. But especially of no mean order had, in our own country and for long time, been busy in educating a learned class; who, when the issue came, were found, with rare exceptions, on the side of freedom, and against prerogative. No two classes, as classes, furnished so many patriots as those of the clergy and the lawyers; and these were educated chiefly in the colleges of Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. "No class of citizens," says Russey, the historian of the Revolution, and an active participant in its scenes, "have contributed more to the Revolution, than the clergy; and none have left more permanent a remembrance of it." Why they should have been thus prominent, we have already seen. The lawyers were none the less active, in their appropriate sphere. In the Revolutions of England and France, the members of the legal profession were among the most ardent and successful defenders of right, against royal prerogative; and so they were in our own Revolution. They were among the first to send the Latin of tyranny, in the arbitrary acts of Parliament. Hence, the passage of the "Stamp Act" in 1765, and the actual outbreak of the Revolution in 1775, the lawyers of America employed their tongues and pens, at the bar, through the press, and before the public assemblies of the people, in rousing their countrymen to resistance. Accustomed to study principles, they detected the principle of the despotic act, and in the light of that principle, before the mass of the people, they set the form of practical grievances. Of their tribulations duly proclaimed our national independence, lawyers composed just one half. Of the South Carolina delegation, three out of four were lawyers, who had received their legal education in the Inner or Middle Temple in London.

Such was the training, by which our forefathers were prepared of God for their stupendous struggle for freedom. They were a virtuous, religious, and enlightened people. They promulgated no principles which were wholly new to the world. They resisted the claim of the parent state to tax her colonies, when those colonies were not represented in Parliament; but this doctrine was no novelty. Massachusetts had openly maintained it in 1697. They asserted the right of an oppressed people, competent to self-government, to resist tyrannical acts, by force of arms. But, as early as 1684, the single colony of Massachusetts Bay, had actually taken measures to resist, by like means, the attempt of Charles II to force a governor upon them, contrary to their charter. They claimed the exclusive right of levying taxes upon themselves. But so had the freemen of the Old Dominion; who, in 1676, rose in rebellion, and for a time, with force of arms, resisted the minions of royalty. The first martyr to the right of the people to govern themselves, was not the first citizen of Concord, or Lexington, shot down by British troops in April, 1775; but Thomas Hansford, of Virginia, hung by Sir William Berkeley, the Royal Governor in 1676; and hung as a rebel against his gracious majesty, Charles II, of England. The resistance to Parliamentary exactions was not the mere result of the growing strength of the colonists, but of growing encroachments on the part of Parliament. The colonies had established and maintained themselves. With the exception of Georgia, no one of them had been aided by the royal treasury. While feeble and comparatively unprofitable, as sources of direct revenue, Parliament left them to take care of them, selves. But when, by their own energies, they had become comparatively rich, then, the unsupportable parental heresies, of tyrannical exactions, which they were to resist as available sources whence to derive aid to herself. The colonies were called upon to assist in paying a debt incurred by European wars, in which they had no voice. Justice and the essential principles of English law, were on the side of our fathers; and they had become comparatively rich, then, the unsupportable parental heresies, of tyrannical exactions, which they were to resist as available sources whence to derive aid to herself. The colonies were called upon to assist in paying a debt incurred by European wars, in which they had no voice. Justice and the essential principles of English law, were on the side of our fathers; and they had become comparatively rich, then, the unsupportable parental heresies, of tyrannical exactions, which they were to resist as available sources whence to derive aid to herself.

and in Edmund Burke, her profoundest political philosopher.

The movements of our patriotic fathers were not sudden outbreaks of popular frenzy; but the calm and steady movements of men actuated by high motives, and guided by well digested principles. The revolution was not a popular insurrection, like that of the Neapolitans under Massalio; nor like the volcanic eruptions of Europe in 1848. The people were not provoked by the usual causes of popular revolutions. It was not brought about, like the French Revolution of 1789, by the crushing taxation of a bankrupt monarchy, and the horrors of impending famine. The contest was a contest of principles. The colonies were loyal provinces. They had no desire to surrender their connection with the parent state. They had no objections to a monarchy, provided Parliament would define that monarchy as able English writers now define it—"a republic presided over by a king, or a kingly government, where the king is not sovereign." They would cheerfully have aided England in bearing the burden of her debt, incurred by a war with France and Spain; but their royal legislatures must fix the amount and levy that tax; not a Parliament three thousand miles distant, and in which not a single delegate from America held a seat. They did not grudge giving three-pence a pound more for their cherished beverage, tea; but they resisted the right of Parliament to fix that duty; knowing that it involved a principle, which if carried into effect, might deprive them of every vestige of freedom. Because they contended for a great principle, which they had thoroughly examined and conscientiously adopted, they were calm, dignified and moderate. No partial descendants have ever eulogized the patriot fathers of our Revolution more highly, than did some of England's noblest statesmen. The Continental Congress was pronounced, on the floor of Parliament, as an august assembly of patriots, as worthy as the world had ever seen. And they deserved this eulogy; for they were patriots, and they were statesmen; as far removed from noisy and blustering demagogues, as most of our present Congressmen are removed from their fathers. They loved their mother country. Even after their "Declaration of Independence" they were probably have returned to their allegiance to Great Britain, had Britain conceded them the rights of English freemen. Nothing short of the insolence of a domineering Parliament, and the barbarities of a mercenary soldiery, could quench their loyalty to old England, and overcome their reluctance to an intestine war.

The Continental Congress was worthy of its constituency, and its constituency was worthy of their representatives. The people elected their ablest and their best men to represent them. There was little of that paltry and detestable jealousy among them; the prevalence of which in our day, excludes so many of our best men from places of honor and trust. Wherever they found virtue, patriotism and statesmanship united, there they saw a fit man to represent the people. No brawling demagogues rose to prominence by flattery of the deaf people, and enemies to popular rights. Franklin, the printer and Sherman the shoemaker sat side by side with the courtly Kattelges and Heywards and Middleton. But Franklin and Sherman were chosen, not because they were mechanics; nor were Kattelges and Middleton selected because they were born to elegant opulence; but because all of them were tried patriots, and on the whole, the best of their time.

High social standing was not then, in some parts of our country it is now, a disqualification for office; but when it was combined with virtue and intelligence, it was deemed an additional guarantee to fidelity to the trust reposed in them.—You cannot examine the portraits of our Continental Congressmen, still less can you read their lives, and compare them with their present successors, without feeling the inferiority of the latter. The former were a higher style of men, in all the great qualities of legislators and statesmen. And yet should such men be presented as candidates for office now, they would be hunted down by political barbers and noisy demagogues, as "aristocrats." And yet these were the men, whom the emissaries of royalty, in vain endeavored to bribe, by promises of high office, and great honors. These were the men, whose statesmanship had humbled through the gloomy and perilous storm of our Revolution. It was one of these patriots, who when assured by an emissary of the king, that if he would exert his abilities to promote a re-union of the two countries, he should receive £10,000 sterling, together with any office in the Colonies in his Majesty's gift, replied: "I am not worth purchasing by such a sum as I am, the king of Great Britain is not rich enough to do it!" It was one of these patriots, the wealthy Henry Laurens of South Carolina, and the fourth President of the Continental Congress, who, after enduring a cruel imprisonment of many months in the Tower of London, was urged by an English friend to write two or three lines to the British Ministers, and barly say he was sorry for what was past, and was assured that by so doing a full pardon would be granted him; that every man had done wrong at some time in his life, and should not be ashamed to acknowledge it, replied: "I will never subscribe to my own infamy; and to the dishonor of my children."

Such were the representatives then sent by our fathers to Congress. You may judge of our fathers by their chosen representatives. Never has the world witnessed a purer, or more pervading spirit of patriotism among a people. In this age of peace and prevailing luxury, it is difficult to conceive of the sacrifices of our fathers; freely made by our fathers. The eminence of the people, to their cherished rights, the immunity of the state as a whole, held in check those selfish impulses, which at other times pre-

ponderate. The most opulent daughters of luxury and elegance, discarded the usual ornaments of dress. Leaves of the raspberry were used as a substitute for tea. They refused to eat the meat of lambs, in order to encourage the increase of wool, and its manufacture. British goods, however essential to their comfort, they were once deemed, and discarded by common consent.

With the most enlightened and reflective minds, devotion to liberty and their country was a matter of principle; with the multitude it was a passion; a passion so controlling, as to be almost incredible to us. Numerous were the instances in which the rigorous were their private fortunes to carry on the war. Officers sometimes equipped the soldiers under their command from their private purses; as was done by Colonel Chester of Connecticut, and by Col. White of New Jersey. The common soldiers had little money to give; but they gave their services, with a spirit of self-sacrifice, which does immortal honors to their memory. They continued to follow their illustrious and honored Commander-in-chief, in tattered clothes and shoddy feet. The march of Washington's army in its memorable attack on Trenton, and the retreat of General Greene through the woods of Carolina, could be traced by the bloody tracks on the snow and frozen earth. Officers and soldiers stood fast by their colors, when from the deprecation of the continental currency, four months pay of a private soldier would not procure for his family a single bushel of wheat, and when the pay of a Colonel would not purchase oats for his horse, when a common laborer or express rider, received four times as much as an American Officer. And when poverty had at last driven the Pennsylvania line into open mutiny, and the British attempted to seduce them into the king's service by the offer of a large bounty, high pay and every comfort of a well furnished camp; instead of listening to these proposals to treachery, they seized and delivered up to their commanding officer the men who had dared to tamper with their patriotism; and when offered by President Reed of Pennsylvania, a purse of one hundred guineas (\$500, as a reward for their integrity and patriotism, impoverished though they were they refused to receive it, solely desiring they had but done their duty to their country.

What more need be said of the patriotism of our officers, than the historical fact, that though an officer's pay would not purchase oats for his horse; but one Benedict Arnold was to be found in the Continental Army. And what could better illustrate the virtuous, orderly, law-abiding patriotism of the mass of the people, than the simple fact, that though they refused the renunciation of their authority, they consented to regulate constituted governments in the several states for several months, the people remained subject to the authority of temporary officers; and yielded to the recommendations of their committees, an obedience as admirable, as if the resolutions of Committees had been clothed with all the validity of legislative enactments.

Surely, such a people was a people prepared of God, for the high destiny they realized. None but a people thus prepared could have achieved national independence; or if they had been able to achieve, it would not have maintained it. It was because our fathers were thus prepared of God, for their exalted work, that they established what the nations of Europe and the Spanish Colonies of America have vainly sought to effect—an enduring republican government.

And, yet, not even such a body of patriot statesmen, as our Congress, nor such a military leader as Washington; nor such soldiers as composed the Continental Army, nor such devotees to liberty, as the Whig citizens, could themselves have succeeded in a struggle so unequal; had not He, who set apart this land, as the abode of Religious and Civil Freedom, provided foreign aid, in the hour of their extremity. God works not now by miracles, and it would have been little less than miraculous, if feeble colonies, without commerce, without a treasury, without a military chest, or a military establishment, without an adequate central authority, with their coasts blockaded by powerful fleets, and their soil overrun by well appointed armies of the best soldiers of Europe, if such colonies unaided by foreign subsidies or soldiers, had successfully coped with the most powerful monarchs of Europe; a monarchy which but a few years ago had humbled the combined powers of France and Spain, and stripped them of some of their most valuable possessions. Money more than valor, the depth of the treasury more than the length of the sword, decides the fate of modern wars. It was when the continental currency had become so worthless, that many refused it altogether, and others would only exchange one silver dollar for several hundred in paper; when even the patriotic soldiers of Pennsylvania, Jersey and Connecticut had mutinied and deserted their venerable chief, because the military chest was exhausted, and Congress could not supply its place; it was then that Providence brought our relief a loan from Holland, and a subsidy, an army and a powerful fleet from France.

But Providence did not furnish this relief, until by the barbarities of war, the loyalty of the colonists had been converted into settled hostility to their mother country; and thus the danger of a return to their allegiance had vanished. Had foreign aid been offered a little later, it might have come too late; had it come sooner, it might have been too soon, for the future well being of our country.

The timely interpositions of Providence in behalf of our fathers, constitute some of the most instructive, delightful and cheering features in our Revolutionary history. Innumerable are the instances, in which events might (to human observation) easily have been other than they were; and yet had they been so; the whole current of affairs and the destiny of our nation would have been altered. From the outset to the close of the war, we can detect these special and gracious interpositions of the God of Nations and of battles in our behalf. After

the disastrous battle of Long Island (August 1776) the defeated and dispirited troops of Washington were hemmed in at Brooklyn by an army flushed with victory, every way able to annihilate; and expecting soon to capture the whole American force. The state of the tide and a strong North East wind rendered the use of sails boats impossible; while the number of row boats was utterly inadequate to transport the troops.—The continuance of that East wind for a few hours longer would have been followed by the capture of our army. But He "who hath gathered the wind in his fists," had otherwise decreed. About 11 o'clock at night, the wind died away; and soon after springing up at South East and blowing freshly enabled the commander to cross directly to New York, with ease and expedition. Nor was this all. A clear morning would have disclosed the retreat of the discomfited army. But towards morning, an extremely dense fog hovered over Long Island, and totally hiding from the British the flight of those, who they confidently expected to capture and annihilate. The winds, and the fogs and the rains fought for our armies and our cause. And during the memorable retreat of General Greene through North Carolina, twice within a few days, when the army of Cornwallis felt sure of striking a last and fatal blow, did the rains of Heaven, by swelling separating rivers, save the gallant Greene and his little army.

Nor was it only by the long course of disciplinary training before the war, nor by his signal interpositions during the struggle, that God revealed his purpose of making us a free and powerful nation. The course of Providence after the successful termination of the war, and none the less significant. Had the victorious colonists attempted to frame a constitution, and organize a general government, immediately on the close of the war; they had never succeeded as they afterwards did. God permitted them to hang loosely together under the old "Articles of Confederation" long enough to convince them, and to give them the success which none of them could have achieved, had they attempted to organize a general government, immediately on the close of the war; they had never succeeded as they afterwards did. God permitted them to hang loosely together under the old "Articles of Confederation" long enough to convince them, and to give them the success which none of them could have achieved, had they attempted to organize a general government, immediately on the close of the war; they had never succeeded as they afterwards did. God permitted them to hang loosely together under the old "Articles of Confederation" long enough to convince them, and to give them the success which none of them could have achieved, had they attempted to organize a general government, immediately on the close of the war; they had never succeeded as they afterwards did.

Our fathers looked at country and its welfare, more than party and its selfish perquisites. Hence, they selected men for office, because they deemed them the spillo of citizens. They instituted public offices for the benefit of the public, and not for the benefit of office holders. Hence they gave little consideration to the false, mischievous and demoralizing doctrine of "rotation in office."—With them, it was expected, that the office should solicit the man, rather than the man the office; and hence when they found the right man for the right place, they usually kept him there. In no one respect have their descendants more done honor to their nation than in the adoption of this patriotic opinion. The prevalence of such a sentiment is, and must be, the most fruitful source of political corruption. It perverts mens views of what is really the true end of civil offices, which is the good of the public. It holds out a bribe for demagoguism. It enlists the most selfish and incompetent aspirants in a base struggle for the use of the public's money. It hinders the proper discharge of official duties, by displacing an incumbent before he has fairly learned the routine of his duties. It creates needless public agitation.—It tempts aspirants for office to become hypocrites and liars; by pretending to a patriotism which they do not feel, and by promising services which they never intend to render.

Along with the reputation of this political hero, we must imitate our fathers by endeavoring to select our best men for our most important offices. If the people would respect their own legislators and executive officers, they must select men who can ever be respected.

The American Congress of the Revolution commanded the veneration of the nation and the respect of the world. Can the same be said of the Congress of our day? And why the difference? Because they are now, in many parts of our land, a contemptible jargon of the very class of men, who during our Revolution, were most conspicuous and most influential in the State. Were the very patriots who guided our councils and framed our constitutions candidates for office now, they would probably be defeated by third or fourth rate political hacks. Because of their wealth or social position, or gentlemanly bearing, they would be denounced as aristocrats, and enemies of the poor people. They would be ostracized and defeated, because they would scorn to pander to views and vile passions, or to countenance those radical doctrines, which, instead of elevating, degrade, the mass of the people. It is not the true representatives of their ever true to justice, honor, and their country, than the continental congress, and the State legislatures of the same period.—Take all the members of that congress for the space of eight years, and all the state governments for the same period, and you could not find among them all as many examples of base treachery and venal corruption as was exhibited in the single legislature of Wisconsin in the year 1856. Had our congress and legislatures been composed of such needy adventurers, they could easily have been bought up by a British ministry, for a far less sum than was actually offered to some of our patriotic forefathers. Can any man doubt this, when he knows that a single railroad company was able to buy up a whole house of assembly, for \$855,000, by paying to each assemblyman from \$5,000, to \$10,000; that it could purchase the Senate for \$175,000; at the rate of \$10,000, to 20,000 apiece; a governor for \$50,000, and the other State officers for the small amount of \$16,000.—Yet such things we must expect so long as the people will allow themselves to be hoodwinked by demagogues, whose most exalted ideas of patriotism, are bounded by the seven cardinal principles of the five leaves and the two fishes.

We shall prove recant to the example and policy of our fathers, if we give our best offices to men who are unworthy of the least, while we refuse to trust in public life, those whom we know to be most worthy of trust in private. No man should be trusted with a public office, whom we are unwilling to trust in private business. "It is his faithful in that which is least, is faithful; also in much; and he that is unjust in the least, is also unjust in much."

We still have left among us men worthy of revolutionary sires,—men of the people, who will be faithful to the interests of the people; men who have some character and standing to maintain, and to offer as a guarantee to their fidelity. But they are men who will not seek office, the office must seek

the principles of our Revolutionary fathers. Their spirit was a spirit of devout dependence on God. Before they had made their Declaration of Independence, they testified themselves, that God approved their design and their measures. Not only in the Puritan colony of Massachusetts, but in the old Dominion of Virginia, their Colonial Legislatures recommended to the people the observance of seasons of fasting and prayer. They entered upon the mighty contest, appealing to God, as the searcher of hearts, for the purity of their motives; and to God, as the God of battles, for the success of their efforts. Where defeated, Congress was not ashamed to recommend and observe days of humiliation; and when victorious, they went together to the house of God, and their thanksgiving. The illustrious leader of their armies, in his general orders and his proclamations, habitually recognized the frowns or the smiles of God.

We, like them, must feel, that "righteousness alone exalteth a nation; while like them, should we feel, that virtue must be found in public, as well as in private places; if a nation would be prosperous. Like them we must repudiate the idea, that public men may lawfully follow a standard of morality, which in private life would be deemed infamous and detestable. Like them we must feel, that virtue, based upon that Bible which Congress itself directed to be printed for the use of the people, is the only bulwark of true liberty, and national greatness.

Our fathers looked at country and its welfare, more than party and its selfish perquisites. Hence, they selected men for office, because they deemed them the spillo of citizens. They instituted public offices for the benefit of the public, and not for the benefit of office holders. Hence they gave little consideration to the false, mischievous and demoralizing doctrine of "rotation in office."—With them, it was expected, that the office should solicit the man, rather than the man the office; and hence when they found the right man for the right place, they usually kept him there. In no one respect have their descendants more done honor to their nation than in the adoption of this patriotic opinion. The prevalence of such a sentiment is, and must be, the most fruitful source of political corruption. It perverts mens views of what is really the true end of civil offices, which is the good of the public. It holds out a bribe for demagoguism. It enlists the most selfish and incompetent aspirants in a base struggle for the use of the public's money. It hinders the proper discharge of official duties, by displacing an incumbent before he has fairly learned the routine of his duties. It creates needless public agitation.—It tempts aspirants for office to become hypocrites and liars; by pretending to a patriotism which they do not feel, and by promising services which they never intend to render.

Along with the reputation of this political hero, we must imitate our fathers by endeavoring to select our best men for our most important offices. If the people would respect their own legislators and executive officers, they must select men who can ever be respected.

The American Congress of the Revolution commanded the veneration of the nation and the respect of the world. Can the same be said of the Congress of our day? And why the difference? Because they are now, in many parts of our land, a contemptible jargon of the very class of men, who during our Revolution, were most conspicuous and most influential in the State. Were the very patriots who guided our councils and framed our constitutions candidates for office now, they would probably be defeated by third or fourth rate political hacks. Because of their wealth or social position, or gentlemanly bearing, they would be denounced as aristocrats, and enemies of the poor people. They would be ostracized and defeated, because they would scorn to pander to views and vile passions, or to countenance those radical doctrines, which, instead of elevating, degrade, the mass of the people. It is not the true representatives of their ever true to justice, honor, and their country, than the continental congress, and the State legislatures of the same period.—Take all the members of that congress for the space of eight years, and all the state governments for the same period, and you could not find among them all as many examples of base treachery and venal corruption as was exhibited in the single legislature of Wisconsin in the year 1856. Had our congress and legislatures been composed of such needy adventurers, they could easily have been bought up by a British ministry, for a far less sum than was actually offered to some of our patriotic forefathers. Can any man doubt this, when he knows that a single railroad company was able to buy up a whole house of assembly, for \$855,000, by paying to each assemblyman from \$5,000, to \$10,000; that it could purchase the Senate for \$175,000; at the rate of \$10,000, to 20,000 apiece; a governor for \$50,000, and the other State officers for the small amount of \$16,000.—Yet such things we must expect so long as the people will allow themselves to be hoodwinked by demagogues, whose most exalted ideas of patriotism, are bounded by the seven cardinal principles of the five leaves and the two fishes.

We shall prove recant to the example and policy of our fathers, if we give our best offices to men who are unworthy of the least, while we refuse to trust in public life, those whom we know to be most worthy of trust in private. No man should be trusted with a public office, whom we are unwilling to trust in private business. "It is his faithful in that which is least, is faithful; also in much; and he that is unjust in the least, is also unjust in much."

We still have left among us men worthy of revolutionary sires,—men of the people, who will be faithful to the interests of the people; men who have some character and standing to maintain, and to offer as a guarantee to their fidelity. But they are men who will not seek office, the office must seek

them. They will not compromise their dignity and their principles, by advocating what they know to be unjust, unwise, and impracticable; but they will be honest, consistent and faithful to the Constitution; and these, according to Jefferson, are the grand qualifications for office.

When such men are appointed to office, we shall cease to hear of Wisconsin Legislatures; and of congressional Corruption. When legislators and magistrates are respectable, they will be respected; and law will be respected too. We shall no longer hear of vigilance committees, of lynch law, nor of more than five hundred murders and homicides in a single state, within a single year.

Finally, the spirit of mutual concession and compromise which pervaded our Continental Congress, and the Convention that framed our national Constitution, must be cherished by their sons; if they would perpetuate this glorious Union, so prolific of blessings to every class and every section of our land.

Then, as now, the subject of slavery was an embarrassing and complicated one. And yet both North and South were willing to make a moral sacrifice of opinions for the common good. The South conceded some of its acknowledged rights to the North; and the North not only recognized the right of masters to the services of slaves; but the right of making the slave population a base for representation in the national legislature. But for this concession, the constitution had never been adopted, nor the present union of the States consummated.

Little did those large-minded and patriotic sages dream, that so soon after their task was accomplished, a large portion of the secessionists would be annoyed and insulted by fierce denunciations. Little did they imagine, that a right to a full participation in the common territory of the whole confederacy, had they desired it, would have been denied.

Had they been wiser, they would have anticipated our fathers, this union had never been formed. And this union can never be maintained, but by the maintenance of those compromises mutually made in 1788. This whole subject of slavery is one of the deep things of Divine Providence, and the proper mode of its removal an impenetrable mystery.

But one thing is as clear as the fact of its existence; and that is, it can never be removed by the power of a free state; and its removal will never be accelerated, by coercive attempts to enforce the doctrine of "free-soilism" in national territory; that territory which was purchased by the blood and treasure of the whole nation, and which is therefore the common property of the whole. The men whose revolutionary sires resisted the "Stamp Act" and the "Tea Tax," and fought and bled to maintain the doctrine of "No Taxation without Representation," will never tolerate legislation on a matter on which they alone felt competent to legislate. What has all the agitation upon this subject thus far effected? Instead of loosening, it has riveted the bonds of the slave.— Instead of producing uniformity of views, it has caused a divergency and repugnancy of sentiment, greater than existed eighty years ago. Instead of promoting cordiality, it has fostered suspicion, jealousy, estrangement, and bitter animosity. It has resulted into twin throes of the great religious denominations of the land, but it has emancipated violence in the very halls of Congress; but it has won no converts, where alone converts are of any value. It has converted a new and beautiful territory into a scene of bitter strife; but it has settled nothing—nothing at least to the satisfaction of agitators.

In the name, then, of all that is glorious in our revolutionary history, in the name of all that is precious in our national blessings, in the name of Religion, and of Freedom itself, let us be persuaded to leave the settlement of this vexed question to Providence and to Time. The spirit of fraternal concord, and of mutual concession can alone preserve, what that same spirit created.— When this spirit ceases to animate us, we must cease to commemorate the 4th of July 1776. The spirit of this, our National birthday, reminds us of the Union of our fathers, in a common and glorious cause; of a Union freely entered into by those, whose opinions and instructions differ as really, as do those of their descendants, but who for a greater, were ready to sacrifice a lesser good.— When this spirit ceases to animate us, we shall have proved ourselves degenerate sons of noble sires, and the shades of our fathers will frown upon us; they will forbid us to desecrate this political Sabbath, by pretending to observe a national day; when a national spirit has given place to that of sectional fanaticism.

The West-Jersey Pioneer.



Saturday Morning, July 17.

The Pioneer has a LARGER Circulation than any weekly Paper in this State!

Only \$1 00 per Year!

JAMES B. FERGUSON, Editor.

H A R N E S S.

Nothing contributes more to the appearance of a good horse than a handsome set of harness, and it appears that Mr. Enoch Hanthorn, of this place, is determined to let the farmers and others know that he is still in the harness making business. Not content with advertising on a small scale, which pays him (or any other one who does it judiciously) ten fold; he has enlarged his advertisement, as will be seen by reference to another column, so that those who read it cannot fail to see where to go and get a supply of almost anything in his line of business.— The horse, in the advertisement, like the one on his sign, shows for itself, is evidently well harnessed, and like its owner, possesses a good share of spirit.

Mr. H. is a good practical workman, understands getting up in good style any article in his line, and takes the proper pains to make them go, via: sells good articles cheap and lets the public know it.

PUBLIC ROADS.

Not the least gratifying evidence of improvement, is the attention paid to roads.— Simple as the matter of mending roads may appear to most people, all our past experience fully proves that many persons have not the requisite capacity or judgment to perform the work correctly. We have repeatedly traversed all sections of the county, and we know of scarcely one road, that is much used for travel, that has not near it, plenty of the very best material for making our common roads equal to the finest turnpikes in the Union.

The agricultural productions of the county have been doubled within the last twenty years, and the surplus production, most probably, increased twenty fold, requiring a vastly increased amount of transportation over the common roads. The community are therefore much interested in the subject. Yet the office of overseer of roads has been heretofore considered quite an unimportant one; which any body could fill. Instead of this, men of the best judgement ought to be selected and properly compensated for their time and labor. There is no township office where the people's money can be so foolishly wasted. The annual appropriations for roads are generally meagre enough, and ought by all means, every cent of them, to be applied in the very best manner possible. We venture the assertion that there is not a county in the whole Union capable, with anything like the same expense, of having as good roads at all seasons of the year.

Under a modern system, the want of good roads between the most important local places, has been sought to be supplied by the establishment of turnpike companies, with the right to remunerate themselves by a tax upon the travelling community.

As part from the natural unpleasantness to free citizens, in a free country where travel and intercourse should be as nearly unrestricted as possible, of having the public roads barricaded by fences and gates and travellers placed under a rigid and despotic surveillance, where no haste can excuse stoppage and delay, there are other and much more powerful reasons why this system should be changed as speedily as possible, in such a way as to make our roads free. This might be eventually accomplished by requiring turnpike companies to give up the roads to the county after a given time, either after their capital with interest had been repaid or for a compensation. Under our present system of turnpikes, the expense of collecting the toll is of itself a heavy tax upon the community. The rates of toll are intended to defray these expenses, and repairs to the road, as well as pay a per cent upon the capital invested.

If it falls short of this, a very simple rule of arithmetic will show the inevitable result. The expense of keeping up toll houses and paying the collector, is an expense that under a free system of roads would be dispensed with altogether. But few persons can form any idea of the extent of this expense. The four or six cents toll are paid perhaps with an inward or external growl and the matter dismissed from the mind. This tax on the travelling community although ostensibly paid by them, is really paid directly or indirectly by the whole community.— On the turnpike between villages, but a short distance apart, or through a thickly settled agricultural neighborhood, toll houses and gates are required at an average distance of not less than eight miles. Estimating the cost of these at six hundred dollars each, the salaries of two gate keepers at six hundred dollars, and counting ten per cent as the necessary allowance for interest on the cost and repairs of building fences and gates, and we have an actual annual expense of seven hundred and twenty dollars as the annual cost of collecting the revenue on eight miles of turnpike. This it must be recollected is independent of the cost of repairs of road or dividends on stock. Seven hundred and twenty dollars for eight miles, is an average of ninety dollars a mile, annually paid by the community, that would not be required if the roads were free of toll restriction. There are many miles in the county that could be converted into excellent turnpikes for that amount for one year.

In these remarks, we do not wish to be understood as saying any thing against the companies or their management, we have nothing to the prejudice of either. And as they have invested their capital in the roads, we wish to see them liberally repaid for their enterprise, because the country is greatly benefited by them, even under the present plan. It is the system to which we object, by which our roads are guarded and the freedom of travel taxed. A turnpike is badly needed between this place and Salem. One ought to be constructed, even if it had to be made under our present system. But as the citizens of Salem are not particularly noted for their enterprise, we suppose Cumberland would have to supply the company and capital required for its construction. A turnpike from Millville to Malaga is also much needed. Our Gloucester county neighbors have done their part, by constructing the road from Glassboro to Malaga, and it remains for Cumberland county to "do her duty," and the work will be completed.— The road as far as completed is one of the best in the State, and we hope to hear soon of its completion to Millville.

It appears that an article of last week, in calling attention to the loss of Mr. Peacock of the Fortescue house, was misunderstood by several. We were authorized to state by whom Mr. P. had been induced to believe that a large company would visit his place on the 6th inst., but we concluded not to be personal, and merely said, that owing to unforeseen circumstances, the boat did not go. In justice to the Captain, whom we highly esteem as a gentleman, we would embrace this opportunity to say that no blame can be attached to him for not running the boat as it was expected, and heard at the wharf with him, and the disappointed party, would have gone had there been any persons there to justify a different opinion. The judicious one which he pursued.

Fortescue Retreat.

At this season of the year, while many of our citizens are seeking pleasure and recreation at distant places of Summer resort, it should not be overlooked that there are comfortable and pleasant retreats, within a few hours ride of this town. The most convenient and desirable of which is Fortescue. The present proprietor and landlord, is just the man for such a place, and those who visit there and become acquainted with him, cannot fail to appreciate his kindness and attention to their wants. As will be seen by advertisement in another column, he is prepared to accommodate all who may favor him with their patronage. Fishing, Gunning and Bathing, with other innocent amusements, may be enjoyed to perfection. His tables are always supplied with the best of the market affords. Fish and oysters of superior quality, prepared in a manner unsurpassed by the best of cooks. Adjoining the Hotel is one of the largest and best cultivated gardens in the county, from which the table is well supplied with an abundance of unsurpassable vegetables, a specimen of which in the shape of a handsome lot of cucumbers were forwarded us this season, at a few weeks before any such made their appearance in this market, for which we return our thanks to the clever landlord, and we assure all who visit Fortescue that they will fare well.

The Old Cooper Shop.

Most of our readers in this vicinity will understand what building is referred to when we speak of the "Old Cooper Shop," a brief history of which is here given.

Seventy years ago, Mark Riley, a cooper by trade, purchased a tract of land in this place, embracing ten acres, for which he paid five hundred dollars. On the North-West corner of the lot stood a stone dwelling, in which he resided for many years; a few rods east of this, was erected a frame building which was occupied as a cooper shop by Mr. M. Riley, from 1788 until 1838, since which time it has been occupied by his son James. The old cooper shop which has stood so long, and for many years past has been such an unsightly structure, has at last fallen by the spirit of progress, and will give place to a large and comparatively handsome structure, which will be occupied by Mr. James Riley, as a cooper establishment, in less than three weeks from the time one of our enterprising carpenters commenced demolishing the building.— This was one of the oldest buildings in Bridgeton, and had become so antiquated by the destructive influence of time, as to be looked upon as an intruder, in the midst of other and more sightly structures.

Rattlesnake Killed.

Last Wednesday, on the farm of James Ford near Willow Grove in Salem county, a rattlesnake five feet in length and eight inches in circumference, was slain. The "rattler" was first discovered by a daughter of Mr. Ford, whose attention was drawn to the spot where it lay, by the barking of a dog. She at once gave the alarm to her father who hastened into the field, and with that high wooden cudgel, so formidable to snakes, the reptile was soon despatched. The skin was afterwards stuffed and will remain "on show" at Mr. Ford's. There were eleven rattlers and one burton in this high rattlesnake's tail. This is the first one that has been killed in these parts for a number of years. With St. Patrick, we say a death to all snakes.

Steamboat Excursions.

Capt. Wills of the Steamer Express, has proposed to give two gratuitous excursions to the Sabbath School children of this town, their teachers and superintendents, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, the 20th and 22d insts. The first being for the smaller children. These excursions so liberally proposed by the Captain, will afford a pleasant trip to all who accept of the opportunity so generously offered. The boat will return at an early hour in the evening, and if the weather prove favorable, a delightful moonlight excursion will be enjoyed. Parents need feel no uneasiness about their children while on board the safe Steamer Express and in charge of such a careful and gentlemanly commander as Capt. Wills. Parents and friends who would like to join in the excursions, can procure tickets at C. S. Miller & Co., Brewer's and Isaac A. Shepard's. Tickets 25 cents.

THE HOOP RESENTMENT is very extensive indeed; article after article has been received in answer to "Student," several of which we insert. It would be impossible to publish "the pile" which lies before us, although they all deserve a place. We think however, that Student will study other "sciences" after reading this week's paper—and confess himself "a used up man." We hope he will not experience any inconvenience from the *hooping cough*! Our fair correspondents have come to our rescue, thus relieving us of the extreme pleasure of defending those "institutions" which the ladies seem to take such pride in upholding. If those who have replied this week to Student, come out second best in the hoop controversy, we are prepared to volunteer our services in their defence, until Student offers a substitute for the "circles" which he so unmercifully denounces. We are inclined to believe, however, that by the time Sallie, and Nelly B. dismiss Student, he will be sufficiently versed in "hoopology" to graduate and receive his diploma, without further ceremony. It is hoped that he will not leave the arena without demonstrating the fact that moderation in all things, especially hoops; is an "axiom" which can be *sister-matically* and *sub-sis-fully* demonstrated.

The Steamer Logan, Capt. Bright, made an excursion from Wilmington to this place on Thursday last, leaving there about half-past seven and arriving here at twelve. About four hundred passengers were on board, many of whom dined at our principal hotels. After promissading the streets for a few hours, they left, apparently well pleased with their excursion. With the exception of a few passengers who were drunk and rowdy, the trip was a success.

Philadelphia Grain Market. Wheat, 2500 bu. 100 & 105c. for fair to prime old reds, and 110 & 120c. for white. Rye, 500 bu. Pennsylvania 70c. Corn, 2500 bu. Penn's yellow 85c. about, and 84 & 85c. in store. Oats, 5000 bu. Penn's 44 & 42c.

For the West-Jersey Pioneer.

HOOPS!

Well there! it has come at last; the storm has burst, not on our poor defenceless heads, but on what we have vainly supposed, our well defended bodies.

Student has come down with a tremendous crash on the Hoops! and were it not for the extreme elasticity of steel and whalebone, he undoubtedly would have entirely demolished Ojolivettes. We are not much surprised at this terrible onslaught, for we would expect one, who is continually haranguing the people upon donning any apparel not previously recommended by himself, to give himself as prominent a public position as possible. Now he has done it, and honestly earned that notoriety he has been so long solicitous to obtain. Why should our D. D.'s, or M. D.s. answer a question so devoid of pertinence to us, except to some loose-sick Student, as not to interrupt the even tenor of their way. No man of a properly manly spirit would think of attacking us, merely because he considers us the weaker vessels, and not able to defend our own cause with a true dignity of spirit; judging from the amount of self carried I think we should be considered the stronger craft.

We make no objection to Student's discussion of this, to him, interesting subject, since it only tends to make him appear more ridiculous than he could otherwise do. To his first proposition we take exception, and will prove his grounds falsely taken. 1st. "The wearing of hoops does not teach economy." Now for definition, for we mean to stick to the law and testimony. Economy.

1st. *The management and government of a family*.—Every mother, and father too, knows that the male part of the family is more easily managed with the hoop than any other thing. What young Miss of even eight years, will not more readily acquiesce in paternal dictation, than submit to the shorn of her laurels (the hoops) and publicly disgraced. The hoop too has been found a valuable auxiliary in quieting rebellion, and reducing the male portion of families to docile submission; as Student's parents no doubt can readily testify. 2nd definition.—"*A frugal and judicious use of money*."—If buying one hooped skirt supercedes the necessity of buying two or three wadded and quilted ones, thereby saving three fourths of the expense, and all the trouble of the latter, is not "a frugal and judicious use of money," we ask Student to tell us what he will consider "frugality." Again, our juvenile friends objects to our wearing the same style of dress both in summer and winter, merely because it promotes comfort. Before this Student began his researches in the hidden lore of past ages, many persons were under the (false) impression that comfort in dress should be as freely consulted at one season of the year as another.

We had never doubted that a woman could be a good wife, a kind mother, or a faithful, pious christian with any style of dress. We wonder if hoops in the sanctuary take more attention from the reading of the Scriptures, or the hearing of the sermon, than would the close fitting narrow skirt, once worn by our grandmothers, the Quaker Bonnet, or even the stiff standing collar, which the majority of the wearer have to find about every five minutes during service, to be assured that it does not lop or get out of that exact position, in which it has been placed with such precise care.

It is necessary for females, in order to be "pious christians" to put on long robes and disfigure their faces, that they appear unto men to worship? Since Student has shown himself a Bible scholar, possibly he can inform us if this is so. He has referred, for confirmation of his views, to 1st Tim. 11—9. Now the only part of his text he can possibly apply to hoops, is the last clause—"or with costly array." Since we have shown above that the hooped skirt is the cheaper apparel, we fulfill the requirements of his directions. But if he will take the pains to read the 10th verse of the same chapter, he will learn that the Apostle means the adornment of the inner, and not the outer person. Again, he refers to Romans XII—2. If women did conform "to the world," and wear what they (he) says should be worn, an application of this text might here be made; but since women take an independent course, and don their own fashion of dress, we don't see its application. 1st Cor. VIII—12 is another of his texts, which can have no point here, for Paul was only speaking of evil example in leading weak brethren to commit the same errors the strong were guilty of. Now if the fact of our wearing hoops should lead our brethren of weak consciences to adopt the same style of dress, and thereby offend their fellow brethren, we would certainly be laid under obligations to discard this apparel altogether; for we readily acknowledge 'tis bad enough in all conscience for him to be under the rule of, without wearing skirts. "Since more than two thirds of our brethren are opposed to wearing hoops," we sincerely hope they will never be persuaded to put them on.

We are sorry Student gives the Ministers such a home thrust, for, judging from the tone of his article, we suspect he lives near a minister's family himself. Suppose even now while hoops are fashionable, a minister's wife or daughter go into the sanctuary to worship, clad in a thin narrow-skirted dress, devoid of form or comeliness, will Student please to tell us whether she will attract more or less attention from the religious services, than if she was clad in the same style as the rest of the congregation.

We forbear further comment, but the same fanatical argument used by Student, would apply with equal force to almost every article of dress worn. SALLIE.

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For the West-Jersey Pioneer.

Should Christians wear Hoops?

Yes, Mr. Student, christians should wear hoops—if they want to, why not? You, it is true, try to tell why they should not; but make a schoolboy effort, most certainly—you are only a student and cannot be expected to write very profoundly on a subject you evidently know nothing about.

It's a good thing for boys to try to write something, I suppose, and to early learn the habit of laying down axioms—firstly, secondly, &c. It will come easier after the first serious attempt is made.

Well, "should a christian wear hoops?" A "Student" says no. He says they are not conducive to good. That's his opinion. Mr. Student, how long have you worn hoops? How do you know about it? Come give us your experience. We don't want suppositions. Perhaps your hoops were not made right.

They are conducive to good and in a very important degree. They have taken the place of the thick heavy skirts, hanging about the waist, which a young man, of course, could know nothing about. Every wearer of hoops knows the absolutely good effects physiologically of the hooped skirt; here is one point:

But hoops cost something and render nothing in return. Do they indeed? Why what a discovery! Is there anything else worn by christian students that is in the same category? Must poor worn-out skirts be the only thing to attract a student's attention? What does he wear pray? Is he clear of wearing articles of apparel that cost something and bring nothing in return? Does he wear shoes this warm weather, when it is entirely useless, as thousands who have tried it can testify? Does he insist upon following the vain customs of the world so far as to wear a coat, when it is quite unnecessary? Nay more, why wear any clothing at all, beyond enough to shade the body from the burning sun? All else is superfluous, certainly.

If "Student" is consistent, what a queer looking specimen of humanity he must be. He don't conform to the world, not at all.— He has an original taste and makes garments of his own fashion. It is useless to follow the fashions of the world and pay a tailor for cutting and making clothing, so he is more economical and sews through his own garments. He don't wear buttons, for hooks and eyes are cheaper, and save the work of making button-holes. He don't have buttons on his coat behind of course, that would be useless. He don't wear those pipe hats, nor felt hats, they are the fashions of the vain world. In fact he is an original specimen. Please walk out here, Mr. Student and let us see how you get along in ignoring the vain fashions of the world and all useless things. If you do not cut a figure that would attract attention from the Creator to the creature, I am mightily mistaken. By the way, when a "Student" says hoops attract attention from the Creator to the creature, he speaks from experience, no doubt, but let us ask him if he ever saw a pretty girl, hoops or unhooped, who did not cause him to do that same thing? Be honest now, and answer like a man, having the nature of a man, you'll give up your "axioms" on that point, I know.

"Repugnant and disgusting" are they? That's all a matter of taste, and I will warrant that if our "Student" should see a lady in the street with an old-fashioned, narrow skirted dress without hoops or skirts after the fashions of the world, he would be among the first to laugh at her. Then as for more than two thirds of the brethren being opposed to hoops, that's all a fudge. The fact is they like them, and really think us charming looking creatures with them. They would be disgusted if we appeared without them.

Now Mr. "Student," you just let ladies' skirts alone. It is no concern of yours.— You need not wear them if you don't want to, and you had better see if your skirts are clean in all respects, before you begin to overhaul ladies' wardrobes. Leave us to manage those small affairs ourselves. We will try to be no more vain than you men, and to have no more ridiculous and vain fashions, than you have always followed. July 10, 1858. NELLY B.

For the West-Jersey Pioneer. MR. EDITOR:—Presuming an account of the manner in which the day that gave birth to our Nation's Independence, was celebrated at Tuckahoe on Saturday the 3d, would not be uninteresting to a portion at least of the many readers of the Pioneer, permit me to inform them that quite early in the morning it was supposed the day would be unpropitious, and doubtless, many hearts were saddened at the unpromising appearances of the weather. But at length the clouds began to disperse, and the bright orb of day cast his effulgent beams upon the earth, indicative of a clearer sky, and lighter hearts.

According to previous arrangements, the procession formed near the M. E. Church, headed by the "Tuckahoe Light Infantry," and accompanied by the Marshallville Brass Band, and marched to the beautiful grove belonging to Mrs. Baily, which had been nicely prepared for the occasion. At 10 o'clock, Prayer was offered by Rev. M. F. Shimp, after which, Rev. C. W. Heisley, delivered a very interesting address to the Sabbath School Children. He concluded by addressing himself to the adult portion of the assembly in the following remarks, than which none could have been more appropriate. Possessing merit of no ordinary degree they demanded, and did not fail to receive the marked attention of the people.

Being much impressed with the truthfulness, and originality of the Rev.'d gentleman's remarks, and also with his hearty and forcible delivery, I am induced to submit to your readers as much of them as I could obtain. We come now in addressing the subject of the day, to show that the modern Sabbath School, is connected with and influences our liberties.

Virtue is the basis of a nation's prosperity and success. Virtue is a term variously employed. We mean by it here; the aggregate of all just and holy principles, derived from the word of God; and entering into individual character; the composing elements like rivulets at various places, and velocities, pouring into the main body of a river, enter at different times and circumstances into the volume of a nation's laws and character. The individual virtues of the people make up the character of the nation, give form and direction to every law, and stamp their impress on its destiny. It is not the laws which primarily give character to the nation, but it is the nation, as subsisting in its individual members which creates and applies the laws to form its own character; so it is very apparent, that not only every community, but every family, and every individual, sends up a moral likeness, and impresses it somewhere on the complexion of the nation. Therefore, we may be free to affirm, that every trait necessary to perfect individual character is likewise necessary, to perfect that of the nation. If this be true, then that long cherished doctrine of the demagogues, that "whatever is expedient is just," falls to the ground, and we ascertain thereby, not that because we cannot now possess ourselves of Cuba, that therefore it is unjust, but because it is a violation of God's law, and of the principles of a virtuous and stable government. We are professedly a Christian nation. Our laws are proposed to be based on, and controlled by Christian principles. We accord to Christianity a divine origin! We believe, as a nation, that it is a revelation from God; that in its elevation, it lies beyond the full grasp of untutored mind and inclination, and hence the inevitable conclusion is, that we need great religious educational organizations, under the auspices of the Christian Church to train us and our youth up to our national duties. How can it suffice, to wait until manhood has fixed the opinions and prejudiced the conduct, or until all the various and numerous features of our laws have been apprehended, ere we begin to inculcate virtue, but as reason dawns, and the light of a new world glides upon the vacant mind, let the principles of virtue be fixed, so that when the laws are apprehended by the young patriot, he may recognize, and keep them sacred.

It might be objected that mankind learn the experience they glean from prosperity and adversity, to form governments, and to frame laws, that this is the great principle and rule of national discipline; that it cannot be anticipated by any other arrangement, and that it had always appeared to be necessary to any people's liberties and prosperity. But all this goes on the fallacy, that mankind have not the faculty to apprehend and to love the better virtues, until by the magic of some dire necessity, or the charm of some Godsent, the faculties are startled from their faded torpor, and virtue stands before them with overwhelming beauty and power; Nay! In the mellow springtime of life, when the mind is tender and susceptible, when receiving its first and most vivid impressions, when its spreading canvass is receiving the outlines of the future, which like a chart, shall direct its voyage to a safe harbor, or to fatal shipwreck. That's the time to type those essential virtues, which, in after years, shall germinate into great national principles.

Again, it might be objected to the modern Sabbath School, that we have our Primary, and our High School, our Seminaries and our Colleges, where may be taught varied knowledge, political economy, law, &c., obviating the need of all other collateral or subsidiary institutions. We answer, that all these may describe well what a nation and a citizen should be, but too generally fail in forming the character accordingly, and in presenting such high motives, as would, always suggest, that we are now living for another world, and concerning which the eye of God is upon us. Wherever our whole nation, by its wholesome laws regarding a common Sabbath, points this out as a day, when the citizens should be schooled for their high duties. And the sights we look upon on successive Sabbaths, is a fitting sequel and answer to such laws; for throughout the length and breadth of every enlightened and well-ordered community, we behold, men, women, and children, flocking to Church, and to Sabbath school, to pay their homage to the King of nations, to imbibe that love of virtue which is dearer than life, and which stands forth the alone safeguard of our happy country, which would arm millions of our youth against oppression and cruelty, to oppose and drive them from their lurking places on our shores and from the bosom of our homes.

It is commonly said that the children are the hope of the church and the world. But then it remains for the modern Protestant Sabbath School and kindred institutions, to give these hopes germinating power, and ensure a glorious harvest.

The appropriate training of children, has, even among the most barbarous nations, been esteemed as the anchorage ground of the world, or as the alone favored garden, from which to rear up sturdy and fruitful plants yielding an unfilling harvest of all natural virtue. But while this truth was eagerly grasped, and nations built upon it strong bulwarks, it remained for a brighter day, to disclose in theory and in fact, that to make patriots it was not sufficient to train the hand to strike, and the mind to grasp great truths, but that above all, the moral faculties must be trained and cultivated to that degree, where they might sit and extend their supervision over the whole intellectual and physical and political realms. That day was when Christianity arising before the dogmas and superstitions of former ages, like a clear sun from a sea of mist fixed her throne on the foundations of eternal truth and virtue, spoke forth by her oracles, to our wandering world, and taught us that "Righteousness exalteth a nation." Let us not, then, be so weak as to suppose that he is the best patri-

ot who is most aggressive and pugnaoious, and who is most skilled in military things, let us be split on that rock upon which the Grecian and Roman Republics went down. They taught their children war, and mainly war, while moral principle was left in cold neglect. If, to teach our youth patriotism, it were only necessary to inculcate aggression &c, then, indeed, there would be but little difference in the modes of rearing patriot soldiers, and the vile assassins.— To rear brave soldiers and loyal citizens, let the wholesome teachings of morality and religion, be the first lessons proffered to their expanding minds. Draw, as you should, from the oracles of God's truth, the elements of a nation's virtue, liberty and prosperity, plant them in the heart's original soil, expose them to the dew of the Lord's holy day, invite sanctifying influences to gather around, and disgorge their profuse clouds; and when the nation's drum shall beat to arms, you will behold myriads, such as Leonidas or Caesar never saw.

Here it becomes a serious question with us, as to what we may do for our country.— We may rejoice over what has been accomplished, but that will not provide for the future. Let us learn wisdom of the past, and then set heartily to work to provide for the future. Let the nations imitate the Spartan mother in teaching their children the love of liberty, and with it the love of virtue. Let the sires, like the Hannibal fathers, teach their sons patriotism, and courage against the enemies of their country.— Let the powerful influences of an evangelical Church, be operated on our young nation's mind, that on her growing moral character may be stereotyped, the living image of our national liberties and virtues, and thus be in nature and in art the pure reflex of our laws, and institutions, and thus ensaignter every political act; from a state naturally agreeing with our great Republican principles.

Nations, like individuals may reach speedily, a high and happy destiny, or reap the whirlwinds of disaster, accordingly as they avail themselves of sacred principles, and wise counsels. It depends more on how they use their resources, than upon the amount of them. And judging from the past, I conclude that more than military academies, and great armies, we just now need sound moral principles, working in the masses, in the Church and among the children, to steady the surging ship of state as she cruises before those ominous clouds which have been frowning from our northern and southern skies, and the thunderings of which we have so lately heard from the plains of Kansas. If ever our country attains that high tensing which nature and providence have indicated for her, she must shake from her drabbed skirts, political chicanery, Slavery and Rum; and then assuming her robes of lily, and animated by the spirit which flows in from our moral and religious institutions, she shall arise, and as the ark hails the first dawn of day, so shall she hail and attract the first gleams of God's Milleniah, as it comes to proclaim again "Peace on earth good will toward men," "Liberty to the captive, and deliverance to them that are bound."

Three cheers were now given for the Speaker, the land played an appropriate air, and the 1500 people (except those who were provided for on the ground) retired to partake of the sumptuous dinner and refreshments, prepared by Mr. Wm. Royal of the Tuckahoe Hotel. At 2 o'clock the procession again repaired to the grove, when the Declaration of Independence was impressively read by Mr. Thomas B. Westcott, succeeded by an eloquent address by J. C. Scoville, Esq., of Camden; notwithstanding at its commencement prelinse drops of rain began to fall, which frightened many from the ground (the power itself passing round) the majority remained to hear the Orator. After a national air by the band, three cheers were given for the Orator, three for the Ladies and the crowd dispersed, evidently satisfied with the proceedings of the day, thus far. At 8 o'clock a grand display of fireworks terminated the exercises of the day. Thus has passed another "Fourth of July," the celebration of which did honor to the speakers, the committee of arrangements and the citizens generally of Tuckahoe, Cape May county, New Jersey. There was less drunkenness and better order than is general on such occasions. OBSERVER.

Bridgeton Prices Current.

W. Wheat	\$1 16 cts.	Potatoes	75 cts.
R. Butter	15 "	Butter	16 cts. per lb.
Old, "	50 "	Eggs	15 " doz.
New Corn,	60 "	" "	12 " "
Eye,	75 "	Lard,	13 " "
Oats,	35 "	Pork,	10 cts. per lbs.

MARRIED.

At Willow Grove, on the 29th of June, by Rev. A. Matthews, Mr. Adam B. Esch, and Mrs. Margaret Clark, all of Gloucester County.

On the 29th inst., by Rev. J. C. Sumner, at the residence of the bride's father, Manroctown, Pa. Edw. C. Cook, to Miss CHARLES A. COLLINS.

On the 8th inst., by the same, at the residence of Dr. Joseph Butcher, Manroctown, Pa. George J. Faatz, to Miss ELIZA L. DUNN.

DEED.

In Bridgeton, on the 10th inst., JACOB, son of Jacob and Shalotta A. Edwards, aged 6 months.

In Bridgeton, on the 10th inst., WILLIAM G., son of Wm. and Lydia Monday, aged three months.

On the morning of the 10th inst. in Rodostown, Miss TURN MURDER, in the 17th year of her age daughter of William Balfour of the above place.

At Fairton, on the 6th inst., JACOB DUBERKLE, aged 66 years.

In Bridgeton, on the 14th inst., Mrs. ANNA BLEW, aged 92 years and 11 months.

In Bridgeton, on the 10th inst., GEORGE H., infant son of George and Rebecca M. Woodruff.

This lovely babe beloved by all. Called hence by early dawn. Just came to shore, but never a flower. In Paradise can bloom. Mother and Father cease to mourn. Cheer to his home is gone. Gone to Heaven, that peace of rest. Where his Saviour thought it best.

NEW GROCERY & PROVISION STORE. Henry Meyer & Co. HAVE JUST RECEIVED FROM THE LONDON, BROADWAY & LONDON, GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS. Which they sell for cash, at the lowest Philadelphia prices, all kinds of country produce. Cash paid for Eggs and Poultry.

HEADQUARTERS.

Shoepost & Shoe Store in Bridgeton.

Wholesale and Retail.

THROUGH the solicitation of my friends, I am induced to have made arrangements to continue my manufacturing work to keep on hand Philadelphia, New York, and other styles of shoes, such as Ladies', Misses and Childrens', Gents', Boys and Infants'. All styles of shoes, all over a price to low that no one will find fault with. All styles of shoes, all over a price to low that no one will find fault with. All styles of shoes, all over a price to low that no one will find fault with.

TIHONAS P. WILLIAMS.

Philadelphia, Oct. 7, 1887.

Bowen, Rogap, and Co.

LUMBER & HARDWARE.

ROVEN & ROGAP, having associated with them the LUMBER & HARDWARE BUSINESS, will now offer for sale the following varieties of Lumber that can be found in any yard in this State, together with an assortment of every kind of hardware in building purposes.

Brewster & Co.

Successors of the business of the late Francis G. Brewer.

At the old stand in Commerce street, Bridgeton, New Jersey, respectfully solicit a continuance of patronage from the friends and customers of the old firm, having recently received from the manufacturer a large stock of their goods in their line, are now ready to supply their friends and the trade with pure and genuine Groceries, and a variety of other articles, including Groceries, Patent Medicines, Paints, Oils, Stationery, and Stationery, and Stationery.

F. Dare's Drug & Medicine Store.

N. W. Cor. of Commerce & Cohoes Sts.

Sole Agents—Louden's Cambric Exporting.

And Sole Agents, Colliu's Cambric Exporting, and other medicines, Swavens syrup, Hoffman's German Bitters, Tobias' Hunt's Massage, and other medicines.

Farmers, Housekeepers, & the whole World—Attention!!

WILLIAM POOL.

still continues at his new store, next door to the Post-Office, in Bridgeton, N. J.

HOUSEKEEPERS.

Are requested to call and examine his articles, having almost every article that is desirable in the Kitchen Department. Knives and Forks of the best quality always for sale. Fluid lards of all sizes and kinds and at all prices.

Watches & Jewelry.

Now opening the most extensive and finest assortment of Watches & Jewellery ever imported in West Jersey. Breast pins and Ear Rings, in various styles, and at low prices. Gold and silver pens, keys, hooks, buttons, studs, armlets, &c., all selling very cheaply.

TRAVELLING LINES.

Philadelphia and New York Lines—Summer Arrangement.

THE Camden and New York and Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad Co.'s Line from Philadelphia to New York and Way Places will leave as follows:

At 10 A. M. via Camden and Jersey City, N. Jersey Accommodation, 2 25

At 10 A. M. via Camden and Amboy, Accommodation, 2 25

Corn Cribbs.

We have in our yard, plenty of Lumber to make corn cribs. Call on us for prices.

Steam Dring & Scouring Establishment.

MARK E. VAN NEST, No. 25 North 5th Street, between Market and Arch, Philadelphia. Steam Dring and Scouring Establishment.

BRICK, BRICK!

Having purchased of James English his interest in the brick yard, we are now ready to furnish Red and Paring kinds, such as Salmon, Hard, and Red Paring, in quantities to suit purchasers. Having experienced workmen, we expect to furnish a good article at reasonable prices. All orders for brick will please give us a call at 11 N. Water Street, or at our yard, either Brick, Lumber, Hardware & Coal.

Wanted.

A boy from 16 to 18 years of age to learn the above business. April 4, '87.

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N. S. LAWRENCE'S

New Paper, Printers' Card and Envelope WARHOUSES.

No. 406 Commerce Street, Philadelphia. Cash buyers will find it to their interest to call. Jan 2.

FLOUR, FEED AND PROVISIONS.

THE subscriber informs his friends and the public that he still continues at his old stand, next door to the Surrogate's Office, and has constantly on hand

FLOUR AND FEED

in any quantity, which he will deliver to customers at their places, at the lowest cash prices. ALWAYS and a variety of other articles public are invited to call and purchase elsewhere.

FINE SEGARS.

A choice selection of imported Segars of the best brands, at

MOLASSES.

white and brown sugars, Rio, SALT, Fine salt, dairy and Tarks Island salt, for sale by

BREWSTER & CO.

Successors of the business of the late Francis G. Brewer.

F. Dare's Drug & Medicine Store.

N. W. Cor. of Commerce & Cohoes Sts.

Light, Light!

Fresh complete and burning fluid, from the best manufacturer, for sale by

WALL PAPER.

YOU will find a new and handsome assortment of Wall Paper, of various styles, patterns and prices at the new store in

PROSPERITY ROW.

A few doors west of the bridge. Also, Paints, oil, colors, brushes, paint brushes, carriage trimmings, and a great variety of French articles constantly on hand at prices to suit the times.

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Richard B. Smith Again.

AND has just returned from the city with a good assortment of FINE SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS.

including HATS, Caps, Shawls, beautiful styles Dress Goods, Ribbons, Laces, Parasols, and all the latest novelties and novelties. Also a good assortment of Groceries.

BLACKSMITHING.

THE subscriber having taken the stand on Pearl street, opposite the Glasshouse, intends to devote his time and attention to every thing pertaining to his business. Everything is here manufactured by a Blacksmith, and the subscriber has 10 years of experience in his profession.

WHEELWRIGHTING AND PLOUGH MAKING.

The subscriber having taken the stand on Pearl street, opposite the Glasshouse, intends to devote his time and attention to every thing pertaining to his business.

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PLOWS, BARROWS, CULTIVATORS.

A very large stock, embracing all the most improved. Brokers will find it advantageous to give us a call before purchasing elsewhere.

TO FARMERS.

ECONOMY IS WEALTH!

The best manufacturer of Phosphoric Acid Super Phosphate of Lime, and other Agricultural Chemicals, is now offering for sale, at a low price, the following articles:

Look Out for Brains!

Has a new Cooking Stove, Three Dollars cheaper than any before offered in Bridgeton, and will do your work better than any other.

SHINGLES, SHINGLES.

AS we have purchased a large lot of Shingles for CASH, we want to get them either for Cash or Credit, at very low prices.

Star Corn Shellers, Horse Powers, Thrashers, Grain Fans, Reel Cutters, Farming Machines, in large variety.

Just Received and for Sale.

ENGLISH ISLAND MOLASSES of superior quality, at 70c per gallon; also, new crop N. O. Molasses, brown and white sugars; also various styles imported Calicoes, Delaines, Brilliantes, &c.

Just Received This Day a New SET of CLOTHS & CASSIMERES.

Cheaper than ever offered—See the Price!

Millville Lumber Yard.

MULFORD & WILSON.

HOUSEKEEPERS.

Are requested to call and examine their articles in the Kitchen Department. Knives and Forks of the best quality always for sale.

ROOFING AND SPOUTING.

Done at short notice, in the best manner, of all the best material, and finished at the time agreed upon.

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Star Corn Shellers, Horse Powers, Thrashers, Grain Fans, Reel Cutters, Farming Machines, in large variety.

Just Received and for Sale.

ENGLISH ISLAND MOLASSES of superior quality, at 70c per gallon; also, new crop N. O. Molasses, brown and white sugars; also various styles imported Calicoes, Delaines, Brilliantes, &c.

Just Received This Day a New SET of CLOTHS & CASSIMERES.

Cheaper than ever offered—See the Price!

Millville Lumber Yard.

MULFORD & WILSON.

HOUSEKEEPERS.

Are requested to call and examine their articles in the Kitchen Department. Knives and Forks of the best quality always for sale.

ROOFING AND SPOUTING.

Done at short notice, in the best manner, of all the best material, and finished at the time agreed upon.

HOUSEKEEPERS.

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QUEENSWARE.

A FRESH arrival, consisting of Tea Sets, and all pieces to match just received at

NOTICE.

EDMUND S. JOHNSON, continues to carry on the stand, Franklin and Broad Street, Bridgeton, N. J.

Philadelphia and Greenwich MAIL STAGE.

The subscribers would hereby inform the public that the Philadelphia and Greenwich Mail Stage, will leave Philadelphia for Bridgeton, N. J., on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 9 o'clock A. M., and on Thursday and Saturday at 10 o'clock A. M. The stage will connect with the Philadelphia and Camden Stage at Camden, and with the Philadelphia and Trenton Stage at Trenton.

New Arrangement.

The subscribers having purchased the "Old Line of Stages", will, until further notice, leave J. Mayhew's Hotel, at 6 o'clock A. M., and Adams' Hotel, in West Bridge street, at 7 o'clock A. M., passing through Camden, Pitkin, and Carpenter's Landing, and arriving in time to take the 12 o'clock train for Philadelphia.

CONFECTIONERIES.

Fruit, Nuts, Peppermint, Oranges, Lemons, Ground Nuts, Apples, &c.

DARE'S LINIMENT.

Oils at 50 cents each, in now put up in pint bottles, wounds, swellings, sores, to cure of bruise, and pain for man or horse. Also, in 25 cent bottles.

Encourage Home Industry.

The subscriber thankful for past favors, and to inform the public that he still to be found at the old stand.

BUCKSKIN EMPORIUM.

240 WALNUT STREET.

Ladies' Fancy Furs.

The subscriber has opened for the season his splendorous assortment of Furs, consisting of Squirrel, Fitch &c.