

ERRATA.—In some of the impressions of our last paper, the word *alment* in the editorial column was made to read *element*.

The destructive fire in Charleston of which we give some account to-day, will awaken the deepest feelings in our readers. As yet we are in ignorance of the amount of misery and distress which must be caused by it. The pecuniary loss must be immense; and many there are who have been reduced from a condition of ease and comfort, to a depth of poverty from which time will not recover them.

Since writing the above, we have learnt from a stage passenger, that the fire was arrested on Saturday afternoon, and that from 11 to 1200 houses were supposed to have been burnt. We have but one reflection at present, to make upon the melancholy catastrophe. Here indeed is a fine occasion for a display of that liberal charity for which we know our District is not deficient. The rich should open their purses and freely give of their abundance to help the widow and orphan, and there are few among us so destitute, as to be unable to aid in this truly holy work.

As our paper was going to press, the Augusta Sentinel was placed in our hands, containing a minute account of the fire, from the Charleston Courier. We can only now give the following particulars.—The loss of property is estimated at three millions of dollars, of which about half is probably insured—the splendid edifice, the new Hotel, was insured to the amount of \$100,000. Many lives were lost—Colonel Charles John Steedman, Naval officer of the Port, one of the most useful and enterprising citizens of Charleston, a Mr. Schieler, a Mr. Monroe, a Mr. Brown, and some colored persons. We are glad to see that the new stores in the old burnt district escaped with but little damage.

We return our thanks to Capt. Parker for his communication, which we publish this week. If our readers will permit us to judge the matter, we have no hesitation in expressing the humble opinion, that our Correspondent is engaged in one of the most interesting and useful departments of scientific investigation. It has been said "that the face of heaven is an unfilling index, and upon it can be read times and seasons." Though Meteorology is one of the most natural of all the sciences, yet it is true that there is a lamentable ignorance in relation to it, and that few comparatively of its principles are known even to the intelligent and well informed. Who has not seen the humble husbandman exhibit a foresight in reference to changes of weather which seemed almost prophetic, and who has not heard of the experienced mariner who saw in "the face of heaven" the premonitions of the gathering storm! Who can estimate the advantages which will flow from a more accurate knowledge of the principles of Meteorology, and who will dare say that this knowledge is unattainable! Until of late years but little attention has been directed to the subject, and so little regard has been had to principles, that the "weather-wise" unable to impart their knowledge to others, had it to die with them. But the day of neglect has now passed away. The cultivators of physical science throughout the world, have awoken to a sense of its importance, and in our own country a plan has been devised, which if carried out, promises the richest results. It is with pride we record that some of the States of our Union have made appropriations for its prosecution, and we would like to see others imitate the good example.

Mr. Espy, a man of science and particularly distinguished for his valuable contributions to this department, is now in Washington lecturing on Congress upon the subject, and we were pained to see the bad taste of some members who thought the occasion a fit one for smart sayings & ridicule. This, we conceive, is not the age for such conduct. There was a time when darkness, thick darkness overspread the earth; when the most ordinary phenomena were believed to be hid in the deep purposes of the Almighty, or were the mysterious workings of some mighty Demon who reigned ascendant for the season.

History tells us that the Demon Typhon, was in the opinion of the ancient Egyptians the cause of all physical evil, & the Greeks adopting the superstition, made this giant spirit break up the deep foundations of the earth, and with the arm of omnipotence hurl the melting mountains to the highest heavens. Modern science is dispelling these gross errors and bringing to light the mighty agents which are at work in the laboratory of nature, and judging from its many glorious triumphs in Chemistry, Astronomy, Geology and other departments, we see not how any one can set limits to its successes. It is no impiety now, nor is it a useless work, to look into the causes of thunder and lightning, earthquakes, volcanoes, water-spouts, or any of the wonders around us.

When the immortal Franklin, with his humble kite made of two cross sticks and a silk handkerchief, went out upon the commons of Philadelphia, to draw the lightning

from Heaven, who can conceive the taunts and jeers, and smart sayings which were made at the expense of the mad Philosopher. But "he did snatch the lightning from Heaven," established its identity with what was conceived to be another agent, and stranger than all, from a knowledge of its properties, brought it, to some extent, within the control of man. What more hopeless, at first view, than this effort of our great countryman, and what single act of his varied and useful life, has shed around his name a higher lustre.

When Galvani first directed his attention to that strange principle, which has been called after him, Galvanism, who would have thought that a Davy would arise at a future time, and from a knowledge of its laws demonstrate, that if a copper instead of an iron nail were used in fastening the upper sheathing of a ship, the destructive effects of oxidation would be in a great measure prevented?

But we have said more than we at first intended. Our simple purpose was, in a few words, to impress upon the reader the importance of physical science, and to declare the opinion that no field holds out richer rewards than Meteorology. There is such a thing as telling before hand "which way the wind blows," and nature speaks a language even in the most feeble of all things, a morning cloud.

We wish Mr. Espy success in his glorious cause, and are not ashamed to express the humble opinion, that the time will come when rains and storms and tempests and water-spouts, &c. &c. may be predicted with as much certainty as other natural phenomena. A long series of observations, conducted upon philosophical principles, will be necessary to bring this period to its full consummation, but the rapid advances which have already been made in a very few years, place the matter beyond question.

Mr. Editor, On the night of the 22d of April about 30 minutes after 10 o'clock, a splendid phenomenon resembling a shooting star, appeared in the Constellation Hercules, commencing a few degrees west of Vega, Lyra, shooting in a perfectly straight line, and ending abruptly in the remarkable nebula between mu and zeta Hercules. The light was so brilliant as to throw around the spectator a glare equal to that of a candle. In its flight it exhibited the appearance of a ball of fire, whose rapid motion through space left a long luminous train behind, but the instant the ball stopped, the train, from the velocity acquired by the previous motion, was reversed by being projected beyond the ball or nucleus, forming two streams of diverging light, very much resembling the figure of the Comet of 1811. A bright streak near the point of explosion 8 or 10 degrees in length, remained visible 50 or 60 seconds after the body had disappeared.

There are some facts connected with this phenomenon which, I think, distinguish it from the ordinary occurrence of falling or shooting stars, and from which I propose to offer a few observations.

It is a general law of meteoric phenomena that in their flight they describe curved lines with a downward tendency to the earth; but the motion of the body in question was in a straight line diverging upwards from a line parallel to the plane of the horizon, and forming with it an angle of some 8 or 10 degrees. The nebula or cluster of stars which, with the suddenness of thought, arrested its progress and gradually absorbed its light, is one of the most remarkable in the Heavens. When viewed through a good Telescope it exhibits a countless number of stars crowded together in a space apparently not more than two or three times as large as that occupied by the Moon. Now is it not probable that the phenomenon of the 22d, was a Comet whose centre of attraction was some one or all of the stars composing this cluster, and by a gradual approach to it, and undergoing a consequent diminution of centrifugal force, finally yielded to the superior attraction of the great body to which it fell, and by which it was absorbed?

Extraordinary as this idea may seem, it is by no means at variance with the expressed opinions of some of the most distinguished modern Astronomers. Professor Encke, of Berlin, by a series of observations upon the motions and periodical returns of the Comet which bears his name, has discovered that at each successive reappearance, it is nearer to the Sun, of smaller size and more feeble light. Sir John Herschel is of opinion that Comets are bodies of exceedingly small density, and that their trains which are nothing less than portions of their masses thrown behind to the distance of millions of miles by their rapid motion in space, are gradually detached and dissipated, & hence he accounts for their diminished size and splendor, when, by their greater approximation to the Sun, it would seem their light and volume should be increased. And in remarking upon the phenomena of Encke's Comet, the same distinguished Astronomer adopts the generally received opinion that, by the process of diminution which that Comet is undergoing, and consequent diminution of centrifugal force, it will ultimately fall to the Sun unless previously dissipated.

That there are thousands of Comets unknown to our system is inferred from the fact that countless myriads of stars glitter in the immensity of space at a distance so great as to require the aid of the best Telescopes to discover them; and as each star is supposed to be like our own Sun, a self-luminous orb, it is but rational to conclude that it is the centre of attraction and source of light to other orbs, and has its planets and comets and other phenomena analogous to those of our solar system.

PHANTASMGORIA. The Editor acknowledges payment from the following persons. For 1838. J. H. Wilson, A. Kemp, Leroy Watson, W. P. Hill, Leonard Gill, Jesse Gornilion, Bennett Reynolds, P. M. Butler, John Bauskett, John Bates, Wm. Barr, David Harris.

Another Captive Chief Gone.—We learn from our Mobile ships of the 23d ult. that Jumper, the distinguished Seminole Chief, died at the Barracks in New Orleans, on the morning of the 15th ult., and was buried in the afternoon. In his coffin were placed his tobacco, pipe, rifle and other equipments, according to his people's custom. The military and a number of citizens, attended his funeral, which was conducted with the honors of war. He had been confined to his bed for nearly two months previous to his death.

Meteorological Observations near the Village of Abbeville, S. C., in the year 1838, by Thomas Parker.

Table with columns: MARCH, BAROMETER, THERMOMETER, WEATHER, WINDS. Includes monthly and daily data for various months.

REMARKS.—The direction of the wind being observed twice each day, there were 62 observations: of which 32 were westerly winds, 21 easterly, 6 south and 3 north; westerly winds therefore prevailed this month. The thermometer (hanging on the north side of the house) was generally at its minimum 14 hours after sunrise, and at its maximum about 4 o'clock P. M. Very little snow and sleet fell on 1st inst.; but on 4th the snow lay two inches deep on the ground. From 19th inst. inclusive, the atmosphere was so full of smoke that the sun could not be seen for half an hour after sunrise, and the same time before sunset, and at night only the principal stars near the zenith could be seen. Of the 17 cloudless evenings, only one, that of the 18th inst., was favorable for Telescopic Stellar observation; the moon being too bright on the 18th, and 11th, the wind too high on 10th and 17th, and from the 19th the atmosphere quite too full of smoke.

From the Charleston Mercury, April 28. Ruinous Conflagration.

ONE O'CLOCK, A. M. We have to delay our paper to a late hour this morning, on account of a most disastrous FIRE which has been sweeping resistless all night through the very heart of our city. The fire broke out at Swinton's and Cliff's Bakery, corner of Swinton's Lane and King-st. on the West side of the latter, at about half past 8 P. M. and burnt only a few buildings to the South and west of it, in which direction, owing to a south-west wind the progress of the flames was arrested; but to the north, north-west, north-east and east, the fire was sweeping widely and furiously when we left the scene, and there is no saying how far it has extended or where it will probably stop. Except one or two brick buildings immediately where the fire commenced, it has swept every thing to the north east, as far as the corner of Meeting and Market-streets. It has crossed Meeting-st. and was raging down the south side of Market-st. It had burnt up to and crossed Market-st. on both sides of King street, and is still spreading to the North.—The beautiful new Theatre is partly destroyed. The scaffolding and wood work of the new Masonic Hall, at the Market was on fire when we left the spot. The loss to individuals and the insurance offices is incalculable. The firemen and engines have labored to exhaustion, but it would be impossible for a hundred times their force to encounter successfully such a fire. Buildings in great number have been blown up during the night until the supply of powder failed.

WE have not time, nor room at this hour for the distressing details, the miserable list of which is rapidly lengthening while we write, and God only knows where it will end. It is already by much the most calamitous fire we have had in our city for many years—and it will be long before Charleston recovers from the blow she has received.

TWO O'CLOCK. The fire is still raging, and that splendid edifice, the new Hotel, with the range of new stores on Pearl street, are all in flames. The fire has also extended up King street as far as Wentworth street, sweeping every thing before it. Upwards of 400 houses have been consumed—the loss of property is incalculable.

HALF PAST TWO. The fire is still raging on King street, and all the region between King and Anson streets, and in Market street it has crossed Church street, and has carried away the Market with the new Masonic Hall. If stopped at all before it reaches the wharf it must be at State street.

FIVE O'CLOCK. We are compelled to close our distressing details, and put our paper to press. The fire still continues to burn with little or no abatement, it has extended to the North-east as far as Bennett's Rice Mills, which have also been consumed, and it is now spreading farther north. Society street is one mass of flames from East Bay to within a few doors of King street, and we fear the conflagration to the north-east will extend to Boundary street.

GREENVILLE, April 20. Fatal accident.—We learn from a correspondent in Abbeville District, under date of the 15th inst. that Mr. Bunch, a stage driver on the Piedmont line, was thrown from his seat, near Stony Point, on Thursday evening previous, and so badly injured that he died in a short time. We understand from another source, that a passenger was on the seat with the driver, when it broke loose from the body of the coach, and precipitated them both to the ground with great force. The passenger was very seriously hurt, but not dangerously so. Mr. Bunch has left a wife and one child to mourn his melancholy and untimely exit.

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Commercial.

From the Augusta Constitutionalist, April 26. COTTON.—There has been a better feeling existing between buyers and sellers during the past week, and in consequence a fair business done at former prices. We quote as extremes, 63 a 64 cents. GROCERIES.—No change to notice in the Groceries line—with the country there continues to be a fair business transacted.—The only transactions by wholesale that have come to our knowledge, was the sale of 100 lbs. Baltimore Howard Street Flour, at \$10. 4 months; 10 hhd. West India Molasses, at 35 cents; and three hhd. India salt, at all about 7000 bushels, at 55 cents, four months.

EXCHANGE.—Sight checks on New York scarce, and sales have been made as high as 10 per cent. prem.; 20 days sight 9; sight checks on Philadelphia, 8 per cent.; 60 days; 4; sight checks on Boston, 9; on Baltimore, 7; Charleston, 4; Savannah, par a 4; Treasury drafts, 10 per cent. prem. scarce; U. S. Bank Notes, 8; Specie, 8 per cent. prem. FREIGHTS.—Our river is getting low, and at the present time the larger class of our steam boats cannot reach the wharves.—There is a little more cotton offering than in some weeks past. We continue old rates, viz: to Savannah, \$1 per bale; to Charleston, by Rail Road, 1.50 for round, and 1.25 for square bales.

BALTIMORE, April 20. HOWARD STREET FLOUR.—Prices have been steady throughout the week, at \$7.75 from stores and at \$7.25 from wagons, and we quote the same rates to day. Market firm, but transactions limited. CITY MILLS FLOUR.—Sales at \$7.50 and \$7.62 1/2 for standard, and at \$8 for extra.

Battalion Orders.

THE Lower Battalion of the 7th Regiment of South Carolina Militia, will parade at the Upper Cherokee Ponds, on Thursday the 10th of May next; and the Upper Battalion will parade at the Pine House on Saturday the 12th of May next, for the purpose of inspection and drill.—The Officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, will meet the day previous at each place, to receive instruction. By order of J. W. WIMBISH, Lieut. Col. Commanding 7th Reg. W. GALLMAN, Adjutant. April 26 b 12

NOTICE.

STRAYED from the Subscriber, at Liberty Hill, on the 25th or 26th of March last, a small sorrel MARE M. L. E. roach name, ten or twelve year old, and has a blemish in one eye. If any person hearing or seeing such a Mule will let the Subscriber know of it either by letter or otherwise, such information will be thankfully received. B. L. McLAUCHLIN & CO. Columbia, S. C., April 9. b 10

Improved Cotton Gins.

THE subscribers having established a COTTON GIN MANUFACTORY in the Town of Hamburg, S. C., on the improved system of Mr. Boatwright, beg leave to recommend their Gins to the public. They warrant their Gins to be equal if not superior to those of Mr. Boatwright, on account of an alteration, which, in their opinion, is a decided improvement; that is, instead of blocks of wood on the ribs, they have adopted the plan of making the ribs of their Gins entirely of steel and iron, which have proved by experience to be preferable. Mr. Boatwright having declined the gin making business in Augusta, Mr. L. B. COON, who conducted it there for him, being one of the partners in the concern, they will endeavor to give satisfaction to all who may favor them with their custom. Gins repaired at the shortest notice. COOB & KENNEDY. Hamburg, S. C., April 19. 6m 11

Notice.

ALL persons indebted to the Estate of John Blackwell, deceased, are requested to make immediate payment, and those having demand to present them fully attested. G. TENNANT, Administrator. March 28 1837. 4f 8

Notice.

THE Subscribers will give a liberal price for H. F. SWAX, TALLOW, and FEATHERS. KITCHEN & ROBERTSON. Hamburg, March 3, 1838. 4f 5

SHERIFF'S SALES.

Thomas Harrison, vs Henry Shultz, & other Plaintiffs severally, vs Henry Shultz. WILL be sold under various Executions against the Defendant in the above stated cases, and by the written consent of all the parties interested either in the Executions or in the Property, on Tuesday the 22d of May next and the day following, in the Town of Hamburg, various LOTS improved and unimproved in the said Town of Hamburg—and owned by the Defendant, Henry Shultz.—The Sheriff announces to the public that he is advised that the purchasers at this sale will obtain good and indisputable titles—and they will get all the legal titles, that I, as an Officer of the Law, can legally give. Terms of Sale, Cash. W. H. MOSS, S. E. D. c 13 May 1, 1838.

SHERIFF'S SALES.

BY virtue of sundry writs of Fieri Facias to me directed, will be sold at Edgefield C. H., on the first Monday and day following in May next, the following property, viz: Francis O'Connor vs. John Strzenegger, one tract of land containing one hundred and forty acres, more or less. Charles A. Boyd vs. Francis M. Young, one negro boy, Wiley. Terms cash. W. H. MOSS, S. E. D. c 11 April 16, 1838.

Sale of Public Property.

WILL be sold, at Abbeville Court House on the first Monday in May, on a credit until the first of October next, the following property belonging to the State to wit: One Lot of Land with a building thereon, fronting the Public Square, known as the Arsenal. One other Lot of Land with the right of way; with the building known as the Magazine. By order of the Governor, B. T. WATTS, Qr. M. Gen'l. c 9 April 2, 1838. The Edgefield Advertiser and Penderline Messenger will insert the above until sale.

Perfumery.

COLOGNE, in small bottles, assorted sizes, Hermitage extract, Florida Water, Ess. Cinnamon, Oil of Cloves, Fancy Perfume Vial, Bear's Oil, Kephalaia, N. Smith Prentiss' Saponaceous Compound Fancy Soaps, Naples Compound Shaving Soap, &c. Just received and for sale by NICHOLSON & PRESLEY. April 12. 4f 10

Bolting Cloths.

THE subscribers have just received a new and complete assortment of BOLTING CLOTHS, from No. 2 to 8, of the celebrated Anchor Brand, which has been considered the best manufacture ever introduced into this country, which they offer to their customers and the public at New York prices. B. L. McLAUCHLIN & CO. Columbia, S. C., April 9. b 10

NOTICE.

THE Subscribers are Agents for the VAUCHEUSE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, and will keep constantly on hand at their Store in Hamburg, a supply of every Article manufactured at that Establishment, and will sell at Factory Prices. The superior quality of the Vauchouse Fabrics is known to all who have examined them, and they are most confidently recommended to the Public. H. L. JEFFERS & Co. Hamburg, March 26, 1838. d 8

Notice.

M. GRAY, Esq. of Hamburg, S. C. will act as my attorney in fact, as well as at law, during my absence from the State. J. B. COVINGTON. 6m 48 Jan 4, 1838

For Sale.

MY HOUSE and LOT in the Village of Edgefield, upon terms to suit a purchaser. In my absence, apply to Col. Baskett. JAMES JONES. April 12. 4f 10

NOTICE.

ALL Persons indebted to the late Charles Thomas, deceased, are requested to make payment; and all persons having demands against the estate of said deceased are requested to present them duly attested. JAS. F. ADAMS, Nov 27, 1837. 4f

Notice.

ALL Persons indebted to the late Mrs. Beethland Mims, deceased, are requested to make immediate payment, and all persons having demands against the estate of said deceased are requested to present them duly attested. BENJ. MIMS, Executor. Dec 9, 1837. 4f 45

TIN MANUFACTORY.

THE Subscriber would respectfully inform the Merchants and citizens of Edgefield District, and the public in general, that he has commenced Manufacturing Tin Ware at Duntonsville, nine miles North of Edgefield Court House, where he intends to keep an assortment and full supply of READY MADE TIN WARE, at Wholesale or Retail, which he will sell on as reasonable terms as any other like establishment in the Southern country. Having worked at the business nine years at the North and South, he can with confidence assure those who may favor him with their custom, that they may at all times depend upon having their Ware well manufactured. He will also make to order, Tin Eave Troughs, Conductor Heads and Pipes, and put them up if desired. All orders from Town or Country thankfully received and promptly attended to. N. B. Old Tin repaired, and all kinds of Job work, in his line, executed with neatness and despatch. H. P. CHURCH, Duntonsville, March 20, 1838. ac 8

Notice.

THE subscriber offers for sale various LOTS in the Town of Hamburg, which are well improved and suitable for family residences. Also, Two Tracts of LAND in the immediate vicinity of Hamburg. One containing one hundred and fifty acres, more or less, on which there are comfortable improvements, well calculated for a summer seat; and the other containing two hundred and fifty acres, well timbered, and on which there is a fine Mill Seat, and if improved would be profitable to the owner. The above mentioned property can be purchased on reasonable terms. Application can be made to J. H. Fair, who resides within five miles of Edgefield C. H., or to M. Gray, Esq. in the Town of Hamburg. Unquestionable titles can be given for the property. JOHN B. COVINGTON. April 5, 1838.

Strayed.

FROM the Subscriber's Waggon, in Hamburg, on the 15th inst., TWO HORSES; one a black Horse, with no particular marks, except from the Gen; the other a Sorrel, with a small star in the face and one white foot. A liberal reward will be given to any person who will deliver the horses to Mr. Chas. J. Glover, at Edgefield Court House, or to the Subscriber at Dacusville P. Office, Pickens District, S. C. BENNETT HENDRIX. c 8 March 23, 1838

Books and Stationary.

SMITH'S Arithmetic, Geography and Atlas, and Grammar, and a good assortment of School and Miscellaneous Books, also Letter and Foolscap Paper, Ink, Quills, Slates, &c. &c. Just received and for sale by NICHOLSON & PRESLEY. 4f 12 April 20

Notice.

ALL persons having any demands against the Estate of G. Anderson, Sen., deceased, are requested to present them, and those indebted to make payment within the time prescribed by law. A. ANDERSON, Adm'r. Jan 10, 1838. 4f 49

State of South Carolina.

EDGEFIELD DISTRICT. JOHN ADAMS tells before me, four head of Cattle, one cow and yearling both no-horned, no marks or brands perceivable, both brindled color. The other two a cow and yearling, the cow has the appearance of being old, marked with a crop in each ear, a slit in the right, and a small hole and slit out in the left, colour red and white, the yearling is a steer, no horned with a white back and belly, balance red marked, half crop in each ear. Appraised to be worth twenty-five Dollars by George B. Elam, W. F. Elam & R. Mathews. WYETT HOLMES, J. P. March 15th, 1838. c 7

NOTICE.

TAKEN Up on Thursday morning, on Horse Creek, about 9 miles from Augusta, Ga., a very large dark bay Horse, his right eye out, has a white spot on his forehead, a small white spot on his back, switch tail and black legs. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay expenses and take him away. RUDOLPH CARTER. 4f 84 Sept 23, 1837