

Edgefield Advertiser.

"We will cling to the Pillars of the Temple of our Liberties, and if it fall, we will Perish amidst the Ruins."

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EDGEFIELD ADVERTISER.

BY W. F. DURISOE, PROPRIETOR.

NEW TERMS.

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COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Advertiser.

Mr. Editor,—if it meets your approbation, I purpose publishing in your columns a series of articles on Chemistry.

ARTICLE I.—THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY.

As an Art, Chemistry may be traced to a very remote period, but it can scarcely be said to have existed as a science, anterior to the seventeenth century. An account of its early history may be found in the writings of Lord Bacon, Hooke, Boyle, and Sir Isaac Newton.

Little progress was made in chemistry previous to the Baconian system of philosophy, from the circumstance that chemical science is dependent on induction from experiment for its basis. The most of philosophical knowledge was erroneous previous to the days of Bacon, from the fact that philosophers first imagined certain hypotheses, and afterwards attempted to demonstrate them, with their minds previously biased. But when that system of severe inductive inquiry had been established, which first procures the light and afterwards shows the way by its means, we see great progress making in the physical sciences. On such a basis laid by Bacon, the others, whose names have been mentioned, proceeded to arrange and bring together the materials which had been furnished by their predecessors, and were thence conducted into that train of true philosophical reasoning and research, which has led, in our times, to the gigantic discoveries of modern chemistry.

The Alchemists, it is well known, had accumulated a vast number of unconnected chemical facts, but with few exceptions, they wasted their labors upon unattainable and chimerical objects. Their attempts to the conversion of quicksilver into gold, and the search after the elixir of health or universal remedies and antidotes, were ardently carried on during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Many amusing accounts of the professors and adepts of those periods, have been handed down by the chemical historians of the time.

Among the historians on chemistry may be mentioned Basil Valentine, who flourished in the fourteenth century. His writings, notwithstanding they are tinged with the fooleries of alchemy, are full of intelligent observations. He was the discoverer of sulphuric and nitric acid, and several preparations of antimony. Paracelsus, a writer about this time, is chiefly celebrated for the boldness and assiduity with which he introduced chemical preparations into the practice of medicine.

In the works of H. Mont, who was a sound writer of his day, we first see the word gas made use of, and by the term *acid gas*, he no doubt alluded to what since was called *fixed air*, and more recently *carbonic acid gas*; but as an experimental and acute reasoner, however, none came into competition with Glauber. This chemist made many discoveries, and among them a very useful salt which now bears his name. He also discovered the *sulphate of copper*, or blue stone, by the action of sulphuric acid upon the green rust, or oxide of copper.

The first who distinctly expounded the nature of chemical affinity, was Dr. Mayow. He demonstrated that in cases of chemical combination, the atoms of the combining bodies, were not destroyed, but that they still existed in the compound, and might again be disengaged from it by a more powerful chemical agent, with all their former properties. The theory of chemical affinity thus established upon the foundation of experiment, by Mayow, constituted the basis upon which most of the superstructure of modern chemistry rests. This branch of chemistry was much embellished and extended by the great Lavoisier, of France.

Another great and important discovery was made in the sixteenth century, by Dr. Black; it relates to the discovery of the state in which caloric or heat, exists in liquids and vapors, and upon which he founded his beautiful theory of *latent caloric*. This theory accounted for a multitude of phenomena, previously unobserved or unexplained.

Hooke and Mayow were the inventors of *pneumatic chemistry*, or at least this branch of chemistry may be traced to the experiments of these philosophers. Pneumatic chemistry has been much extended by the distinguished Priestley, of Philadelphia; it was in 1774 that Dr. Priestley made the great discovery of *oxygen gas*,

upon which so much of the subsequent progress of chemical science has depended. He obtained this gas by exposing a quantity of peroxide of mercury to the action of the sun's rays, concentrated upon it by a powerful lens. "I presently found," says he, "that air was expelled from this preparation of mercury, very readily." Nitrous and nitric acid, muriatic acid, and ammonia, were also his discoveries.

Priestley a short time after having discovered oxygen, ascertained that plants had the power of decomposing carbonic acid gas, and vitiated air, exhaled from the lungs of animals, and noxious gases, arising from decomposed vegetable matter—rendering these exhalations perfectly pure by appropriating the deleterious atoms to their own organization, and throwing off the pure portion, which again was fit for respiration.

In 1776, Cavendish presented to the Royal Society of London, an essay on inflammable air. He describes it as the lightest known substance, and that by combustion with oxygen, water was the only result; hence the term hydrogen early applied to this gas. Cavendish also discovered the composition of the atmosphere and demonstrated very clearly that the air is composed of oxygen and nitrogen, in a state of mere mechanical combination. He was led to this conclusion from the circumstance that in passing currents of electricity through common air, he was enabled to generate nitrous and nitric acid.

These beautiful experiments of Cavendish, laid the foundation for that most useful of all the branches of chemistry—I mean *analytic*, and *synthetic chemistry*. Scheele about the same time discovered *chlorine*. This discovery of Scheele, in conjunction with the labors of his eminent contemporaries, contributed to invest chemistry with a degree of interest and importance, which gave it an entirely new and distinct aspect, and an elevated rank in natural science.

About the year 1786, Lavoisier, Fourcroy, and their associates in Paris, undertook the celebrated reform in the nomenclature of chemistry; which being improved upon by eminent successors, has resulted in far greater perfection than any other system of nomenclature.

Lavoisier inferred that oxygen was the universal, and only acidifying principle, and by a series of well conceived researches, he demonstrated the identity of charcoal and the diamond.

The discovery of the *chemical influences of electricity*, dates an important epoch in the history of chemistry, and is one of the most fertile sources of its recent progress. The first discoverer of the application of electricity to the bodies of recently killed animals, was made by Galvani, an anatomist of Bologna, who lived about the year 1790. He observed that by placing two plates of different metals upon a portion of the flesh of a frog, that spasmodic or convulsive contractions were produced. From this discovery of Galvani, it led philosophers to the observation of the great analogy between Galvanism or electricity, and *innervation*. Volta improved this form of electricity considerably; he invented the *Pile of Volta*, and about the year 1800 the *chemical powers of the Voltaic Pile* were observed in regard to the decomposition of certain salts in solution, and water, by Mr. Nicholson; these were, however, more correctly investigated shortly afterwards, by the distinguished French chemist, M. Berzelius. But in the hands of Sir Humphrey Davy, the Voltaic Pile led to more important and extraordinary results than to any of his co-temporaries.

Anterior to the time of Davy, the alkalis and alkaline earths, were regarded by chemists, as simple or elementary bodies. But Davy in 1807, succeeded in decomposing these substances, by means of a powerful galvanic apparatus, and showed that the basis of these alkalis are *metals*, which have a powerful affinity for oxygen, and united with it in definite proportions. Davy rendered great service to chemistry by his numerous discoveries, and also by correcting the false opinion which prevailed, that oxygen was the *only acidifying principle*—he demonstrated the existence of acids without oxygen, and laid the foundation of the theory of the *hydracids*.—To these great researches of Davy, he added that of the discovery of the safety lamp.

Analytic chemistry was first scientifically cultivated by M. Bregman, a Swiss, about the year 1765. This man it is said, died in consequence of intense application to his favorite study. He turned his attention to the analysis of the minerals, and several of the mineral waters. This branch of chemistry was greatly extended and improved by Klaproth, who spent at it his long and laborious life. Another great name connected with chemical analysis, is Monsieur le Docteur Valquelin, who originally was quite an obscure individual, living in a remote country village of Normandy. He afterwards was employed in the Laboratory of Fourcroy, where he acquired great dexterity in the ordinary duties of his situation, and ultimately became an expert and original analyst. He arose to high eminence as a chemist, and his important contributions and discoveries are now relieving many diseases to which human flesh is heir to.

The principal English analytical chemists are H. Ward, Tennant, Wollaston, Chenevix, and Sir H. Davy.

The last, and most interesting branch of chemistry is *organic chemistry*; this department is of quite recent origin;

some progress however was made in organic chemistry by Scheele, but it has been chiefly enriched by the labors of modern philosophers, and in their hands it has assumed an entirely new aspect.—The Hercules of organic chemistry is Justus Leibig, whose works on *animal and agricultural chemistry*, far exceed any thing of the kind that has ever been written.

Such is a brief expose of the history of chemistry, from the earliest discoveries made in it, down to the present period. In a subject so complicated and extensive as chemistry, systematic arrangement is of the utmost importance; and as our globe (and perhaps also the universe) is composed of fifty-four elementary substances, and if we regard the three *impalpables*, heat, light, and electricity, as matter, there are fifty-seven. I shall consequently treat each one of these elements individually, and first on caloric or heat.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 4.

VERY LATE FROM TEXAS.

The steamship New York Capt. Phillips, arrived last evening from Galveston, bringing us papers from that city of Saturday last, the 1st instant.

The *Civilian* says that the 300 dragoons to be stationed at Austin, under Major Fauntroy, have doubtless reached their destination. They crossed the Bassos at Nashville on the 2d October.

The returns are not yet all in of the vote upon the adoption of the Constitution of Texas, but there has been no serious opposition heard of from any quarter. In Lagrange precinct the vote upon Annexation was 251 in favor of it, and only two against it.

Generals Rusk, Lamar and Houston are the most prominent candidates named to represent the new State in the Senate of the United States.

The *Civilian* announces that Mr. Saliguy will positively revisit Texas previous to returning to Europe.

Not a word by this arrival do we have from the troops at Corpus Christi, to indicate any change in the health of the soldiers, or their habits of activity. There is nothing from the Philadelphia North American for what may be worth:

From Washington we have a stirring rumor to the effect that two more of the new provinces of Mexico have applied for admission into the Union. Despatches, it is said, have been received, communicating the fact to our Government of the combination of the powers of England and France to resist the "Republican encroachments." By news from Pensacola, in another column, it will be seen that the steamer Mississippi had arrived there, having sailed from Vera Cruz at the same time with the Princeton, with despatches of such importance as demand this duplicate conveyance, so that they were immediately forwarded to Washington. This seems to give strength to the rumor.

A number of prominent naval officers have been ordered to repair to Washington for instructions. It will be remembered that Mons. Guizot advised an interference with the "encroaching policy" of our government, for the purpose of maintaining the balance of power. We give these reports as they reach us without comment.

Oregon—Slavery has been abolished in Oregon, P. H. Burnett, a citizen of that territory, in a letter in the last *Platte Argus*, says:

The Legislature have passed an act declaring that slavery shall not exist in Oregon, and the owners of slaves, who bring them here, are allowed two years to take them out of the country, and in default the slaves are to be free. The act prohibits free negroes or mulattoes from settling or remaining in this country, and requires them to leave in two years; and in default to be hired out to the lowest bidder, who will bind himself to remove them from the country for the shortest term of service, and within six months after the expiration thereof. The object is to keep clear of this most troublesome class of population.

A very considerable number of slaves accompanied the last expedition.

Glorious delay and uncertainty of the Law—A case was, on yesterday, in the Court of common Pleas, before Judge Usher which illustrates most forcibly the delay and uncertainty of the law, which is fine for lawyers, but death to clients. An action was commenced in this court in 1839, under the lien law, which was carried from court to a full bench, from the full bench to the Supreme Court, thence to the Court of Errors, and thence sent down for a new trial, which was in progress yesterday. The original sum involved, was fifty six dollars, but costs and expenses have swelled it up to hundreds; and it may be many years yet, ere the final decision is reached, as it may go again from court to court, and possibly come back for retrial on some newly discovered principle of law.

[N. Y. Cour. & Eng.]

Liquid Manure—The Chinese, who are particularly skillful in the management of manure, are extremely careful not to waste the smallest portion; and, according to Sir George Sturton, they prefer the dung of birds to that of all others; and next to that, night soil, which they apply in a liquid state.

"THE WHOLE OF OREGON, OR NONE."

This is the caption of an article which has appeared in the Washington Union. The Union is semi-official in its authority. It no doubt speaks by the book. The declaration is filed to spread alarm, to borrow, its own language, "throughout the length and breadth of the land." If such is to be the complexion of the Executive Message on the important question of foreign policy, however it may be clothed in the language of peace, it will be interpreted as creating the spirit of war. The military estimates for a war establishment should accompany such a communication to Congress. We should at once graduate all our appropriations to the scale of a war expenditure. We must brace our nerves for the encounter. It will not be suing the deed to the word for Congress to assume time in canvassing the war, but to assume it. It will not be fitting the emergency, to discuss by the hour the cease parings and candle ends. If we plant ourselves on the line of 54, we must, in one word, put on the armor and attitude of war. Are the people prepared for his? We say there is no evidence that such a semi official announcement is a just echo of popular sentiment. It is mere presumption to suppose it to be a faithful response even to Democratic opinion on the Oregon question, as concentrated and reflected in the Baltimore Convention. That question had not been previously fairly before the people, or any large divisions of the American community. It was then not popularly comprehended—not understood in scarcely any of its relations even by the representatives of the people. Politicians in Congress, who had studied it, and Demagogues out of Congress who pretended to understand it, sought to shape it to purposes of popularity. But the public verdict had never been deliberately taken. It has been since discussed—its intricacies unfolded—its merits canvassed—its merits rationally conjectured.

We have no time to pursue the train of reflection suggested by this important topic, but will return to it again shortly.

[Chas. Evening News.]

JOHN C. CALHOUN.

There are a few men to whom there is real danger in affairs, the eyes of the people instinctively turn for guidance and help. In the midst of political strife such men may be as much and even more abused than leaders of a different character. There are other men who are elevated in times of peace and prosperity, but when dark clouds arise they are instantly forgotten. Mr. Calhoun belongs to the first. He is reviled when in office, but he is no sooner out of office than the people of all parties begin to desire his return. True, most men at the North have thought him wrong, sometimes; but no one ever doubted that as a statesman he belonged to the very highest rank, and very few, if any, however much they tried to do so, have ever been really able to expel from their minds, the conviction that he is an honest and sincere patriot, and as such above most politicians in moral, as he is in intellectual greatness. When the office of Secretary of State was made vacant by the sad accident on board the Princeton, and Mr. Calhoun's name was mentioned, the whole country called him to that station. Now there is the same desire that he should return to the Senate. The position which he took in the Senate on the Oregon question, was so profoundly wise, that the attention of patriots through the country was fastened to it with strong approval. Now that the furious and reckless portion of the people talk crazily of injustice and war that approval desires the return of this statesman to the place where he may again enforce the same councils of wisdom.—N. Y. Jour. Com.

INTERESTING TO EDITORS.

A. Randall, Esq., editor of "The Plow Boy" a periodical devoted principally to the cause of agriculture, and published at Cincinnati, Ohio, has it in contemplation to prepare a work for the press, which, from its nature, cannot fail to prove highly interesting to the public generally, and to editors and publishers particularly.—The project is one of much importance, and we sincerely hope that the corps editorial will be prompt in complying with the request of Mr. Randall, and that all the information bearing thereon, from that gentleman, fully explains the object of the work to which we have alluded.

United States Press.—In order to exhibit the strength of this great level of individual elevation and national advancement, I propose to collect and publish a statement of the number, names, editors, publishers, character and condition of all the periodical sheets that are issued daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly from the United States Press. To this end, I respectfully solicit the aid of the press in publishing this card, and forwarding to me one or more numbers of their respective publications, with (if agreeable) the aggregate of their patrons marked thereon in figures, for which kindness each will receive a copy of the general statement. It would also greatly facilitate my object if editors would publish in the number forwarded to me, a statement of the character, circulation and prospects of their respective localities, embracing the population and statistics, and also the history and condition of their press. With suitable promptitude on the part of editors and publishers, I shall be able to issue the work soon after the first of January, 1846. Direct to "Plow Boy," Cincinnati, O.

More Mormon Troubles.—Notwithstanding the sacred promises made in their recent treaty with the State authorities of Illinois, the Mormons still continue their depredations upon the inhabitants of the adjacent country. The house of Mr. Crawford near Warsaw, was recently entered during the family's absence, and every thing of a portable nature stolen from it. Col. Warren, in an account of the affair says:

"About the same time, two splendid horses, the property of L. Chandler, and several heads of cattle, were stolen from the neighborhood. Other robberies of similar character were also committed.—A man who was driving a herd of cattle towards Nauvoo, and a noted Mormon, was encountered by General Hardin, who finding that he was unable to account for them in a satisfactory manner as he could have desired, sent him as a prisoner to Quincy. Wilcox, whose disappearance while on a visit to a friend in Nauvoo created so much excitement, has not yet been heard from. A German named Daber, bryer had also disappeared, and his body was found in a ditch near the house of a Mormon."—*Charleston Mercury*.

Married Life.—Deceive not one another in small things nor in great. One little simple lie has, before now, disturbed a whole married life. A small cause has often great consequences. Fold not the arms together and sit idle. "Laziness is the devil's cushion." Do not run much from home. One's own health is of more value than gold.

Many a marriage, my friends, begins like the rosy morning, and then falls away like a snow-wreath. And why, my friends? Because the married pair neglect to be as pleasing to each other after marriage as before. Endeavor always, my children, to please one another; but at the same time keep God in your thoughts. Lavish not all your love on today, for remember that marriage has its tomorrow likewise, and its day after to-morrow too. "Spare, as one may say, fuel for winter."

Consider, my daughters, what the word *wife* expresses. The married woman, is her husband's domestic faith; in her hands he must be able to confide house and family; be able to entrust to her the key of his heart as well as the key of his eating room, and the darning of his stockings.—His honor and his home are under her keeping; his well-being is in her hand. Think of this!

And you, sons, be faithful husbands and good fathers of families. Act so that your wives shall esteem and love you.

[Frederika Bremer.]

Love.—In the "Crock of Gold," by Martin Tupper, the subjoined vivid passage occurs, which is commended to the attention of the obdurate:

"Love is the weapon which Omnipotence reserved to conquer rebel man when all the rest had failed. Reason he parries; Fear he answers blow to blow; future Interest he meets with present pleasure; but Love, that sun against whose melting beams Winter cannot stand, that soft undaunted slumber which wrestles down the giant, there is not one human creature in a million, not a thousand men in all earth's huge quintillion, whose clay heart is hardened against Love."

What is the true Moral Greatness?

There are two points which test the moral greatness of men. The one is high elevation in prosperity, the other deep depression of adversity. He who, when every thing is flourishing, can remain the same unassuming, unpretending man, humbly, but firmly discharging the duties of his station, devoid of laughtiness and pride; and he who, when every thing is prostrate, can retain his self-respect, firmness, and resolve, perseveringly discharging present duty without servility or meanness, is the great man. Such a one is centered in himself.—He is a man in the true sense of the word.

A farmer lately turned his sheep into a lot occupied by some cherry trees, which had sent up shoots from the roots the consequence was that the sheep soon seen staggering about the lot and tumbling upon their heads. Many of them died, when their stomachs were found to contain large quantities of these leaves, which, all know, abound with *prussic acid*, fatal alike to man and animals. It should be known, too, that the stones and twigs, as well as the leaves of the peach, also contain prussic acid, and are poisonous.

THE BIBLE.

It is a book of laws, to show the right and wrong.

It is a book of wisdom, that condemns all folly and makes the foolish wise.

It is a book of truth, that detects all errors.

It is a book of life, that shows the way from everlasting death.

It is the most compendious book in all the world.

It is the most authentic and entertaining history that ever was published.

It contains the most ancient antiquities, remarkable events and wonderful occurrence.

It points out the most heroic deeds and unparalleled wars.

It describes the celestial, terrestrial, and lower worlds.

It explains the origin of the angelic legions, of human tribes, and devilish tyrants.

It will instruct the most accomplished mechanic and the profoundest artist.

It will teach the best rhetorician, and exercise every power of the most skillful arithmetician.

It will puzzle the wisest anatomist, and the nicest critic.

It corrects the vain philosopher, and confutes the wisest astronomer.

It exposes the subtle sophist, and drives diviners mad.

It is a complete code of laws, a perfect body of divinity, an unequalled narrative.

It is a book of lives.

It is a book of travels.

It is a book of voyages.

It is the best covenant that ever was agreed to; the best deed that ever was sealed.

It is the best testament that ever was signed.

It is wisdom to understand it; to be ignorant of it, is to awfully destitute.

It is the magistrate's best rule.

It is the housewife's best guide, and the servant's best instructor.

It is the young man's best companion.

It is the school-boy's spelling book.

It is the learned man's masterpiece.

It is the ignorant man's dictionary, and the wise man's directory.

It affords knowledge of all witty invention, and it is its own interpreter.

It encourages the wise, the warrior, and the overcomer.

And that which crowns all, is that the Author, without partiality, and without hypocrisy, "With whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning," is God.

Newspapers.—There are fifteen hundred and fifty five newspapers and periodicals in the United States, and but eighteen hundred and ninety one in all the world elsewhere.

By boiling and skimming molasses you may make it nearly as good as sugar for cooking.