

The Sabbath Recorder.

New York, December 23, 1847.

CHRIST'S BIRTH-DAY AND RESURRECTION-DAY.

From a very early period in the history of the church, certain days have been set apart by Christians to commemorate important events connected with their Saviour, such as his conception, his birth, his circumcision, his death, his resurrection, and his ascension. But among them none seem to have been so generally esteemed as Christmas-day, kept in commemoration of Christ's birth, and the first day of the week called Lord's day, kept in commemoration of his resurrection. These were celebrated with great pomp at an early period, and were enjoined with much earnestness by good men for many centuries. Since the rise of the Puritans, however, for some reason or another, Christmas-day has fallen into comparative disgrace where their influence is felt, while double honor has been bestowed upon what is commonly termed the Lord's day. What good reason there may be for this, it is difficult to say, since some of the earliest and ablest treatises upon the subject represent Christmas-day as having equal authority, equal antiquity, and equal right to be observed, as the Lord's day. Indeed, we believe that in the Roman Catholic Church, which can certainly claim as much authority on the score of age and numbers as any now in existence, it would be deemed about as great a sin to work upon one of these days as upon the other. And even in the English Episcopal Church, we think many persons can be found, who would as soon forego the observance of the "Lord's-day" as of Christmas-day. How happens it, then, that so many persons, who would tremble at the thought of desecrating the one of these days, will yet deliberately and recklessly trample upon the other? Let those answer to whom such inconsistency attaches. For our part, we love Christian liberty too well to come under bondage to either, unless a "thus saith the Lord" can be given for their observance. We are frank to confess, however, that if we felt bound to observe either one of them, we should feel equally bound to observe both, since we know not where to draw a line of distinction between observances which are of equal age and equal authority.

As this paper will fall into the hands of many of our readers on Christmas-day, perhaps they would like to know upon what authority the early advocates of that day grounded its observance. We have before us a copy of the fifth edition of a book published in 1644, to vindicate the Gospel Festivals of the English Church, which sets out with the position, "that the Feast of Christ's Nativity [Christmas] is grounded upon the Scriptures, was observed in the pure, ancient, apostolic times, and is approved by all Reformed Churches." The manner in which it establishes this position is really note-worthy. For the Scriptural argument, we are told that God promised this day when he said the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head; that Abraham rejoiced to see this day; that Jacob foretold it when he said the scepter should not depart from Judah, nor a law-giver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; that the prophet Isaiah marks out this as a special and wonderful day, when he says, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel;" that this day the apostle calls the fullness of time, &c., &c. For the Apostolic argument, we are told that "Clement, a glorious martyr of Christ Jesus, whom St. Paul reckons among his fellow laborers in the Gospel, whose names are in the book of life, writes thus unto the Christian Churches: Brethren, keep diligently feast days, and truly in the first place the day of Christ's birth." For the argument from the Fathers, we are told that in the second century Theophilus, Bishop of Caesarea in Palestine, saith that we ought to celebrate the birth-day of our Lord, on what day soever the 25th day of December shall happen;" in the third century, Cyprian uses similar language; and in the fourth century, the day was extensively celebrated at Nicomedia in Bythia. Basil the Great, St. Jerome, St. Chrysostom, and Maximus the Bishop of Tours, are also quoted as teaching the same thing. To this is added the testimony of various Reformed Churches, of which the Helvetic says: "We exceedingly approve those churches which do religiously celebrate the memory of our Lord's Nativity, Circumcision, Conception, Passion, Resurrection, Ascension into heaven, and the sending down of the Holy Ghost upon his disciples."

Such are specimens of the arguments upon which the observance of Christmas is grounded by its advocates. Who can fail to notice the resemblance between them and the arguments by which the observance of Lord's-day is sustained? They make the use of the word day with reference to the birth of Christ, to mean that the annual return of the day on which that event is supposed to have happened should be religiously observed! Yet this is done with just about as much reason as the advocates of the Lord's-day make the expression of the Psalmist, "This is the day which the Lord hath made," to mean that the first day, on which the Lord is supposed to have risen, should be observed—and not only observed, but observed with sabbatic strictness—and not only observed with sabbatic strictness, but observed in place of the Sabbath, and in conformity to

the fourth commandment! An arbitrary and unnatural interpretation is put upon the language of Scripture, and a series of equally arbitrary and unnatural inferences drawn from it, in order to sustain the popular dogma. So with regard to the exhortations of the Fathers; the argument is, that because one man thought well of the observance of a certain day in one place, therefore it ought to be observed by all men in all places. To us there seems a striking resemblance between the arguments used to sustain the celebration of Christ's Birth-Day and his Resurrection-Day. If we observed the one, we should certainly feel bound to observe the other; and how those who cling to the one can still reject the other, is a mystery to us.

CHEAP NEWSPAPERS.

For several years past there has been a great rage for cheap newspapers, as well as other cheap publications. To gratify it a vast number of political "campaign papers," and perhaps an equally large number of papers filled with trash to kill time or excite merriment, have been printed and circulated throughout the country. In most cases these papers have been very poorly edited and worse printed, serving only to lower the already too low standard of newspaper excellence. But we are glad to see reason for believing that the rage for such publications is dying away. The number printed now is much smaller than it was a few years ago. Many of the religious and reformatory papers, which were led to reduce their prices in compliance with the existing taste, have either fallen through entirely, or become convinced that a return to old prices is the best policy for both publishers and subscribers. Among our exchanges we notice three or four which are intending to raise their prices at the commencement of the new year. The Boston Liberator was induced last year, by the urgency of friends, and in the faith that its list would thereby be much increased, to reduce the price from \$2 50 to \$2 00 per year. After trying the experiment to his satisfaction, the publisher has determined to commence the new volume by charging two dollars and fifty cents in advance, and three dollars after six months. We have on our list several religious papers which have within the last four years either reduced their prices, or enlarged their dimensions at the old price. In nearly every instance the character of such papers has suffered. By reducing their income, they have made it necessary to reduce their expenses; and as they cannot reduce the expense of printing, they have been obliged to reduce the expense of editing. The consequence has been, as before stated, that the character of such papers has suffered. They have become the mere echos of other papers, arranged, and serving no purpose.

CONGRESSIONAL CHAPLAIN.

The opening of Congress brought up, as usual, the knotty question who should be Chaplain. When the subject was first broached in the House of Representatives, Mr. Pettit, of Indiana, made his annual argument against the employment of Chaplains at the public expense. He contended, that as Congress had no power to legislate in matters of religion, so it had no power to appropriate the people's money to pay men for preaching or praying. He had no objection to addressing the Throne of Grace, provided it could be done without infringing upon the Constitution. In order to prevent such infringement, he thought it would be necessary to pay the Chaplain by voluntary contributions from the members, and for his part he should not hesitate to subscribe twenty-five dollars in liquidation of the Chaplain's account. He did not succeed, however, in arousing the liberality or constitutional scruples of his fellow Representatives sufficiently to carry his measure; and they consequently adopted the old custom of electing a Chaplain to be paid from the public treasury. The House spent nearly a whole day in considering the question, and finally succeeded in choosing Rev. Mr. Gurley, Presbyterian, as Chaplain. The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune, in announcing this decision, says that such tedious, dilatory, and expensive proceedings, as usually attend upon the election of Chaplains, almost reconcile him to Mr. Pettit's view of the matter. "There are clergymen, and good ones too, in the House—who could not be induced to volunteer their services? If they have ambition, and are actuated by a sincere desire to save souls, where could they find a better field for their services?—where more need of their prayers?"

NINE-DAYS PRAYER-UNION.—A circular has reached this country from Scotland, proposing a prayer-union of Christians of all denominations, to be held about the close of the present year—a year the most eventful in the memory of this generation. The time suggested was the nine days beginning with Sunday, Dec. 19, and ending on Monday, the 27th. An hour at least, morning and evening, it was expected, would be set apart for private or social prayer, the great burden of which should be, that the influences of the Holy Spirit might be shed upon us from on high. The hour between eight and nine has heretofore been adopted when similar unions have been proposed; but each individual and each congregation must of course be left to judge for itself in this matter, according to circumstances.

"MYSTERIOUS AND PERPLEXING PROVIDENCE."

The New York Baptist Register says that after the Karen Dictionary has been about half completed by Mr. Wade, "his vision has become so much impaired that he has been compelled to abandon it, and try what a voyage to his native land may do for him. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett are greatly afflicted by the dealings of God with the mission at Tavoy. Sister Mason taken away, and her husband disabled by his excessive toils—and now Br. Wade and his wife compelled to give up and go home—cannot be otherwise than mysterious, and trying to their faith. Some, we find, among the professed friends of Christ in our own land, speaking of these things as perplexing providences, and almost seem to think them a frown on the missionary effort. As well might the afflictions of the primitive saints, the death of Stephen and others, have been deemed a frown on their evangelical labors. No, no! these things are for the trial both of the missionaries and those who sustain them, and the command to preach the gospel to every creature is not the least abated in its obligation on the disciples of Christ."

ROMAN CATHOLIC ESTABLISHMENTS IN FRANCE.

A correspondent of the Christian Reflector gives some interesting statistics of the religious institutions of the Roman Catholics in France. It seems, from an enumeration made a few years ago, that there exist, in France, 2,144 convents, (of which 611 have been authorized since 1830,) legally entitled to receive legacies and donations, and 880 which are not authorized. They contain, in all, about 30,000 inmates. Estimating, moreover, at 20,000 all the males who are members of tolerated communities and fraternities, the number of persons connected, under religious vows, with these various establishments, is swelled beyond 120,000. In April, 1838, there were four houses of Trappists, four of Carthusians, two of Benedictines, and one of Capuchins, without mentioning the Jesuits, at Paris, at Lyons, and elsewhere ostensibly dispersed, by order of their general.

SABBATH LECTURES IN NEW YORK.—MR. BROWN delivered his Introductory Lecture on Sunday evening last. His subject was the importance of a thorough investigation of the Sabbath question, which he presented in a very able manner. As we gave a full report of his lectures upon the same subject last winter, and as the present course will no doubt be somewhat similar, although not the same, we have thought not advisable to report them. We can assure those who wish to hear upon the subject, however—both those who attended last winter, and those who did not—that they will find abundant instruction and entertainment in attending these lectures. To be continued on each succeeding Sunday evening, at the Seventh-day Baptist Chapel in Eleventh-st., between Bowery and Third Avenue.

INDIAN MISSIONS.—REV. MR. TREAT, of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, has left Boston on an official visit to the missions among the Choctaw and Cherokee Indians, for the purpose of investigating thoroughly the relations of those missions and their churches to the subject of slavery. He is accompanied by Rev. Timothy E. Ranney and wife, formerly of the mission among the Pawnees, who is now going to join the Cherokee mission; and by David Breed, jr., Mrs. Breed, Miss Caroline A. Fox, of Monegan, Conn., and Miss Jerusha Edwards, of Mass., who go as a reinforcement of the mission among the Choctaws.

RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPERS IN ENGLAND.—THE scarcity of religious newspapers in England has long been a subject of comment and lamentation. But a reason for it is found, no doubt, in their expensiveness. To meet the demands of the times, and to correct and instruct the minds of all classes of the community, especially the Non-conformists, a paper is to be started in London, by John Campbell, D. D., with an anticipated issue of 100,000 weekly. The first number will be issued on the first week of the New Year. It will be the largest paper allowed by law—to be stamped and sold at four pence a number (8c.), and entitled The British Banner.

STATE SUPPORT OF RELIGION DECLINED.—THE Christian Chronicle says that the government in Ceylon contributes to the support of the different religious sects. The Scotch and Dutch chaplains are paid in full, and the Missionaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, the Church Missionary Society, the Propagation Society, and the American Board, receive annual grants from the Colonial Treasurer. The Baptists decline receiving anything. It seems that they are convinced of the ability of the gospel to sustain itself without the aid of the State.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN INDIA.—THE Daily News (England) says that in the Rajpootana States of India, slave-dealing has been abolished from the land, and the very name of slave is no more to be mentioned. Some short while since, suttee and infanticide were prohibited by the same chiefs; it is now declared a capital offence to aid or abet in these, or even to witness them. These things have been brought about by our political agents, which redound more to their honor than almost anything else they could have employed themselves in accomplishing. The chiefs of the Rajpootana States are going ahead more than any of the native princes of India.

IMPERIAL EDICT.

The following edict was issued by the Emperor immediately after he received news of the English invasion of Canton.

"AN IMPERIAL EDICT.—Keying has reported to us, by memorial, that on the 19th of the second month (April 4th) the English merchants suddenly entered the river of Canton with troops. And the said Governor-General further states that on careful inquiry, the said merchants declared that they, having been insulted and abused, wished to go to Fuhsham to have a reckoning with the people there; and they also insisted on entrance to the city of Canton.—As hitherto of late the said foreigners have been tranquil, and rather peaceful and quiet, their suddenly daring now to bring in troops is verily an affair which could not have been foreseen: we fear there must be something else (yet undisclosed.) Their strong wish to enter the city is not a matter of any great moment one way or other. The said Governor-General and his associates, in such an emergency, must not be at all alarmed, nor in the least degree inattentive or remiss, but with promptitude direct the civil and military officers; and in a safe manner restrain and suppress (the said foreigners,) and must not in any way allow them to trouble our people.

"Further, the said Governor-General requests that all the officers of the forts in which the guns were spiked may be taken and severely dealt with, and that he himself may be delivered over to the appropriate Board to be tried in like manner. Let him wait till the affair is settled, and then again report to us thereon by memorial. Let this edict for his information be dispatched post haste, at the rate of five hundred li per day. From the Emperor, (Without date.)

Keying has not 'lost face' by the late demonstration. On the contrary he has probably risen in the estimation of his august master; the abandonment of hostilities without even gaining access to the city, 'in itself a matter of small importance,' looking very like a defeat. This view is borne out by the expression, that they (the English) made a determined request to enter a portion of the provincial city. The 'determined request' was modified to an agreement that they should be permitted to do so in two years; and thus the 'matter of small importance' was quietly disposed of. The Honan grant is not mentioned. The Emperor doubtless looks upon it as another 'matter of small importance,' though it is to be feared that it will be the cause of much trouble.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS AND THE THEATRE.—WE mentioned several weeks ago the attendance of J. Q. Adams upon the Park Theatre in this city; and expressed an anxiety to know what would be said of the circumstance by the papers which made so much ado about his presiding over the National Sabbath Convention. The following is the talk of one of them:—

"A strange man, this same John Q. Adams, after all. A man of extensive knowledge, who has been minister to some of the most prominent courts of Europe, who has seen the theatre in its penurious and ruinous influences, both at home and abroad, who has been familiar with its history from its earliest period, and well knows that reproach has been stamped upon it by all the advocates of pure morals down to the present time—that it has been the ruin of thousands of both sexes, that its evils are almost countless, that licentiousness, intemperance, and vice in every form, are nourished under the very shadow of its walls, and that those who tread its boards are deemed unworthy the privileges of respectable society; that this eminent statesman, being well aware of all this, should appear as one of its patrons, is truly mortifying. But when it is remembered that he is a professor of religion too, at the age of 80, on the very brink of the grave, that he should give countenance to such a moral scourge by his presence, and by his personal approval, gives an example to the rising generation that should virtually nullify the testimony of the virtuous and pious of all previous years, and impair the influence of parental counsel and admonition against the entrance of this gateway to the pit of ruin, is perfectly astounding!"

DR. BAIRD'S OPINION OF THE POPE, &c.—THE Hartford Charter Oak, in a report of a recent lecture by Dr. Baird, makes him use the following language in relation to the present Pope, the Queen of England, and several Princes:—

"The Pope is a man of fine talents, the best Pope Rome has had for many a day. He is enlightened and liberal in his views, and though strongly attached to the Roman Catholic faith, yet desirous that Italy should take a higher stand among the countries of Europe. The Queen of England is a proud woman. She does not possess great talents, but is smart—and every year is becoming a better Queen. In private character, the four worst monarchs in Europe, are the Kings of Hanover, Holland, Bavaria, and Naples. These Kings are notoriously vicious. The others are generally moral, many of them exemplary in private life."

ITALY AND THE POPE.—THE people of Italy, says Dr. Baird, in his lectures, are active, ingenious, and laborious. The peasantry are very industrious. Even the lazzaroni of Naples, of whom so much is said, are not idle from choice. Of their ingenuity there can be no doubt. It was the testimony of a British manufacturer, who had hundreds of different nations, in his employ, that the Italians are the most ingenious and skillful workmen in Europe, the Swiss next, and the Scotch next. He placed Englishmen last. If the Italians were not ground down by political and ecclesiastical despotism, and so governed that enterprise and industry are without avail, they would be one of the most energetic nations in Europe. The present Pope has made many improvements. He has enlarged the freedom of the press, and encouraged the publication of newspapers; he has encouraged trade, industry, and education—the construction of railroads and other internal improvements; reformed the administration of government, and organized a national guard. He has something like a legislature, and probably will soon have one in reality.

THE CATHOLICS IN THE UNITED STATES.—THE Catholic Almanac for 1848, says that the Catholic population in this country is estimated at 1,190,700. Within the United States there are three Catholic Archbishops, 24 Bishops, 890 Priests, and 907 Churches. Twenty Priests died last year. There has been in the same period of time an accession of 76 to the number of Priests, and 95 additional Churches have been erected or dedicated.

TIME OF COMMENCING THE SABBATH.

Mr. Begg, in his essay on the proper time of commencing the Sabbath, has referred to Dr. Dwight. I think it may be well to give to the readers of the Recorder Dwight's whole section upon the subject. As the Doctor undertook to treat Sunday just as though it were the primitive Bible Sabbath, "made for man," it shows clearly enough, that could he have disabused his own mind of his Sunday prepossessions, he would have been a consistent Sabbath-keeper.

ADDENDA.

"The time at which the peculiar duties of the Sabbath are to commence is, in my opinion, the time when darkness commences on the evening of Saturday. For this opinion the following reasons may be alleged:

"First: The natural day commenced with darkness. After God had created the chaos, darkness rested upon it for a certain period. This darkness, and the light which succeeded it, are declared to have constituted the first day. In the same manner are reckoned the five succeeding days of the creation.

"Secondly: The Sabbath, at its original institution, was a natural day. This is clear, because we are told, that God rested the seventh day; and from the manner in which the six succeeding days were reckoned, we have the fullest proof, that He, who by his own choice reckoned them in this manner, reckoned the seventh day in the same manner.

"Thirdly: When the Sabbath was renewedly enjoined upon the Israelites, it was required to be kept as a natural day. This we know, because no alteration of the original institution is specified in the fourth command; and because, in Lev. 23: 32, God says to that people concerning the great day of atonement, From even to even shall ye celebrate your Sabbath.

"Fourthly: The Jewish Sabbath commenced with the darkness, or with the time which we denote by the word candlelighting. This is evident from Nehem. 13: 19.—'And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, &c. It is there evident that the Sabbath had not commenced on Friday evening, when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark; or, in our customary language, when the dusk of the evening commenced in that city. The Sabbath, also, as a natural day, began originally at the same time; the first of the creation having commenced with absolute darkness. The time of darkness, to us, is the time when one can no longer see, so as to transact business by the light of the sun.

"Fifthly: The Christian Sabbath is the first day of the week, (?) and a natural day; because there is no hint given us, in the New Testament, of any alteration made or to be made in this respect. Dr. Macknight informs us that the ancient Christians began their Sabbath on the evening of Saturday. Some Christians have supposed, that the time when our Lord rose from the dead, is that, at which the present Sabbath ought to be begun. This is evidently an error; because THAT TIME IS NOT DECLARED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE KNOWN BY US. Accordingly these Christians begin the Sabbath at midnight—a time of human appointment merely. This seems to me unwarrantable."

COLPORTEURS ON THOROUGHFARES.

The ice is broken at last. After years of effort to secure well-qualified laborers for this difficult service, Providence seems to be raising up the men, and opening the door of access to the wayfaring population. The New Jersey Railroad and Transportation Company have generously given a free pass to one of this new class of laborers, whose station is on the Jersey City ferry-boats; an example of liberality which we trust will be followed by other steamboat and railroad companies. The colporteur meets the throngs entering or departing from the City, with his basket of books and tracts, and has succeeded thus far in his interesting mission. Passing up the North river on a night boat, with a supply of books, they were all sold on the boat before his return the next day. Though meeting with an occasional rebuff, he finds, in the main, that intelligent and Christian travelers appreciate his work and encourage him in it. The colporteurs of Satan have so long occupied this ground exclusively, to the grief and disgust of good men, that a religious colporteur is now welcomed and patronized. It is meeting the adversary on his own field.

Several other boat-colporteurs are preparing for the work. And the Lord is raising up friends for the movement. A venerable member of the Committee has given \$50 for this enterprise, and other donations have been received. There will be occasion for others still, and we doubt not they will be forthcoming.

We would bespeak a kind word, at least, from those who may meet these boat-colporteurs; and would suggest that the friends of truth, residing in great thoroughfares, should start a similar movement in various parts of the country. There is a blessing in it. [Am. Mess.]

Is there not an opening for a few faithful colporteurs from the Sabbath Tract Societies?

The public mind seems to be in some measure prepared to receive light upon topics hitherto unpalatable. It seems that as men get knowledge in the truths of religion, the appetite is increased for more. This thirst after knowledge should be excited by the circulation of scriptural views of the divine law. Who will occupy the station so favorably opened to the advocates of Sunday observance, and endeavor to counteract some of the evils inflicted upon the community by the occasional tarses sown with the wheat by other hands? Who will engage in the work?

General Intelligence.

SUMMARY.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

In looking over the proceedings in Congress last week, we find but little done in which the public will feel particularly interested.

In the SENATE, Mr. Calhoun offered resolutions to the effect that to conquer Mexico and hold it, either as a province or to incorporate it into the Union, is inconsistent with the avowed objects of the war and its prosecution.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Mr. Holmes, of South Carolina, asked leave to introduce a resolution declaring substantially the expediency of extinguishing the nationality of Mexico.

THE CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON ILLUMINATED.—The Capitol at Washington is now perhaps the best illuminated building in the world.

A FEMALE FARMER.—The second premium for the best cultivated farm in Litchfield Co., Ct., was awarded the past season to Mrs. Vesta Hawkins, of Watertown.

CURIOUS CASE.—A child about four years old, son of Mr. J. Sweet, of South Reading, Mass., swallowed a copper cent some two months since.

FLOOD ON THE OHIO.—A telegraphic dispatch, dated at Cincinnati, Dec. 15, says that the waters of the Ohio have swelled to the highest point attained during the great flood of 1832.

The Court of Common Pleas for the County of Barnstable, Mass., held its annual session lately. The Judges took their seats; the chaplain prayed; the full complement of grand and petit jurors, a melodious crier, and a bar full of lawyers qualified to maintain either side of any cause—yet after all not a single case criminal or civil was found for the jurors.

The Scientific American says that the largest ship ever built in the United States, has been recently finished at Portsmouth, N. H., at a cost of 100,000 dollars, for Messrs. D. & A. Kingsland, of this city, and intended to run as a packet between here and Liverpool.

The corn crop of the United States this year is estimated at 600,000,000 bushels; in 1845, it was 417,800,000 bushels.

In the Tyrol, and particularly at Voralberg, a regular business of breeding snails for sale is carried on.

The service of plate which some New York city gentlemen intended for the late Silas Wright, was presented to his widow pro forma, at the Stuyvesant Institute, by Senator Dix.

Mr. Griswold (the efficient mail agent between New York and Philadelphia) left Washington with the Message, on a special engine, at a quarter past one precisely, arrived at Baltimore at half past two, Philadelphia at seven, New Brunswick at a little before nine, and Jersey City at fifteen minutes before ten.

The Athenæum states, that if no intelligence respecting the Arctic expedition, under command of Sir John Franklin, should arrive in the course of a few weeks, the admiralty will take measures to send in search of the missing voyagers, besides dispatching the expedition of which Sir John Richardson has undertaken the command.

Many persons do not clearly comprehend the term "Quarter," as applied to grain in England. It is this: A ton is 2,240 lbs., a quarter of that, is 560 lbs., and this is the weight of the British or Imperial quarter of wheat.

The Peterboro, N. Y., Messenger says that Dr. Jewett has planned a good thing for blowing logs. It is a screw with a hole just large enough for the fire to communicate with the powder, through the middle.

The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser remarks: "Twenty five thousand dollars are subscribed toward the Buffalo and Aurora plank road. We continue to notice, in exchange papers, many new projects of this kind, several of which refer to the neighborhood of Syracuse and Schenectady."

James McHenry Boyd, Esq., died at the U. S. Hotel, Philadelphia, from injuries received by the accidental discharge of a pistol he was uncapping. He was married in Baltimore in the morning, and had just reached Philadelphia on his way to New York, from whence he was expecting to sail with his lady for Europe, when the fatal accident occurred.

The London Morning Advertiser of Oct. 16, draws attention to "the remarkable fact, that during the late scarcity of potatoes, which has been called a famine, the Irish actually exported more food than would have supplied any four countries in Europe." They had at the same time, completely within their reach, an abundance of fish which would be deemed luxuries in most of the European markets.

A cotemporary says: We have seen no mention of life preservers in connection with the awful catastrophe of the Phoenix, on Lake Michigan, and we presume there was not one there. Yet the circumstances were such, that if every person had been furnished with a life preserver, we do not see why every life might not have been preserved.

Speaking of the weather one day last week, a New York paper says it was wet, warm, sultry, misty, melting, muddy, vapory, sloppy, disagreeable, thick, cloudy, moist, fickle, damp, foggy, dripping, drizzly, exhausting, unpleasant, intolerable, unhealthy, indescribable, and rainy. At noon the sky was clear and bright, but oh what showers we had at night!

A bill passed by the Legislature of New York allows the following compensation to officers:—To the Attorney General \$2,500 and \$800 for Clerk hire; State Engineer and Surveyor \$2,500 and \$700 for Clerk hire; State Prison Inspectors \$1,500 each; Canal Commissioners \$2,000—these salaries to be in lieu of all fees, traveling expenses, and other allowances.

It is stated in the Chicago Journal, and the fact is vouched for by respectable citizens at Maintowoc, that the Propeller Delaware, on her way from Sheboygan to Maintowoc, after the destruction of the Phoenix, passed close by thirty or forty dead bodies floating in the Lake; but, though the weather was calm and the sea smooth, the Captain of the Delaware, resisting the earnest entreaties of his passengers, refused to lower his boats and pick those bodies up!

On Friday morning, about sunrise, two strangers went to the house of Robert Tete, in Hopewell, Cumberland Co., and took off his wife and child. Who they were, (says the Bridgeton Chronicle,) where they were from, or where they went to, we have not been able to learn.

It is said that one great English Railway contractor, has more than £7,000,000 of contracts incomplete at this moment; and though 20,000 workmen have recently been discharged from his employ, he yet pays \$50,000 a week in wages alone.

Mr. Winthrop is the third Representative of Massachusetts, who has presided over the House of Representatives since the adoption of our Constitution, having been preceded by Theodore Sedgwick in the sixth Congress, and Joseph B. Varnum in the tenth and eleventh.

At Jamaica, L. I., on Wednesday last, two large hogs were guessed for—50 cent a guess. The fortunate guesser had his choice of the two, the next best guesser taking his leavings. This is a new item in Long Island sports.

The receipts on the Western Railroad, for the year ending Dec. 1st, exceeded those of the last year by \$365,000—or \$1,000 per diem throughout the whole period. The gross amount of receipts was \$1,218,000.

Gen. Taylor will not, during his six months absence from camp, visit Washington, or attend any public meetings, nor, in any way, seek notoriety, but will employ himself exclusively in the management of his private affairs, which have suffered from long neglect.

The transmission of the President's Message over the telegraphic wires, to Louisville, Kentucky, and Vincennes, Indiana, was accomplished during Tuesday night, occupying about twelve hours' incessant labor on the part of the operators engaged in it.

It was currently reported at Sierra Leone, that there were 2,000 recaptured Africans in the liberated African department, and those rejected by the retaining officers as unfit for soldiers would be sent to the West Indies as emigrants.

Joseph E. West was convicted last week in the Burlington, N. J., Court, and sentenced to five years hard labor in the State Prison, for forging a deed. He is a man of education, and was, at one time, the most wealthy citizen of Atlantic County.

A letter mailed at West Poultney, Vt., post-marked June 12th, inclosing a bank draft, and very plainly directed to New York, reached its destination December 8, and a duplicate draft was remitted long ago, in September or August.

A correspondent of Cist's paper, the Cincinnati Advertiser, writes:—I notice a statement in the public journals, that the widow of Benjamin Rush, now 90 years of age, is still alive. She is therein stated to be the only survivor of the wives of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. This is a mistake.

It appears from the reports of the Romish Society for the Propagation of the Faith, that while this country was contributing supplies to the starving Irish, the poor people of Ireland have contributed to that Society \$28,000, to be spent in the spread of Romanism in this country.

During the present year sixteen coal-boats have been snagged on the same stump in one of the bends of the Mississippi river. Each boat was probably worth \$1,000. Here, in a retail way, has a single snag cost the community \$16,000 in one year.

Levi Lee, a colored man, died in Philadelphia on Thursday night, in consequence of injuries inflicted upon him by a colored woman in whose cellar he lived, and who had ordered him out into the storm because he was suspected to be ill of the fever which had prevailed among these people lately. He declined going, and she attacked and turned him out. His body when found was almost hidden by the snow which had fallen.

The Chicago Citizen says: "Land Warrants can now be bought in this city at \$140 for 160 acres. These warrants are taken at par at the land offices for any land the Government has for sale. The flood of warrants offers an excellent opportunity to the people to get land cheap."

The Pittsburgh Gazette notices the death in Allegheny city, on the 27th of Nov., of James Ross, Esq., who was one of the convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. Fourteen thousand hogs have arrived by railroad in Baltimore within the fortnight. Twelve thousand more, says the Cumberland Civilian, are waiting a passage.

The editors of the Richmond (Va.) Times have received from the farm of Dr. Gwathmy, King William, a turnip weighing 10 1-2 lbs. when short of its tops.

Hon. Timothy Pitkin, an eminent citizen of Connecticut, who had been several times elected Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives, and served his State with distinguished ability as a member of Congress, from 1805 to 1819, died in New-Haven on the 18th, at the advanced age of 82.

A State Convention, for the purpose of organizing a State Educational Society in Indiana, has been held in the Capitol, Indiana. This is real republicanism. The class who are out of the circle of office-seekers, gamblers, purse-proud aristocrats, and able to reason, reflect, and act honestly and independently—these are a nation's strength.

The Quebec Gazette says, that in consequence of the failure of the cod and seal fisheries, and also of the potatoe crop, a famine will soon be experienced at the Magdalen Islands, unless prevented by relief from the government or some other source.

The health of Dr. Sylvester Graham, says the Worcester Journal, is on the decline. He is badly afflicted with nervous dyspepsia and disease of the lungs. By the advice of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Woodward, he has been induced to adopt the use of animal food.

The Prairie Farmer says, that sheep slaughtering is being extensively carried on in Chicago this fall. One firm are engaged in slaughtering 3,000 head. The price for one flock, was \$1 18 3/4 per head. The pelts and hams are properly cured for the market, and the balance of the carcass is steamed for the tallow.

A paper was read before the New York Historical Society on Monday, 6th inst., by Albert Gallatin, wherein he stated that E. B. Whitney, inventor of the Cotton Gin, had prolonged slavery in the United States.

Our countryman, Powers, has been fortunate in bringing to notice an old quarry of the richest marble in the world, which has lain obscured, a few miles from Leghorn, for 2,000 years.

A movement is in progress in Boston to establish a free public library for the citizens, and the Common Council have agreed to provide accommodations as soon as \$30,000 is raised.

A railroad is to be constructed at Capetown, South Africa, for a distance of 7 miles. The expense is estimated to be 24,000 dollars per mile. A four-wheeled carriage, with brown ornaments and iron wheels, has been recently discovered in a three story house dug out at Pompeii.

The bark Olga, Capt. John C. Bull, cleared from Boston for California, with a cargo valued at \$26,400, of which \$14,600 was of foreign products, and \$11,800 domestic.

There is a project on foot in Pennsylvania to establish a free banking system on the basis of Pennsylvania stocks.

Boiled potatoes are said to cleanse the hands as well as common soap; they prevent chaps in the winter season, and keep the skin soft and healthy.

The bill to incorporate Syracuse as a city, passed both Houses on the 14th, so amended as to require a vote of the electors of Syracuse and Salina upon it.

One gentleman in Licking County, Ohio, it is stated, makes annually \$100,000 worth of cheese.

The statue of Dr. Chalmers for the new college at Edinburgh will cost \$1,500, of which \$1,000 is already raised.

The capital already invested in railroads in New-England States, is supposed to amount to \$50,000,000.

An earthquake occurred in Chili and Peru on the 8th of October, which destroyed several towns. Official documents state that there are at least 2,300 women attached to the American army cooking, washing, attending the sick, &c.

The value of provisions, breadstuffs and rice exported from Boston from 1796 to 1820, was \$20,516,438, viz., provisions, \$7,071,160; breadstuffs, \$11,572,574; rice, \$1,872,704.

Review of New York Market.

Table listing market prices for various goods such as Flour, Meal, Butter, and other commodities.

MARRIED.

At Hopewell, N. J., on the 10th inst., by Eld. D. Clawson, Mr. CHARLES C. SOCKWELL, to Miss SARAH S. DAVIS.

In Alfred, N. Y., Nov. 27, by Eld. N. V. Hull, Mr. JACOB HENDRIX, to Miss JUDITH A. COON, all of Alfred.

DIED.

In Scio, N. Y., Nov. 24, in the 78th year of her age, ANNA EMERSON, She was a member of the 1st Seventh-day Baptist Church in Alfred.

In Alfred, N. Y., Nov. 30, Mrs. CHARLOTTE HARTWELL, wife of Franklin Hartwell, in the 27th year of her age.

LETTERS.

Table listing names and addresses of subscribers and correspondents.

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CHRISTIAN PALMODY. THE New Collection of Hymns with this title, prepared by a Committee of the Seventh-day Baptist General Conference, was published on the 10th day of Sept. last, and is for sale at this office.

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