

The Sabbath Recorder

EDITED BY GEORGE B. UTTER.

"THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH OF THE LORD THY GOD."

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The Sabbath Recorder.

ALLEGED CHANGE OF THE SABBATH AT THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.

[Section X. of J. A. Begg's Treatise on the Sabbath.]

Even if the interpretation given to the words of the Pharisee by those who vindicate a change of the Sabbath were correct, the utmost advantage fairly derived from this admission would be a proof that the word employed has these two significations of *week* and *Sabbath*. And then, for this one instance of its signifying week, that it has the signification of Sabbath in almost every other case, being the only word ever used in the New Testament for the weekly Sabbath, is what no person would attempt to deny. And if the word had these two significations, this fact would just render it necessary for us, in every instance in which it is used, to seek to discover which of these meanings it is there intended to have. Here we should then be led to ask, when the Evangelists give the account of our Lord's resurrection, do they mean to use this word of two significations in the sense in which on the one single instance it has been supposed to be used by the Pharisee, or do the Evangelists mean to use it in the sense in which it is commonly employed? For even on the supposition that the word might signify week, we are not entitled to assume that this is the sense which is here intended, contrary to more common usage. Now there is the farther difference between the two cases, that the word employed in reference to our Lord's resurrection is in the plural, while in the case of the Pharisee's fast, which we have been considering, it is in the singular. If the language of the Pharisee could be translated, "I fast twice in the week," we require to remember, that a corresponding translation in the account of our Lord's resurrection would read "of the weeks." However it may be explained, or whatever the interpretation given, this is the fact, and it is not to be forgotten in seeking the meaning of the text.

And we have to take farther into consideration, that in each account of the resurrection, and in the immediate context of the disputed text, the same Greek word is used indisputably to express "the Sabbath," and is also so rendered. The same word which in Matt. 28: 1 is translated *week* (in "the first day of the week,"), is, in the beginning of the same verse, rendered *Sabbath* ("in the end of the Sabbath,") in Mark 16: 2, the same word which is rendered "week" ("the first day of the week") is translated "Sabbath" in the first verse ("when the Sabbath was past;") in Luke 24: 1, it is the same word which is rendered "week" ("upon the first day of the week,") that is translated "Sabbath day" in the last verse of the preceding chapter, ("and rested the Sabbath day, according to the commandment;") in John 20: 1, it is the same word which is rendered "week," ("the first day of the week,") which is twice translated "Sabbath," a few verses before, when we are informed of the desire of the Jews, "that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, for the day is an high day." John 19: 31. Is it then to be assumed, that the inspired penmen thus use the word Sabbath to express both "Sabbath" and "week" indiscriminately, without indicating in any manner when they meant to be understood in the one sense, and when in the other? Is it in the least degree probable, that all of the Evangelists should in the same connection employ the word "Sabbath" in its usual signification, as confessedly they do, and that when immediately afterwards they write "of the Sabbaths," they now intend that we should read "of the week?"

The Scriptures neither attach importance to the particular day of the week upon which Christ's resurrection took place, nor give us express information concerning it. If it is to be ascertained at all, it is only in the way of inference. With the ordinary view, however, of the time at which He was crucified and interred, we do not see how it is possible that the resurrection could have been on the morning of the first day. It is assumed that he was taken from the cross and laid in the tomb on Friday evening, about sunset, and that he arose from the dead on Sunday morning, immediately after dawn. It was "when the even was come," (Matt. 27: 57; Mark 16: 42,) and therefore when this day was past, that Joseph went to Pilate under to beg the body. But supposing that the day had not fully expired, and that there still remained a small portion of its time when the body was laid in the sepulchre; the Saviour would then have been entombed only—

Days, Friday afternoon—a short time.
Sabbath—whole day.
Sunday morning—a short time.

We should have thus one entire day and brief parts of other two, the representatives of "three days." But we have only two "nights." This, however, is not in accordance with our Lord's own prediction of the "duration" of His continuance in the tomb. His declaration on this point is very explicit: "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of Man be THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS in the heart of the earth." Matt. 12: 40. This is an important declaration; it is a testing truth by which to try the truth of human theories. Tried by it, the current theory is found wanting. And it is also worthy of notice; that the record explicitly affirms that "Jonah was in the belly of the fish, three days and three nights." Jonah 1: 16. We may not doubt, therefore, that in Christ's case, also, it was absolutely fulfilled—that He was not only three days, but also three nights, in the heart of the earth. It was the sign expressly given by the Saviour in proof of His Messiahship; the sign given to His enemies; watchful to find Him in any thing; and in any degree, at fault. It is the prediction of an important truth, often re-

peated by the Saviour; appealed to repeatedly by His disciples after its accomplishment, and never questioned by any adversary who admitted His resurrection at all. We believe, then, that it was really fulfilled—fulfilled with a degree of truth, and in an accordance with the letter, which the ordinary interpretation does not and cannot exhibit.

We do not question, we do not doubt, that part of a day is in Scripture and Jewish reckoning accepted for a whole. This admits of full and clear proof. But the very same reason which requires at least a part of each of the three days, surely equally demands that the principle be extended to corresponding parts of each of the three nights. Our Lord's declaration is not less strong concerning the three nights than concerning the same number of days, and appears to be much too precise to admit of its having been fulfilled by His being in the tomb only two nights. Yet such is the exact amount of time admitted by the ordinary computation. According to that theory, He is averred to have been crucified on the sixth day of the week (Friday); He was immediately laid in the tomb. During this night and the following night only, He was in the heart of the earth; for He was already arisen before the women reached the tomb, "very early in the morning" of the ensuing day. We cannot, then, find in this, three days and three nights.

We cheerfully make room for the following article, because it throws a good deal of light upon the subject of which it treats. But we must be permitted to express some doubts as to the correctness of the writer's opinion, that missionary efforts should be directed mainly to the most barbarous and uncivilized nations.

THE GOSPEL EARLY PREACHED IN CHINA.

I have long been of the opinion, that no country was ever civilized until it was Christianized, or taught the precepts and principles of the Christian religion; and that it is our duty, when we attempt to send our missionaries abroad, in obedience to the injunction left us by the great head of the church, to select fields for their labors where the greatest pagan darkness prevails—where the people possess neither the light of Christianity nor the benefits of civilization. Is China a place of this description? I think not. On the contrary, I believe that the Chinese have at some former period enjoyed the blaze of gospel light—that the Gospel was taught them by the apostles and disciples of our Lord in the early dawn of Christianity, but that, through the difficulty of multiplying copies of the Scriptures into their language, their day-star has disappeared, and they are left in heathen darkness, to worship images and idols; still enjoying, however, a high degree of civilization. They build cities equal in extent to any on the earth—possess the mechanic arts in a high degree—cultivate the soil to the best advantage—are for the most part civil and courteous to strangers—enjoy an extensive commerce with most of the civilized world—and last, but not least, the theory of their government, and the administration of their laws, are not surpassed by any nation in existence. Rev. S. W. Williams, late missionary to the East, in his account of China, says:—

"We see there the highest stage of civilization which has as yet been attained by any nation independently of Christian institutions. In saying this, we speak advisedly and deliberately, and believe we shall be sustained by a fair comparison of Chinese with Athenian or Roman culture. It has brought agriculture, and many of the arts of practical utility, to a high degree of perfection; and what perhaps proves more conclusively than any other point of comparison its superiority to any form of ancient civilization, it has gained a sufficient ascendancy for self-preservation; and, though it reached its culminating point many centuries ago, it has not yet begun to decline." "From the picture given us of Chinese society, we can imagine no external organization which would minister to its improvement. The people are industrious and frugal, as chaste and temperate as most civilized nations, and distinguished by some virtues, such as respect for age, and filial piety in its most reverential type, which are fast growing obsolete in Christendom."

I think there can no longer remain a doubt of the civilization of China; and, as I have already stated, I have no doubt that they were previously Christianized. But as this is not quite so visible and clear, I will quote a few items from ancient history, and refer those who wish for more extended information, to the life and opinions of Rev. William Milne, D. D., missionary to China; Christian Researches in Asia, by Rev. Claudius Buchanan, L. L. D.; and an Account of China, or a survey of the Chinese Empire and its inhabitants, by S. W. Williams, the latest publication of the kind.

Rev. C. Buchanan, in his Researches in India, says—

"There have lately been discovered Sanscrit writings containing testimony of Christ. They relate to a prince who reigned about the period of the Christian era, and whose history, though mixed with fable, contains particulars which correspond in a surprising manner with the advent, birth, miracles, death, and resurrection of our Saviour. These important records have been translated by a learned orientalist, and he has deposited the originals among the archives of the Asiatic Society. From these and other documents he has completed a work entitled 'The History of the Introduction of the Christian Religion into India, its progress, and

decline; and at the conclusion of the work, he thus expresses himself: 'I have written this account of Christianity in India, with the impartiality of an historian, fully persuaded that our holy religion cannot receive any additional luster from it.' Again, it may be proved, says Mosheim, by the Syriac records, that in the fourth century Christianity was flourishing in the provinces of Chorasana Mavaralbara; and from a variety of learned testimony, that although it is not certain (though such is the tradition) that the gospel was first introduced into China by the Apostle Thomas himself, it was yet proclaimed there by the first Christian teachers after the Apostolic age. Arnobius, who flourished in the third century, expressly mentions the Sereas amongst the people who had then embraced Christianity; and it is universally acknowledged, that the Chinese nation is meant. Again, he says, the antiquity of Christianity is proved by La Croze in the clearest manner; and then argues, that as the archiepiscopal See of China was originally conjoined with that of India, the metropolitan seats must have been chosen at the same time. But why, he asks, should a metropolitan have been appointed, unless the religion of Jesus had been spread far and wide long before, and unless there had been many Bishops?

"In the epitome of the Syrian canons, St. Thomas is called the Apostle of the Hindoos and Chinese. The Syrian chronicles call him the first Bishop of the East; and Ebedjesus says, India and all the regions about received the priesthood from him. Anru, also, the best of the Syrian historians, traces both Thomas and Bartholomew through Arabia and Persia into India and China. And all the Syrian writers quoted by Asseman, agree in stating that a few of the twelve, and many of the seventy disciples, went far into northern Asia, preaching the gospel. Now even Mosheim acknowledges that at a little later period the gospel was carried to China, Sereas, and Tartary, and that it was proclaimed there by the first teachers after the Apostolic age.

"Dr. Wilson, the Bishop of Calcutta, calls the Christians of St. Thomas by their right name, when he says, they are an ancient Church preserved in the midst of idolatry from the days of the Apostles. This will be their name and memorial forever, in spite of all verbal criticisms."

"I do not think myself ill employed," says Dr. Milne, "in trying to create public sympathy with the old lights of China, as well as for its present darkness. It probably had the light before Britain, and certainly had more of it in the fifth century than Augustine brought here at the end of the sixth century. Christianity lasted longer at Cambalu (now Pekin) than in some places where the apostles themselves planted it; and remained, while it lasted in the northern capital of China, purer than it was then, or now is, in Rome."

It has long been a question among Christians, why so few of the twelve are mentioned in the acts of the Apostles, if they were on their mission to evangelize the world? But no one, I believe, at that time had ever dreamed that they were as zealously employed in Asia as the others were in Rome and the adjacent countries. "If they were not in Asia, where were they? They were not dead. We cannot trace them in the spheres of Paul, Peter, or John. We cannot believe they were idle, or less faithful to their commissions, than their brethren. We cannot suspect Luke of either partiality or prejudice, in writing the Acts of the Apostles. Thus nothing is so probable as that most of the Apostles, whom we cannot trace in the wide circle of what we call apostolic churches, were in spheres beyond that circle, and especially in the Asiatic spheres, throughout which portions of the ten tribes were scattered, as it was the duty of all the Apostles to begin with the lost sheep of the house of Israel wherever they went preaching the gospel."

Dr. Doddridge, quoting from Dr. Young, says that Jude preached in Persia, Phillip and Andrew in Scythia, Bartholomew in the northern and western parts of Asia, and Thomas in several of the eastern parts; in most of which places, Christian Churches were planted in less than thirty years after the death of Christ. Dr. Buchanan, after quoting his authority, (which is of little consequence here,) says: "I am satisfied that we have as good authority for believing that the Apostle Thomas died in India, as that the Apostle Peter died at Rome."

Another idea that strengthens my opinion that the Christian religion has been known in India, is the form and spirit of their prayers, several of which La Croze has translated. Some of them are very remarkable; and though I have already exceeded my limits, I will transcribe one of the least length, and may take another opportunity of making a few more remarks, and transcribing another of greater length—

"Let our prayer be to God! Thou who art raised above all creatures, give us wisdom. Thou true Lord, be merciful, and bless me as thou hast promised. Send my guardian angel at every hour, every day. Be ever with me. Never withdraw thyself. Send, Lord, according to thy promise, thy angel to our whole assembly. May the blessing promised to God's assembly be upon me. May the blessing of the strengthening angel be upon me. May my prayer overflow and diffuse like water in the spring."

"This is not much like heathenism," says Dr. Phillips.

THE TRAVELER IN PALESTINE;

OR,
Bible Scenes brought to Mind.

Best land of Judea! thrice hallowed of song,
Where the holiest of memories pilgrim-like throng;
In the shade of thy palms, by the shores of thy sea,
On the hills of thy beauty; my heart is with thee.

With the eyes of a spirit I look on that shore,
Where pilgrim and prophet have lingered before;
With the guide of a spirit I traverse the sod
Made bright by the steps of the angels of God.

Blue sea of the hills; in my spirit I hear
Thy waters, Gennesaret, chime on my ear;
Where the Lowly and Just with the people sat down,
And thy spray on the dust of his sandals was thrown.

Beyond are Bethulia's mountains of green,
And the desolate hills of the wild Gadarene;
And I pause on the coast-grate of Tabor to see
The gleam of thy waters, O dark Galilee!

Hark! a sound in the valley! where, swollen and strong,
Thy river, O Jordan, thy sweeping along;
Where the Canaanite strove with Jehovah in vain;
And thy torrent grew dark with the blood of the slain.

There, down from his mountains, stern Zebulun came,
And Naphtali's stag, with his eyeballs of flame;
And the chariots of Jabim roll'd harmlessly on;
For the "Arm of the Lord" was Abinoam's son!

There sleep the still rocks, and the caverns which rang
To the song which the beautiful prophetess sang.
When the princess of Issachar stood by her side,
And the shout of a host in its triumph replied.

Lo, Bethlehem's hill-side before me lies seen,
With the mountains around and the valleys between;
There rested the shepherds of Judah, and there
The song of the angels rose sweet on the air.

And Bethany's palm-trees in beauty still throw
Their shadows at noon on the ruins below;
But where are the sisters who hastened to greet
The lowly Redeemer and sit at his feet?

I tread where the twelve in their wayfaring trod;
I stand where they stood with the chosen of God—
When his blessing was heard, and his lessons were taught,
When the blind were restored, and the healing was wrought.

Oh, here with his flock the sad wanderer came;
These hills he to'd over in grief, are the same;
The fountains where he drank by the wayside still flow,
And the same airs are blowing which breathed on his brow.

And thronged on her hills sits Jerusalem yet,
But with dust on her forehead and chains on her feet;
For the crown of her pride to the mocker hath gone,
And the holy Shechinah is dark where it shone.

But wherefore this dream of the earthly abode,
Of humbly clothed in the brightness of God?
Were my spirit but hur'd from the outward and dim,
It could gaze even now on the presence of Him!

Not in clouds and in terrors, but gentle as when,
In love and in meekness, he moved among men,
And the voice which breathed peace to the waves of the sea,
In the hush of my spirit would whisper to me!

And what if my feet may not tread where he stood,
Nor my ears hear the dashing of Galilee's flood,
Nor my eyes see the cross which he bowed him to bear,
Nor my knees press Gethsemane's garden of prayer.

Yet, loved of the Father, thy Spirit is near
To the meek, and the lowly, and penitent here;
And the voice of thy love is the same, even now,
As at Bethany's tomb, or on Olivet's brow.

Oh, the outward hath gone! but in glory and power
The Spirit surviveth the things of an hour;
Unchanged, undecaying, its pentecost flame
On the heart's secret altar is burning the same! WHITTIER.

SOLOMON AND CHESTERFIELD.

"Vanity of vanities, all is vanity and vexation of spirit." With such a confession did the man go off the stage of existence, who, of all the human race, was the best qualified to give an opinion upon such a subject. If the possession of royalty, unbounded wealth, peace, surpassing wisdom, and all the sources of sensual gratification, could satisfy the desires of an immortal spirit, then had not Solomon been compelled by experience to reduce the sum total of the world's power of giving happiness to two mere cyphers, and pronounce it to be nothing but vanity and vexation.

And now hear the testimony of another, by whom the world, with its fashions and its follies, its principles and its practices, has been proposed in form to Englishmen, as the proper object of their attention and devotion. Lord Chesterfield has avowed as much with respect to himself, and by his writings said in effect to it, "Save me, for thou art my god." He has tendered his assistance to aid as priest on the occasion, and conduct the ceremonial. At the close of life, however, he found his god was about to forsake him, and therefore was forsaken by him. You shall hear some of his sentiments and expressions, which have not been before, so far as I know, duly noticed and applied to their use; that of furnishing an antidote, and they do furnish a very effectual one, to the noxious poisons contained in his volumes. They are well worthy of your strictest consideration.

"I have seen," says the man of the world, "the silly rudies of business and pleasure, and have done with them all. I have enjoyed all the pleasures of the world, and consequently know their futility, and do not regret their loss. I appraise them at their real value, which in truth is very low; whereas those who have not experienced, invariably overrate them. They only see their glare exterior, and are dazzled by their glare; but have been behind the scenes; I have seen all the coarse pulleys and the dirty ropes which exhibit and move the gaudy machines; and I have seen and smelled the talow candles which illuminate the whole decoration, to the astonishment and admiration of an ignorant audience. When I reflect upon what I have seen, what I have heard, and what I have done, I can hardly persuade myself that all that frivolous hurry, and bustle, and pleasure of the world, had a reality; but I look upon all that is past, as one of those romantic visions which opium commonly occasions; and I by no means desire to repeat the nauseous dose for the sake of the fugitive dream. Shall I tell you, that I bear this melancholy situation with that meritorious constancy, and resignation which most people boast of? No; for I really cannot help it; I bear it because I must bear it, whether I will or no. I think of nothing but killing time, the best way I can, now that he has become mine enemy. It is my resolution to

sleep in the carriage during the remainder of the journey."

When a Christian priest speaks slightly of the world, he is supposed to do so in the way of his profession, and to decry, through envy, the pleasure he was forbidden to taste. But here, I think, you have the testimony of a witness every way competent. No man ever knew the world better, or enjoyed more of its favors, than this nobleman. Let you see, how poor, abject, and wretched a condition, at a time when he most needed help and comfort, the world left him, and he left the world. The sentences above cited from him, composed in my humble opinion, is the most striking and affecting sermon upon the vanity of the world, ever yet preached to mankind. Such was his confession, in his old age, to a son that afterwards died by his own hand, of Lord Chesterfield, the oracle of English gentry and nobles. [J. A. Jameson.]

AN INCIDENT IN REAL LIFE.

Business called me to the United States Land Office. While there, awaiting the completion of my business, a lad apparently about 16 or 17 years old came in, and presented to the receiver a certificate of purchase for 40 acres of land. I was struck with the countenance and general appearance of the lad, and inquired of him for whom he was purchasing the land; the reply was, "For myself, sir." I then inquired where he got the money; he answered, "I earned it by my labor." Then, said I, "you richly deserve the land." I inquired, "Where did you come from?" "New York," said he. Feeling an increased desire to know something more of this lad, I asked him whether he had parents, and where they lived; on this question, he took a seat, and gave me the following narrative:—

"I am from New York State—have there living a father, mother, and five brothers and sisters—I am the oldest child. Father is a drinking man, and often would return home from his day's work drunk, and not a cent in his pocket to buy food for the family, having spent all his day's earnings in liquor with his drinking companions; the family had to depend chiefly on mother and myself for bread; this distressed mother much, and had a powerful effect on my feelings. Finding that father would not abstain from liquor, I resolved to make an effort in some way to relieve mother, sisters, and brothers, from want. After revolving things over in my mind, and consulting with mother, I got all the information I could about the Far West, and started for Wisconsin with three dollars in my pocket. I left home on foot. After spending my three dollars, I worked occasionally a day, and renewed my travel so long as money lasted. By labor occasionally, and the charitable treatment I got on the road, I landed in Wisconsin. Here I got an axe, set to work and cleared land by the job—earned money, saved it, till I gathered \$50, which money I now pay for the 40 acres of land."

"Well, my good lad, (for by this time I became much interested in his story,) what are you going to do with this land?" "Why, sir, I will continue to work and earn money, and when I have spare time, prepare some of my land for culture, raise myself a log-house, and when prepared, will write father and mother, brothers and sisters, to come to Wisconsin and enjoy this home. This land now bought by me, I design for my mother, which will secure her from want in her declining years." "What, said I, 'will you do with your father if he continues to drink ardent spirits to excess?'" "Oh, sir, when we get him on the farm, he will feel at home, will work at home, will keep no liquor in the house, and in a short time he will be a sober man." I then replied, "Young man, these being your principles so young, I recommend you to improve on them, and the blessing of God will attend you. I shall not be surprised to hear of your advancement to the highest post of honor in the State; with such principles as you have, you are deserving of the noblest commendation."

By this time the receiver handed him his duplicate receipt for his 40 acres of land; rising from his seat, on leaving the office, he said, "At last I have a home for my mother!"

ANECDOTE OF JOHN HOWARD.

During his stay at Vienna, Howard was introduced to the Queen of Hungary, and had the honor of dining with her on some public occasion, when the nobles of her court, and the foreign ambassadors, were her guests. A circumstance, also occurred at Vienna, which strongly evinces his love for truth, and the fearlessness of his character when speaking it, at all times, and in all companies. Dining one day at the table of Sir Robert Murray Keith, the English Ambassador at the Austrian Court, the conversation turned upon the torture, when a German gentleman observed, that the honor of abolishing it in his own dominions, belonged to his Imperial Majesty.

"Pardon me," said Mr. Howard, "His Imperial Majesty has only abolished one species of torture, to establish in its stead another more cruel; for the torture which he abolished lasted at most but a few hours; but that which he has established lasts many weeks, nay, sometimes even years. The poor wretches are committed to a noisome dungeon, as bad as the Black Hole at Calcutta, from which they are liberated only on condition that they confess what is laid to their charge."

"Hush!" said the Ambassador, "your words will be reported to his Majesty's ears."

"What!" replied he, "shall this tongue mine be tied from speaking truth by any King or Emperor in the world? I repeat, what I asserted, and maintain its veracity, whether Deep silence ensued, and every eye present admired the intrepid boldness of the man of humanity."

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THE SUNDAY IN FRANCE.

Our readers cannot have failed to notice, in the items of intelligence from France which have been published within a few months past, how many important events have transpired on Sunday. In connection with the Revolution, and the subsequent insurrectionary movements, Sunday was a prominent day, and upon it was transacted business vitally connected with the establishment of the Republic. The election, at which the first National Assembly was chosen, occurred on a Sunday, and passed off very quietly. When the Assembly had completed its great work of forming a Constitution, that document was publicly proclaimed on Sunday, in a solemn and imposing manner. Two or three thousand persons had been employed for several days previous in making preparations; and when the hour for the proclamation arrived, instead of the difficulties which were apprehended, everything was quiet. The President of the Assembly read the Constitution, while profound silence reigned throughout the vast concourse of people. The Archbishop of Paris, assisted by four Bishops, performed mass, which was followed by the Pontifical benediction. After the benediction, the clergy chanted the Domine salvam fac rempublicam, and returned in procession to the Church of the Madeleine. This was followed by the firing of cannon at the Hotel des Invalides, and several other places; and then the National Guard and other military corps commenced defiling before the National Assembly, which lasted at least four hours. On Sunday evening all the public buildings were illuminated, and the fete was continued on Monday and Monday evening. Subsequently, the election of the first President of the Republic was held on a Sunday, and but little disturbance occurred, although much was apprehended. One of the first public acts of the new President was to attend a grand military review; and this, according to the prevailing custom, was held on a Sunday.

Thus it will be seen, that some of the most interesting and important events connected with the overthrow of Monarchy and the establishment of Republicanism in France, have transpired on Sunday, the first day of the week, commonly called the Lord's Day. This circumstance, taken in connection with the remarkable success which has attended the revolutionary movements in France, seems to perplex some of the good people of this country, who are in the habit of representing the desecrators of Sunday as in imminent danger of the divine vengeance. In one of our exchanges we find an allusion to the fact that the first President of the Republic was elected on a Sunday, to which is appended the admonitory remark, that "trampling on an ordinance of Jehovah, by a whole nation, is a fearful beginning of a democratic career; in all Roman Catholic countries, the Sabbath is well nigh an obsolete institution." In another exchange we find an account of the proclamation of the Constitution, to which this remark is appended: "What a nation this France is! The Lord's Day has long been the great day of recreation and amusement among the people, and it now seems to be selected as the day for political action. Reform in such a nation of infidels—for though professedly papal it is in reality infidel—can hardly be expected. Nevertheless, nothing is too hard for the Lord. The conduct of the people of France, however, has some apology. Little else is taught them by their clergy but superstitions and papal mummery, which the great majority have no confidence in. It is not surprising, therefore, that they should be infidel." In both of these extracts the writers evidently started with the idea of reproving the neglect of Sunday, and suggesting the probability of retribution; but in both they come to the conclusion, that the French have only done what infidelity prompts, and Popery sanctions, on which account they are comparatively innocent. How powerless are all such reproofs! If the men who administer them would only cease to symbolize with Popery in observing the festival of Sunday, and would conform to the law of God in keeping the seventh day of the week, there would be some sense and consistency in their reproofs. Until they are ready to do so, they may as well hold their peace, for they are in the same condemnation with those whom they reprove. No doubt the French are in great danger, as these writers suggest, of making a wreck of their democracy. But how those who openly charge them with infidelity, can with consistency covertly convey the impression that their danger springs from an outward neglect of the Sunday, is more than we can tell.

LETTERS FROM ILLINOIS—No. 7.

PLEASANT HILL, near Farmington, Ill., 16th of 1st mo., 1849.

To the Editor of the Sabbath Recorder:—

Several inquiries have reached me respecting the price and titles of lands in this district. I propose, therefore, in this letter, to give your readers such a view of the matter as may answer these and similar inquiries. All the lands in this district are reckoned from the fourth principal meridian, which may be found on the maps I have recommended, running north from Beardstown, on the Illinois River, to the junction of the forks of Rock River, and striking the Mississippi River at a point in Rock Island County. On it will be observed a series of small figures, which indicate the range of the square townships northward. To find a given township, we count the squares from a given number on the principal meridian, East or West, as the case may be. Thus, Farmington is not marked on the map, but it is township 8 N., 4 E. To find it, look on the principal meridian, above mentioned, for the figure 8, and count four squares East of it, and the inquirer has the township sought. This district, between the Illinois and the Mississippi Rivers, is called "the Military Bounty Tract," because, when first surveyed, the soldiers who served in the last war with Great Britain had a patent awarded to them for 160 acres of this land to each man. It was not all so patented, however, but only such parts as were then judged and reported by the surveyors to be of the first quality. In a plot of a township now lying before me, and which I obtained from the United States Land Office, I find 66 quarter sections marked patented; 74 quarters Congress land; and 4 quarters appropriated to common school purposes. Some of the patents were never taken out of the land office; some sold their patents; others have suffered them to lie without paying the State and County taxes on them; consequently the latter class of lots have been subject to sale for the taxes. The sale proceeds in this way: The county assessor advertises the delinquent lands, and at the specified time, in public vendue, inquires who will pay the taxes on the specified lot for the least quantity of said land. Usually they are bid off for a given number of acres; sometimes buyers are so rife that it will go for a few feet; and in some instances I am told that the taxes have been paid for a few inches. Whatever may be the quantity, the assessor gives the purchaser a certificate of the same, which constitutes what is called a tax title; and many persons hold whole quarter sections of land by this tenure alone. To meet the exigencies created by these circumstances, the State of Illinois has passed an act to entitle all the owners of tax titles to double all the outlays upon the lands, if ever the owners of the patents should make their claims. Of course this may soon be made to cover the whole value of a farm; so that these titles are as safe as any others. Most people, however, choose to have the patent and tax title too, where there has ever been any sale for taxes. But there are cases in which neither the owner of the patent nor his heirs can be found. These circumstances have made fine business for lawyers and land speculators, and require care on the part of the honest purchaser. The claims of nearly all, however, are now well known, and there is but little difficulty in ascertaining the validity of every owner's title. A large portion of the unsettled lands belong to land companies and land jobbers, who have their offices and agents in most of the principal towns hereabouts. These are usually very ready to sell their lands on credit, to persons who can make a small deposit on the purchase, and the remainder in such annual installments as the purchaser thinks he can make. Some of the most valuable lands in the country are now being offered on these conditions; and, so far as I can learn, they are as advantageous as any in the western country. I have made many inquiries of persons who have visited the newly-surveyed districts in Iowa, and other western parts, and they uniformly assure me, that as soon as any new district is surveyed and offered in market, there are crowds of speculators to buy up all the choicest and most promising lots, so that actual settlers seldom get these except at second hand, and often, in the beginning, at prices above what the same class of lands can be purchased at, twelve or thirteen years after the first settlements are made. This is the case here, yet it is obvious that the advantages to new comers are vastly greater in a settlement twelve or thirteen years old, than they are to go into places where the wilderness is almost unbroken. In the older settlements, we have society, improved roads, school-houses ready built, mills, and other mechanical establishments accessible, and stores and markets convenient for the export and import trade. Personal observation upon these things, led me to the conclusion, that our people can concentrate to better advantage in these parts than they can in the frontier settlements. Besides these things, the character of society improves with the improvement of the circumstances and intercourse of families. The restless and rude sell out their improvements, and go where they have more room and less restraint; and thus, by exchanging the rude for a more cultivated class, society improves with a double ratio. In this respect our settlements here may be considered as opportune and inviting. The United States land agent for this district informs me, that there is more or less Congress land in every township in the three counties which corner at the north-west corner of the town of Farmington. In a plot of a township lying before me, I see that there are over 1,400 acres marked Congress land. This, of course, at present, is \$1.25 per acre; but there is a bill now before Congress to reduce the price of such lands as these to 25 cents per acre. In some parts of these counties, lands of good quality can be

bought of land jobbers for \$2 per acre. Generally, however, unsettled lands of the best quality are held at from \$3 to \$5 per acre. Lands fenced and improved, rate from \$5 to \$12 per acre, according to the character of the improvements made upon them. In my former letters, I have mentioned the cost of rails, wood, and of breaking the prairie, and the labor of putting in a crop of wheat; and putting the whole together, I find that a section, or 640 acres, of land, might be fenced and sown with wheat for \$3500, cost of soil \$3200, making together \$6700. This includes the labor and the seed. Then suppose the yield 30 bushels to the acre, and the market price of the wheat 65 cents per bushel, and the crop would bring \$12,480, which, after paying the expenses of gathering, threshing, and taking to market, would leave a balance in favor of the farmer, after paying for the soil, greater than many will find who go to gather the golden harvests of California. There are much surer and quieter prospects for industrious young men to gain property here in combined agricultural pursuits, than in adventures in the gold mines of that far-off region. S. D.

MATTEES AND THINGS IN CHINA.

(Further extracts from our familiar letter.)

July 20.—Our letters were to have been at the ship to-day, but a terrible typhoon is abroad, and we cannot send them if we would. However, as no ship would venture to sea in such a gale, we can sit down to write with as much composure as the uproar in the elements without will allow. And this is just the anniversary of that dreadful typhoon we encountered in the China Sea! We cannot judge of the intensity of this, at sea, but it is very violent on land, and we have reason to fear the horrors of that never-to-be-forgotten day will find a repetition in this its first anniversary. You have probably long since learned, that a ship in company with us that morning, has never been heard from since. It was the Don Juan, considered a quick sailer, and had on board the Overland Mail. We have ever considered it a remarkable providence, that we were prevented from engaging a passage in that ship, as we should doubtless have labored to do, had we known of its sailing before our passage was engaged on board the Sir E. Ryan. Thus has our Heavenly Father preserved us, through dangers seen and unseen.

If you saw this storm-beaten city to-day, or even should you traverse any of its streets on the sunniest of its sunny days, you would hardly imagine the Elysian spots that lie concealed behind its high, dead walls, with their tiled summits, and black, sepulchral-looking doors.

The most wonderful of these gardens, is the Ching-kwang-miau, "the temple of the god of the city." His title is, "Illustrious Protector and Superior." His life was so eminently good and active, that this title was conferred on him before his death. He died young, and was buried in Shanghai. His image, as also that of his wife, are in the Ching-kwang-miau, where they are worshipped twice every month. I will give you a short extract from the Chinese calendar, written by Dr. Bridgeman, descriptive of this spot:—

"It was originally of small extent. At first, the god received his divine honors in what was called the 'fresh water well temple.' Subsequently the magistrate took a temporary pavilion, and changed it into a temple, standing in the north-west corner of the city, not very far from the north gate. From that small beginning, it has risen, and become spacious and splendid, so as to be scarcely, if at all, inferior to any of its kind in all the provinces. In the summer of 1842, it was for a time the headquarters of the British army; and the Major General, with his staff and four battalions, found there spacious and airy lodgings, and the buildings would have afforded accommodations to twice that number, had such been needed. The extent of ground covered by the temple is said to be twelve mau and six tenths—such it was when first built; but there have since been made to it two additions, consisting of two gardens, making both together more than seventy Chinese acres. The eastern garden was built in the fortieth year of Kanghi. Its pavilions, terraces, pools, alleys, bridges, &c., are elegant, and some of them have been extolled in verse. The western garden, like the eastern, has many pavilions, and terraces, with miniature mountains, rude imitations of nature, where you see rocks piled upon rocks. There, too, is an almond tree, said to have been planted by Pivan Nyan's own hands. In this great temple and its gardens, and contiguous to them, are many minor temples, some of them rich and spacious, all dedicated to gods and demi-gods."

Thus you have a beautiful description, and true as it is beautiful, of a most beautiful spot. But it is not full enough. It does not show you the head of the huge serpent that lies twisting his stony length along the top of the wall that encloses these gardens. It does not tell you how the pavilions at the summit of the terraces are gained by ruder, and of course more natural steps, than ever nature invented; nor how nature herself has again been entirely outdone, in the throwing together of rocks and pebbles, and in the slightest of all resemblances to the petrified heads of beasts, whose very names must have been forgotten centuries before the flood; nor the rifts in the side of the rocks, which draw the astonished vision to anything but a chasm; nor the zig-zag bridges, whose unforeseen terminations remind you of the mazes of the celebrated labyrinth of Crete. Neither does he tell you how this "temple of the god of the city," is filled with the most devoted worshippers of "the god of the city," Mammon. Perhaps the goddess of pleasure should have a place at his side, as the gaming table elbows the counter, and the arena looks defiance at the envious bazaar and tea-shop on either hand.

Here, too, is the foreigner's mirror for vanity! At the numerous picture shops, filled with the original paintings, he will soon learn the estimate which the artist puts upon his tastes and manners, and he will find the burden of Burns' petition most satisfactorily answered:—

"O would some power the gift give us,
To see ourself as others see us," &c.

It is all accomplished in the picture galleries of "Ching-kwang-miau." This delightful spot is distant from our residence about one mile, but we have its counterpart, in miniature, only a little distance off, the "Jui-chu-kung," the seat of a public school or college; and yet it is only within the last few days that we have known of its beauty, or its proximity to us. Its lofty turret, surmounted by a stork, had often been the subject of our notice and remark from the city wall; but we knew not the academic shades that lay concealed beneath, nor dreamed of such a classical retreat, behind the somber walls, which, if they have ears, (as walls are said to have,) are at least, in China, wonderfully deficient in tongues. It is true, we had often noticed, in passing, the mock representation of a gate-way, with its columns and entablature, its two couchant lions guarding these door-posts of wisdom, and the well of living water at their feet; but all these were too common in Shanghai and the surrounding country to demand more than a passing notice, and had almost ceased to be observed at all. And we might have gone through life ignorant of this walled Parnassus, but for the kindness of a native youth, who often meets us in the street with the most friendly "Sea-sang, haw-lay-va?" (Teacher, how do you do?) and who politely begged the favor of showing us the grounds. The "Jui-chu-kung," comprises all the beauties of the "Ching-kwang-miau," without its annoyances. It contains no shops, or theatrical grounds, and comparatively few loungers. It has also ravines, and subterranean passages; and the quiet waters, into which you look from the narrow angular bridges that are constantly inviting you on, are almost hidden in some parts by the broad, peltate leaves of the Nelumbium, or sacred lotus, whose form and hue, reflected from the bosom of the mimic lake, remind you of a sea of emeralds, adorned with the richest flowers of ruby and gold. These tulip-like flowers are very large, and hang over the leaves somewhat like the nasturtium. Add to these, the deep quiet which the scholastic habits of the inmates demand, and you have the most enchanting of Chinese solitudes.

I do not wonder that the name of China is associated with its walls and canals; but my former idea, that the Great Wall and the Imperial Canal, were the sources of its popularity, has undergone something of a modification. They abound every where, and are as indispensable, and will be as enduring, as the prosperity of China, or its national existence.

Well, the typhoon is abating; the shades of evening are gathering around us, and I would gladly exchange my pen-and-ink chat, for a face-to-face one in your little family circle. I would spend the hours of darkness, by telling you of the heavier shadows that rest upon this benighted land. It is very sad, to go out in the face of the glorious day, and look abroad upon this land, which God has made also very glorious. You see, as it were, but one continuous garden; for there is no division of lands by fences, as among us, no arid spots which only the foot of herds and hinds may press. The beautiful face of nature is marred only by the hand of superstition, and the loathsome rites of paganism, and heathen degradation. The glorious earth is every where strewn with the unsightly coffins of the unburied dead. Beside the mound, the tomb, and the grave, in the field, the grove and the garden, by the wayside and beneath the very windows of the dwellings, the dead are laid. Even the covering of brick, which is often built over them, soon crumbles, and you may see the whitening bones, as they lie scattered or piled, and apparently uncared for. Yet the ceremony of gathering the bones is one of note; and then you will see at those periods, urn after urn, with its contents of gathered dust, labeled, and placed by the wayside, to be removed and deposited in due time among the ancestral relics. In one of our rambles in the country, we were astonished to find what we supposed to be several huge granite rocks, or boulders; and Mr. C. had secured a piece as a rare geological specimen, when, passing around the opposite side, he surprised me by pronouncing them all tombs—the openings in the side plainly revealing the coffins deposited within, and our boulders dwindled to the every-day matter of cement, which the Chinese use with singular effect in imitating, and even excelling, nature. Think you our hearts are not sickened, at the sight of this great charnel house—this open sepulchre? But there are sadder sights than these. I mean the charnel house of souls—the living dead! O how deplorably does the eye of pity

trace
A dead soul's epitaph in every face!"

But the eye of faith looks forward to brighter days. China is included among the nations for whom Christ died, and the few mercy-drops that have fallen upon it, betoken a glorious shower, that shall make the desert bud and blossom as the rose. Then let the prayer of faith ascend; let the petitions be laid before the throne of grace, not only for the poor heathen, but for the poor missionary, who feels that in God alone is his help.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION—SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

The Central Association held a semi-annual meeting with the Seventh-day Baptist Church in Scott, Cortland Co., N. Y., commencing Jan. 9th, 1849. Eld. E. S. Bailey took the chair; prayer by Eld. Varnum Hull. The Clerks of the Association not being present, D. F. Randolph was appointed Clerk pro tem. The several churches were called, and delegates present took their seats. (The number of delegates was small, owing, as was presumed, to the exceedingly inclement weather, and the deep snows which had recently fallen.) The usual resolution was passed, inviting all present, members from sister churches, to participate in the deliberations of the session.

A call for letters to the Association being made, a letter from the Church at Hounsfield was presented, in relation to the occupancy of the missionary field in Diana and vicinity, by Eld. Enoch Barnes, who was appointed to that station at the last annual session of the Association; one from Eld. Samuel B. Crandall, reporting his labors as missionary; and also one from Eld. Joshua Clark, in reference to his missionary labors in Otselic.

Bro. James Hubbard was appointed Treasurer pro tem, and an Auditing Committee was appointed, consisting of H. C. Hubbard, E. G. Potter, and Silas Maxson.

After some deliberation in reference to our future missionary operations, a committee was appointed to recommend fields of labor, and more efficient measures in regard to missionary operations. The Committee consisted of E. S. Bailey, V. Hull, E. G. Potter, J. Clark, Silas Maxson, and Norman Palmer. A resolution was also passed, to have a missionary discourse in the evening, after which the Association adjourned till to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Missionary discourse in the evening by Eli S. Bailey.

Jan. 10th.—Met pursuant to adjournment, when the business was preceded by a discourse from Eld. J. Clark, on John 12: 26.

The committee to whom was referred the missionary operations, being called upon, presented a report, from which the following extract is taken:—

"The regions of Diana and vicinity, and Newport, are fields now occupied by Elders Barnes and S. B. Crandall, and of course will not demand any new supplies. We would recommend that the Church at Otselic should be supplied during the interval between this and the next annual meeting of the Association. We are of the opinion, that the little Church in Clifford, Pa., should be aided in obtaining a pastor, which we hope will receive the attention of the next annual meeting. Indeed, it is our decided opinion, that in most cases it will be the better way to aid feeble churches in obtaining a settled pastor, rather than granting them temporary supplies. We further recommend, that an address should be presented through the Sabbath Recorder, to the several churches composing this Association, urging them to a liberal contribution to sustain our domestic missions."

After remarks from several brethren, the report was adopted, and the Corresponding Secretary was instructed to address the several churches of this Association in accordance with the report.

Resolved, That Eld. Joshua Clark be appointed as a missionary, to labor at Otselic and vicinity as much of the time, from this until the annual session of the Association, as he can.

Resolved, That the Corresponding Secretary of the Association be instructed to correspond with the Church in Otselic, and also request them to inform said Secretary how much they can do towards the support of a minister with them.

Resolved, That all our missionaries are hereby requested to communicate with the churches of this Association from time to time, through the medium of the Sabbath Recorder, with regard to the amount of their labors, their prospects, and results.

Resolved, That Bro. H. C. Hubbard prepare an abstract of the minutes of this Association for publication, and forward it for insertion in the Sabbath Recorder.

Resolved, That the Clerk of this Association revise and keep on file the minutes of this meeting, and present them to the next annual session of the Association.

Adjourned to the next annual meeting.

ELI S. BAILEY, Chairman,
D. F. RANDOLPH, Secretary.

EMANCIPATION IN KENTUCKY.—The Maysville Eagle publishes the following project as that which meets the views of most of those in Kentucky who desire the emancipation of their slaves:—

First: Let all the slaves in existence, or born in Kentucky before the 1st of Jan., 1860, remain slaves for life.
Second: Let all male slaves born after January, 1860, be free at twenty-five, and all females born after the same period be free at twenty-one—provided, that upon reaching the age of twenty-one they shall be hired out for two years, or longer if necessary, until a fund shall be accumulated sufficient to transport them to Liberia, and give them a start in the Colony.
Third: No emancipated slave shall remain in Kentucky as a freeman.

That is 'gradual emancipation' with a vengeance. Ten years are to be allowed slaveholders to get ready for emancipation by collecting as many slaves for life as they please. Their twenty-five years more must elapse before the first slave can be emancipated; and even after that, their emancipation is made contingent upon their leaving the State, thus forsaking fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, and every association which makes life desirable! We do not envy the man who conceived this project, or the community which sanctions it. To call it a project for emancipation, is a misnomer, and adds insult to the injuries already inflicted upon the poor blacks of Kentucky.

BAPTIST MISSION AMONG THE CREEK INDIANS.—A missionary meeting, held lately in Louisville, Ky., was addressed by Rev. A. S. Hay, missionary among the Creek Indians. Mr. H. has been publicly adopted by the old chief as his son, in the place of the one deceased. His church has now two hundred and nineteen members; the whole number in the Mission being over six hundred. Some of the most distinguished chiefs have been baptized—among them General Chilly McIntosh—and are active and useful members of the church. The whole Mission is represented at present to be in an exceedingly interesting and encouraging state.

NOTICE FROM THE CHURCH AT ADAMS.—At a meeting of the Seventh-day Baptist Church in Adams, Jefferson Co., N. Y., held on the 7th of January, 1849, it was Resolved, That the membership of such persons as have removed from the bounds of this Church, shall cease in one year from this date, unless they shall, within that time, communicate to the Church their wish to continue members.

By order of the Church, CHARLES POTTER, Clerk.

BAPTISTS IN TEXAS.—A Baptist State Convention has been formed in Texas, to meet annually on the Friday before the second Sunday in May. At the last meeting reports were made in favor of the benevolent enterprises of the day, the tenor of which shows that the Baptists of Texas are determined to be far from hindmost in the cause of Christ.

FRUIT OF CHRISTIANITY.—The Native Church at Hilo, Sandwich Islands, has recently sent to the American Peace Society the sum of one hundred dollars, in aid of its operations. Only a few years ago, these people were barbarous and warlike heathens. What a change has been wrought among them by the preaching of the Gospel.

NEWSPAPER WIT AND FUN.—The following truthful and judicious remarks on this subject occur in an editorial of the Christian Mirror. We are glad to have reason for believing, that the class of papers to which they refer, is every year diminishing:—

"The affectation of wit and fun, which constitute the attractions of many papers for the young, are absolutely disgusting to a well-disciplined and well-informed mind. Very much of the wit is made up of bad English. This is read in the papers, and passes into the conversation of the young, by whom it is hackneyed to death. The hearers' ear is pained, and his soul sick." Another portion is made up of polluting innuendoes, which inflict foul stains on the mind, that will cleave to it with ruinous tenacity. Another, of gross thrusts at whatever is stable in sound moral habits, serious in religion, or conscientious and punctual in its outward observances. And, as a whole, the reading of them dissipates the mind, and robs it of its strength. It is not the ailment suited to its nature; it induces disease, mental debility, and at length destruction ensues. It is no help, but a serious impediment, to a preparation for the duties of life."

THE SLAVE-TRADE IN THE DISTRICT.—In our last week's report of Congressional Proceedings, mention was made of a petition against the Slave-Trade, from the members of the Washington City Government, presented Jan. 22. Here it is:—

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled.

The undersigned, members of the Board of Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Washington, having in common with their fellow-citizens long regarded with disapprobation the importation of slaves into the District of Columbia for purposes of sale or traffic elsewhere, and deeming it alike prejudicial to the interest of our city, and offensive to public sentiment, request your honorable body to restrain such traffic by the enactment of some law similar in its provisions to that embraced in the code of Laws for the District of Columbia, reported to the House of Representatives in the year 1832, by Mr. Wilde of Georgia, and to the Senate by Mr. Chambers of Maryland; the enactments in the adjoining States of Maryland and Virginia on this subject; or grant to the respective corporate authorities of Washington and Georgetown such powers as will enable them to remedy this evil.

THE CALIFORNIA FEVER IN ENGLAND.—When the last steamer left, the California fever raged in England quite as violently as it has done in this country. Great numbers of vessels were up for the Gold Region—some carrying passengers to Chagres, others to Galveston, &c., rates ranging from twenty-five pounds upward. All sorts of schemes for raising companies and capital are advertised. One of the companies alone proposes to raise a capital of six hundred thousand pounds, reserving half to be taken in the United States. The Times cautions the public against these schemes, many of which are mere swindles. It says:—

"That the country will be a Pandemonium long before any one can reach it from this side, is hardly to be doubted, unless, indeed, the United States Government shall have been able to establish a blockade and cordon, in which case the new arrivals will have to get back as fast as they can. But there is no question that the first-comers stand the chance of large gain, if they are able to fight for it; and there is no danger of starvation, since the district abounds with deer and rabbits, and grain will flow there in quantities from the southern republics, while, as regards articles of manufacture, the Sandwich Islands, long overstocked, will be able to send supplies. Those who go out have, therefore, at all events, some compensating prospect for their risk; but for those at home, who may be deluded into parting with their money, not a hope of its return can exist."

MARKETING AT CINCINNATI.—The Cincinnati Gazette says:—"Poultry is low; turkeys of fair size can now be bought at 40 a 60 cents each, and those weighing 14 to 18 pounds, at 80 a 100 cents; ducks and chickens, 12 1-2 a 15 cents; geese, 20 a 35 cents; good mutton, 4 a 6 cents a pound; eggs, 12 1-2 a 15 cents per dozen; good veal, 5 a 6 cents; choice beef-cuts, 6 a 7 cents. Butter is now retailing at 12 1-2 a 15 cents per pound; and potatoes, 5 a 10 cents per peck; carcass beef, 2 a 3 cents per pound for fore and hind quarters; rabbits are still brought in plentifully, good and fat, and sold at 12 a 15 cents each; squirrels are in good supply now, at 6 a 8 cents each; partridges vary from 80 to 120 cents per dozen."

LAST WEEK'S CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

January 29.

In the SENATE, a number of petitions were presented, among which was one by the Vice-President, which attracted considerable attention, praying for the construction of a Telegraph across the Atlantic Ocean; the petition was referred to the Committee on Commerce. Mr. Cameron, of Pa., presented several petitions, which were appropriately referred; also several memorials on the subject of Slavery, which, according to the standing rule, were laid upon the table. The Committee on Territories reported a bill for the admission of California as a State, and also providing for the admission of New Mexico, when she shall have acquired a sufficient population; the bill was ordered to be printed. The bill embracing Mr. Whitney's project for the building of a Railroad to the Pacific was taken up, and after an animated discussion was postponed. The bill for the construction of a Railroad across the Isthmus at Panama was taken up, and a substitute proposed, but no action was taken upon it.

In the HOUSE, an ineffectual effort was made to bring up the bill for the construction of a railroad from Lake Michigan to the Pacific. The bill for the establishment of a mint in New York, was made the special order of the day for Feb. 6. The bill respecting the Military Academy at West Point was discussed, but not acted upon. The Revolutionary Pension Bill, and the Navy Pension Bill, were considered and passed.

January 30.

In the SENATE, the morning hour was spent in the reception of petitions, reports of committees, and of several communications from the Departments, and in the transaction of the ordinary routine of business. The Indian Appropriation Bill came up for consideration, and, after being materially amended, was passed. The consideration of the bill for the construction of a Railroad across the Isthmus by the Panama route was then resumed, which called forth an interesting and protracted discussion.

In the HOUSE, a resolution was passed in favor of printing 10,000 copies of Mr. King's report respecting the Panama Railroad. The Naval Appropriation Bill was farther considered, in connection with which the subject of slavery came up for discussion.

January 31.

In the SENATE, Mr. Jones of Iowa reported a bill enforcing the payment to the State of Iowa of a portion of the proceeds of certain public lands for educational purposes, which was, by unanimous consent, considered, read a third time, and passed. A resolution was adopted, directing a survey to be made by the Topographical Corps, in order to ascertain the best route for a railroad from the Mississippi River to San Francisco, California. The bill granting a right of way and a preemption right for a Railroad through the State of Illinois, was then taken up and passed. The bill making provision for the construction of a Railroad across the Isthmus at Panama was then taken up, and after some discussion the Senate adopted an amendment giving the Secretary of the Navy discretion to make a contract for the building of the Road or not, as might be deemed advisable. The bill was laid over till to-morrow.

In the HOUSE, various reports from committees were made, among which was one from Mr. Ingersoll, who reported to the House sundry small bills, which were severally sanctioned and passed. The Committee on the District of Columbia reported a bill prohibiting the introduction of slaves into the District for sale or hire; upon which an animated discussion arose, but no action was taken upon the bill. A resolution from the Senate was adopted, providing for a joint committee to open and count the votes cast in the late election for President and Vice President. The Naval Appropriation Bill was taken up, and the principal discussion was upon an amendment making it optional with sailors to receive spirit rations or their equivalent in money.

February 1.

In the SENATE, the Chairman of the Committee on Finance, submitted a report in favor of coining gold dollars and double eagles. After some debate about the public printing, the Senate took up the bill for the relief of the captors of the frigate Philadelphia. The bill was amended by inserting a provision in favor of the late Commodore Decatur's widow and heirs, and then passed.

The HOUSE, after the transaction of some business, not of general interest, resumed the consideration of the Navy Appropriation Bill. The amendment making it optional with the sailors to receive spirit rations, or their equivalent in money, was adopted.

February 2.

The SENATE took up the Postage Reform Bill, but passed it over informally, after a speech from Mr. Niles. Various petitions were presented, among which was one signed by four thousand citizens of Philadelphia, praying for a modification of the present Tariff Laws. A resolution was submitted, and referred to the Committee on Pensions, in favor of printing five thousand copies of the Pension Laws for distribution.

The HOUSE, in Committee of the Whole, was occupied principally with the Private Calendar, and passed some thirty bills, all of which were on the calendar and not objected to.

February 3.

The SENATE was not in session. In the HOUSE, the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making certain provisions for the support of the Post Office Department, which was read and referred to the Committee of the Whole. The private calendar was then taken up in Committee of the Whole, when five bills were passed, and reported to the House. A resolution was adopted, granting to Mr. Sibley, Representative from the State of Wisconsin, the same books and public documents which had been voted to the other Members.

The New York Mirror states that the receipts at the Astor Place Opera House are now averaging about three thousand dollars a week, being at least one thousand a week over all expenses.

SUMMARY.

By some means or other the stove in one of the cars on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, was overturned, setting fire to the car. The passengers, some thirty in number, in their eagerness to get from the car, broke through it helter skelter. The car being in rapid motion, all hands were more or less injured, some of them very severely, and one it is thought fatally.

The Worcester Ægis sends the following crumb of comfort to the gold-diggers! "A load of three hundred stools, manufactured in Sterling, in this county, passed through our streets last week, boxed up for California. They are designed as seats for diggers. They are worth here about 50 cents, but may be considered as good for ten to twenty-five dollars each in California."

Recent accounts from Chili give information of the discovery of a gold mine near Copiapo, on the coast, and north of Valparaiso, which for richness, if the accounts be true, finds its like even the Sacramento diggings, which we heretofore thought were rather ahead of all the auriferous regions discovered or discoverable.

Amos Peters, a sergeant in the Revolutionary Army, died at Mount Airy, Hunterdon Co., New Jersey, on the 14th ult., aged ninety years. Several matrons of that period have left us within a few days, all over ninety years of age; and among them Mrs. Amelia Lippincott, the grandmother of Stephens, the traveler and author, who died at Shrewsbury, Monmouth Co., on the 27th ult., in the ninety-sixth year of her age. She retained the possession of her faculties to the last.

The bill making an appropriation of fifteen thousand dollars to enable the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb to pay its indebtedness—went through all its stages, last week, by consent, and passed by a unanimous vote; a strong and deserved token of the high favor in which this noble and beneficent charity is held throughout the State.

The Legislature of Ohio is composed of persons pursuing business as follows: 40 Farmers, 36 Lawyers, 6 Printers, 4 Physicians, 4 Merchants, 4 Manufacturers, 2 Millers, 2 Mechanics, 1 Clothier, 1 Potter, 1 Factor, 1 Fisherman, 1 Tanner, 1 Carriage-maker. Married 96, Single 9, Engaged 1.

The leg of a child has been found in a state of petrification near Cincinnati, Ohio, on the estate of Mr. S. Hazen. Each muscle was distinctly observable, and the teeth and nails were perfect. On digging farther, two large frogs were found, also petrified, and perfect in their form. The curiosities have been placed on exhibition.

Lieut. Maury cites numerous facts to prove the existence of a rock, very near the surface of the water, directly on the track to Europe. Captain Walsh is almost positive that he saw it on his last trip, and describes it as appearing about the size of the hull of a ship of five hundred tons.

Henry Clay has been elected to the United States Senate by the Kentucky Legislature, for six years from the 4th of March next, in place of Thomas H. Metcalfe, whose term expires with the 30th Congress.

Petitions are in circulation in St. Louis asking Congress to establish a line of military escorts for the protection of American citizens passing between the States and California. It is said that the trip may be made from Fort Leavenworth to San Francisco and back in six months.

There are about two hundred and fifty letters, destined for Canada, detained at the Lewiston post-office, awaiting payment of the United States postage charges, the law requiring payment before they can be forwarded.

A letter to the National Intelligencer, from California, says that doctors are making fortunes fast. The fee at the mines for feeling a pulse is an ounce of gold. It is said that some of them are making one hundred dollars per day.

One J. Buddy, in New Orleans, advertises that he will receive slaves on board, and sell them on favorable terms. Boarders are sometimes sold in this latitude, but the terms are not looked on as favorable in such cases.

Recently a man was thrown into convulsions by fright on board the steamer Wisconsin, the result of the collision of that steamer with a floating tree. He was taken to the Cincinnati Hospital, where he survived but a very short time.

A late official in California, writing to his friends in New York, says that his letter, including paper, pen, ink, and time in writing, cost him about the sum of three hundred dollars.

Some one advertises in the N. Orleans Picayune for a lady's miniature, which was 'lost between the 25th and 30th of Oct., while on a spree.'

The bill to restore Governor Dorr to the enjoyment of his civil rights, was lost in the R. I. House of Representatives, by the casting vote of the Speaker.

The London papers announce the death, on the 16th ult., of Hartley Coleridge, son of Sam. Taylor Coleridge, and once supposed to inherit something, at least, of the wonderful genius of his father.

The St. John News says that the small-pox is making dire ravages in that city—there being over one thousand eight hundred cases under treatment.

The Presbyterian Church at Ridley, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, was destroyed by fire on Sunday morning last. It was slightly insured.

Jesse Daisy, a hero of the Revolution, died at Philadelphia a day or two ago, at the age of 94 years.

Honorable David L. Morrill, formerly Governor of New Hampshire, died at Concord on the 28th ult., aged 77.

Believing that the rice fields in the vicinity of Savannah were detrimental to the health of the city, the Mayor and Aldermen passed ordinances prohibiting the culture of rice within certain limits. From the decree in the court below, sustaining the ordinances, an appeal was taken by Thomas Green, the owner of a rice plantation, but the Supreme Court affirmed the decision.

A number of the political friends of Governor Johnston, of Pennsylvania, having determined to present the lady of that dignity with a silver tea service, wrote to the Governor, asking the privilege of making such presentation. The compliment, however, was respectfully declined, with a suggestion that the fund be applied to charitable purposes. The fund has since been apportioned in pursuance of this suggestion.

Mr. Franklin Bliss, of Westfield, Mass., recently slaughtered three mammoth hogs, the entire weight of which was one thousand five hundred and sixty-three pounds, averaging five hundred and twenty-one pounds each. They were but twenty-two months old, and all from the same litter.

The New Bedford Mercury states that the bakers of that city are receiving large orders for bread from Boston, the bakeries of that city being wholly unable to supply the increased demand occasioned by the large exports to the Gold Region.

The Ohio House of Representatives have passed a bill declaring the 'Black Laws' of the State unconstitutional, and repealing them, by a vote of 52 to 11. If the Senate does not arrest the bill, these odious enactments will be erased from the statute-book.

The Quebec Gazette of January 22, says that during the latter part of the previous week the thermometer fell to twenty-two degrees below zero. The St. Lawrence river was frozen over.

We see it stated that a young man was recently bitten by a mad calf, in one of the country towns of Massachusetts. He is now in Boston under medical treatment.

The Platteville (Grant Co., Wis.) American says that the lead-miners in that vicinity are preparing to migrate to California. As they have experience in mining, they may succeed.

The Queen of England has expressed her design to extend the exercise of her prerogative of mercy to those engaged in the Canada Rebellion.

A convention of inventors will assemble at Baltimore on the 5th of March. It is called by the Inventor's National Institute of that city. Capitalists and amateurs of ingenuity are also invited.

Steps have been taken for the formation of a new county from parts of Livingston, Steuben, and Alleghany, with the county seat at Dansville.

Three persons in Hingham, Massachusetts, were bitten last week by a dog supposed to be mad. A child was also bitten in Boston the other day.

Major Noah has an article in the New York Sunday Times, going to prove that the 'gold of Ophir,' spoken of in the Bible, was taken from California.

Messrs G. & C. Merriam are preparing an elegant copy of Webster's Dictionary for the President elect. A very delicate compliment.

The Collector at Cleveland, Ohio, states that the Lake commerce of that place last year, exceeded in value \$10,000,000.

Wells S. Hammond, Esq., of Cherry Valley, son of Hon. Jabez D. Hammond, died suddenly at Stanwix Hall, Albany, on Sunday.

The present Mayor of Kingston, Canada, is a Yankee printer. He served his time in Utica, N. Y.

The small-pox prevails to a considerable extent in Delaware.

The U. S. Adjutant General has advertised for 20 chaplains.

New York Market, Monday, Feb. 5.

ASHES—Pots \$6 50; Pearls 7 75.— FLOUR AND MEAL—Flour ranging from 5 25 a 5 44 for New Orleans, 5 44 a 5 62 for Western and State, to 5 87 a 6 00 for pure Genesee. Rye Flour 3 25. Jersey Meal 2 94; Brandywine 3 00.—GRAIN—In Wheat, there is not much doing, and the market favors the buyer; Ohio sells at 1 08 a 1 10. Rye 66c. Corn from 55 to 65c. Oats, 35c. for Jersey, and 40c. for Canal.—PROVISIONS—Pork, Mess 13 lb. Prime 12 50. Beef, Mess 11 50 for country, and 12 50 for city. Butter as last week—11 a 14c. for Ohio, 14 a 22c. for State.

DEED.

At the residence of his brother, Dea. David Ayers, in Verona, N. Y., Jan. 24th, of erysipelas, Mr. DANIEL AYERS, aged 60 years.

In Florence, Jan. 26th, of croup, AMY E., daughter of William and Caroline Lay, aged 1 year and 9 months.

In Verona, Jan. 26th, of inflammation on the lungs, JEREMIAH SPENCER, aged 50 years.

LETTERS.

S. S. Griswold, H. Sherman, C. Chester, Charles Potter, Wm. M. Falmstock, T. E. Babcock, J. G. Colgrove, Joshua Clarke, A. D. Tisworth, S. Davison, W. C. Kenyon, O. S. Tisworth, G. R. Scriven, H. Wheeler, Samuel Hunt, P. C. Burdick.

RECEIPTS.

R. M. Tisworth, Plainfield, N. J. \$2 00 pays to vol. 5 No. 59
P. F. Bandolph, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
Peter Wood, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
E. F. Bandolph, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
A. F. Bandolph, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
E. Wood, " " 2 00 " 4 " 52
F. Barber, Hopkinton, R. I. 2 00 " 5 " 52
R. Langworthy, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
Wm. Langworthy, " " 5 37 " 5 " 52
S. C. Carr, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
J. Babcock, " " 2 32 " 5 " 52
Jesse Saunders, Albion, Wis. 2 00 " 5 " 52
J. A. Potter, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
J. H. Potter, " " 2 00 " 4 " 52
A. B. Lawton, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
O. F. Bandolph, Delhi, Ill. 1 00 " 5 " 52
J. G. Colgrove, Wayne, Pa. 1 00 " 5 " 52
Ezra Potter, Alfred, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
E. P. Crandall, " " 1 00 " 5 " 52
Amos Crandall, Ph. Creek, " " 1 00 " 5 " 52
Bailey Currier, Penzance, " " 4 00 " 6 " 52
Simon Burdick, Lockport, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
Rowan Burdick, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
Hannah Eldred, Clarence, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
A. Greenman, " " 2 00 " 4 " 52
Isaac Saunders, Adams, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
Dan'l Main, " " 2 00 " 5 " 40
H. W. Maxson, Sacketts Harbor, " " 2 00 " 4 " 52
Adonia Trowbridge, Watertown, " " 5 00 " 5 " 52
Callista Jones, New London, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52
F. Tallet, South Orelia, " " 2 00 " 5 " 52

EASTERN ASSOCIATION—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

An adjourned session of the Executive Committee of the Seventh-day Baptist Eastern Association, will be held at the meeting-house of the Church in Westley, R. I., on first-day, at 10 o'clock, A. M., Feb. 11.

S. S. GRISWOLD, Cor. Sec.

FARM FOR SALE.

THE subscriber offers for sale his farm, situated in the town of Genesee, county of Alleghany, N. Y. Said farm consists of 280 acres of first-rate land, 175 of which is level, and the remainder gradually rising side-hill; all of which is susceptible of cultivation, mostly adapted to grazing purposes. About 75 acres, however, is a gravelly quick soil, as productive of wheat and corn, as any in the southern part of said county. Upon said farm is about 100 acres of improved land, two framed barns, and a large two-story frame house, well enclosed, lately built, and conveniently calculated for all the purposes of a farm. There are also abundantly supplied with numerous brooks and springs. Said farm is situated in a good neighborhood, and convenient to school, and the central place of business for the western part of said town; and on the main traveled road from Alleghany to Smithport. For pleasantness and locality it is not surpassed by any in the township or vicinity. To those wishing to purchase a good farm, the present opportunity offers rare inducements. The farm will be sold low for cash; or, if desired, by paying one-half of the purchase money down, the balance will be arranged to accommodate purchasers for any reasonable length of credit. A careful view of the premises by a discerning individual, is only requisite to a thorough conviction that an investment made under such favorable terms as the subscriber offers, is both safe and a fair speculation. For farther information, address the subscriber, P. M. at West Genesee, Alleghany Co., N. Y., or inquire at his house. JARED MAXSON, 29th.

DEBUTER INSTITUTE.

REV. JAMES R. IRISH, Principal. GURDON EVANS, Instructor in Natural Sciences. AURELLA F. ROGERS, Preceptress. MARY M. CLARK, Teacher of Music and Painting. Other experienced Teachers are employed as Assistant.

TERMS AND VACATIONS.

The Academic Year for 1848-9, is divided into Three Terms of Fourteen Weeks each. First, commencing Wednesday, Aug. 23, ending Nov. 29. Second, " " Dec. 13, " " March 11. Third, " " April 4, " " July 11.

COURSE OF STUDY.

The classic course gives full facilities to Students for an advanced standing in College. The Ornamental and Scientific Departments are such as to meet the advancing demands of this educating age. Each member of the school will be required to write compositions, and read or speak select pieces, at stated intervals.

EXPENSES.

Tuition, according to studies, \$3, \$4, or \$5 00
Extras—Drawing, 1 00
Painting, 2 00 or 4 00
Tuition on Piano, 3 00
Use of Piano, 2 00
Chemical Lectures, and Experiments, 1 00
Writing, including Stationery, 50
Study rooms, with stove, chairs, table, and bedstead, 1 50
Board in private families, per week, \$1 00, to 1 50

TEACHERS' CLASSES.

Classes will be formed at the opening of the First Term and middle of the Second Term, to continue seven weeks, with daily lectures and instructions in relation to the duties of those intending to teach, accompanied by a thorough review of the Common English branches. Tuition, \$2 50.

AGRICULTURAL AND ANALYTIC CHEMISTRY.

Instructions in this Department, will be equal to any that can be obtained in the State, but will not be fully opened until about the first of January. A circular explaining more fully this Department, will be forwarded to any wishing it, by applying to the Principal, at DeRuyter; or Gurdon Evans, Analytic Laboratory, Yale College, New Haven, Ct. Text books furnished at the lowest prices. N. B. A daily stage leaves the railroad and canal at Chittenango, for this place, at 4 o'clock P. M. IBA SPENCER, M. D., President of the Board of Trustees. DeRUYTER, Madison Co., N. Y., June 12, 1848.



THE fourth volume of this magazine commenced with January, 1849. It aspires to be, both in the character of its articles and in its mechanical execution, a model of taste and excellence; and it is universally conceded that it stands at the head of all works of its class. The following are a few of the many commendatory notices of the press, in different parts of the Union, which the magazine has received:— "It is beautifully illustrated, and evinces great ability and interest."—N. Y. Evangelist. "The editor is one of our best writers for the young."—N. Y. Com. Adv. "We know of no journal devoted to the interests of the youth of our country, that will compare with this, either in the beauty of its appearance, or the rich and varied excellence of its contents."—N. Y. Christ. Mess. "It is full of pleasing things, finely illustrated, and familiarly described."—N. Y. Obs. "Whatever the editor does is well done, and in a sweet and gentle spirit. His pretty monthly is commendable in all respects, and wonderfully cheap."—N. Y. Christ. Int. "The Cabinet still maintains its supremacy as the first and most beautiful juvenile in the land."—Hartford Republic. "Its contents are scarcely susceptible of any improvement; the work having attained a pre-eminence among works published for the young."—Sentinel, Fort Wayne, Ind. "A prettier thing of the kind could scarcely be imagined."—Balt. Meth. Prot. "The best and cheapest youth's magazine in the country."—Courier, Zanesville, Ohio. "This, as we have before told our readers, best fills our idea of what a magazine for children ought to be."—Windham Co. Dem., Brattleborough, Vt. "It gives us pleasure to recommend this magazine to our Southern friends. Our more intimate acquaintance with it serves only to increase our favorable opinion of it."—Balt. West. Continent. Yearly Subscription, \$1 only. 4 copies, one year, 75 cents each. 3 \$3 00 7 copies, one year, 75 cents each. 5 00 10 copies, one year, 75 cents each. 7 50 Premiums for New Subscribers. Any individual who will send us the names of five new subscribers and \$5, shall receive a copy of the Wreaths of Friendship, by K. O. Woodworth, and T. S. Arthur, price \$1 25. One copy of the Cabinet and one of the Wreaths for \$2. Bound Volumes. Three volumes are now completed, and tastefully bound. They form together one of the cheapest and best works for the library of boys and girls to be found in the English language, and are sold separately or together. Price per volume \$1 25. Money can be safely sent by mail. The publisher will pay the postage on orders of \$3 and upwards. Agents Wanted, in all the States. To obtain subscribers for the work: The best of names allowed to those who come well recommended. Address the Publisher, DeRUYTER, Madison Co., N. Y. D. A. WOODWORTH, 135 Nassau St., New York.

Miscellaneous

From Chambers' Edinburgh Miscellany.

TAMING AND CHARMING OF SERPENTS.

A great many species of serpents are capable of being domesticated, and they may be made to know those who feed and caress them, as well as a cat or dog knows its master or mistress. I had, says the author of British Reptiles, a common snake, many years since, which knew me from all other persons; and when let out from his box, would immediately come to me, and crawl beneath the sleeve of my coat, where he was fond of lying perfectly still, and enjoying the warmth. He was accustomed to come to my hand for a draught of milk every morning before breakfast, which he always did of his own accord; but he would flee from strangers, and hiss if they meddled with him. Mr. White, in his Natural History of Selbourne, states that he knew a gentleman who had one in his house quite tame. Though this was usually as sweet in its person as any other animal, yet, whenever a stranger, or dog or cat, entered, it would begin to hiss, and soon filled the room with an effluvia so nauseous, as to render it insupportable. An intimate friend of mine, says Mr. Sheppard, had a common snake in his rooms at Cambridge, which became so familiar as to lie in a serpentine form, on the upper bar of his chair. It would crawl through his fingers if held at a little distance before its head, or lie at full length on the table while he was writing or reading, for an entire hour at a time. When first brought into the room, it would hiss, and dart out its tongue, without emitting any unpleasant odor. It was in all its actions remarkably cleanly. Sometimes it was indulged with a run upon the grass in the court of the college; and at times it would swim in a basin of water, which it appeared to enjoy very much. In the Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle, there is an instance related of a snake which had been so completely tamed by a lady, as to come to her whenever she called it, to follow her in her walks, write itself around her arms, and sleep in her bosom. One day, when she went in a boat a distance up a large river, she threw it into the water, presuming that its fidelity would lead it to follow her, and that, by swimming, it would readily overtake the boat. The poor animal exerted all its efforts; but the current at that juncture proving unusually strong, owing to the advance of the tide, notwithstanding all its efforts, it was borne down the stream, and unfortunately drowned. We have ourselves known the common ringed snake of our heaths so tamed by a herd-boy, as to coil and uncoil itself at his desire, to follow even in the fields a short distance, and to retreat into the box in which it was kept on his giving a peculiar signal. This specimen was the largest of its kind we have ever seen, being more than two and a half feet in length; it lived for several summers, and died, as we believe, from being overfed, and not being allowed the necessary duration of torpidity during the winter. The boas of our zoological gardens and traveling menageries, might also be instanced as evidence of the degree of tameness to which serpents may be brought by kind and gentle treatment. Most of our readers must have seen these serpents come forth at the call of their keeper, coil themselves about his neck and arms, stretch themselves out at full length, and perform other movements, according to certain known signals. It is true that the boas exhibited are generally more dull and lethargic than lively and tractable; but this is owing to the coolness of our climate, in which they could not exist, were it not for the artificial temperature which is created around them. Even the most venomous, it would seem, are capable of being tamed, if once deprived of their fangs. Hector St. John says that he once saw a rattlesnake in America as gentle as it is possible to conceive a reptile to be. It went to the water and swam whenever it pleased; and when the boys to whom it belonged called it back, their summons was readily obeyed. It had been deprived of its fangs. They often stroked it with a soft brush, and this friction seemed to cause the most pleasing sensations, for it would turn on its back to enjoy it, as a cat does before the fire. In India, the hooded snake is carried about in a basket, to be publicly exhibited as a show, being first deprived of its fangs, to secure the men from the danger of its bite. At the sound of a flageolet, it is taught to assume a kind of dancing attitude and motions, which it continues as long as its master continues his music. According to Caspary, the black snake is found to be extremely useful in America in clearing houses of rats, which it pursues with wonderful agility, even to the very roofs of barns and outhouses; for which it is cherished by the generality of the Americans, who are at great pains to protect and increase the breed. All the mischief this species does is to the farmer's wives, in skimming the milk-pans of their cream, and robbing the hen-roosts of their eggs. It is not uncommon to find it coiled up in a nest under a setting hen. It has even been seen drinking milk out of the same dish with children, without biting them, though they often gave it blows with their spoons on the head, when it was too greedy. Seeing that many of the serpent family, whether venomous or non-venomous, are tamable to a certain degree, we shall be better able to comprehend the so-called art of charming, about which so much has been said and gossiped in almost every country. This art is peculiar to the East, having been practiced in India, Syria, and Egypt, by a race of mendicant vagrants, from time immemorial. To charm a serpent, is, in other words, to possess some mysterious power over the reptile, by which it may be called forth at pleasure, be made to submit to any experiment, and, if venomous, to forego its noxious nature, and become mild and tractable. More than this, the charmer professes to be proof against the fangs of the most venomous, without having recourse to any medicine, and merely by the potency of the spell which he possesses. Such a power is utterly denied by the majority of naturalists, who believe that the so-called charmers act only upon tame serpents, or upon such as have their fangs extracted; on the other hand, some less scrupulous entertain the modified belief, that while the charmers may thus often impose upon the public, they sometimes perform very extraordinary feats, partly through hardihood, and partly through their superior skill in handling the reptiles, so as not to irritate them.

The Payli, a people of Lybia, are celebrated by Roman writers for charming and destroying serpents. The truth seems to be, that they were very expert in curing the venomous bites of these reptiles, by which their country was much infested, and that this expertness, rather than any mysterious power in charming, was that which caused the admiration of the Romans. Cassaubon says that he knew a man who could at any time summon a hundred serpents together, and draw them into the fire. Upon a certain occasion, when one of them, larger than the rest, would not be brought in, he only repeated his charm, and it came forward like the others, to submit to the flames. Philostratus describes particularly how the Indians charm serpents. They take a scarlet robe, embroidered with golden letters, and lay it before a serpent's hole. The golden letters have a fascinating power, and, by looking fixedly, the serpent's eyes are overcome and laid asleep. In India, snake-charming is still extensively practiced by a class of itinerants, who live by it as a profession. These individuals carry about with them a few tame serpents, which they exhibit for a small gratuity, making the animals assume a dancing attitude to the sound of a rude flageolet, calling them from a box in which they are kept, coiling them round their necks and arms, and even irritating them, until they snap at the hands and fingers—of course harmlessly, as the snake is said to be charmed; in honest language, deprived of its fangs by extraction. The charmers also pretend to rid premises infested with these unwelcome visitors, receiving from the owner some reward for their services. For these ends they pretend to handle all kinds of snakes with impunity, to make them come and go at call, and, in short, to exercise a cabalistic authority over the whole race. For example, one of these individuals will assert to a householder that there are snakes about his premises, and, partly from motives of fear, and partly from curiosity, the householder promises the man a reward if he succeeds in showing and removing them. The charmer goes to work, and soon snakes are seen to issue from some corner or another, obedient to his call. The performer takes them up fearlessly, and they meet like old friends. In fact, the opinion of the more enlightened residents in India is, that the snakes and their charmer are old friends; that he hid them there, and of course knew where to find them; and moreover, that having long ago extracted their poisonous fangs, he may well handle them without alarm. Still, a large portion of the community, European as well as native, believe that these charmers have strange power over the snake tribe.

In Madras, however, says a correspondent, while I was there, this belief received a sad shock by a circumstance which occurred. A noted charmer about the district chanced one morning to get hold of a cobra of considerable size, which he got conveyed home. He was occupied abroad all day, and had not time to get the dangerous fang extracted from the serpent's mouth. This at least is the most probable solution of the matter.

In the evening he returned to his dwelling considerably excited with liquor, and began to exhibit tricks with his snakes to various persons who were around him at the time. The newly-arrived cobra was brought out with the others, and the man, spirit-valiant, commenced to handle the stranger like the rest. But the cobra darted at his chin, and bit it, leaving two marks like pin points. The juggler was sobered instantly. 'I am a dead man,' he exclaimed. The prospect of immediate death made the maintenance of his professional mysticism a thing of no moment. 'Let the creature alone,' said he to those about him, who would have killed the cobra; 'it may be of service to others of my trade. To me it can be of no more use. Nothing can save me.' His professional knowledge was but too accurate. In two hours he was a corpse! I saw him a short time after he died. His friends and brother jugglers had gathered around him, and had placed him on a chair in a sitting position. Seeing the detriment likely to result to their trade and interest from such a notion, they vehemently asserted that it was not the envenomed bite that killed him. 'No, no; he only forgot one little word—one small portion of the charm.' In fact, it was declared that he was not dead at all, but only in a sort of swoon, from which, according to the rules of the cabalistic art, he would recover in seven days. But the officers of the barracks, close to which the deceased resided, interfered in the matter. They placed a guard of one or two men on the house, declaring that they would allow the body to remain unburied for seven days, but would not admit any trickery. Of course, the poor charmer never came to life again. His death, and the manner of it, gave a severe blow, as has been already hinted, to the art and practice of snake-charming in Madras.

The American Indians pretend to possess the same secret power, as do also the Arabs, and many wild African tribes. In Egypt and Nubia, its exhibition is of almost daily occurrence, and Bruce, who often witnessed these performances, affirms that there can be no doubt of its reality. 'Some,' he says, 'have believed that it was a trick, and that the animals so handled had been first trained, and then deprived of their power of hurting; and, fond of the discovery, they have rested themselves upon it, without experiment, in the face of all antiquity. But I will not hesitate to aver, that I have seen at Cairo, (and this may be seen daily, without trouble or expense,) a man who came from above the catacombs, where the pits of the mummy birds are kept, who has taken a cerastes with his naked hand, from a number of others lying at the bottom of a tub, has put it upon his bare head, covered it with the common red cap he wears, then take it out, put it in his breast, and tie it about his neck like a necklace; after which, it has been applied to a hen, and bit it, which has died in a few minutes; and to complete the experiment, the man has taken it by the neck, and, beginning at the tail, has ate it, as one would eat a carrot or a stock of celery, without any seeming repugnance. I can also avouch that all the black people in the kingdom of Sennar, whether Funge or Nuba, are perfectly armed against the bite of scorpion or adder. They take the serpents in their hands at all times, put them in their bosoms, and throw them at each other as children do apples or balls, without having irritated them by this usage so much as to bite.

THE DYING CHILD.

Why do you weep?
I am falling asleep,
And Jesus, my Shepherd,
Is watching his sheep;
His arm is beneath me,
His eye is above me;
His Spirit within me
My life is my love;
With blood I have bought thee,
And wash'd thee from sin;
With care I have brought thee
My fold to be in;
Refresh'd by still waters,
In green pastures fed,
Thy day has gone by—
I am making thy bed." [Script. Tracts.]

IMPERIAL FAMILY OF CHINA.

The statutes about the imperial clan are undergoing great alteration. Since the accession of the Mantchoo family to the throne, the various imperial branches have very rapidly increased. Their numbers make the keeping of genealogical tables a matter of great difficulty. The princesses are married to various Mongul and Mantchoo Chiefs, but many remain maidens without a suitor. Only a few princes receive civil and military appointments; the remainder pass an idle life, some of comfort, and others of great misery, either at Pekin or in Leao-tung. In general, the allowance is very small, and quite inadequate for their maintenance; hence the shifts to which these scions of an illustrious house have frequently to betake themselves, and the disgraceful conduct of which they are often guilty. Having no employments, they acquire vicious habits, so that gambling, opium-smoking, and rioting, are ordinary occurrences. Few have any money of their own, and nearly all are dependent upon the imperial bounty; and, on account of their profligate habits, are continually in debt. There are many laws for the regulation of their conduct, but on account of their high birth, they enjoy considerable privileges, which enable them in general to defy such regulations.

A very common punishment to which they are subjected, is solitary confinement in an empty dark room, to allow them time to reflect upon their misdeeds. Others are banished to the wilds of Tsai-si-har, or to the Yunnan Swamps, whence few ever return. The present Emperor has been very lenient towards his kinsmen, but nearly all his predecessors treated them with the utmost severity, and not unfrequently, with Turkish jealousy, exterminated an entire tribe.

The attention of the Imperial Government seems to be directed solely to the suppression of piracy, which abounds in all its waters, the apprehension and execution of numerous daring robbers, the quieting of constant revolts, and the replenishment of its sinking treasury. Piracy seems to flourish bravely, the Government being unable to get its naval forces to operate against the freebooters. To bribe the former to do something, several officers have been rewarded for services which are entirely fictitious.

HOUSTEAD EXEMPTION IN PENNSYLVANIA.

The following is the bill presented in the Senate of Pennsylvania, to exempt the homesteads of insolvent debtors from levy and sale, when the yearly value of the property does not exceed \$300:—

An act to exempt the Homesteads of Insolvent Debtors from Levy and Sale.

Whereas, it is the duty of a free and enlightened Commonwealth to provide by law for the relief of Insolvent Debtors; to prevent or mitigate extreme social inequalities arising from an uneven distribution of property, and to secure its citizens alike against the exactions of avarice, and the humiliations of pauperism, therefore,

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the 4th day of July, 1849, the real estate of every citizen, female sole trader, or widow residing within this Commonwealth, which shall be owned or occupied by him, her, or them, as a family residence or homestead, shall be exempt from levy and sale, lien and sequestration, from any debt contracted by him, her, or them, subsequent to the purchase or erection thereof: Provided, that such real estate shall not exceed, in clear yearly value, the sum of three hundred dollars; and Provided farther, that this act shall not be construed so as to divest or impair any existing lien or mortgage.

HOUSTEAD EXEMPTION IN OHIO.

Dr. Dimmock has introduced a bill in the Senate of Ohio, to exempt homesteads from forced sales on execution. It provides that a resident of Ohio, the head of a family, may set apart and hold for the benefit of himself and family, exempt from forced sale on execution, a lot of land not exceeding in extent 100 acres, nor in value, together with the buildings, the sum of \$1,000. It also provides that the owner of a house on land not his own, may set apart and hold said house as his homestead; a house and lot in any village, town, or city, not exceeding the value of \$1,000. It provides that in case a house and lot or other homestead shall be appraised at more than \$1,000, the plaintiff may accept a sum annually, equal to a fair rent for said premises, until said debt is paid, or, at his option, he may cause the homestead to be put to sale; and \$1,000 of the proceeds shall be paid over by the Sheriff in execution, and the balance be applied in discharge of the debt. But such homestead shall not be sold for less than its appraised value. It also exempts to the heads of families not owning a homestead, chattel property to an amount not exceeding \$1,000.

A correspondent of the Newburyport Herald gives an account of the sentence of one Glines of New Bedford, who induced a young girl to go with him in a chaise, on the plea that her father was sick, and after getting her into the woods committed an assault upon her, from the effects of which she did not recover for some time. He put in the plea of insanity in mitigation of the crime, but without avail. He was sentenced by Judge Mellen, to twenty years confinement at hard labor in the State Prison.

A TERRIBLE AFFLICTION.—Mr. Richard Mosher, of Dutchess county, N. Y., has been confined to his bed for twenty-five years, a victim to disease and intense suffering. During the first year of his attack, his knees were dislocated and ossified, and subsequently other joints in his lower limbs were drawn asunder and ossified. Two years after these disastrous afflictions, his pains became less acute, and being naturally industrious and ingenious, he commenced making shoes, whips, and other articles, as he could, while lying in bed. He thus helped to maintain himself, and for eleven years he continued to work, until his arms were dislocated and became ossified. For the last eleven years he has been unable to help himself in the least. His jaws were set some years ago, and his teeth have been broken out, that food might be placed in his mouth. The only joints which he is now able to move are the extreme of his index fingers, and one or two joints of his toes.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN IOWA.—The Burlington Hawkeye presents various interesting facts and statistics relative to the progress of education in that portion of the Far West. The permanent School Fund of the State, is given in the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, is \$49,017 65—being an increase of only \$4,986 95 in one year. The whole number of districts in the State is 673; of children between 5 and 21, 40,646. The wages paid to teachers are from twelve to twenty-five dollars a month—the former amount to females, and the latter to males. 101 male teachers have been employed, and 23 females—while only 105 schools are in operation, and 7,077 pupils taught.

SUMMARY.

The Musselman writers speak of an ignorant Arab, who, being asked how he knew anything about the existence of a God, replied—'Just as I know by the tracks in the sand, whether a man or beast has passed there; so, when I survey the heavens, with its bright stars, and the earth, with its productions, do I feel the existence and power of God.'

During the visit of an Indian Chief to one of our northern cities, he asked on seeing the jail—'What is that building for?' The interpreter who accompanied him, in order to make himself intelligible, observed—that when a white man owed skins and could not pay them, they put him in that building.' The Chief, after a little reflection, drily replied—'Hugh! white man no catch skins there!'

From some experiments made at the Agricultural Institute, at St. Germain, in France, it appears that the sheep, that gained in weight three and a quarter pounds a month, increased double that amount in the same length of time, when about one-tenth of an ounce of salt was added to the food of each per day.

About two thousand years ago, when the old Roman, Columella, was asked what constituted good farming, he answered, 'First, good ploughing.' On again being asked what came next, he replied, 'good ploughing,' thus impressing the importance of good tillage over every other consideration. During the dreadful visit of cholera in Cuba, on its former appearance, there were the official records of sixteen thousand interments at Havana, in ten weeks. One day the number amounted to nine hundred, when a change in the wind and temperature took place, and the ensuing day the number of deaths was only two hundred, and the next week after, the disease had entirely disappeared, and never afterwards returned.

Hon. B. H. Green has patented a machine to coat telegraph wires, after they are stretched ready for use on the poles. The composition at once insulates the wires, and prevents them from rusting. The machine, weighing about eight pounds, is hung on the wires, and drawn along with a cord from post to post. The brushes employed in the process supply themselves with the composition.

Absolutely pure gold is 24 carats. The coin of England is an alloy of 11 parts gold, and 13 copper. One pound Troy is now coined into 46 29-40 sovereigns. Our gold coin contains 11 parts pure gold, and 1 of alloy composed of silver and copper. Our eagles contain 270 grains of standard gold, of which 247 1-2 are pure gold and 22 1-2 alloy.

Oranges equal to those of Havana are raised near Mobile, at Pascagoula, and on the coast near New Orleans. The proprietor of thirty trees on Mon Louis Island, twenty miles south of Mobile, realizes from eight hundred to one thousand dollars a year for his oranges. He sent twelve oranges to an editor, on a single branch.

Captain Mordecai, of the Ordnance Department, at Washington, has ascertained that the velocity of a thirty-two pound shot, varies from twelve to nineteen hundred feet per second, or nearly twenty miles per minute. Out of the three thousand two hundred Paris insurgents transported, there are no less than one hundred and fifty artists, or about one twentieth of the whole. Whilst every other nation in Europe is represented amongst them, there is not one Englishman, or even Irishman.

It has been decided by the Supreme Court of Louisiana, that a common fire insurance policy does not cover loss from the explosion of a steamboat boiler. The case was one in which sugar and molasses to the amount of six thousand five hundred dollars were destroyed by the explosion of a steam boiler used in the manufacture, but in which no conflagration occurred.

Data has been received from Mexico, via New Orleans, to Dec. 28. The Government was much embarrassed. The Indians were committing high-handed outrages, and murders; gangs of robbers on all hands defy the police. Congress was to meet on the 1st of January; fears were entertained that there would not be a quorum, and \$100 fine was imposed on members failing to attend.

The Manchester (N. H.) Democrat says that during the first twelve days of the year 1849, there was but a single instance of death in the city of Manchester, among a population of 13,000.

ALFRED ACADEMY AND TEACHERS' SEMINARY.

W. C. KENYON, A. M., } Principals.
IRA SAYLES, A. M., }
As listed by nine able and experienced Teachers, five in the Male Department, and four in the Female Department.

The Trustees of this Institution, in putting forth another Annual Circular, would take this opportunity to express their thanks to its numerous patrons, for the very liberal support extended to it during the past ten years, that it has been in operation; and they hope, by continuing to augment its facilities, to also continue to merit a share of public patronage.

Extensive buildings are now erected for the accommodation of students, and for Recitation and Lecture Rooms, &c. They occupy an eligible position, and are finished in the best style of modern architecture; and the different apartments are heated by hot air, a method decidedly the most pleasant and economical.

Ladies and Gentlemen will occupy separate buildings, under the immediate care of their teachers. They will board in the Hall, with the Professors and their families, who will be responsible for furnishing good board, and for the order of the Hall. Board and rooms can also be had in private families, if particularly desired.

Each room for those who board in the Hall is furnished with a bed and bedding, a table, two chairs, and a chair. The plan of instruction adopted in this Institution, aims at a complete development of all the moral, intellectual, and physical powers of the student, in a manner to render them thorough practical scholars prepared to meet the great responsibilities of active life. Our prime motto is, 'The Health, the Manners, and the Morals of our Students.' To secure these most desirable ends, the following Regulations are instituted, without an unreserved compliance with which, no student should think of entering the Institution.

REGULAR ACADEMIC EXERCISES.

The regular exercises, at which all the students will be required to attend, unless specially excused, are, Chapel exercises each morning during the term; Recitations, from two to four, five days each week, from Monday morning till Friday evening. Compositions and Declamations, one-half day, once in two weeks; Literary, Scientific, and Moral Lectures by the Principals. Public Worship, once in each week, either on Saturday or Sunday, according as the students may be in the habit of keeping the Sabbath, either on the seventh or first day of the week.

ADMISSION.

Candidates for admission as students, must present testimonials of good moral character, or be known to possess such a character, and must be willing to comply unreservedly with the foregoing regulations; and no one will be permitted to receive instructions in any class, until all academic bills, for the term in prospect, be paid or satisfactorily arranged.

ACADEMIC TERMS.

The Academic Year for 1848-9 consists of three terms as follows:—
The First, commencing Tuesday, August 15, 1848, and ending Thursday, November 23, 1848.
The Second, commencing Tuesday, December 5, 1848, and ending Thursday, March 15, 1849.
The Third, commencing Tuesday, April 3, 1849, and ending July 12, 1849.

As the plan of instruction in this Institution, laid out for each class, will require the entire term for its completion, it is of the utmost importance that students should continue through the term, and accordingly, no student will be admitted for any length of time less than a term, extraordinary exceptions excepted.

Students prepared to enter classes already in operation, can be admitted at any time in the terms.
N. B. Students who are expecting to teach during the winter or summer, will specify such intention on entering in the beginning of the fall or spring term; and for the special accommodation of such a day will be set apart at 6 a. m., on which they can leave, if they wish; and they will not be permitted to leave on any other day, nor will any other than teachers be permitted to leave on the day specified.

Further, it is of the utmost importance that the student be present at the day of the opening of the term, as on that and the succeeding day, the students entering are examined and classified.

EXPENSES.

Board, per term, from \$14 50 to \$18 00
Room-rent, 2 50
Washing, 2 50
Fuel, 2 50
Tuition, spring and fall, 75 cents, winter, 1 50
Lights, from \$3 50 to 5 00
Incidental Expenses, 25
EXTRAS—Music on the Piano Forte, 10 00
Oil Painting, 7 00
Drawing, 2 00

The entire expenses for an Academic Year, including board, washing, lights, fuel, and tuition, except the extras above mentioned, need not exceed eighty-five dollars.

The expenses for board and tuition must be settled in advance, at the commencement of each term, either by actual payment, or satisfactory arrangements to be made in writing. Every student wishing to have washing done in the Hall, should have each article marked, so as to avoid exchange and losses.

SAMUEL RUSSELL,
President of the Board of Trustees.

ALFRED, June 20, 1848.

CHRISTIAN PSALMODY.

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. It contains over one thousand hymns, together with the usual table of first lines, and a complete index of particular subjects, the whole covering 578 pages. The work is neatly printed, on fine paper, and bound in a variety of styles to suit the tastes and means of purchasers. The price in strong leather binding is 75 cents per copy; in imitation morocco, plain, 87 1/2 cents; ditto, gilt edges, \$1 00; ditto, full gilt, \$1 12 1/2; in morocco, full gilt, \$1 37 1/2. Those wishing books will please forward their orders, with particular directions how to send, to Geo. B. UTTER, No. 9 Spruce-st., New York.

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