



The Sabbath Recorder.

New York, April 4, 1850.

BEGIN THE SABBATH IN SEASON.

We are not about to call up the question, for discussion, whether the evening immediately following the sixth day of the week is a part of the weekly rest; we assume the affirmative, without stopping to prove it.

busy. Ah, Christian, is this the way you treat your Lord? Why do you not make preparation to receive Him at the time appointed?

We cannot help insisting, with earnestness, upon the strict sanctification of the evening which ushers in the holy Sabbath. We do this, not only because we regard it as a necessary part of the Sabbath, but also because of the influence which it has in preparing the mind for the public exercises of the day following.

GLIMPSES OF DOMESTIC LIFE IN CHINA—No. 1.

DEAR BROTHER UTTER.—In your last, you express a wish to know more of the everyday life of the people among whom we dwell. You complain of the "paucity of information on the subject of their domestic habits and social arrangements."

come the talisman thus thrown to me, by the hand of that Being who placed me here, I will not attempt to say; but I am quite sure, that even the excluded Jew, as he has stood, praying with his face towards the devoted but much-desired city of his love, or has placed his supplicating lips against the crevices of that wall beyond which he might not himself pass, would gladly drop from his liturgy the accustomed clause, "Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who hath not made me a woman," if he might thereby win the coveted privilege, to enter within the gates, to rebuild the temple of his God, and to aid in preparing a sanctuary for the Most High.

The outer world in China, as every where else, may be easily learned. For, as some writer has said, "whoever has seen one city, may be said to have seen the whole."

Very small indeed is the proportion of females who can read in China; and their almost entire seclusion from all but female society, effectually bars against them the only remaining avenue to information, cuts off the stream of knowledge, and closes the only channel through which their prisoned spirits might receive the waters of instruction.

As such are the circumstances under which I must write, and such the opportunities from which I must draw my descriptions of domestic life in China, you will hardly expect mere abstract descriptions of general scenes. I must give them to you as I find them in their combinations.

If I shall sometimes express myself with a zeal not according to knowledge, let at least the knowledge that does appear be accredited to experience and personal observation, and that zeal to a love for the poor perishing objects of my exertions, which will not allow me to be untrue to them, and more than all, to a faith in the promises of God, which will not let me doubt, that even my poor labors shall not be in vain.

That the dawning of a better day has already opened upon China, no one can question. That clouds and thick darkness are yet to overcast her morning sky—that desolating storms may sweep over her, before that sun looks down from his meridian altitude—few seem to doubt.

At present, I cannot promise you aught like method in my arrangement, nor, indeed, that there will be aught like arrangement in the method even of my letters to you. I can hardly consent to make you wiser than myself; and my own knowledge comes so by piecemeal, and those fragments are so diluted—the ore is so mixed with the dross and rubbish of many surroundings—that I cannot send it to you in pure, solid masses, as you get the California gold; and, as crucibles must by this time be nearly obsolete at home, why not dispense with them at once on all sides of the globe?

You are already in possession of many little facts, which I have gleaned by the way; and which I may hereafter need to illustrate principles as they shall present themselves to my notice.

SUNDAY TRAVELING IN PENNSYLVANIA.

The recent action of the Directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, in stopping Sunday Trains, has called forth numerous remonstrances, and led many people to examine the subject who would not otherwise have done so.

"The directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company have, it seems, constituted themselves conscience-keepers for the people of the State. Elected for the mere purpose of carrying on the affairs of the corporation, intrusted with the management of its business, so far as the interests of the stockholders were concerned, they have nevertheless taken upon themselves the character of Censors of Morals, and Promoters of Piety in general."

"The present board are professing Christians—they decide that we shall not travel on Sunday. The managers of the next board may be Jews—they will have a right to decide that we shall not travel on Saturday."

"The Pennsylvania Railroad is, by the act of incorporation, made 'a public highway,' and, as such, it should be open to all persons, at all times. The managers of the company have no right to shut it up one day in the week, simply because on that day they do not wish to travel themselves."

"There is no Christian Sabbath in Pennsylvania. The last decision of the Supreme Court of the State establishes that the Sunday laws are mere civil regulations, intended for the benefit of society at large, and they must in some instances yield to necessity and expediency."

"We protest against the doctrine that Christianity is to be enforced by law. It cannot be done. Men are not to be forced into religion; they must be led gently, by appeals which touch the heart; they are not to be coerced by tyranny, which stirs up opposition."

"The directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, by their resolution to suspend all traveling upon their road on Sunday, have greatly exceeded their authority. A great public highway is entrusted to them. It is a business medium which, if properly conducted, will yield to the State great wealth and prosperity."

DEATH OF A GOOD MAN.—The English papers announce the death of Rev. Edward Bickersteth as having occurred on the 28th

of February. His numerous publications of a religious character have been widely circulated in the United States. On his medical adviser announcing to him that there was no hope, "Yes," he replied, "there is every reason to hope;" adding other expressions indicative of his consciousness of the approaching change, and of his preparation for it.

THE WESLEYAN AGITATION IN ENGLAND.—A correspondent of the Independent says that the Wesleyan agitation continues, and gives occasion to fearful displays of evil temper and of shameful tyranny on the part of the Conference party. The preachers in many districts have been attempting to expel and degrade those who express opinions opposed to Conference tyranny.

BAPTISMAL REGENERATION IN ENGLAND.—The long-pending case of Mr. Gorham and the Bishop of Exeter, has at length been decided, and decided favorably for the evangelical portion of the Church of England. Judgment was pronounced on the 8th of March, by the Master of the Rolls, Lord Langdale. The court was of opinion, that the doctrine of baptismal regeneration had been so taught and laid down in the formularies of the Church of England as to enable persons holding different views on the subject to officiate as ministers.

MARRYING THE SISTER OF A DECEASED WIFE.—The question in regard to the Scriptural lawfulness of marrying the sister of a deceased wife, has been taken up in England by the "General Body of Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the Three Denominations," and the following opinion pronounced unanimously:—

"That this body, while partially admitting the force of those considerations which appear to some to render it inexpedient to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister, is yet of opinion, that it is not contrary to anything contained in the Word of God; that such marriage is not only in itself perfectly allowable, but may often be the best which an individual can contract; and that while no human law, secular or ecclesiastical, ought to forbid it—such enactments being violations of civil or religious liberty—all such unnecessary and unjust obstructions to individual freedom of action, would at once promote happiness and virtue, by affording relief to the conscientious and moral, and by preventing clandestine and criminal connexions."

ASSOCIATION UPON A FIRM FOUNDATION.—The Anti-State Church Association (England) is founded upon the principle, "That all legislation by secular governments in affairs of religion is an encroachment upon the rights of conscience, and a usurpation of the Divine authority; and that the application of the resources of the State to the maintenance of any form of religious worship or instruction, is unsound in principle, hostile to liberty, and opposed to the Word of God."

REBUKE OF THE WAR SPIRIT.—Lord Gough, the late Commander-in-chief of the English forces in India, recently returned to his native country, landing at Southampton. The Town Council, contrary to the usual custom in such cases, resolved not to address the returning warrior. They also passed a resolution, to the effect that war generally, and the war in India particularly, is anti-Christian, thus placing their refusal on the high ground of Christian principle.

PREACHING AND FARMING.—The Glasgow Examiner mentions that a clergyman near Marnoch wished to add a vacant farm to his glebe land, and applied to Lord Fife, the landlord: "Oh, certainly," replied his lordship, "you shall have the farm. Hand in your resignation, and my factor will settle the matter." Confounded by the unexpected reply, the young aspirant was silenced, when his lordship continued: "Preaching and farming is a bad combination; you can, therefore, make up your mind which of the livings you prefer."

LETTERS FROM OUR MISADVENTURERS.—By the ship Panama, which arrived at New-York last Sabbath, we have letters from our brethren in China up to Dec. 1, 1849, at which time they were in good health, and cheerfully prosecuting their arduous work. Mr. and Mrs. Tobey, missionaries of the Southern Baptist Board, came passengers in the Panama.

THE GREAT TRIAL IN BOSTON.

The trial of Prof. John W. Webster for the murder of Dr. George Parkman, was brought to a close, on Sabbath night last, by a verdict of "Guilty." The examination of witnesses lasted ten days, and resulted in establishing the main facts which were published at the time of Prof. Webster's arrest, viz: that the victim was decoyed to a laboratory in the Medical College, under pretence of paying him money which had long been due; that the bloody deed was there committed, at an hour when noises would not be likely to excite surprise; and that the dead body was cut up into fragments, and a part of it burnt, with a view to prevent its identification. The testimony for the prosecution went to prove that the dismembered body found secreted in Dr. Webster's private apartments was that of Dr. Parkman, and the chain of circumstantial evidence left little doubt on any mind, that the remains were placed there by Webster, and that he had been engaged in the peaceable destruction of them by burning them in his furnace. The defense labored to show, from the past character of the accused, and from his course between the time of Dr. Parkman's disappearance and the discovery of the remains, that he could not have committed the deed. They also produced three or four witnesses to testify that they saw Dr. Parkman after the time when the indictment charges that he was killed; but these witnesses were confuted, and their testimony was in some respects so inconsistent with well-known facts, that it had but little weight. Previous to the case being submitted to the Jury, Prof. Webster made a short speech, in which he attempted to explain some of the circumstances which appeared so dark against him, and even went so far as to blame his counsel for not bringing forward all the evidence with which he had furnished them. The Jury retired at eight o'clock in the evening, and at eleven returned with a verdict of "guilty." The sentence subsequently pronounced by the Judge is as follows:—

"That you, John W. Webster, be removed from this place, and detained in close custody in the prison of this county, and thence taken, at such time as the Executive Government of this Commonwealth may by their warrant appoint, to the place of execution, and there be hung by the neck until you are dead—And may God, in his infinite goodness, have mercy on your soul."

JOHN CALDWELL CALHOUN.—This eminent statesman died at Washington on Sunday morning last, aged sixty-eight years and fourteen days. He was born in Abbeville District, South Carolina, in 1782, of an Irish father and a Virginian mother. In 1804 he graduated from Yale College, and immediately began the study of law in the school of Judge Reeves at Litchfield. Afterward he removed to Charleston, where he was admitted to the bar in 1807, and very soon attained a large and lucrative practice. In 1811 he first entered Congress, and his movements since that time have been familiar to every reader. He filled the office of Secretary of War in 1817, and was elected Vice President of the United States in 1825.

ANOTHER AWFUL ACCIDENT ON THE SABBATH.—We last week placed together about a dozen railroad accidents which had recently occurred on the Sabbath. Another and more destructive accident is now to be added to the list. At 2 1/2 P. M., Saturday, March 22d, the steamer Troy, Capt. Williams, from Sandusky, attempted to enter Buffalo harbor, but ice preventing steered for Black Rock. When just entering Niagara River, off the head of Black Rock pier, her boiler exploded with a terrible report, blowing a part of her upper machinery and sundry of her passengers overboard. The whole forward part of the boat above the boiler was made a mass of ruins. There were about forty passengers on board; those in the cabin at the moment were not injured, but none of those above or near the boiler escaped. Up to the present time, thirteen persons are known to have died from the effects of the explosion. It is feared that some were drowned, and carried over the Falls, whose names will never be known.

REVIVAL AT ESSEX, CT.—The Christian Secretary learns, by a letter from a friend at Essex, that the churches there have been favored with a most gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit for the past six or eight weeks. Baptists, Congregationalists and Methodists have shared in the work. "It may be reasonably computed," says the writer, "that not less than two hundred hopeful conversions have been the result of this glorious revival, up to the present time. Forty-two have already followed their blessed Master in the ordinance of baptism, and several more are expected soon to follow, while others are still anxious to know what they shall do to be saved."

NEW YORK STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.—The Annual Report of the Executive Committee of the State Normal School of New York has been published. The following table will show the number of pupils in each term, and also the number and sex of the graduates:—

Table with columns: Term, Students, Male, Female, Total. Rows for Year 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th.



