



The Sabbath Recorder.

New York, February 13, 1851.

"OBLIGATION OF THE SABBATH."

We commence this week the publication of a Sabbath Discussion, which appears to have grown out of the Philadelphia Mayor's practice of holding courts on Sunday morning.

The remark of "J. N. B." that the Decalogue "makes no designation of the day," it fixes only the proportion of time, is one which no man of common discernment would make, if he had ever undertaken a critical analysis of the Fourth Commandment.

Jehovah did not designate the seventh day to the Israelites as their Sabbath. It was his own Sabbath which he enjoined upon them to commemorate. And we invite "J. N. B.'s" particular attention to the fact, that God always speaks of the weekly Sabbath as his own, while those monthly and annual seasons of rest, which He had not himself first kept, but were simply appointed to them, are designated as theirs.

We now ask "J. N. B." which day of the week was Jehovah's rest day. He knows very well, that it was the seventh—the last day of the first week of time. He knows very well, that that was the day on which God ceased from his labors; and that that, and that only, was the day upon which God put his blessing. This is a historical fact.

If, then, it was his own Sabbath—the rest which He himself has kept—which Jehovah commanded the Israelites to remember, and keep holy in its weekly returns, the idea of "J. N. B." that "the decalogue knows nothing of Saturday," is manifestly false. It does enjoin the Saturday—though not as

Saturday—and nothing else. If we are under the same law to Christ, Saturday, and not Sunday, is the Christian's Sabbath. The idea of a sabbatic institution, apart from the day sanctified and blessed, is a theological chimera. At the close of his creative operations, God blessed the day, not the rest.

What "J. N. B." means by saying that "in Eden the first Sabbath kept by man was the first day after his own creation," is not very obvious; but from the connection in which he introduces it, it would seem that he intended it as a sort of insinuation, that it was not the seventh day of the week.

The remark of "J. N. B." that, on the supposition that the Sabbath is blotted out, "there is no law or institution for public worship in the New Testament; that men may pursue their worldly labor without cessation; Christian worship may be maintained, interrupted, or abandoned, at pleasure; and that the religion of Christ, which was above all others intended to unite, fraternize, and spiritualize the human race, leaves them worse than Judaism, or even Paganism, without any law or provision whatever for the accomplishment of its magnificent design"—is one which deserves the solemn consideration of those who array themselves against this holy institution.

We shall continue our strictures next week.

BIOGRAPHY.

Lives of great men all remind us. We can make our lives sublime, And, departing, leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time;

Biography, the personal history of life and character, is an interesting and instructive branch of literature. It gives us an account of those who have traveled before us the journey of life. It is the best substitute we can have for the personal presence of the great and good who have passed from the earth. Their deeds and experience are here recorded for our perusal and pattern.

In order to have a goodly influence, biography should be of the right kind, with a right subject. It should be of the greatly good—not of the greatly mean. It should be of those characters that attract to goodness and greatness—not of those the influence of whose polluting examples can be warded off only by the experienced, the purified in thought, the established in virtue.

Vicious associations and contemplations become doubly seductive when connected with and supported by the example of a great name. The biography that tells only of mostly of outward circumstances, accidental distinctions, the pomp and splendor of office and station, or of whatever pertains to the outward man, is not the kind that is most needed. We need the biography that gives the inward workings of mind—the pro-

cesses of thought—the influence of emotions and passions—the power of will, perseverance, and unity of purpose—the force of high and holy aims. Who has not felt the difference between the biography that treats only of dry outward facts and that which lets us into the inner life of the individual? We want biographies that will spread out before us, like a map, the intellectual and moral excellencies of their subjects; that will open to us their hearts; that will permit us to walk arm in arm, talk face to face with them, breathe the same air which they breathed, feel the same rays of light and heat which warmed and cheered them.

Who can estimate the influence, the value, of the right kind of biographies of the social, political, intellectual and moral lights of the world? Such individuals have put in practice various abstract truths which lie scattered throughout nature and revealed religion—have reduced them to a concrete form. We see one excelling in patience, another in justice, another in temperance, and still another in benevolence, while, perhaps, now and then one seems to shine forth with all of the graces combined. On reading the lives of such, who does not feel the varied emotions, passions, and aspirations, portrayed therein, kindling in his own breast, a longing after like excellencies? Similar, to a great extent, is the influence upon the mind in reading the portraitures of the characters of the mean, the wicked, unless there is care, on the part of the biographer so to unfold the deformities of character as to create abhorrence, and the reader is constantly on his guard, and reads with a like object. How few ever read the life of a Napoleon, a Caesar, or an Alexander, without having insensibly infused into their spirits an influence that was incessantly pointing to the marshaling of armies, the conquering opposing nations, and the consequent sacking of towns, triumphal processions, and a conqueror's crown.

Biography is eminently calculated to enlist our feelings and call out our sympathies. Instructive truths are revealed to us, not as mere abstractions, but clothed with humanity. It thus easily operates upon our sensibility, awakening passions, causing us to like or dislike, love or hate. It affects us, not so much because its subjects are rich or poor, white or black, tall or short, as because it represents them as thinking and feeling, willing and suffering—as noble or ignoble, virtuous or vicious. It is life acting upon life, becoming, thus, a powerful auxiliary in the development of character.

Such being their influence, proper, well-written biographies should evidently claim a corresponding attention in all of our reading—should occupy a prominent place in all of our libraries—should take the place of the light, trashy literature of the day. The wise, the great, and the good, should be thus permitted to greet us in our quiet hours, permitted to accompany us all along the journey of life, and strew our pathway with the rich gems of wisdom, gathered from long experience. We should heed their counsels, heed their warnings, as they point to the rocks, shoals, and quicksands of life. We should mark well the eminence which they have attained for us in the world's progress, and the responsibilities resting upon us to advance ourselves and the world to a still higher and brighter destiny.

TEMPERANCE IN RHODE ISLAND.—The State Temperance Society of Rhode Island held its annual meeting at Providence last week. The good cause seems to be flourishing in that little State. Among the encouraging things brought forward at the meeting, were the following statistics:—

Table with 2 columns: Location and Money saved. Includes entries for S. Kingstown, Coventry, Foster, Slaterville, N. Scituate, Little Compton, Johnston, Bristol, Warren, Westerly.

PLAN OF EMANCIPATION. Among the plans which have been devised for the purpose of meeting the great difficulties which surround this question, says the Colonization Herald, Hon. David Sears proposes that the proceeds of the public lands shall be used for the extinction of Slavery, and that all children born after a certain period be free.

The last Census of the United States gave 420,000 as the number of female slaves under 10 years of age, and 390,000 as the number of female slaves between the ages of 10 and 20 years. The plan proposed contemplates the purchase of one or both of these classes at a price to be agreed on. It is estimated that, at their present average value, they could be bought and emancipated at a cost much less than the expense of the last war with Great Britain, and less than the cost of the late war in Mexico.

- The plan is as follows:— 1. Congress to appropriate the proceeds of the sales of public lands to the extinction of slavery. 2. Commissioners to be appointed by Congress to negotiate with the Legislatures of the Slave States...

IMPORTANT PEACE MOVEMENT. In the Senate of the United States, on the 5th inst., Mr. Foote, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, in response to a petition from the American Peace Society, and several hundred other petitions from various and widely distant parts of the country, reported the following preamble and resolution, which, if adopted by Congress, as there is every reason to think it will be, cannot fail to have an important and favorable influence upon the diplomacy of this nation, and of every other nation on the face of the earth:—

Whereas, Appeals to the sword for the determination of national controversies are always productive of immense evils; and, whereas, the spirit and enterprise of the age, but more especially the genius of our own Government, the habits of our people, and the highest permanent prosperity of our Republic, as well as the claims of humanity and the precepts of our holy religion, all require the adoption of every feasible measure consistent with the national honor and the security of our rights to prevent, as far as possible, the recurrence of war hereafter: Therefore, Resolved, That, in the judgment of this body, it would be proper and desirable for the Government of the United States, whenever practicable, to secure, in its treaties with other nations, a provision for referring to the decision of umpires all future misunderstandings that cannot be satisfactorily adjusted by amicable negotiation in the first instance, before a resort to hostilities shall be had.

DISPERSION OF COLORED CHURCHES.

The Evening Post says that the Baptist Colored Church at Buffalo has suffered a large diminution of its members in consequence of the Fugitive Slave Law. One hundred and thirty of the communicants, as we are informed by the pastor, left the place from fear of arrest on the charge of being fugitive slaves, and have passed over to Canada. The Methodist Church, in the same place, has also lost a considerable number of its members from the same cause.

LABORS OF BAPTIST NOEL.—The English Baptist Reporter says that Rev. Baptist W. Noel has baptized 156 persons since he has been the pastor of the John Street Church, London. Among them has been one barrister-at-law, one lieutenant of the navy, one cripple, one half deaf and dumb, and five Sunday-School teachers.

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.—Wednesday, the 26th day of February inst., is fixed upon for a State Convention by the Political Temperance men of Connecticut, to "review the nominations of the different political parties, and adopt such of them as are pledged to favor the enactment of a law prohibiting the Liquor Traffic, to be submitted to the people for their sanction or rejection."

NEW YORK FREE SCHOOLS.—In the Assembly of New York, on the 6th inst., Mr. T. H. Benedict, Chairman of the Committee on Schools, reported a bill to raise \$800,000 by a State Tax for the support of Common Schools, and to substitute a Poll Tax for the old rate bill. It is estimated that the Poll Tax will amount to \$800,000—from 75 to 90 cents per capita—which, with the \$800,000 from the School Fund, will amount in the aggregate to \$1,400,000. On the other side, Mr. Burroughs reported a bill, from the minority of the same Committee, proposing to raise \$800,000 by a State Tax, and the \$300,000 by rate-bill instead of a Poll Tax.

AN OPENING IN HAYTI.—It is said that the Commune of Douden, in Hayti, with a population of from four to six thousand, has virtually thrown off Romanism, and is prepared to receive evangelical Protestant ministers in place of the discarded priests. Rev. Arthur Waring, a gentleman who has spent several years in that commune, is now in this country, and has publicly presented the claims of that field. The American and Foreign Christian Union has in contemplation a mission to that region.

REVIVAL AT AN INDIAN MISSION.—The Christian Advocate and Journal speaks of a revival of religion in connection with the Onondaga Indian Mission. "A goodly number" are represented as having found peace in believing, and not less than forty are said to be seeking the Lord. "The Indian school is likewise in a prosperous condition, the average number being as high as forty, and the attendance quite uniform."

REVIVAL IN INDIANA.—A writer in the Central Christian Herald mentions a revival at Terre Haute, Indiana, in connection with which upwards of fifty persons give evidence of having passed from death unto life. He says:— "The work is proving its genuineness by reconciling the alienated, awakening sluggish disciples, and reclaiming the backslider—and especially by transforming hardened, and impatient men into humble followers of the meek and lowly Jesus."

TEMPERANCE IN ILLINOIS.—A bill has passed the Illinois House of Representatives, which prohibits the sale of intoxicating liquors in quantities less than one quart, unless sold by druggists and physicians, in good faith, for medicinal, medical, or sacramental purposes. If sold to an adult, the fine is \$25 for every breach of the law, and if to a minor under the age of eighteen years, the penalty is not less than \$30 or more than \$100. The act also repeals all former laws upon the subject, and completely destroys the license system.

A MELANCHOLY CASE.—The Wilmington (Delaware) Gazette states that Professor Anslay, a young man of fine acquirements, whose classical attainments are well attested in a work entitled "Elements of Literature, or an Introduction to the Study of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres," published in 1849, by Lipincott & Co., of Philadelphia, died in this city on Monday last, after being found in an almost frozen condition, in an old hovel, with a bottle of whisky by his side. He recently held the position of Professor in St. Mary's College at Wilmington, from which he was removed on account of his inebriate habits. He continued, however, his course of dissipation, until he was reduced to a condition of utter destitution—homeless and homeless, friendless and penniless—he was driven to the extreme of starvation, wandering about, seeking shelter wherever chance directed him.

MORMONS ON BEAVER ISLAND.—By the last mail from Mackinac, says the Detroit Tribune of January 30, we hear that Col. Whistler, the Commandant of the 4th Regiment on duty at this station, received a letter or statement from some person at Mackinac, sworn to before Justice O'Mally, to the effect that the Mormons on Beaver Island were a lawless, reckless band—disregarding the laws of the United States—treating the flag of our country with disrespect, and raising an ensign of their own; and that it needed the interposition of the United States troops to protect the rights of our Government.

FROM OREGON.—The Empire City brought news from Oregon to the middle of December. The people there were in earnest about a Railroad to connect the Willamette Valley with the Columbia River, with its terminus at some point approachable by large vessels. The whole cost, it has been estimated, will not be over \$500,000, and it is proposed to divide that sum into one thousand shares at \$500 each. It is thought that it can be completed in twelve months. Gov. Gaines had delivered his Message to the Territorial Legislature. He advocates a liberal policy on the part of the General Government in the donation of lands to actual settlers; also liberal provisions for education. He asks the passage of a law for the protection of the Indian tribes. The General Government has appointed a Board of Commissioners to treat with the Indians for the relinquishment of their right to the soil. He advocates a revision of the taxes, and many other laws necessary and proper to promote the general prosperity of the Territory. In conclusion, he feelingly announces the death of the late President Taylor, and congratulates the Legislature on the passage of all the compromise measures of the last Congress.

SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE BRITISH CONSUL.—The correspondence between the Governor of South Carolina and the British Consul, has been referred to a Select Committee of the Legislature, chosen from the Charleston delegation, with the power to sit during the recess of the Legislature. It is believed that the obnoxious law for imprisoning free blacks will be abandoned, or probably modified so as to conform to an enactment in force at Wilmington, N. C., which requires all free colored persons to be on board their vessels from sunset to sunrise.

Proceedings in Congress Last Week. There was nothing done by either House, except to attend the funeral of Mr. Kaufmann, of Texas. The exercises took place in the Hall of Representatives, and were attended by nearly all of the members of Congress, the President and Cabinet, Justices of the Supreme Court, officers of the Executive Department, &c. Mr. Gurley preached from the text, "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." The corpse was deposited in the Congressional burying ground.

In the SENATE, numerous petitions were presented. Among them was one from a citizen of Missouri, setting forth that his slave was in the service of the United States Quartermaster at Fort Leavenworth, and through the negligence of the United States officers, the slave fled and was lost to the master. He asks the value of the slave from the United States; referred to Committee on Claims. Mr. Hall presented a petition from Lynn, Mass., for the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law; also one from Danvers, Mass., asking that the petitioners be relieved from liabilities for penalties for not aiding in carrying the Fugitive Slave Law into execution. Mr. Borland presented the memorial of the Legislature of Arkansas, asking Congress to take appropriate steps towards the acquisition of Cuba. Mr. Pierce presented the memorial of the members of the Constitutional Convention of Maryland in favor of a line of steamers to Liberia. The bill in relation to the appraisal of dutiable goods, was adopted. The California Land Claim Bill occupied the remainder of the session.

In the House, the Bill to establish Branch Mints in New York and San Francisco occupied the whole day. The N. Y. Mint was voted down, and a substitute was proposed to that part of the bill relating to San Francisco, which was prefaced by stating that at the last Session provision was made for cutting the gold assayed in California into ingots of \$50, \$100, and \$500, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury; such ingots to be received for Government dues, &c. The substitute provides penalties against counterfeiting these bars or ingots, and prescribes certain regulations in regard to them. It was adopted in Committee, and reported to the House, when a motion to lay it on the table was negatived, and the House adjourned.

In the SENATE, several petitions for the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law were presented. Mr. Borland presented the joint resolutions of the Legislature of Arkansas in favor of a Military Academy like West Point in one of the South Western States. Mr. Foote, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to which had been referred memorials in favor of adopting some substitute for war as a means of settlement of national difficulties, reported a resolution declaring, as the opinion of the Senate, that in all treaties of the United States, provision should be made for settling difficulties with foreign nations by arbitration before resorting to war. Joint resolutions distributing the works of Alex. Hamilton and John Adams were passed. The bill in relation to private land claims in California was taken up, and ordered engrossed.

In the House, the Mint Bill was again under consideration, and a final motion to lay it on the table passed. Several Territorial Bills were reported, and referred to Committee of the Whole. A joint resolution admitting A. W. Babbitt to a seat as a delegate from the territory of Utah, was referred to the Committee on Elections. The House then went into Committee on Territorial Business, and after a short time spent in considering the bill authorizing Oregon and Minnesota to dispose of their school lands, the Committee rose, and the House adjourned.

In the SENATE, the Postage Reduction Bill was made a special order for Second-day. Col. Benton's bill to give Missouri two per cent. on the proceeds of the public lands sold within her borders, was defeated—30 to 14. The bill to settle Land Claims in California was passed.

In the HOUSE, some Territorial Bills were passed, and others reported. Mr. Strong reported against the claim of Wm. S. Messery to be received as a delegate from New Mexico—he having been elected as a Representative under a State organization. Several small bills were reported, but no subject of much interest acted upon.

In the SENATE, Mr. Seward presented two petitions from Washington county, New York, for the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law. Mr. Winthrop presented the credentials of Mr. Rantoul, the new Senator from Massachusetts (who had not yet arrived at the Capital), and vacated his seat. The Senate spent the session in discussing the question whether Mr. Winthrop is or is not entitled to hold his seat till the arrival of his successor in the Senate chamber, and adjourned without coming to a decision.

The HOUSE discussed, in Committee of the Whole, the bill to establish a Board of Accounts, to consist of three Commissioners, at a salary of \$4,000 per annum.

In the SENATE, several anti-slavery and anti-fugitive-slave-law petitions were presented. A bill was introduced to establish a branch mint in California. The bill to enforce discipline, and promote good conduct in the navy, was brought up, and after slight amendment ordered to be engrossed. The question of Mr. Winthrop's right to a seat was further discussed, and finally tabled. The bill granting land to Missouri for the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, passed; also the bill to pay Oregon the expenses incurred in the Cayuse war, and a bill granting the New London Railroad Company the right of way across the Custom House lot in New London.

The HOUSE did nothing except to talk about the bill to establish a Board of Accounts. RELIGIOUS INTEREST IN NEW YORK.—Many of the Baptist churches in this city and vicinity are now enjoying revival seasons. Every Sunday, of late, there have been more or less baptisms, and the interest seems to be increasing.



