

The Sabbath Recorder.

New York, February 27, 1851.

REVERENCE FOR SACRED THINGS.

We do not believe that the wood, brick, mortar, and other materials which enter into the structure of a church edifice, are any more holy than the same kind of materials in any other building.

We think, however, that some run about as far to the opposite extreme. To make as conspicuous a proclamation as possible of their want of reverence for the house of worship, they walk into it with a light and careless air, they keep their hats on till they have reached the pew, they put them on the moment the benediction is pronounced, they keep up vain conversation with one another till the minister rises to open the services, one takes out his pen-knife to pare his finger nails, another fumbles over the leaves of his hymn-book, a third leans his head on the forward pew and begins to read a newspaper, the chorister in the gallery is busy in turning over the music book, and in a softly manner whistles over the tunes, not a few indulge a good nap during time of sermon, and too often jocular and noisy remarks are heard among the people as they pass out of the house.

We fear that, in these days of degeneracy, the good old plan of teaching children to carry themselves in a staid and careful manner on the Sabbath, to walk reverently to the place of worship, to treat with respect the ministers of religion and all good people, to handle the Bible with care, and to be very devout under the administration of religious ordinances, is in danger of being supplanted by an irreverent looseness, which tends more to infidelity than to piety.

WHAT A PASTOR CAN DO.—At the Anniversary of our Tract Society, last fall, Bro. J. R. Irish, pastor of the Church at DeRuyter, urged strenuously the importance of pastoral agency in the collection of money for tract purposes.

TEMPERANCE IN COLLEGE.—A letter of Edward C. DeJavan says that it is now some two years since Mr. Gough visited and lectured to the students in Union College.

DEDICATION.

Our brethren in Shiloh, N. J., have just completed a beautiful house of worship, and, with the usual formalities, have dedicated it to the Lord. The dedication took place on Thursday, the 13th inst., in presence of a large concourse of people.

The Shiloh Church is one of the oldest in our denomination, having been constituted more than a hundred years ago.

The old meeting-house, an ancient brick structure, has been converted into an academy, with lower and second stories, and is now occupied by the flourishing school of which our esteemed brother Larkin is principal.

We sincerely congratulate our Shiloh brethren on their success in completing so commodious and beautiful a house for the name of the Lord.

BRITISH CORRESPONDENCE—No. 28.

Our Queen has this week personally addressed Parliament; and although on the absorbing topic of "Papal Aggression" little is said, the Speech on this point seems to give general satisfaction.

Meanwhile, the Papists are steadily proceeding in their course. A new bishopric has been created in Ireland, and the fact is hung in the face of Government, in a tone of defiance, by the Roman Catholic newspapers.

What a Pastor can do.—At the Anniversary of our Tract Society, last fall, Bro. J. R. Irish, pastor of the Church at DeRuyter, urged strenuously the importance of pastoral agency in the collection of money for tract purposes.

TEMPERANCE IN COLLEGE.—A letter of Edward C. DeJavan says that it is now some two years since Mr. Gough visited and lectured to the students in Union College.

states this as a fact, on the testimony of the French philosophers who accompanied Napoleon when he entered Rome. The chair which bears the name of Peter, having been brushed and brought into the light, they averred was found so inscribed.

SPIRIT RAPPINGS.

Nothing is more natural than the curiosity which has been excited in the community to know the facts, origin and design of these mysteries, and to what category they belong.

My first inquiry will be, In what manner, and by what means, are the present communications obtained? The reply will be, Through the well-understood medium of clairvoyants; and, (as those professing some knowledge in the theory say,) electricity or magnetism is what constitutes this medium between the natural and spirit world.

Admitting that these communications are really, as assumed, supernatural, or of spirits, which it is not my present object to investigate, we might take it for a fact that their design is also apparent, and the origin should be a matter of interest; for it is assumed that these mysterious demonstrations are the evidence of a new state of things—a new era in the world, or dispensation to the church.

I will name one other instance, from the New Testament—Acts 12th chapter. Paul was annoyed by a damsel who was possessed with a spirit of divination and soothsaying.

I hope no one will take exceptions at these comparisons. Names are of but little consequence; it is the thing itself, and not the name, that I have been presenting.

"divining," &c. It may be thought, by some, doubtful whether the ancient and the modern arts are the same, as this places the modern art in a very unpopular category; and some might be startled at being denominated geomancers, witches, or wizards; but such is the art they practice or defend.

I have not given my opinion as to whether ancient or modern psychology and necromancy are really what they profess—whether St. Paul, or St. Luke, or St. Peter, are really present at those exhibitions, or whether the prophet Samuel was present with Saul and the woman of Endor.

Deut. 18: 9—12—"When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

Leviticus 19: 31—"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them; I am the Lord your God."

Leviticus 20: 6, 7—"And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

The Apostle Paul places the sin of witchcraft in a catalogue of the most abominable works of darkness. Galatians 5: 19, 20—"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, &c.

After what has been named, will not those who have been in doubt respecting these demonstrations, have the prudence to approach them with great caution, if they are placed in circumstances to approach them at all? If this is the same art (or science, if you prefer it) with that described in the Scriptures, we should flee it as a dangerous epidemic—a most fatal contagion.

PETITION OF PENNSYLVANIA SABBATH-KEEPERS.

The following petition has been circulated among the German Sabbath-keepers of Pennsylvania, and several copies of it, numerous signed, have been forwarded to the Legislature.

We, your petitioners, members of the Seventh-day Baptist Denomination, (and others) living in the County of would respectfully represent, that there reside several hundred individuals in different Counties in this State, who are members of the Seventh-day Baptist Denomination, who consider themselves in duty bound to observe the seventh day of the week, commonly called Saturday, as the Sabbath.

keep the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath, and the law of the State, the first. They imagine that it is not the spirit or meaning of the constitution of this State, or of the United States, that any religious society, or any God-fearing persons, should be forced into measures of this kind by coercive laws.

THE BOSTON FUGITIVE-SLAVE RESCUE.

The rescue of the alleged fugitive slave Shadrach, (of which we gave some account last week,) is likely to lead to important results. Shadrach, we are happy to learn, is now safe in Canada—one important result at least.

The only possible way by which the constitutionality of the law can be brought before the Supreme Court of the United States is in a suit for false imprisonment against the commissioner and marshal; and in order to bring such a suit, it is indispensably necessary that the alleged fugitive should be at liberty.

The following Proclamation of the President of the United States shows how much importance is attached to the case by the General Government.

EXTINCTION OF A PERSIAN SECT.—The Persian sect of Babis, whose main doctrine is said to be the denial of the existence of God, and who recognize no other authority than that of their chief, has at last been extinguished.

Whereas, information has been received, that sundry lawless persons, principally persons of color, combined and confederated together for the purpose of opposing, by force, the laws of the United States, did, at Boston, Massachusetts, on the 15th of this month, make a violent assault on the Marshal or Deputy Marshal of the United States, for the District of Massachusetts, in the Court House, and outrage the said officers, and did, by force, rescue from their custody a person arrested as a fugitive slave, and then and there a prisoner lawfully holden by the said Marshal or Marshals of the United States, and other scandalous outrages did commit, in violation of law—Now,

Therefore, to the end that the authority of the laws may be maintained, and those concerned in violating them brought to immediate and condign punishment, I have issued this my proclamation, calling on all well disposed citizens to rally to the support of the laws of their country, and requiring and commanding all officers, civil and military, who shall be found within the vicinity of this outrage, to be aiding and assisting, by all means in their power, in quelling this and other such combinations, and assisting the Marshal and his Deputies in re-capturing the above mentioned prisoner.

THE ACCIDENT TO THE ATLANTIC.—Messrs. Stillman, Allen & Co., of the Novelty Iron Works, builders of the Engines of the Atlantic, have published a Card, to the effect that they are in no way responsible for the shafts which gave out. The shafts which they had provided were, according to their judgment, of the best character; but in consequence of a difference of opinion between them and the Agent of the Company, they were not permitted to use them, but were required to use another set, made under the direction of the Company, and on its responsibility.

PROGRESS OF MISSIONS.—The number of missionaries employed in heathen countries by the various denominations of evangelical Christians, is believed to be not less than 1,500.

ENCOURAGING.—The consistory of Breslau, in Prussian Silesia, has issued a circular, reminding not only clergymen, but all other clerical functionaries, that it is unbecoming their sacred calling to take out game certificates, or to join in shooting or sporting in general.

THE BOSTON FUGITIVE.—The Commonwealth says that Sherwood, or, as he is generally called, Shadrach, spent the Sunday after his escape very quietly in a town less than one hundred miles from Boston.

Having rested through the day, the fugitive attended an Anti-Slavery Lecture in the evening, disguised in the dress of a woman, and remaining unsuspected by the audience.

He is said to be very calm, and to have expressed his perfect confidence in the protection of God. He declared that, at the worst, his claimant should have had nothing but a dead body to carry from the State.

PROGRESS OF A POUND OF COTTON.—The following is an account of the travels of a pound of manufactured American cotton.

The Cotton was sent from the United States to London; thence to Manchester, where it was woven; next to Ayreshire, where it was tanned; and then to Dumbarton, where it was hand-sewed. It was then again sent to Paisley; whence it was conveyed to a distant part of Renfrewshire to be bleached, and then returned to Paisley.

BAPTIST STATISTICS.—One of our exchanges says that the Minutes of the last Anniversary of the "Indiana Baptist General Association," show that in that State there are of that denomination of Christians, 38 Associations, 582 Churches, 277 Preachers, 30 Licentiates, and 25,242 Communicants; of these last 1568 were baptized during the last year.

Geo. Thompson at Springfield, Mass.—Geo. Thompson, Esq., M. P., was very shabbily treated at Springfield, Mass., last week. He was announced to speak on the subject of American Slavery on Second-day evening; but a company of rowdies got together, burnt him in effigy, and created such a disturbance that Hampden Hall was closed by the owners through fear of damage.

VALUE OF PROPERTY IN NEW YORK.—The property on the corner of Broadway and Wall street, 50 feet by 75, has been purchased by a new bank for \$110,000, being nearly \$30 per square foot. The corner of Broadway and Pine street, 43 feet by 100, has been sold for \$115,000, about \$27 per foot. The corner of Chatham and Duane streets, 25 feet by 82, has been purchased by a bank, at \$50,000. Elegant buildings are to be erected in each case.

COMMON SCHOOLS OF THE STATE OF OHIO.—The irreducible school trust-funds of Ohio amount to \$1,683,696 63; the total amount of school moneys distributed by the State among the several school districts in 1850, was \$297,272 81; and the total amount paid for Common School purposes in 1850, including the amount raised in school districts, was \$560,764 00.

THE SABBATH-SCHOOL VISITOR for March (No. 3) is issued this week. Persons desiring the numbers from the beginning of the year can be supplied.

