



The Sabbath Recorder.

New York, May 8, 1851.

OBLIGATION OF THE SABBATH.

The article of "J. N. B." which we publish this week, is excellent. We commend it to the careful perusal of our readers.

We are exceedingly happy that we can give the article of "J. N. B." such unqualified approbation.

SEVENTH-DAY BAPTISTS IN WISCONSIN.

The Legislature of this flourishing member of our great Republic has recently enacted the following law:—

AN ACT for the relief of those persons commonly called Seventh-day Baptists, and others who keep the seventh day of the week as a day of rest.

The People of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Whenever civil process shall be issued by a Justice of the Peace against any person who habitually observes and keeps the seventh day of the week instead of the first as a day of rest, and such process shall be returnable on the seventh day of the week, known as Saturday, such defendant shall be entitled to have the cause continued to the following Monday at the same hour, by filing with such Justice, one day before the return of the writ, an affidavit in writing, stating that he or she (as the case may be) habitually keeps and observes the seventh day of the week instead of the first as a day of rest, and such defendant shall be entitled to all his rights on such adjourned day, the same as if it were the return day of such writ, provided that the costs of such continuance shall be paid by the plaintiff in such writ.

F. W. HORN, Speaker of the Assembly. S. W. BALL, Lt. Gov. and Pres. Senate. Approved, March 15, 1851. NELSON DEWEY.

Upon this the N. Y. Daily Express holds the following language:—

THE SABBATH DAY.—The people of Wisconsin passed a law, in March last, which relieves the sect known as the Seventh-day Baptists, from the usual legal liabilities on Saturday. The processes which bear upon them are made returnable on Monday.

The Jews commemorated the Sabbath not only as an ordinance of God, in remembrance of the Creation, but also of their redemption from the bondage of the Egyptians.

The Christians celebrate our Sabbath—the Sabbath of our country and of our ancestors, English, Dutch, and all, in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ from the dead, and the universal resurrection of the whole family of man.

We are not about to enter upon the discussion whether the Jews or Christians are right. It is enough to know that one day, and that associated with the resurrection of Christ, the greatest of all events in the history of the religious world, has been set apart for worship and for rest.

We cling, therefore, to our own Sabbath, and desire to see no innovations upon it; neither the recognition of other Sabbaths by legislative enactment, nor anything calculated to draw off attention from or diminish respect towards the Sabbath of our fa-

thers and their fathers, and from the Sabbath day of our people now, and, as we hope, in its most holy observances, the Sabbath of the nation for all time to come.

Remarks.

The Seventh-day Baptists do indeed "ask peculiar legislation in their behalf," or—as the Express otherwise tauntingly expresses it—"a sort of new dispensation for their special benefit." But they ask it, not—as covertly insinuated—that they may have any advantage over their fellow citizens, but that they may stand on an equality with them.

Other denominations who observe the first day of the week have already been favored with "peculiar legislation in their behalf," and Seventh-day Baptists can see no good reason why their own consciences should not be guarded as safely as those of their neighbors. They never could understand, why those constitutional pledges of our national and state governments, which guaranty to every citizen the full and free enjoyment of such form of religion as may be most agreeable to the dictates of his own judgment, and security from being compelled by law to patronize or support any system of religious belief whatever, should always be construed for the special benefit of those who keep holy the Sunday.

The Express tells us what strict ideas of the Sabbath prevailed in the reign of James, but says nothing about the celebrated "Book of Sports," published by his order, and which was set forth the royal pleasure, "that after the end of divine service his good people should not be disturbed, letted, or discouraged from any lawful recreations, such as dancing, either of men or women, archery for men, leaping or vaulting, or any such harmless recreations; nor from having May-games, white-ales, or novice-dances, and setting up of May-poles, or other sports therewith used; so as the same be had in due and convenient times, without impediment or let of divine service."

We think the Act of the Wisconsin Legislature a good "precedent." We hail it as one of the favorable signs of the times—a sign of progress—a sign that there are some in our land who acknowledge the principle of equal rights, and have justice enough to apply it.

been so known for a long, long course of years, and in almost all countries," that is only about two hundred and fifty years since the doctrine which founds the obligation to keep Sunday upon the fourth commandment was first broached. And even now its ab- batic character is recognized nowhere but in Great Britain and the United States.

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OUR SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS EXPOSED. The Sabbath Discussion and the Sabbath Recorder.

We have been quite amused at the course of this paper in reference to the discussion on the Sabbath, that has been going on in the Chronicle for some time past. The Sabbath Recorder is a respectable sheet, published in New York, for the purpose of defending the seventh day, as the true legitimate Sabbath.

of free discussion! We would, however, advise the Recorder to beware of its friends in future, and not speak till it first knows to whom it is speaking, and about what it is speaking. It is a little mortifying to set a snare for others, and fall into it ourselves!

The foregoing specimen of veridancy we clip from the Christian Chronicle of April 23d. We give it to our readers, that they may have something to laugh at. Not that we have any desire to hold up the author of it to ridicule, but because we wish to be a recorder of the odd vagaries and strange conceits to which the agitation of the Sabbath question gives rise, for the instruction of future generations.

The insinuation that we at first supposed "Exodus" to be an advocate of our cause, is so perfectly ludicrous, that we are almost tempted to think that it was a slip of the pen. It is barely possible that some of the Chronicle's subscribers may be hoodwinked into the notion that we were thus duped.

BRITISH CORRESPONDENCE—No. 36.

Mesmerism, Electro-Biology, &c. Glasgow, April 18th, 1851. Mesmerism, Electro-biology, and other forms of interference with the human will, and dealing with spiritual agencies, are funding favor with many whose professions might be expected to excite caution.

The denunciations in Scripture as to dealings with spiritual agencies do not imply that there is an impossibility on the part of any to commit the sin. Witchcraft is by the Apostle Paul classed among "the works of the flesh," and the Canaanites, who were destroyed for this among other sins, seem to have found no difficulty in committing it.

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are prohibited in much the same way as theft, or murder, or Sabbath-breaking. The evils are spoken of, too, as realities, not pretences. It is a crime distinct from imposture, yet not less really a crime.

It is true, that the Septuagint is only a translation, and sometimes renders the original incorrectly, and even in this case quoted has used a word which does not express the meaning of one that asks Aub.

It need not surprise us if we are thus led to believe that at Collosse, in the days of the Apostle, sins were indulged akin to or identical with those for which destruction came upon the ancient Canaanites; but it is grieving to think that Christian men and women, in the present day, including even a number of ministers of the Gospel, may be tampering with the evil, and in all danger from it.

A CLERICAL FUGITIVE.—Several months ago we chronicled the fact that the University of Heidelberg had conferred the title of Doctor of Divinity upon the Rev. Mr. Pennington, pastor of a colored Presbyterian Church in New York City.

"He is a fugitive slave. If we are rightly informed, he escaped from his master when the latter had brought him to the north as a traveling servant. Since then, he has lived at the north unmolested, openly preaching the Gospel of Christ.

"ANNIVERSARY WEEK."—The Anniversaries of several of the large benevolent and reformatory societies occur in New York during the present week.

NOTES OF A VOYAGE FROM CALIFORNIA—No. 9.

From a Journal of Dr. J. D. B. STILLMAN of New York.

Take of the Captain—New Difficulties.—The Recorder quotes Suano—Discover a Wreck—Editors for the relief of those on board.

We were now free from immediate danger, but what course to pursue we knew not. We were at sea, with the Mate in command, and he was totally incompetent to the responsibility which devolved upon him.

The Mate evinced the greatest perplexity. As soon as we were clear of the land, he brought the chart down into the cabin, and, calling for a pair of dividers, began to make some jagged pencil lines with a trembling hand, but for what purpose, or what he could possibly want of the chart, no one of the persons present could conceive.

It really seemed that home grew farther off with each day's efforts to get there. Just three months had elapsed since I left Sacramento, with an eager, light heart, hoping to be soon at an end of all my adventures and hardships; but disappointment and long delays had fairly reduced our hope to apathy, and home seemed like some vision of our childhood, every day more unreal and uncertain.

On the night of January 6th, the officer of the watch reported smooth water, and the noise of many birds, such as are not heard far from land; and it was supposed that we had passed close under the lee of the Roncador reef, where the brig Melanoras was reported at St. Andrews to have been wrecked about two weeks before.

About eight o'clock a sail was seen off our lee bow; and soon after it was discovered that she was in distress, having lost her foremast, and her colors were set on the main, union down. One of the men from the wreck of the Union went aloft to determine

whether it was not that vessel, but returned immediately, not recognizing her, and reported breakers all about her.

At length, the vessel was seen, and the crew were ordered to go aboard. The vessel was a schooner, and was seen at a distance of about ten miles.

The next morning the three boats were connected by means of a line, so as to assist the long-boat in getting up to the reef.

in tumultuous foam over the rocks, it flows through these channels. Through these a boat must pass, and Capt. H., who had cast off from the long-boat, told us to pull steady and strong, on no account to look around us,

THE SOCIETY FOR MELIORATING THE CONDITION OF THE JEWS.—The Anniversary of this Society was held in a Reformed Dutch Church in New York, on Thursday evening, April 24.

A CURIOUSITY.—While Governor Brown was in Key West, says the Tallahassee (Fla.) Sentinel, he was presented by Hon. A. Patterson with a miniature bust of Gen. Washington, found ten years ago, in the neighborhood of Mr. Patterson's premises, imbedded in the limestone which forms the island.

European News. By the steamer Niagara we have one week later news from Europe, the substance of which is given below.

At Temesvar, in Hungary, the powder magazine in the Citadel exploded on the 3d ult., killing twenty persons. The following is an account of it written from the place:—

At Athens, Rev. Mr. King, the well-known American missionary, has got into trouble, which is thus described by the Courier of that city:—

Later from California. By the steamship Alabama, at New Orleans from Chagres, San Francisco dates to April 1st have been received.

The Detroit Free Press of the 1st inst. announces the death of Gen. Elijah J. Roberts, a distinguished citizen of that city, aged 49 years.

In Sicily there was a tremendous storm on March 13 and 14.—Its ravages, says the Official Journal, were not confined to Palermo, but extended also to Messina, Cefala, and the neighborhood.

The Syracuse Liberty Party Paper contains a call for a National Liberty Party Convention, to be held at Buffalo on the 17th and 18th of September next.

MARRIED. In Alfred, N. Y., March 30th, by Eld. J. Kenyon, Mr. JOHN R. SHAW to Miss MARY S. WILLIAMS, both of the above place.

DECEASED. In Brookfield, N. Y., on the 25th of April, Mrs. FREDERICK (alias FALLY) BURDICK, consort of Mr. Clement Burdick, aged 76 years.

Associational Meetings. EASTERN ASSOCIATION. By leave of Divine Providence, the Seventh-day Baptist Eastern Association will hold its Seventeenth Anniversary at Delhi, Pennsylvania, N. Y., commencing on the fifth day of the week before the fourth Sabbath in May.

Central Railroad of New Jersey. This road extends from Elizabethport 35 miles to the terminus of the Reading road, at Camden.

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