

The Sabbath Recorder.

EDITED BY GEO. B. UTTER AND THOMAS B. BROWN.

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

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The Sabbath Recorder.

ABSTRACT OF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I congratulate you and our common constituency upon the favorable auspices under which you meet for your first session. Our country is at peace with all the world. The agitation which, for a time, threatened to disturb the fraternal relations which make us one people, is fast subsiding; and a year of general prosperity and health has crowned the nation with unusual blessings. None can look back to the dangers which are past, or forward to the bright prospect before us, without feeling a thrill of gratification, at the same time that he must be impressed with a grateful sense of our profound obligations to a beneficent Providence, whose paternal care is so manifest in the happiness of this highly-favored land.

[The President here recapitulates the leading facts of the Cuban Expedition, and the fate of those engaged in it, and thus discusses the general principles involved.]

Such is the melancholy result of this illegal and ill-fated expedition. Thus, thoughtless young men have been induced, by false and fraudulent representations, to violate the law of their country, through rash and unfounded expectations of assisting to accomplish political revolutions in other States, and have lost their lives in the undertaking. Too severe a judgment can hardly be passed, by the indignant sense of the community, upon those who, being better informed themselves, have yet led away the ardor of youth and an ill-directed love of political liberty. The correspondence between this Government and that of Spain relating to this transaction is herewith communicated.

Although these offenders against the laws have forfeited the protection of their country, yet the Government may, so far as is consistent with its obligations to other countries, and its fixed purpose to maintain and enforce the laws, entertain sympathy for their unoffending families and friends, as well as a feeling of compassion for themselves. Accordingly, no proper effort has been spared, and none will be spared, to procure the release of such citizens of the United States, engaged in this unlawful enterprise, as are now in confinement in Spain; but it is to be hoped that such interposition with the government of that country may not be considered as affording any ground of expectation that the Government of the United States will, hereafter, feel itself under any obligation of duty to intercede for the liberation or pardon of such persons as are flagrant offenders against the law of nations and the laws of the United States. These laws must be executed. If we desire to maintain our respectability among the nations of the earth, it behoves us to enforce steadily and sternly the neutrality acts passed by Congress, and to follow, as far as may be, the violation of those acts with condign punishment.

But what gives a peculiar criminality to this invasion of Cuba, is that under the lead of Spanish subjects and with the aid of citizens of the United States, it had its origin, with many, in motives of cupidity. Money was advanced by individuals, probably in considerable amounts, to purchase Cuban bonds, as they have been called, issued by Lopez, sold doubtless, at a very large discount, and for the payment of which the public lands and public property of Cuba, of whatever kind, and the fiscal resources of the people and government of that island, from whatever source to be derived, were pledged, as well as the good faith of the government expected to be established. All these means of payment, it is evident, were only to be obtained by a process of bloodshed, war, and revolution. None will deny that those who set on foot military expeditions against foreign States by means like these, are far more culpable than the ignorant and the necessitous whom they induce to go forth as the ostensible parties in the proceeding. These originators of the invasion of Cuba seem to have determined, with coolness and system, upon an undertaking which should disgrace their country, violate its laws, and put to hazard the lives of ill-informed and deluded men. You will consider whether further legislation be necessary to prevent the perpetration of such offenses in future.

No individuals have a right to hazard the peace of the country, or to violate its laws, upon vague notions of altering or reforming governments in other States. This principle is not only reasonable in itself, and in accordance with public law, but is engrained into the codes of other nations as well as our own. But while such are the sentiments of this Government, it may be added that every individual nation must be presumed to be able to defend its possessions against unauthorized individuals banded together to attack them. The Government of the United States at all times since its establishment, has abstained and has sought to restrain the citizens of the country from entering into controversies between other powers, and to observe all the duties of neutrality: At an early period of its Government in the administration of Washington, several laws were passed for this purpose. The main provisions of these laws were re-enacted by the act of April, 1818, by which, amongst other things, it was declared that if any person shall, within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States, begin, or set on foot, or provide, or prepare the means for any military expedition or enterprise to be carried on from thence against the territory or dominion of any foreign prince or State, or of any colony, district, or people with whom the United States are at peace, every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall be fined not exceeding three thousand dollars, and imprisoned not more than three years; and this law has been executed and enforced, to the full extent of the power of the Government, from that date to this. Had any individual or individuals, in proceeding and adhering to the doctrine

of neutrality and non-intervention, the United States have not followed the lead of other civilized nations; they have taken the lead themselves, and have been followed by others. This was admitted by one of the most eminent of modern British statesmen, who said in Parliament, while a minister of the crown, "that, if he wished for a guide in a system of neutrality, he should take that laid down by America in the days of Washington and the secretaryship of Jefferson;" and we see, in fact, that the act of Congress of 1818 was followed, the succeeding year, by an act of the Parliament of England, substantially the same in its general provisions. Up to that time there had been no similar law in England, except certain highly penal statutes passed in the reign of George II., prohibiting English subjects from enlisting in foreign service, the avowed object of which statutes was, that foreign armies, raised for the purpose of restoring the house of Stuart to the throne, should not be strengthened by recruits from England herself.

All must see that difficulties may arise in carrying the laws referred to into execution in a country now having three or four thousand miles of sea coast, with an infinite number of ports and harbors and small inlets, from some of which, unlawful expeditions may suddenly set forth, without the knowledge of Government, against the possessions of foreign States.

Friendly relations with all, but entangling alliances with none, has long been a maxim with us. Our true mission is not to propagate our opinions, or impose upon other countries our form of government, by artifice or force, but to teach by example, and show by our success, moderation and justice, the blessings of self-government, and the advantages of free institutions. Let every people choose for itself, and make and alter its political institutions to suit its own condition and convenience. But, while we avow and maintain this neutral policy ourselves, we are anxious to see the same forbearance on the part of other nations, whose forms of government are different from our own. The deep interest which we feel in the spread of liberal principles and the establishment of free governments, and the sympathy with which we witness every struggle against oppression, forbid that we should be indifferent to a case, in which the strong arm of a foreign power is invoked to stifle public sentiment and repress the spirit of freedom in any country.

The governments of Great Britain and France have issued orders to their naval commanders on the West India station to prevent by force, if necessary, the landing of adventurers from any nation on the Island of Cuba with hostile intent. The copy of a memorandum of conversation on this subject between the Chargé d'Affaires of her Britannic Majesty and the Acting Secretary of State, and of a subsequent note of the former to the Department of State, are herewith submitted, together with a copy of a note of the Acting Secretary of State to the Minister of the French Republic, and of the reply of the latter, on the same subject. These papers will acquaint you with the grounds of this interposition of the two leading commercial powers of Europe, and with the apprehensions, which this Government could not fail to entertain, that such interposition, if carried into effect, might lead to abuses in derogation of the maritime rights of the United States. The maritime rights of the United States are founded on a firm, secure, and well-defined basis; they stand upon the ground of National Independence and public law, and will be maintained in all their full and just extent.

The principle which this Government has heretofore solemnly announced, it still adheres to, and will maintain under all circumstances and at all hazards. That principle is, that in every regularly documented merchant vessel, the crew who navigate it, and those on board of it, will find their protection in the flag which is over them. No American ship can be allowed to be visited or searched for the purpose of ascertaining the character of individuals on board, nor can there be allowed any watch by the vessels of any foreign nation over American vessels on the coasts of the United States or the seas adjacent thereto. It will be seen by the last communication from the British Chargé d'Affaires to the Department of State, that he is authorized to assure the Secretary of State that every care will be taken, in executing the preventive measures against the expeditions, which the United States Government itself has denounced as not being entitled to the protection of any government, no interference shall take place with the lawful commerce of any nation. In addition to the correspondence on this subject, herewith submitted, official information has been received at the Department of State, of assurances by the French government that, in the orders given to the French naval forces, they were expressly instructed, in any operations they might engage in, to respect the flag of the United States wherever it might appear, and to commit no act of hostility upon any vessel or armament under its protection.

[The President then alludes to the mobbing of the Spanish Consul at New Orleans, which he regards with mortification and regret; he has directed inquiries respecting the pecuniary loss of the Consul, with a view to propose to Congress to indemnify him. Our laws are deficient in providing for the protection or punishment of Consuls, and a revision thereof is suggested.

The subject of reciprocal trade with British America, is noticed, without any decided expression as to the measure.

The Convention to settle the Portuguese claim has been ratified, and the first installment under it paid; in the case of the Armstrong, pending with that government, the President of the French Republic has accepted the office of arbiter.]

his recent visit to the United States. On the 28th of February last, a despatch was addressed by the Secretary of State to Mr. Marsh, the American Minister at Constantinople, instructing him to ask of the Turkish government permission for the Hungarians, then imprisoned within the dominions of the Sublime Porte, to remove to this country. On the 3d of March last, both Houses of Congress passed a resolution requesting the President to authorize the employment of a public vessel to convey to this country Louis Kosuth and his associates in captivity.

The instruction above referred to was complied with, and the Turkish government having released Governor Kosuth and his companions from prison, on the 10th of September last they embarked on board the United States steam-frigate Mississippi, which was selected to carry into effect the resolution of Congress. Governor Kosuth left the Mississippi at Gibraltar, for the purpose of making a visit to England, and may shortly be expected in New York. By communications to the Department of State, he has expressed his grateful acknowledgments for the interposition of this Government in behalf of himself and his associates. [This country has been justly regarded as a safe asylum for those whose political events have exiled from their own homes in Europe; and it is recommended to Congress to consider in what manner Governor Kosuth and his companions, brought hither by its authority, shall be received and treated.]

[Peace has been concluded between the contending parties in St. Domingo.

The office of Commissioner to China is unfilled; the salary is \$6,000, but with no provision for an outfit, and on that account it has been declined.

The existing policy of the Government toward the Sandwich Islands will be continued; that policy is to preserve their independence and keep them from the control of any other great maritime State.

The disturbances in Mexico are regretted; the Administration has acted in that regard as the obligations of treaties and good neighborhood require. The Government will exert itself to bring about arrangements for the completion of the Tehuantepec Railroad.

Until the troubles in Nicaragua are settled, nothing can be done toward settling the questions pending with that country.

An elaborate exposition of the state of the finances is given, with an estimate of the relative value of our exports and imports of raw materials and manufactured articles. The funds available to the Treasury for the year ending June 30, 1851, were \$58,917,524 36; and the expenditures \$48,005,578 68. The imports were \$215,725,995, including \$4,967,901 in specie. The exports were \$217,517,130, of which \$178,546,555 were domestic products, \$9,738,695 foreign products, and \$29,231,880 specie. Since Dec. 1, 1850, \$7,501,456 56 have been paid on the public debt; that debt now amounts to \$62,560,395 26, exclusive of that issued for Texas. The available funds for the present year will be \$63,258,743 09, and the expenditures \$42,892,299 19; of this, \$9,549,101 11 will be on account of the new territories; and it is estimated that on June 30, 1853, there will be a balance of \$20,366,443 90 to pay off the debt then due, and for other purposes. Our Domestic Exports have increased \$43,646,322 over the previous year; this is due mainly to the high price of cotton during the first half of the year. The value of our exports of breadstuffs has fallen from \$68,701,921, as it was in 1847, to \$21,948,653; rice and tobacco have also fallen off \$1,156,751.

The great production of gold in California is exciting a spirit of speculation, which, if not checked, will produce excessive importations of dry goods.

The Texas stock has not been issued, though ready; the creditors of the State not having filed the necessary releases for the five millions accruing to them; nor has the State authorized any agent to receive the five millions accruing to it.

The frauds under the ad valorem system of duties are anew called to the attention of Congress.

The sales of public lands have increased. Further legislation is necessary to extend our land system over California and Oregon.

It is recommended that the California mineral lands remain as now, a common field for industry and enterprise, rather than, by premature legislation, to fasten a bad system on the country.

The difficulties in organizing New Mexico and Utah are alluded to, and further communications promised when information has been received.]

"In my last annual communication to Congress I recommended the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, and I take this occasion again to invoke your favorable consideration of the subject.

Agriculture may justly be regarded as the great interest of our people. Four-fifths of our active population are employed in the cultivation of the soil, and the rapid expansion of our settlements over new territory is daily adding to the number of those engaged in that vocation. Justice and sound policy, therefore, alike require that the Government should use all the means authorized by the Constitution to promote the interests and welfare of that important class of our fellow-citizens. And yet it is a singular fact that, while the manufacturing and commercial interests have engaged the attention of Congress during a large

portion of every session, and our statutes abound in provisions for their protection and encouragement, little has yet been done directly for the advancement of agriculture. It is time that this reproach to our legislation should be removed; and I sincerely hope that the present Congress will not close their labors, without adopting efficient means to supply the omissions of those who have preceded them.

An Agricultural Bureau, charged with the duty of collecting and disseminating correct information as to the best modes of cultivation, and of the most effectual means of preserving and restoring the fertility of the soil, and of procuring and distributing seeds and plants and other vegetable productions, with instructions in regard to the soil, climate, and treatment best adapted to their growth, could not fail to be, in the language of Washington, in his last annual message to Congress, "a very cheap instrument of immense national benefit."

[A hundred thousand persons have availed themselves of the Bounty Land Law of September, 1850.

The Mexican Boundary Commission is doing well; its numbers have been reduced, as it was too unwieldy.

The Census Returns have all been received except from California; it is hoped an appropriation will at once be made for their publication.

River and Harbor Improvement is anew earnestly recommended.

An increase of the Army is recommended, to keep in order the Indians on the Mexican frontier, in California and Oregon. There is a deficiency in the army appropriations for last year. The Military Asylum is to be situated near Washington.

An extra allowance is recommended for the officers and men of the late Arctic Expedition; so is the reorganization of the naval establishment and the provision of some punishment in place of the abolished cat. A Navy Yard is wanted at San Francisco. The estimated expenses of the Navy for the ensuing year are \$5,856,472 19.

"The report of the Postmaster-General, herewith communicated, presents an interesting view of the progress, operations, and condition of his Department.

At the close of the last fiscal year, the length of mail routes within the United States was 196,290 miles; the annual transportation thereon \$3,272,252 miles; and the annual cost of such transportation, \$3,421,754.

The length of the foreign mail routes is estimated at 18,349 miles; and the annual transportation thereon at 615,206 miles. The annual cost of this service is \$1,472,187, of which \$448,937 is paid by the Post Office Department, and \$1,023,250 is paid through the Navy Department.

The annual transportation within the United States (excluding the service in California and Oregon, which is now, for the first time, reported and embraced in the tabular statements of the Department) exceeds that of the preceding year 6,162,855 miles, at an increased cost of \$547,110.

The whole number of post offices in the United States, on the 30th day of June last, was 19,796. There were 1,698 post offices established, and 256 discontinued, during the year.

The gross revenues of the Department for the fiscal year, including the appropriations for the franked matter of Congress, of the Departments, and officers of Government, and excluding the foreign postages, collected for and payable to the British post office, amounted to \$6,727,866 78.

The expenditures for the same period (excluding \$20,599 49, paid under an award of the Auditor, in pursuance of a resolution of the last Congress, for mail service on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in 1832 and 1833, and the amount paid to the British post office for foreign postages collected for and payable to that office) amounted to \$6,024,566 79; leaving a balance of revenue over the proper expenditures of the year of \$703,299 99.

The receipts for postages during the year (excluding the foreign postages collected for and payable to the British post office) amounted to \$6,345,747 21, being an increase of \$997,610 79, or 18,65-100 per cent. over the like receipts for the preceding year.

The reduction of postage, under the act of March last, did not take effect until the commencement of the present fiscal year. The accounts for the first quarter, under the operations of the reduced rates, will not be settled before January next; and no reliable estimate of the receipts for the present year can yet be made. It is believed, however, that they will fall far short of those of the last year. The surplus of revenues now on hand is, however, so large that no further appropriation from the treasury, in aid of the revenues of the Department, is required for the current fiscal year; but an additional appropriation for the year ending June 30, 1853, will probably be found necessary when the receipts of the first two quarters of the fiscal year are fully ascertained.

In his last annual report, the Postmaster-General recommended a reduction of postage to rates which he deemed as low as could be prudently adopted, unless Congress was prepared to appropriate from the treasury, for the support of the Department, a sum more than equivalent to the mail services, performed by it for the Government. The recommendations of the Postmaster-General, in respect to letter postage, except on letters from and to California and Oregon, were substantially adopted by the last Congress. He now recommends adherence to the present letter rates, and advises against a further reduction until justified by the revenue of the Department.

He also recommends that the rates of postage on printed matter be so revised as to render them more simple, and more uniform in their operation upon all classes of printed matter. I submit the recommendations of the report to your favorable consideration."

[A revision and codification of the laws of the United States is recommended.

The appointment of a Commission to settle private claims against the Government is anew advised.

The President concludes his Message with the following expression of his views of the Compromise Measures in general and the Fugitive Slave Law in particular.]

It is deeply to be regretted, that in several instances officers of the Government, in attempting to execute the law for the return of fugitives from labor, have been openly resisted, and their efforts frustrated and defeated by lawless and violent mobs; that in one case such resistance resulted in the death of an estimable citizen, and in others serious injury ensued to those officers and to individuals who were using their endeavors to sustain the laws. Prosecutions have been instituted against the alleged offenders, so far as they could be identified, and are still pending. I have regarded it as my duty, in these cases, to give all aid legally in my power to the enforcement of the laws, and I shall continue to do so wherever and whenever their execution may be resisted.

The act of Congress for the return of fugitives from labor is one required and demanded by the express words of the Constitution.

The Constitution declares "that no person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on the claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due." This constitutional provision is equally obligatory upon the Legislative, the Executive, and Judicial Departments of the Government, and upon every citizen of the United States.

Congress, however, must from necessity first act upon the subject, by prescribing the proceedings necessary to ascertain that the person is a fugitive, and the means to be used for his restoration to the claimant. This was done by an act passed during the first term of President Washington, which was amended by that enacted by the last Congress, and it now remains for the Executive and Judicial Departments to take care that these laws be faithfully executed. This injunction of the Constitution is as peremptory and as binding as any other; it stands exactly on the same foundation as that clause which provides for the return of fugitives from justice, or that which declares that no bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed, or that which provides for an equality of taxation, according to the census, or the clause declaring that all duties shall be uniform throughout the United States, or the important provision that the trial of all crimes shall be by jury.

These several articles and clauses of the Constitution, all resting on the same authority, must stand or fall together. Some objections have been urged against the details of the act for the return of fugitives from labor; but it is worthy of remark, that the main objection is aimed against the Constitution itself, and proceeds from persons and classes of persons, many of whom declare their wish to see that Constitution overturned. They avow their hostility to any law which shall give full and practical effect to this requirement of the Constitution. Fortunately, the number of these persons is comparatively small, and is believed to be daily diminishing, but the issue which they present is one which involves the supremacy and even the existence of the Constitution.

Cases have heretofore arisen in which individuals have denied the binding authority of acts of Congress, and even States have proposed to nullify such acts, upon the ground that the Constitution was the supreme law of the land, and that those acts of Congress were repugnant to that instrument; but nullification is now aimed, not so much against particular laws, as being inconsistent with the Constitution, as against the Constitution itself; and it is not to be disguised that a spirit exists and has been actively at work to rend asunder this Union, which is our cherished inheritance from our revolutionary fathers.

In my last annual message I stated that I considered the series of measures, which had been adopted at the previous session, in reference to the agitation growing out of the Territorial and slavery questions, as a final settlement in principle and substance of the dangerous and exciting subjects which they embraced; and I recommended adherence to the Adjustment established by those measures, until time and experience should demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse. I was not induced to make this recommendation because I thought those measures perfect, for no human legislation can be perfect. Wide differences and jarring opinions can only be reconciled by yielding something on all sides, and this result had been reached after an angry conflict of many months, in which one part of the country was arrayed against another, and violent convulsion seemed to be imminent. Looking at the interests of the whole country, I felt it to be my duty to seize upon this compromise as the best that could be obtained amid conflicting interests, and to insist upon it as a final settlement, to be adhered to by all who value the peace and welfare of the country. A year has now elapsed since that recommendation was made. To that recommendation I still adhere, and I congratulate you and the country upon the general acquiescence in these measures of peace, which has been exhibited in all parts of the Republic. And not only is there this general acquiescence in these measures, but the spirit of conciliation which has been manifested in regard to them in all parts of the country; has removed doubts and uncertainties in the minds of thousands of good men concerning the durability of our popular institutions, and given renewed assurance that our Liberty and our Union may subsist together for the benefit of this and all succeeding generations.

MILLARD FILLMORE, Washington, December 2, 1851.

"ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME."

This favorite hymn has always been attributed to Toplady, till the learned Richard Watson claimed the authorship for Charles Wesley. A correspondent of the New York Observer sets the question at rest, and gives also a copy of the hymn as originally published by the author.

"The hymn was first published, so far as I can ascertain, not in one of the numerous hymn books of the Wesleys, but in the Gospel Magazine for March, 1776, with the signature 'A. T.' (Augustus Toplady) of which magazine Mr. Toplady was at that very time the editor. It appears, moreover; not in the department of 'Poetry,' but in the close of an editorial article, in which Mr. Toplady presents, in the form of a dialogue, the absolute impossibility of a sinner's paying the immense debt of sin with which he is charged before God. As a suitable conclusion to the article, and as an embodiment of its grand truth, he then adds the following:—

A LIVING AND DYING PRAYER FOR THE HOLIEST BELIEVER IN THE WORLD.
I.
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee!
Let the waters and the blood,
From thy rivenside which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from my guilt and power.
II.
Not the labors of my hands:
Can fill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone:
Thou must save, and Thou alone.
III.
Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Fool, I to thy fountain fly,
Wash me, Saviour, or I die!

IV.
Whist! I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyes shall see thee dead,
When I soar through track unknown,
See Thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

CHALMERS RETRACTING AN ERROR.

In the life of Dr. Chalmers, is recorded a remarkable instance of the readiness of the great man to retract his opinions when convinced of his error.

In the year 1825, the majority in favor of allowing parish ministers to hold professorships in conjunction with their ministerial duties divided into what was tantamount to a minority. It was during a debate on this subject that there occurred one of the most impressive passages in the history of Chalmers. "Late in the afternoon a speech on the opposite side had been closed by a quotation from an anonymous pamphlet, in which the author, insisted that, from what to him was the highest of all authority, his own experience, he could assert that, 'after the satisfactory discharge of his parish duties, a minister may enjoy five days in the week of uninterrupted leisure for the prosecution of any science in which his taste may dispose him to engage.'" As this passage was emphatically read, no doubtful hint being given as to its authorship, all eyes were turned towards Dr. Chalmers. The interposition of another speech afforded an opportunity for reflecting on the best manner of meeting this personal attack. At the close of the debate, and amid breathless silence, he spoke as follows:

"Sir, that pamphlet I now declare to have been a production of my own, published twenty years ago. I was indeed much surprised to hear it brought forward and quoted this evening, and I instantly conceived that the Rev. gentleman who did so had been working at the trade of a resurrectionist. Verily, I believed that my unfortunate pamphlet had long ere now descended into the tomb of merited oblivion, and that there it was mouldering in silence, forgotten and disregarded. But since that gentleman has brought it forward in the face of this House, I can assure him that I feel grateful to him, from the bottom of my heart, for the opportunity he has now afforded me of making the public recantation of the sentiments it contains. I have read a tract entitled 'The Last Moments of the Earl of Rochester,' and I was powerfully struck in reading it, with the conviction how much evil a pernicious pamphlet may be the means of disseminating. At the time when I wrote it, I did not conceive that my pamphlet would do much evil; but, sir, considering the conclusions that have been deduced from it by the Rev. gentleman, I do feel obliged to him for reviving it, and for bringing me forward to make my public renunciation of what is there written. I now confess myself to have been guilty of a heinous crime, and I now stand a repentant culprit before the bar of this venerable Assembly. As far back as twenty years ago, I was ambitious enough to aspire to be successor to Professor Playfair in the Mathematical Chair of Edinburgh. During the discussion relative to the person who might be appointed, there appeared a letter from Professor Playfair, in which he stated as his conviction, that no person could be found competent to discharge the duties of the Mathematical Chair among the clergymen of the Church of Scotland. I was at that time, sir, more devoted to mathematics than to the literature of my profession; and feeling indignant at what I conceived an undue preference of the abilities and education of our clergy, I came forward with that pamphlet; to rescind them from what I deemed an unwarranted reproach, by maintaining that a devoted and exclusive attention to the study of mathematics was not dissimilar to the proper habits of a clergyman. Alas! sir, so I thought in my ignorance and pride. I have now no reason in saying, that the sentiment was wrong, and that in the utterance of it, I penned what was most outrageously wrong. Strangely blinded that I was! What, sir, is the object of mathematical science? But, then, sir, I had forgotten the magnitude of the subject, and the greatness of the magnitude. I thought not of the magnitude of time, or I recklessly thought of the greatness of eternity." N. Y. Observer.

The Sabbath Recorder.

New York, December 11, 1851.

EFFICACY OF PRAYER.

When we closed our remarks upon this subject, week before last, we intimated our intention of recurring to it again. It is a subject, the importance of which cannot well be over-rated; for prayer is the broad mark of distinction between him that is dead in sins and him that liveth. That is, no one truly prays, till the Spirit of Life has taken possession of his soul. He may, in a sense of self-sufficiency, undertake to compliment the Deity by a form of supplication; but true prayer rises only from the heart which is sensible of its own wretchedness—a sensibility which always indicates life.

It is wonderful how fruitful the human heart is in raising objections to this most reasonable duty. One of the many that are urged is, that however earnestly we pray, we can never change the mind of God. The Scriptures declare that unchangeableness is one of the essential attributes of his nature, and reason assents to the declaration. Hence, if God bestows a favor, it is only what he always intended to do. Of what avail is it, therefore, to pray for it?

Perhaps it will hardly be deemed a sufficient answer to this objection, to say that God requires us to pray. Perhaps the suppliant wants to go about such an exercise in the confidence that there is some natural connection between the act and the obtaining of that which he prays for, and that it is not one which rests upon mere appointment. The beggar, who stands shivering and starving at our door, feels that his entreaties will have some sort of effect in bringing forth a supply to his wants. The one who goes to God in prayer, wants to feel, and (if he truly prays) always does feel, just so. What, then, is the proper answer to the objection stated? We do not expect to clear up the matter, so that there will be no further difficulty about it; but we are confident that, in perfect consistency with the unchangeableness of the Divine Mind, there is a real connection between prayer and the enjoyment of blessings sought. We never can doubt this, so long as it stands written, "The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much."

Let this much be said, that though God, in bestowing a blessing, gives nothing but what he always intended to give, he always intended it *only in answer to prayer*. His purpose has respect, not merely to the end, but to the means of bringing about the end; not merely to the bestowment of a gift, but to the act on our part in condescension to which he bestows it.

The real efficacy of prayer is probably founded in the necessity of honoring God by such act as shall most perfectly express our entire dependence upon him for every blessing which we enjoy. It appears to be in strict accordance with the nature of God to bestow no favor of any kind, except in condescension to a suitable and reverential acknowledgment of his perfections. For instance, eternal life, the free gift of his love, could not be granted, except his justice were suitably honored. Hence, if Christ had not atoned for our sins, no soul could be saved. Yet no well-informed person will say, that the death of Christ excited in the Father feelings of compassion which were not there before; or, that it was the means of originating in him a determination to save the lost. It was just the reverse. The Father first determined to save, and therefore sent his Son into the world. But it was just as rational to object to the necessity of an atonement, because God was already mercifully disposed towards the human race, as to object to the necessity of prayer, because God had already determined whether or not to bestow the blessing we ask for. And we argue, that as through the atonement we express our regard for God's justice, and confess our desert of his wrath, so by prayer we express our regard for his sovereignty, and confess our entire dependence on him. Now, if the atonement had a real efficacy to procure eternal life, notwithstanding it made no change in God's feelings, why may not prayer have a real efficacy to procure blessings, though it make no alteration in the Divine Mind?

We have said that God bestows blessings *only in answer to prayer*. At first, this may appear to be contrary to facts. The Christian looks upon an ungodly man, who never bowed the knee in supplication, nor remembered with gratitude the Giver of all good, and does not see what as many blessings are bestowed upon him as upon his praying neighbor. He prospers as well in business; he enjoys as good health; his family are as free from sickness; he is as much esteemed by the world; in short, his circumstances, from first to last, would seem to indicate that God blesses him as much as if he prayed daily. But it is true, that prayer is not concerned in procuring the blessings which he enjoys? Though he himself never prays, may there not be some kind friend who intercedes in his behalf? Or may not the blessings which he enjoys have been bestowed on the principle that the wicked are prospered for the sake of God's people? For it is a scriptural truth, that the godly are "the salt of the earth;" and that, were it not for them, the wrath of Heaven would soon come upon the wicked "to the uttermost," sweeping away all their prosperity, and themselves too. It may be, however, that that which esteems their prosperity is, in reality, a curse to them. "The prosperity of fools shall destroy

them." Prov. 1: 32. Ungrateful for the blessings bestowed, and too depraved to make any other use of them but to pamper their unholiness, what would otherwise have been for their welfare becomes a trap. Ps. 69: 22. In reality, they are not blessed; they are cursed by being placed under temptation too strong for their depraved hearts to resist. They are only fattened for the day of slaughter. As for spiritual blessings, they are strangers to them altogether. And not an instance can be cited of spiritual blessings being bestowed upon any one who did not seek them by fervent prayer.

T. B. B.

FOREKNOWLEDGE.

To the Editors of the Sabbath Recorder:—

In an excellent article in your issue of Nov. 27, on the subject of *Prayer*, the following passage occurs:—

"It is true that God is unchangeable. Our prayers can excite in him no new feelings, to which he was before a stranger; they call into existence no new purpose, which he had not formed from eternity. But how to reconcile this necessary attribute of the Deity with what the Scriptures teach concerning the efficacy of prayer, is not quite so clear."

Now I know that the subject of God's foreknowledge is an "awful" subject. Yet I desire, if it would not be presumptuous so to do, to ask the following questions; and, if it be deemed proper, please answer them:—

1. Are some things that occur in the order of Divine Providence governed by absolute laws?
2. Are some things that occur in the order of Divine Providence contingent?
3. If some things are absolute, and some contingent, then does God "foreknow" things absolute as such, and things contingent as such?

ALFRED CENTER, Nov. 28, 1851.

Reply.

Concerning God's foreknowledge we have but a few words to say. From all eternity, He foreknew that Bro. H. would write us just such a communication as the foregoing. It was just as well known to Him from all eternity, as it is now that the circumstance has actually taken place. To suppose the contrary, is to suppose that His knowledge may be increased; or, in other words, that He is not omniscient. Now, if from all eternity He certainly foreknew the event, the certainty of it must have been from all eternity established, or decreed; otherwise it could not have been foreknown.

To say He foreknew it as contingent, is the same as to say, He foreknew it, although there was no evidence to Him that the event ever would take place; which is a clear contradiction. Bro. H. may say, that his communication to us was contingent upon the publication, on our part, of the sentiment which he has quoted; otherwise it had never been written. But this only throws the subject one step farther back. The publication on our part of the sentiment excepted to, was just as certainly foreknown by the Divine Mind from all eternity, as it was after it took place. The certainty of the thing became no more evident to the Divine Understanding on the twenty-seventh of last month, than it did five thousand years ago. If our correspondent chooses, he may remove the question still another step back, and say, that our article upon the efficacy of prayer was contingent upon a communication we received, calling for some remarks on the subject. But the result is the same. The contingencies themselves were all as distinctly foreseen as the results to which they gave rise.

If our correspondent uses the term "contingent" denoting that there was no necessary connection between the event and the circumstance which brought it about, and yet supposes that God certainly foreknew it, we cannot agree with him. For to say that God certainly knows that a thing will infallibly take place, which at the same time he knows to be so contingent that it may possibly not take place, is the same as to say, that he knows a proposition to be of certain truth, which he knows to be of contingent and uncertain truth; which is a contradiction. God views things as they are. If an event be contingent, God views it so. If the event may possibly never take place, God knows it may possibly never take place; and that is to know that the proposition which affirms that it will take place may possibly not be true. In other words, He knows that the truth of the proposition is uncertain; which is quite inconsistent with his knowing it as a certain truth. If there was no necessity whatever that the event should take place, then it would not argue perfection of knowledge in any being to determine peremptorily that it would take place. It would rather argue ignorance and mistake; because it would argue that he supposed a proposition to be certain, which, in its own nature, and all things considered, is uncertain and contingent. It is needless to reply, that God may have ways of knowing contingent events which we cannot conceive of; for that is as much as to say, that God may know contradictions to be true, for aught we know, or that he may know a thing to be certain, and at the same time know it not to be certain, though we cannot conceive how; because he has ways of knowing which we cannot comprehend.

We do not include the last paragraph in quotation marks, though we acknowledge our indebtedness for the method of argument employed to an author whose investigations on this point have never been fairly refuted. To our mind the argument is conclusive, and has been so long interwoven with our habits of thinking, that we offer no apology for presenting it as our own.

T. B. B.

THE SABBATH TRACT ENTERPRISE.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Sabbath Tract Society, letters were read from several individuals who have been engaged in the tract enterprise, and the Corresponding Secretary was instructed to make extracts from them for publication in the Recorder.

The first letter read was from a brother who has served the Society a short time as colporteur in the City of New York. After a general account of his labors, he says:—

"During the month I distributed about 700 tracts, and discovered, in conversation with the recipients, that in general the subject of the Sabbath was new to them. Few of them were at all conscientious in resting on Sunday; they did not rest on the Sabbath day according to the commandment. Of these few, most appeared to feel that a return to the observance of the day commanded would amount to *judicializing*, although, when called upon, they could not assign a reason why obedience to the fourth commandment should subject Christians to such a reproach, rather than the performance of the duties enjoined, or the avoidance of the crimes prohibited, in the other nine commandments of the Decalogue, which they acknowledged to be obligatory upon all, whether Jew or Gentile, in common."

"One lady (I believe a widow) who keeps a shoe store, told me that she felt herself puzzled by questions addressed to her by her son, a few days previous to my visit, when preparing his Bible Lesson for Sunday School. Her boy is about fourteen years of age; without any idea of controversy, simply to avail himself of his mother's accustomed assistance in the preparation of his regular lesson, he proposed the questions referred to; and she told me she failed to satisfy her own mind by such reasons as she was able to give her boy for the observance of Sunday as the Sabbath instituted by God. Nevertheless, she considered that her duty as a mother to provide for her family leaves her, in the existing state of things, no choice; and although she would prefer if possible to close her store and celebrate the rest on the day sanctified by the Creator for that purpose, she must forego the pleasure to be derived from conscientious obedience, in order to secure for her little ones what to eat and drink and wherewithal they shall be clothed."

"Only in a few instances has this reason for existing practice been so explicitly, so honestly avowed; but I fear that this is the true motive in most instances where the question has been carefully examined, and a day not required substituted for that sanctified by the Creator."

"I have had many interviews with colporteurs laboring amongst our immigrant population, and much fear that some of them are acting contrary to their convictions upon this subject."

The next letter read was from Bro. Wm. M. Jones, giving some account of a journey from Shiloh, N. J., to Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. He says:—

"On the way I had frequent opportunities for tract distribution and conversation on the subject of the Sabbath. One young man, a member of one of the Universities of the South, appeared a good deal interested in listening to an argument in favor of the seventh-day Sabbath. As the subject was new to him, he said he was not prepared to give an answer. I gave him a number of tracts, after the reading of which, according to promise, he is to write me his convictions on the subject. At parting he remarked that he thought he had grace enough to do his duty if convinced that he ought to keep the Sabbath."

"I distributed tracts in the cars. One man refused to accept, but afterwards came to me and asked for a German tract, and I gave him 'The True Sabbath Embraced.' I offered the 'Vindication of the True Sabbath' to Governor Johnston. He looked at it long enough to read the title, and then refused it by shaking his head. He was on his way west of the mountains, as the conductor told me, to commence a political campaign. At H. I had a long conversation with two ministers, but have not much hope that either will ever be led to acknowledge the Sabbath of the Bible."

"I lectured to the Stone Creek Baptist Church; congregation about 100. Good attention was paid to the word, and I distributed tracts to the people. Liberty was given and the congregation were urged to reply, but no one replied. At Union and Huntingdon the congregations numbered about 200 each. Although liberty was given to any person, at each of these places, to reply, no reply was attempted. Quite a number of persons received our tracts and read them with apparent interest. A few were disposed to hear a course of lectures on the Sabbath, and some remarked that they thought if I would remain a few months, many might be led to change their views and practice. Indeed, I should not be surprised to hear of conversions to the true Sabbath in that region. Although outward circumstances are forbidding, yet the Lord, by His Spirit, is able to convict and convert when and where he will to his holy law."

"The most common obstacle in the way of the truth is *indifference*. Almost all think the Sabbath of little or no importance, especially when the change from the first day to the seventh day is the question at issue. Is there as much feeling among us in behalf of this subject as it demands? I fear there is not. There should be more preaching, for the people need light. We need to pray more that the cause of the Sabbath may have free course, run and be glorified. I think special prayer meetings held at an appointed time would do much to deepen our own interest in its behalf, and to awaken the attention of others to its claims. I should think that the recommendation of a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, for the furtherance of the Sabbath cause, would meet with the approbation of the churches. And why not have it appointed on some Sabbath?"

Another letter—the last from which we will quote now—was from Bro. James R. Irish, giving the results of his experience in attempting to promote the tract enterprise. He says:—

"During the year, I have been permitted to labor some to carry forward the enterprise of the Society, and trust my joy in the Lord has been increased thereby. I have lectured and distributed tracts, and have found an unexpected willingness to hear and read in

lation to the subject. In one instance, after lecturing and distributing tracts where the subject had never been presented, the recipients of the tracts came forward and made donations to aid in purchasing tracts for others, saying, 'It costs something to distribute them, if you do choose to do it as a gratuity.'

"The resolution which I took part with you in passing last year in relation to funds, I have endeavored to carry out to the spirit and letter of my pledge, and rejoice that a high stand was taken. The brethren and friends of DeRuyter and Truxton seemed to appreciate it, and scarce an individual was found unwilling to do his part when once the matter was fully understood; on the contrary, men, women, and children gave as God had prospered them. The two societies for which I pledged last year are small and relatively poor, yet they have raised and forwarded double their proportion of the amount resolved to raise, and near ten dollars more is subscribed, which is delayed only for a suitable opportunity to receive it from the subscribers. It did me good to see with what alacrity rich and poor, young and old, set apart to this work."

"I hope that a still larger amount will be aimed at the coming year. It is time for us to make an effort, that we shall ourselves feel, if we would make others feel. If we love the Sabbath as we ought, we shall be willing to circumscribe our temporal pleasures to carry its claims to those who do not love it, but refuse compliance with its demands, and especially to make it known to those who are ignorant of what God commands in this matter."

LOUIS KOSSUTH.

Early last Sixth-day morning, the steamer Humboldt, having on board Louis Kossuth, Governor of Hungary, and his suite, arrived off Staten Island, where arrangements had been made for the entertainment of the distinguished visitors until preparations were completed for their public reception by the City of New York. Sixth-day and the following night they spent in the hospitable mansion of Dr. Doane, where they were met and welcomed by numerous Committees and individuals of note, as well as by a large representation of Staten Islanders. On Sabbath morning, a Committee of the Common Council proceeded to Staten Island by the steamer Cornelius Vanderbilt, took on board the illustrious Magyar and his company, and after a sail up the North and East Rivers, to give them a view of the City, landed them at Castle Garden. Here a formal welcome was given to Kossuth, and he attempted to reply, but was prevented by the confusion from finishing his speech. Then a grand procession was formed, which proceeded through Broadway to Astor Place, and down Bowery and Chatham-street to the Park, where Kossuth reviewed the military, and made a brief address. Since that he has been entertained at the Irving House in a style becoming his station.

A Municipal Dinner is to be given to Kossuth on Fifth-day, the 11th inst., and the editorial fraternity are getting up an entertainment of a high order to come off at his earliest convenience. Meanwhile, Committees and Congratulatory Addresses from all quarters are flowing in upon him, and the prospect is that he will be received with unprecedented enthusiasm throughout the country.

On our fourth page to-day will be found some account of the *deeds* of Kossuth, which have served to create the deep interest everywhere felt in him. The following account of his personal appearance we copy from the *New York Tribune*:—

Gov. Kossuth is rather taller than we had supposed, and his face has an expression of penetrating intellect which is not indicated in any portrait we have seen. It is long, the forehead broad, but not excessively high, though a slight baldness makes it seem so, and the chin narrow, but square in its form. His hair is thin in front and of a dark brown, as is his beard, which is quite long, but not very thick, and arranged with neatness and taste. His moustache is heavy and rather long. His eyes are very large and of a light blue; his complexion is pale, like that of a man who is not in perfect health, and his appearance was that of the spirit bearing up against the exhaustion of the body. His manner in speaking is at once incomparably dignified and graceful. Gestures more admirable and effective, and a play of countenance more expressive and magnetic we remember in no other public speaker. He stands quite erect, and does not bend forward like some orators, to give emphasis to a sentence. His posture and appearance in repose are imposing, not only from their essential grace and dignity, but from a sense of power they impress upon the beholder. This sense of unused power, this certainty that he is not making an effort and doing his utmost, but that behind all this strength of fascination, there are other treasures of strength, other stores of ability not brought into use, possibly never brought into use, is perhaps what constitutes the supreme charm of his oratory. He speaks as if with little preparation, and with that peculiar freshness which belongs to extemporaneous speaking; there is no effort about it, and the wonderful compactness and art of his argument are not felt until you reflect upon it afterward. His every movement is perfectly easy, and he gesticulates a good deal, equally well with either arm. Nothing could be more beautiful in its way than the sweep of his right hand, as it was raised to Heaven, when he spoke of the Diet; nothing sweeter than the smile which at times mantles his face. His voice is not very loud, and more evinced exhaustion that either his face, or his general bearing, but it was heard distinctly through the large pavilion. On the whole, our previous impression was perfectly confirmed by hearing him yesterday. Beyond a doubt he is the greatest of orators now living, and we shall not easily believe that in that capacity he has ever been excelled.

In speaking, Kossuth occasionally referred to notes which lay on the stand before him. He was dressed after the Hungarian fashion, in a black velvet tunic, single breasted, with standing collar and transparent black buttons. He also wore an overcoat or sack of black velvet with broad fur and loose sleeves. He wore light kid gloves.

Generally his English is fluent and distinct, with a marked foreign accent, though at times this is not at all apparent. He speaks rather slowly than otherwise, and occasionally hesitates for a word. His command of the language, astonishing as it is in a foreigner, seems rather the result of an utter abandonment to his thought and a reliance on that to express itself, than of an absolute command of the niceties of the grammar and dictionary. He evidently has no fear of speaking wrong, and so, as by inspiration, expresses himself often better even than one to whom the language is native and familiar. Though he often uses words with a foreign meaning, or a meaning different from that we usually give them, he does not stop to correct himself, but goes on as if there were no doubt that it would be apprehended just as he meant it.

SKETCH OF A METHODIST BISHOP.

In the Methodist Episcopal Church in 13th-st., New York, on the evening of Dec. 1st, Rev. E. O. Haven delivered a lecture on the life and character of Francis Asbury, the first bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. A report of the discourse, in the *Tribune*, states that Francis Asbury was born in Staffordshire, England, in the year 1745, at the time when John Wesley was 42 years old, and was preaching throughout the country. He was a self-taught man, and at 16 he commenced preaching the Gospel. At the age of 26 he decided to leave his own country for America. The friends he met in Bristol, from which port he sailed, clothed him and gave him £10, and with this sum he embarked. After a stormy passage he reached Philadelphia in 1771, and began to preach to the scattered societies, and in one year after he was asked by Wesley to take charge of the Methodist Societies, and to assist him in his arduous labors. He soon began to show sagacity and shrewdness; he enforced discipline, and called a conference of the rulers of the churches, and in two years Methodism was respected, its adherents were doubled, and it was looked on as a respectable denomination. The war broke out between England and America, and he was pressed to go home, but he refused to leave 3,000 souls without a superintendent.

In 1774 Asbury was appointed the first Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he traveled 5,000 miles a year on horseback, upon a salary of \$80, which he continued until 1816, when he died in Spotsville, Virginia.

The prominent feature of his character was his industry; for, according to his journal he read 100 pages a day, and lectured in the open air every other day. In 45 years he preached more than 20,000 sermons, presided at over 200 conferences, traveled more than 400,000 miles to the farthest western settlements. He made more than 50,000 pastoral visits, and gave frequent advice to the ministry, which increased from 10 pastors to near 700 during his life, and by his exertions. The church members in America amounted to 1,000 when he commenced his labors, but when he died they were more than 200,000, thus increasing 200 fold, while the country in the same time had only increased in population 7 fold.

The lecturer then went on to notice his humility, his simple manners and hard living; his love of order, his practical wisdom, all of which traits of character he possessed in an eminent degree. As a public speaker he was not an extraordinary man, but as a social companion he was gentle and affable.

D'AUBIGNE.

Most of our friends have probably read the History of the Reformation, by Dr. Merle, usually called D'Aubigne, which is the place of his residence, and not his name. To such the following description of him, from "Wanderings in the Shadow of Mount Blanc," will be interesting:—

"The manners of D'Aubigne are marked by a plain, manly, unassuming simplicity; no shade of ostentation, no mark of the world's applause upon him—a thing which often leaves a cloud of vain self-consciousness over the character of a great man, worse by far than any shade produced by the world's frown. His conversation is full of good sense, just thought, and pious feeling, disclosing a ripe judgment, and a quiet, well-balanced mind. You would not perhaps suspect him of a vivid imagination, and yet his writings do often show a high degree of that quality. A child-like simplicity is the most marked characteristic to a stranger, who is often surprised to see so illustrious a man so plain and affable. He is about [1846] fifty years of age. You would see in him a tall, commanding form, much above the stature of his countrymen; a broad, intelligent forehead; a thoughtful, unassuming countenance; a cheerful, pleasant eye, over which are set a pair of dark shaggy eye brows, like those of Webster. His person is robust, his frame large and powerful, and apparently capable of great endurance; yet his health is infirm. Altogether, in face and form, his appearance might be described in three words—noble, grave, and simple. The habit of wearing spectacles has given him an upward look, in order to command the center of the glass, which adds to the peculiar openness of his mien."

MR. BEGG ON THE SABBATH.

To the Editors of the Sabbath Recorder:—

By request, I would invite the attention of your readers to Mr. Begg's articles on the Sabbath, in the 19th, 22d, and 23d numbers of the Recorder. It is thought that a careful perusal of his arguments would result in more general uniformity of practice in regard to the time of commencing and closing the weekly Sabbath. This, as he argues very conclusively in regard to the *natural day*, the *passover day*, the *high day*, and consequently the *day of the weekly Sabbath*, is at the going down of the sun. Yours, W. M. JONES, *Sabbath, N. J., 11 mo. 30, 1851.*

MISSIONS IN CHINA.—At a missionary meeting in New York on the 1st inst., an interesting letter was read from Rev. Mr. Talmage, giving a detailed account of the progress of the missionary work in the Celestial Empire. The prospects for the accomplishment of great results are very flattering. There are several cases of religious inquiry, and the natives manifest a greater interest in the cause of the Gospel.

SAILING OF MISSIONARIES.—At the missionary meeting held at the Tract-House in New York on the 1st inst., it was stated that two companies of Missionaries have departed from our shores since the previous monthly meeting. One of these, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Parris, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Gulick, and Mr. Snow and lady, set sail from Boston in the ship Esther May. Mr. Parris and lady, and Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, will take up their abode in the Sandwich Islands; and Messrs. Gulick and Snow, with their wives, are destined for the new Mission lately established in the Micronesian Islands. On Sabbath, Nov. 29, another company sailed in the bark Sultana for Smyrna. It consisted of Rev. Mr. Eddy and wife, Dr. Lobdell and wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Sutven. Mr. and Mrs. Eddy will stop at Smyrna; Dr. Lobdell and wife are to be stationed at Mosul; and Mr. Sutven and lady proceed at once to the Armenian Mission at Erzeroom. Besides these, Rev. Mr. Vrooman and lady sailed last week for China, in the ship Samuel Russell. At the same meeting the interesting fact was stated, that three of the missionary ladies who thus devote their lives and labors to the adornment of the gospel, are daughters of clergymen. Mrs. Vrooman is the daughter of the venerable Dr. Pitkin, of Hudson, O.; Mrs. Eddy, of Dr. Condit, of Ohio; and Mrs. Sutven, of Rev. President Kellogg, of Clinton, N. Y.

REVIVAL IN HOPKINTON AND RICHMOND, R. I.—Eld. S. B. Bailey communicates to the *Christian Watchman and Reflector* the cheering fact that the Second Baptist Church in Hopkinton, located on the border of Richmond, has recently enjoyed a most precious refreshing from the presence of the Lord. "A series of meetings was commenced on Sunday, August 24th, and continued every evening with few interruptions until the last of September, since which time on account of the running of the mills they have been less frequent. Soon after the church began to inquire, 'Will thou not revive us again that thy people may rejoice?' the impendent began to inquire what they must do to be saved. After four weeks of persevering labor we were permitted to visit the banks our Jordan, and to bury 27 converts in the likeness of Christ's death. With this commencement we have repaired to the same place for the same purpose each successive Sabbath [Sunday we suppose he means] during the six weeks that have followed. The whole number added to the church by baptism, is 74, and by experience, 10. We may here state, also, that the number of the church was increased 43 during a revival season enjoyed two years ago, and that all without exception have honored their profession."

DIVISION AMONG THE JEWS.—The following paragraph, the source of which we do not know, states very clearly the ground of division between the Rabbinical and Reformed Jews:—

"The British Jews are of two classes, the Rabbinical and the Reformed. The former maintain that the Mishna and Talmud are of divine authority, as well as the Sacred Scriptures; the latter view them as merely human compositions, containing the advice and instruction of their post-biblical ancestors, and receive and reverence them as such; holding that the sacred volume of the Scriptures is the only authoritative and unerring guide of Israelites. These two classes of Jews stand to each other in a position somewhat similar to that of Roman Catholics and Protestants. Protestants repudiate Romish traditions at variance with the Word of God, and the Reformed Jews, Rabbinical traditions which accord not with the Hebrew Bible."

HENRY CLAY.—Horace Greeley, writing from Washington, under date of Wednesday, Dec. 3, says:—"Henry Clay did not attend the sitting of yesterday, and I did not see him in the Capitol to-day. But, seeing him at his own room, I was pained by his general appearance. His mind is clear, vigorous, and active as ever, but his physical powers have been greatly impaired since I last before saw him. He is much thinner, looks older, and is less able to brave fatigue and exposure than he was even last March. He suffers continually from a dry hacking cough, which has clung to and grown upon him for the last eighteen months, and sometimes causes him much distress. I do greatly fear that this is the very last session of Congress wherein his eloquent voice will be heard and his potent influence felt in the Councils of the Nation."

BIBLES FOR SLAVES.—At a meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society, held on the 4th inst., a request was made and granted for New Testaments to distribute among slaves in North Carolina. Grants were also made of Spanish Bibles and Testaments for distribution in Cuba and in South America, English and German Bibles for the U. S. Barracks at New Orleans, and two copies of the Bible for the Blind to the Institution for the Blind in St. Louis.

The arrangements for a great public meeting of literary men and others in honor of the late Mr. Fenimore Cooper have been completed. The solemnities will take place in Tupper Hall, New York, on Christmas Eve, the 24th inst. A Commemorative Discourse will be pronounced by Mr. Wm. C. Bryant, and addresses are expected from Edward Everett, George Bancroft, John P. Kennedy, Rev. Dr. Hayks, and other friends and admirers of the genius of the deceased American novelist. Hon. Daniel Webster has been invited to preside at the meeting, and it is understood that he will accept the appointment.

As the widow of Dr. Judson was embarking for the United States at Calcutta, a number of noble-hearted and disinterested friends made her a present of 3,000 rupees, or nearly \$1,500, as a testimony of the reverence in which they held her lamented husband, and the respect and interest they felt for his bereaved family.

Delia Webster, rendered famous a few years since by her effort to run slaves from Kentucky into the Free States, is now at Frankfort, Ky., so ill that she can survive but a short time, it is said. On Thanksgiving Day, Mr. Levi A. Ward of Rochester, sent the Orphans of the City a chicken pie which weighed 200 pounds.

Miscellaneous

Trust to the Future

Trust to the future though gloomy and cheerless... Trust to the future; it stands like an angel...

Abstract of the Postmaster-General's Report

The Annual Report of the Postmaster-General is a long document, and gives a clear idea of the vast extent of the Post-office operations of this country...

It appears that an actual increase of 18.65 per cent occurred during the past fiscal year in American postages... Within the last two years, the cost of mail transportation has largely increased...

The Special Agents of the Department have been actively employed... The Report concludes with a recommendation for a thorough revision of the laws which affect the government and the officers of the General Post Office...

The question of Cheap Postage is discussed at considerable length... The Postmaster-General compares the results of the system in Great Britain with the reduced rates of the United States...

"In my last annual report, I recommended certain reduced rates of postage, under the operation of which, it was foreseen, a large deficiency of revenue for a few years would occur..."

single rate of letter postage to California and Oregon, instead of twenty cents, as recommended... The reduction in the rates to California and Oregon will greatly diminish the revenues from that source...

It was supposed that the reduced rates of postage on printed matter recommended in my report would diminish the revenue from that source about two hundred thousand dollars per annum...

It was recommended in my last annual report, that uniform inland rates, without regard to distance, should be established on newspapers and other printed matter...

The rates of postage on all printed matter can be rendered more uniform and less complex by the adoption of suitable rates, without diminishing, very materially, the revenue...

Those who take the position that the people of this country should not rest satisfied with any reduction of postage until it be made as cheap as that of Great Britain, seem to forget that our rates of postage are now, in fact, comparatively much cheaper than those of Great Britain...

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland has an area of about 120,000 square miles and a population of about 28,000,000; while the area of the inhabited portions of the United States may be estimated at more than 1,100,000 square miles, with a population of 24,000,000...

The results of the cheap postage system in Great Britain, and of reduced rates of postage in this country under the act of 1845, are continually referred to as evidence that this Department can sustain itself with a letter postage of two cents the single rate; but these results, when carefully considered, admonish us not to attempt a further reduction until justified by our revenues...

We find in The Alta California the following interesting account of a visit paid to one of the Japanese Islands... The Hamburg brig Rose, Capt. Anderson, on a trip from Singapore to this port, met with a severe typhoon, was disabled and obliged to put into the nearest port for repairs...

est particular. Yet he was treated with great respect and kindness, and furnished with sixty men to prosecute repairs on his vessel... The population of Nipaking he estimates at 25,000 souls...

Nipaking is represented to be a safe and convenient harbor, and the city presents a bustling and animated appearance... Who is Kossuth?

This question was asked us the other day by one who said he was tired of reading eulogies without facts... From time to time the Magyar race had made gigantic efforts to break their chains...

The Hungarian Diet of 1832 laid the basis of a democratic movement... "After much reflection, my sense of public duty constrains me to decide that the law must have its course... Upon what ground of justice or policy can I relax the law, when crimes abound beyond all previous example in our history?"

His imprisonment did more for the cause than his presence... The following tables show pretty conclusively the relative value of the institution of domestic slavery and universal freedom...

Census of Michigan—1850. Dwelling-houses in the State, 71,616... Census of Arkansas, 1850. Dwelling-houses in the State, 32,252...

GROUND AND UNGROUND—COOKED AND UNCOOKED FOOD.—In a communication from the Society of Shakers, at Lebanon, New York, in the Patent Office Report, we find the following upon the relative value of ground and unground, cooked and uncooked corn for feeding cattle, &c...

Universal joy reigned throughout the kingdom: Never had so great a work been accomplished in so short a time... Threatenings not fulfilled.—Being once in company with a mother and her three children, we observed one of them, a boy about six years old, who was particularly unruly and mischievous...

A bill is before the Legislature of South Carolina, which proposes to prevent the citizens of the various States in which the action of the Fugitive Slave Law has been obstructed, from using the Courts of South Carolina, to collect debts...

upon every tongue. Admiration of his genius, faith in his purposes, joy at his success, filled every heart... Hanging for Arson.

The case of young Conklin, who was recently executed in Oneida County for the crime of arson, awakened a good deal of sympathy, which expressed itself in numerous petitions for a commutation of his sentence...

I am aware that the terrible penalty which the law imposes is regarded by many as unnecessarily severe... The clipper ship Game Cook, and the brig Fremont, recently left Francisco with a large number of passengers for the Sandwich Islands...

Speaking of the Cathedrals of Cologne and Strasburg, a traveler remarks, that if these immensely expensive edifices had never been begun, not only would the money have been saved, but the surrounding communities and the world would have sustained no loss spiritually or socially...

The reason why the reigning sovereign in England was called by a name so different from that of any of her predecessors on the throne, was the disinclination of her father, the late Duke of Kent, to have her called by the name of any preceding Queen...

One of the bricks brought from the ruins of Nineveh, besides the letters inscribed on it, is marked with the footstep of a weasel, which must have run over the brick before it dried; so that the record of the existence of the mighty Assyrian King and the diminutive animal, has been stamped on the same piece of clay...

Rev. Lemuel Haines happened to go into a store where ardent spirits were drank as well as sold... A Sidney thief committed a theft on board one of the river steamers; was detected, tried by the passengers, found guilty, and was fined \$100, which he forked over...

John Ritter, the editor of The Readinger Adler, in Berks Co., Pa., is recently deceased... Threatenings not fulfilled.—Being once in company with a mother and her three children, we observed one of them, a boy about six years old, who was particularly unruly and mischievous...

A bill is before the Legislature of South Carolina, which proposes to prevent the citizens of the various States in which the action of the Fugitive Slave Law has been obstructed, from using the Courts of South Carolina, to collect debts...

There will be no vacation between the Terms, but there will be a recess of one week at the middle of the Second Term, and at the opening of the other Terms, two days near the middle of each of the other Terms...

New York and Boston. EQUJAR MAIL LINE. The Providence, New Bedford, Boston, and Newport, carrying the great Eastern U. S. Mail, with the change of cars of destination... New York and Albany Steamboat.

The splendid steamer RIP VAN WINKLE, Capt. S. Schuyler, runs regularly between New York and Albany, leaving New York on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings at 6 o'clock, and Albany on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at 8 o'clock...

THE Academic Year commences the last Wednesday in August, and closes the last Tuesday in June of each year... Board of Instruction. Rev. J. R. IRISH, President. Miss JOSEPHINE WILCOX, Preceptress. Rev. J. W. MORTON, Assistants.

Tuition. Tuition should be arranged before entering classes. Geography, Elementary Arithmetic, and Beginning in Grammar, per Term, \$3 00... Higher Arithmetic, Advanced Grammar, Composition, Initiations in Algebra, and Analysis, \$4 00.

THE American Sabbath Tract Society publishes the following tracts, which are for sale at its Depository, No. 9 Spruce-st., N. Y., viz:—No. 1—Reasons for introducing the Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment to the consideration of the Christian Public...

THE Royal Law Contended for. By Edward Stennet. First printed in London, in 1658. 60 pp. An Appeal for the Restoration of the Lord's Sabbath, in an Address to the Bishops, on the Seventh-day Baptist General Conference...

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