

The Oxford Democrat

TERMS, TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR.

"THE WORLD IS GOVERNED TOO MUCH."

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS IN ADVANCE.

NEW SERIES, VOL. 8, NO. 45.

PARIS, ME., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1857.

OLD SERIES, VOLUME 25, NO. 3.

Farmers' Department.

"FEED THE FLOW."

DARIUS FORBES, Editor.

All the arts and sciences pertaining to life, are closely interwoven, and are ultimately connected with Agriculture.—Agriculture.

Special Notice.

Agricultural Exchanges and communications for this department, should be directed to "Oxford Democrat," South Paris, Me.

What a Poor Farmer Cannot Afford.

The following remarks are from an address of Horace Greeley, at the annual fair in Erie County, N. Y., last autumn. Mr. Greeley had a pretty thorough agricultural training while a boy, so that nearly all the processes of the art are familiar to him. To this he has added a close and discriminating observation, and thus qualified himself to write as good an agricultural address as we read from any source.

"The truth is, I am most anxious to impress, is that no poor man can afford to be a poor farmer. When I have recommended agricultural improvements, I have often been told, 'this expensive farming will do well enough for rich people, but we who are in moderate circumstances can't afford it.' Now, it is not an expensive farming that I recommend, but profitable farming. It is true that the amount of a man's capital must fix the limit of his business, in agriculture as in everything else. But however poor you may be, you can afford to cultivate land well. If you can afford to cultivate it at all. It may be out of your power to keep a large farm under a high state of cultivation, but then you should sell a part of it, and cultivate a small one. If you are a poor man, you cannot afford to raise small crops; you cannot afford to accept half a crop from land capable of yielding a whole one. If you are a poor man you cannot afford to fence two acres to secure the crop that ought to grow on one; you cannot afford to pay or lose the interest on the cost of a hundred acres of land to get the crops that will grow on fifty. No man can afford to raise twenty bushels of corn to an acre, not even if the land were given him, for twenty bushels to the acre will not pay the cost of the miserable cultivation that produces it.

"No poor man can afford to cultivate his land in such a manner as will cause it to deteriorate in value. Good farming improves the value of land, and the farmer who manages his farm so as to get the largest crop it is capable of yielding, increases its value every year.

"No farmer can afford to produce weeds. They grow, to be sure, without cultivation; they spring up spontaneously on all land, and especially rich land, but though they cost no toll, a farmer cannot afford to raise them. The same elements that feed them, would, with proper cultivation, nourish a crop, and no farmer can afford to expend on weeds, the natural wealth which was bestowed by Providence to fill his granaries. I am accustomed, my friends, to estimate the Christianity of the localities through which I pass, by the absence of weeds on and about the farms. When I see a farm covered by a gigantic growth of weeds, I take it for granted that the owner is a heathen, a heretic, or an infidel—a Christian he cannot be, or he would not allow the heritage which God gave him to grow and keep, to be defamed and profaned. And if you will allow me to make an application of the doctrine I preach, I must be permitted to say that there is a great field for missionary effort on the farms between here (East Haverhill) and Buffalo. Nature has been bountiful to you, but there is great need of better cultivation.

"Farmers cannot afford to grow a crop on a soil that does not contain the natural elements that enter into its composition. When you burn a vegetable, a large part of the bulk passes away during the process of combustion into air. But there is always a residue of mineral matter, consisting of lime, potash, and other ingredients that entered into its composition. Now, the plant drew these materials out of the earth, and if you attempt to grow that plant in soil that is deficient in these ingredients, you are driving an unsuccessful business. Nature does not make vegetable out of nothing, and you cannot expect to take crop after crop off from a field that does not contain the elements of which it is formed. If you wish to maintain the fertility of your farms, you must constantly restore to them the materials which are withdrawn in cropping. No farmer can afford to sell his ashes. You annually export from Western New York a large amount of potash. Depend upon it there is nobody in the world to whom this is worth so much as to yourselves. You can't afford to sell it, but a farmer can well afford to buy ashes at a higher price than is paid by anybody that does not wish to use them as fertilizers of the soil. Situated as the farmers of this country are in the neighborhood of a city that burns large quantities of wood for fuel, you should make it a part of your system of farming to secure all the ashes it produces. When your teams go to town with loads of wood, it would cost comparatively little to bring back loads of ashes and other fertilizers that would improve the productiveness of your farms.

"No poor farmer can afford to keep fruit trees that do not bear good fruit. Good fruit is always valuable, and should be raised by the farmer, not only for market, but for large consumption in his own family. As more enlightened views of diet prevail, fruit is destined to supplant the expensive quantities of animal food that are consumed in this country. The change will produce

better health, greater vigor of body, activity of mind, and elasticity of spirits, and I cannot doubt that the time will come when farmers, instead of putting down the large quantities of meat they do at present, will give their attention in autumn to the preservation of large quantities of excellent fruit, for consumption as a regular article of diet, the early part of the following summer. Fruit will not then appear on the table as it does now, only as dessert after dinner, but will come with every meal, and be reckoned a substantial aliment.

"No poor farmer can afford to work with poor implements, with implements that either do not do the work well, or that require an unnecessary expenditure of power. To illustrate this, it will be necessary to ask your attention to the nature and office of the mechanical operation requisite for the production of good crops. It is essential to the healthy growth of a plant that the air should have free access to every part of it, the roots as well as the leaves, and that the soil in which it grows should be moist, but not too moist, and should have a certain degree of warmth. These necessities of vegetation will enable us to understand the mechanical operations on the soil demanded by good farming.

"The soil should be light and be finely pulverized, in order that the little fibres sent out by the roots in search of nourishment may be easily permeated in all directions. It should be porous to be easily penetrated by air and water, and as its own weight and the filtering of rains tend constantly to bed it down into a compact mass, it needs frequent stirring."

Rearing Calves.

There is not a uniformity of opinion as to the best mode of rearing calves, and perhaps it should not be expected. The main question in the outset is, whether the calf should be brought up on the cow by sucking or take milk only by drinking. Where the chief object is to rear stock, the former may be advisable. It may still be a question here, whether it is best for the calves to run with the cows, or only be allowed to meet them twice a day, or as often as it is proper for the calves to be suckled. An objection to their running constantly together is, that the calves sometimes draw too hard on the udder and injure them by worrying and hawking. This objection has some weight, but it is probable that after stock has been kept in this manner for several generations, they become in a degree adapted to it. Cows on the prairies of South America, the plains of Mexico, Texas, &c., give only the small quantity of milk necessary to bring up their young, and their constitutional habits generally are such as adapt them to the circumstances that surround them.

But where milk is wanted for butter or cheese, or for sale, we have held that it is better for calves to drink than to suck. The reasons are, first, that this mode is most economical. The precise quantity of milk the calf requires can be given, and no more. After the calf is two or three weeks old, skim-milk can be substituted for new milk. In fact a mixture of skim-milk may be given earlier, and the quantity can be increased till at the fourth or fifth week new milk may be altogether discontinued. Other articles, as oil-cake, or oat-meal, in some form, may be added to the milk, and the calf thus induced to eat more of them than he would do in any other way. He will also be inclined to take to feeding on every thing earlier than he would if allowed to suck.

Another advantage of this mode of rearing calves is that they become more gentle. From being constantly accustomed to be handled, they are more tractable, and more readily to understand their duties in the stable, or more quietly take their place in the dairy.

A third and not less important advantage of rearing calves by hand, is that they can thus be kept constantly and regularly gaining. They are not at one time unduly reared—as is frequently the case where they run with cows—and then suddenly checked by the supply of milk being cut off, but may be kept in a healthy, thriving state all the time. This is a matter which black leg, the formidable disease called black leg, is threatening us, deserves special attention. It seems to be admitted by persons who have most knowledge of the subject, that the best preventive is to keep the animals uniformly well—not to gorge them with stimulating substances, but to feed from the beginning in such a way that every day shall add something to their gain, and that nothing shall ever be lost. [Boston Cultivator.]

WHOLE POTATOES VS. EYES FOR SEED. An English paper, the Ipswich Express, gives the result of an experiment lately made to ascertain what would be the difference in yield where whole potatoes were used for seed or the eyes alone, and reports thus: "A trial has been made in the vicarage garden, Coggeshall, of potato eyes against whole potatoes, on perfectly equal terms, a row of each side by side—a certain number of whole potatoes were sown a yard apart, the eyes of the same number of potatoes of the same sort were sown at the usual distance—equal care was taken in all respects that the trial might be fair. The result, as shown a few weeks back, was, that the whole potatoes produced in weight more potatoes, but the excess of weight was just equal to the weight of potatoes from which the eyes had been taken, and which potatoes had gone into the kitchen for dressing; so that, as far as this experiment goes nothing is gained by sowing whole potatoes.

The fellow who put the thing in a nut-shell found it cracked a day or two afterwards.

Best Way to Apply Manures.

"Much is now written on this subject," and more will be, for it is the "sheet anchor" of agriculture, and the "best tower" too, especially to the thousands of small farmers of New York and New England, who cultivate their 20, their 50 and 100 acres, and earn, in not a few instances, a limited living from the too often stubborn and reluctant soil. What will meliorate and fertilize this soil? Manure. The various ways of saving and increasing the pile, are well taught in some of our agricultural papers, and the lessons every farmer may learn from them, can be of no doubtful utility. But after the heap has been accumulated with much toil and trouble, there is still a "vexed question" as to the best way of applying it to field culture. The Cultivator says, mix thoroughly with the soil. This is excellent no doubt. But it takes more time and labor to accomplish this fact than is always convenient to bestow. The question is, what way shall we apply manure so as to give the quickest and longest fertilizing power to the soil? In view of all that has been written on this subject, it would seem that some best way might by this time have been established. Perhaps the majority of farmers are persuaded in their own minds that their practice is the best that could be. The writer is not among the number of those, and would be glad of the opinion and judgment of men of more ability and experience than himself. Would it not be of some use and interest for a number of the readers and correspondents of The Cultivator and Country Gentleman, from various and distant sections of the country, to give brief descriptions of the different modes of agricultural practice in their respective neighborhoods, not only as to the application of manure as above, but in the various other arts and labors of the farm?

In furtherance of this view, the writer will state the mode of applying manure to the soil, which prevails to some extent in his own neighborhood, and is believed the practice is rather extensive. Prof. Mapes has said, "Do not plow sandy land in the fall." Now many of our farmers, not having the fear of the Professor before their eyes, do plow their sandy lands in the fall, and afterwards apply barn-yard or other manure to the surface of the plowed ground, to be spread and harrowed at the proper time for corn or other crops. Is this the most judicious mode of treating such land, or any kind of land, with a view to its permanent improvement? The writer of this article, for instruction. His practice upon this point, has been to plow under manure with a shallow furrow, and the next season plow deeper and seed down. This has seemed to him a reasonable way of farming; but the fertility and improvement resulting from it, he confesses have not equalled his expectations. An elderly and experienced farmer has declared he would as soon dump his barn-yard manure into the river as turn it under with the plow with the expectation of receiving any benefit from it. Now this is ultra and erroneous no doubt; but as one example it goes to show how widely men differ in opinion. The advocates for surface manuring, state that the effect is more immediate, and the first crop more increased by this mode of using manure than by turning it under the soil. But by exposure, &c., will there not be a loss to counterbalance this benefit? The writer has limited knowledge on the subject, and would be thankful for the instructions of any one through your pages, which would lead him to a true conclusion on the subject. [Country Gentleman.]

On such lands, I have a few Isabella seedlings. Last season I experimented with one Isabella, set in May, 1855, 3 years old; four do set May, 1856, 4 years old; and one Concord in May, 1856, 4 years old. I applied to the borders through the season, liberally, soap-suds from the washing department. All these vines made vigorous growth. Had to keep a constant nipping and eating of fingers and toes to keep them at home. The oldest Isabella was first in the perfection of its fruit. The 1856 Isabella soon followed. The Concord, though transplanted from Mr. E. W. Ball's grounds, in Concord, Mass., the fore part of May, and materially helped by its transplanting, and did not burst its flowers until the oldest Isabella had made its first move to the side of a squirrel shot, overtook the former, and perfected its fruit in equal time. The fruit of both varieties was perfect in every point, and black ripe, and in good time. Not even a symptom of mildew was found with any of them, upon fruit or vine.

It is my opinion that the Concord grape is a degree earlier than the Isabella, not so rampant in growth, not as delicious in its fruit, but about equal in size of bunch and berry, and more body for wine. The Concord has a thinner skin and stronger aroma. But after all, I am of the opinion that the "Isabella" can be materially improved in all important points, by cultivation. I am trying it. I am extending my grape experiments the present season, and no abatement in the "look, fancy and action system." [Country Gentleman.]

Enemies of the Corn Crop.

Unlike wheat and nearly every other cereal, the enemies of corn, work chiefly in the earlier stages of the growing crop. Spring frosts, the cut, and the wire worm, the crow, weeds, cold rains, &c., tell upon the corn, if at all, early in the season. It is true that a cold, bad summer has its influence, and autumnal frosts now and then come untimely; but in the warm, dry seasons of our climate, both of these dangers can be mostly guarded against or counteracted. There is more fear of drought in mid-summer, than of too excessive moisture and both these extremes are most effectively prevented by the same identical treatment, viz., drainage and deep thorough culture. The more porous and deep a soil is, the more water it is capable of holding in suspension as a protection against long rain-laden seasons; and when water is in excess, the surplus portion gradually filters through into the drains below, and passes harmlessly away.

The wire-worm is a grievous annoyance in many localities, not infrequently ruining the crop by destroying the seed before it has time to germinate. Many remedies have been prescribed for the evil, and have been practiced with varied success. A year or so ago, a farmer in the western part of this county, stated to us that the most effectual remedy he had found, was the use of hog manure; assuring us that he had tried it repeatedly, and with invariable success. It might be applied, he said, broadcast and plowed under, or the corn might be manured in the hill. He preferred the former course, as more likely to secure future crops against the depredator. So confident was he of the efficacy of the remedy, that in addition to publishing his statements in the Rural, we made application to an agricultural friend, and requested him to test the matter. He had, he stated, a spot of an acre or so in extent, upon which the year before the wire-worm entirely destroyed the crop, besides committing great ravages in other portions of the field. Upon this he promised to try the experiment, and did so last season, with entire success, as he

assures us. He spread hog manure, from his pen, over the "infested district," and did not lose a hill of corn from the ravages of the worm. He has great confidence in the remedy, and insists that it will prove entirely effectual. One thing is certain, and that is this, no harm can arise from its application. Unlike some remedies, which, if they do not cure, are sure to kill, and as a general thing take that horn of the dilemma, this application of hog manure will be invaluable as a fertilizer, if it does nothing more; and we hope others of our readers, whose fields are troubled with this pest, will test the matter by further experiments. One swallow does not make a summer, and one successful result will not establish a principle. If similar trials are had in different parts of the country, with corresponding success, we may then reasonably conclude that the remedy is certain; if results vary, we may consider it efficacious under certain circumstances, and must then endeavor to ascertain what those circumstances are. We will vouch for its value as a manure, at all events; and warrant, either directly or indirectly, a full return for the cost and trouble expended. [Rural New Yorker.]

Preparation of Grapevine Borders.

For my grape borders, I select free soil and free exposure. Trench 3 or 4 feet deep by 8 or 10 wide, with rubble stone at bottom for drainage, leading into main ditch. In returning the excavated earth, I add, properly distributed, many articles, such as swamp or marsh muck, sand, turf, wood ashes, charcoal dust, gravel, black mud from the forest, old compost manure, dead excrement, broken bone, sulphur, cinders from the forge, burned clay, any old bits of harness, woollen carpet, old shoes, &c., with small stones of every shape, and not a few as large as can be drawn by pony and stone-heap. The large stones are left a little exposed, which contract heat, and keep the borders warmer at night.

For trellis, insert posts, and nailstrips of inch board.

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Millet and Millet Fodder.

MEANS. LAMARCA—In answer to your correspondent who inquires how to make millet fodder, (hay.) I give you the following, which you can publish if you choose.

Ground for millet should be rich and mellow, and if new the better; that which will run and lake is totally unfit for it. It should be broken up and harrowed early in the spring, and again before sowing the seed. Sow one bushel and a peck of seed per acre, and brush them in. Sow about ninety days before the usual time for the first frost in the fall; a light frost will not injure it. When the seed have pretty generally begun to ripen cut it, or before, if apprehensive of heavy frost. The mowing may be done with a machine or by hand. The hay should be cut or scythed, but should lie in swath four or five hours to wilt, or what is cut one day may be wilted if the weather is good. As soon as wilted, it may be put into small cocks, made as high as they will stand. I would prefer that it should be forked up by hand; the straw will be straighter, and will turn the rain water better than if broken and tangled, and it will be by a horse rake. But if the weather promises to remain good, the latter mode might be preferable. The hay by curing in cocks, will become wet with evaporation; but will not heat if the weather is cool. After three or four days, throw out the hay in the morning, so that the sun and air may dry it; in the evening cock it up again, putting three or four of the small cocks into one. In this condition let it remain a week or ten days, after which it may be stacked or housed.

Millet treated in this manner, will not assume a dead yellow color and become almost tasteless, as it does when cut, scattered and cured by the sun in midsummer, as is practiced by many persons; but will be really sweeter by having grown in the fall, and sweetened will be retained in a high degree. Managed in this way, I believe that millet will make as good hay as clover, timothy or berdergrass, and will make a great deal more per acre than either of them. [Country Gentleman.]

MISCELLANY.

From the Rural New Yorker.

THE STORY IN THE OLD BOOK.

"Lucy," said I to my wife, one evening after tea, as we sat before the fire in the old library, "I have been thinking to-day of what 'the Prophet' once said a great many years ago."

"The Prophet," she exclaimed, looking up from her knitting in surprise; "who was 'the Prophet'?"

"An old man, who used to go about through this section of the country when I was a boy, peddling this and that, and living upon the country people. He was quite aged as long ago as I can remember him, his hair was as white as snow and fell profusely about his shoulders, in which he had a slight bend from carrying his pack. He invariably wore corduroy pants, and coat and waistcoat of sheep's gray, so that all the people in the country knew him; and when he was seen coming up the road toward nightfall, it was certain that the old man was going to take up quarters among 'his friends,' a name which he applied to the inmates of every farm house where he found it convenient to lodge."

"But why was he called 'the Prophet'?" asked Lucy.

"He had a remarkable faculty of predicting events," I replied. "The Scotchman about the neighborhood asserted that he was gifted with 'second sight,' and possessed the power of the 'seventh son.' But old Deacon Jones said he did it all by guess work."

"Did he always conclude rightly?" continued Lucy.

"Occasionally. I remember once when the old man was deeply interested in an election, he told to a lot how the vote would stand, and that so heightened his reputation that office seekers used to come to him afterwards to ascertain his opinion before accepting nominations."

"They couldn't have been like office seekers now-a-days," said my wife, smiling.

"True," I answered to this unexpected remark, "the politicians of the old school were honest men."

Just at this moment a brand, which had been blazing brightly, separated and rolled upon the hearth, which called me out of my easy chair, and back to my subject.

"The Prophet," I continued, when I had added another stick to the fire, and resumed my seat, "came very often upon my rounds, to this same house, when my father used to live here, and always made himself quite at home. It was said by the neighbors, from the fact of his taxing the hospitality of the 'country folk,' that the old man was more interested in the profits than in the profits; but father would never hear anything against him, and whenever he came with his usual joke and song, he was always kindly welcomed. It was one evening, when they were sitting by the fire-side here, talking over the old times,—for father and 'the Prophet' used to delight to recall the 'days which tried men's souls,'—and I had taken down an old volume from the library, to re-peruse a story, which has always had a peculiar fascination to me. It was this tale which came into my mind while I was in the city to-day—I had not thought of it for years; but when it suddenly came to my memory, I also thought of that evening upon which I read it last, and then of 'the Prophet,' and of what he said."

"What was it?" asked my wife, as she laid aside her work.

"I had finished my perusal, and was just closing the book, when 'the Prophet,' who had glanced at me occasionally during his conversation, took it from me. When he looked at the page upon which the volume was still open, an expression of surprise and pleasure lighted the old man's face. I knew he was going to 'let off' a volley from his magazine of wisdom, for he had drawn down his waistcoat and cleared his throat, which always preceded one of his speeches; but I did not suppose he would say what he did."

"Squire," he commenced, addressing my father, "this book was in its time the completest and interesting work of the age. I've heard my father tell how he wouldn't take five hundred dollars for it in hard cash at any time. I've read it through and through, and couldn't ever get tired of it. But I tell you there's no such new days. Books have got plentier, and good wiser as they growed. I've observed,—now this is what I recollect in particular of the old man's speech,—'I've observed that men don't write now days as they used to; and they kinder somehow never strike upon such tales as this. There isn't such a taste for the marvellous.'"

"I have often thought of 'the Prophet's' remark since, and, as I said, it came into mind to-day. The old man was wrong in saying that books grew worse in tone, as they increased in number, although this is to some degree true. But if we peruse the works of the later prose writers, and compare them with those of the past, we can but notice the improvement in style and selection of subjects, with the advancement of the taste and education of the literary community."

"I have heard other persons express opinions directly opposite," said my wife, when I had finished speaking; "many prefer the old writers to the new."

"And in some respects so do I," I replied, "but 'the Prophet' was right in saying that there was not such a taste for the marvellous. I shall never forget that old story which I used to read when a boy. Written as it was in the style of those who wrote two centuries ago, containing so much of the marvellous and ghostly, and holding the reader so long in suspense, it made an

impression upon my young mind which has always remained. I now regard it as a ridiculous tale—the wild imaginations of some forgotten writer—but its old fascination still hangs about it."

"I should very much like to hear it," said Lucy, becoming interested in what I had been relating.

As it had been my intention from the first to read it, I went to the old book case, which had stood in the room so long that it seemed a part of it, and unlocking the curiously moulded doors, took down a dust-covered volume, bound in the antique style, from among a number of old works upon the higher shelf.

It was a cold, stormy night in November, the rain had just commenced falling, and the wind, which had arisen since dusk, went wailing around the old house, shaking the shutters and windows, and making strange, dismal noises, as it moaned through the swaying trees. I knew it was a fitting time for what I was about to read, so I stirred the fire until it leaped into the chimney with a cheerful blaze, and with Lucy looking intently at me, opened the volume, and thus began:

SIR BERTRAND.—A FRAGMENT.

Sir Bertrand turned his head towards the window, hoping to cross those dreary moors before the curfew. But, ere he had proceeded half his journey, he was bewildered by the different tracks, and not being able, as far as the eye could reach, to spy any object but the broken heath surrounding him, he was at length quite uncertain which way he should direct his course.

Night overtook him in this situation! It was one of those nights when the moon gives a faint, glimmering of light through the thick black clouds of a lowering sky. Now and then she suddenly emerged in full splendor from her veil, and then instantly retired behind it; having just served to give the forlorn Sir Bertrand a wide, extended prospect over the desolate waste. Hope and native courage a while urged him to push forwards, but at length the increasing darkness and fatigue of body overcame him; he dreaded moving from the ground he stood on, for fear of unknown pits and bogs, and, alighting from his horse in despair, he threw himself upon the ground. He had not long continued in that posture, when the sudden toll of a distant bell struck his ears—he started up, and turning towards the sound, discerned a dim twinkling light.

Instantly he seized his horse's bridle, and with cautious step advanced towards it. After a painful march, he was stopped by a moated ditch surrounding the place from whence the light proceeded; and by a momentary glimpse of moonlight he had a full view of a large, antique mansion, with turrets at the corners, and an ample porch in the centre. The injuries of time were strongly marked on everything about it. The roof in various places was fallen in, the battlements were half demolished, and the windows broken and dismantled. A draw-bridge, with a ruinous gateway at each end, led to the court before the building.

He entered, and instantly the light, which proceeded from a window in one of the turrets, glided along and vanished; at the same moment the moon sank beneath a black cloud, and the night was darker than ever!

All was silent!

Sir Bertrand fastened his steel under a shed, and approaching the house, traversed its whole front with light and slow footsteps.

All was still as death! He looked in at the lower windows, but could not distinguish a single object through the impenetrable gloom. After a short pause with himself, he entered the porch, and seizing a mazy iron knocker at the gate, lifted it up, and hesitating at length struck a loud stroke.

The noise resounded through the whole mansion with hollow echoes. All was still again! He repeated the strokes more boldly and louder—another interval of silence ensued. A third time he knocked, and a third time all was still!

He then fell back to some distance, that he might discern whether any light could be seen in the whole front. It again appeared, in the same place, and quickly glided away as before. At the same instant a deep, sudden toll sounded from the turret!

Sir Bertrand's heart made a fearful stop—he was awfully motionless; then terror compelled him to make some hasty steps towards his steel,—but shame stopped his flight; and urged by honor, and a restless desire of finishing the adventure, he returned to the porch; and working up his soul to a full steadiness of resolution, he drew forth his sword in one hand, and with the other lifted up the latch of the gate. The heavy door, creaking upon its hinges, reluctantly yielded to his hand. He applied his shoulder to it, and forced it open. He quitted it, and stepped forward—the door instantly shut behind him with a thundering clap!

Sir Bertrand's blood was chilled! He turned to find the door, and it was long ere his trembling hands could seize it, but his utmost strength could not open it again. After several ineffectual attempts, he looked behind him, and behold, across a hall, upon a large staircase, a pale, bluish flame, which cast a dismal gleam of light around. He again summoned forth his courage, and advanced towards it—it retired. He came to the foot of the stairs, and after a moment's deliberation, ascended. He went slowly up, the flame retiring before him, till he came to a wide gallery. The flame proceeded along it, and he followed it in silent horror, trodding lightly, for the echoes of his footsteps startled him. It led him to the foot of another staircase, and then vanished.

At the same instant another toll sounded from the turret!

Sir Bertrand felt it strike upon his heart! He was now in total darkness, and with his arms extended, began to ascend the second staircase. A dead, cold hand met his left hand, and firmly grasped it drawing him forcibly forward! He endeavored to disengage himself, but could not; he made a furious blow with his sword, and instantly a loud shriek pierced his ears, and the dead hand was left powerless with his! He dropped it, and rushed forwards with a desperate valor. The stairs were narrow and winding, and interrupted by frequent benches, and loose fragments of stone. The staircase grew narrower and narrower, and at length terminated in a low iron grate. Sir Bertrand pushed it open,—it led to an intricate, winding passage, just large enough to admit a person upon his hands and knees. A faint glimmering of light served to show the nature of the place. Sir Bertrand entered. A deep, hollow groan resounded from a distance through the vault. He went forward, and proceeding beyond the first turning discerned the same blue flame which had before conducted him. He followed it. The vault at length, suddenly opened into a lofty gallery, in the midst of which a figure appeared, completely armed, thrusting forwards the bloody stump of an arm, with a terrible frown and menacing gesture, and brandishing a sword in his hand. Sir Bertrand unflinchingly sprang forwards; and aiming a fierce blow at the figure, it instantly vanished, letting fall a massy iron key.

"The flame now rested upon a pair of ample folding doors at the end of the gallery. Sir Bertrand went up to it, and applied the key to a broken lock; with difficulty he turned the bolt. Instantly the doors flew open, and discovered an apartment, at the end of which was a coffin, resting upon a bier, with a taper burning upon each side of it. Along the room, on both sides, were gigantic statues of black marble, attired in the Moorish habit, and holding enormous scabres in their right hands. Each of them turned his arm, and advanced one leg forward, as the knight entered; at the same moment the lid of the coffin flew open, and the lid fell!

The flame still glided forwards, and Sir Bertrand resolutely followed, till he arrived within six paces of the coffin. Suddenly a lady, in a shroud and black veil, rose up in it, and stretched out her arms towards him. At the same time the statues clashed their scabres and advanced! Sir Bertrand drew to the lady, and clasped her in his arms. She threw up her veil and kissed his lips; and instantly the whole building shook, as with an earthquake, and fell asunder with a horrible crash.

Sir Bertrand was thrown into a sudden trance, and on recovering found himself seated upon a velvet sofa, in the most magnificent room he had ever seen, lighted with innumerable tapers, in lustres of pure crystal. A sumptuous banquet was set in the middle. The doors opening to soft music, a lady of incomparable beauty, attired with amazing splendor, entered, surrounded by a troop of gay nymphs, more fair than the Graces. She advanced to the knight, and falling on her knees, thanked him as her deliverer. The nymphs placed a garland of laurel upon his head, and the lady led him by the hand to the banquet, and sat beside him. The nymphs placed themselves at the table, and a numerous train of servants entering served up the feast; delicious music playing all the time. Sir Bertrand could not speak for astonishment—he could only return their honors by courteous looks and gestures. After the banquet was finished, all retired but the lady, who, leading the knight to the sofa, addressed him in these words:

"Is that the end?" asked my wife, as I suddenly ceased to read.

"Yes," I replied.

"And what does it all amount to?"

"Only this effect it leaves upon the mind."

"But it stops so suddenly," she continued.

"That is the great charm of it," I said, and closed the book.

K. C. J.

Rev. Dr. C. Eddy, in the course of a lecture on the "Fast Young Man," in Boston, recently, well said, among other good things, "allow a boy to run at large one year in innocence, and you have laid the foundation whereon will be built his future ruin."

Brave actions are the substance of life, and good sayings the ornament of it.

From the Boston Journal.

The Kansas Constitution.

The Missouri Democrat of the 21st inst., contains the Constitution entire, framed by the Lecompton Convention. Aside from the schedule, it occupies nearly four columns of the Democrat. It is very easy to see that it contains many provisions upon which the people of Kansas ought to have the privilege of voting. The important subject of the public lands is therein minutely determined according to the notions of forty individuals, without regard to the wishes of the majority of the citizens. Arbitrary limits are also set to the size of counties. The Governor is required to have been a citizen of the United States for twenty years, and shall hold office for two years. The Representatives shall serve two years, and their number shall not be less than thirty-nine nor more than one hundred. The Senators shall serve four years, and their number shall range from thirteen to thirty-three. The Legislature shall meet every two years at Lecompton, which shall be the seat of government until two-thirds of each House shall otherwise direct. The structure and sessions of the different Courts are specified, and the judges made elective. Methods of revenue, taxation, banking and educational support are distinctly provided.

Such are some of the all-important State interests which are fundamentally disposed of by this constitution. It is not for us to say whether the disposition in each case is, or ought to be, acceptable to the citizens of Kansas. That is their prerogative. We will leave that to them. It is our duty to say that the constitution is a bad one, and that it is a bad one for the people of Kansas.

The fraudulent appointment adopted by Secretary Stanton, is made the basis of that which is provided for the first State election. For instance, Douglas county, with a population, according to the Territorial census, of 1129, is allowed four Representatives, while Johnson, memorable for its frauds, and having, according to the same census, but eight hundred and twenty inhabitants, is also allowed four. The large counties of Atchison and Douglas are allowed only one Senator each, but two are given to this same Johnson. Such outrageous inequalities are found throughout the appointments.

The schedule accompanying the draft of the constitution, resembles the copy published by the New York Tribune, rather than that which appeared in the Washington Union. It contains the clause relating to future constitutional conventions, which declares that "no alteration shall be made to affect the rights of property in the ownership of slaves." It keeps all the present territorial laws in force, and keeps alive all criminal prosecutions and penal actions. Under this latter clause, those "brown cases" which were not finally disposed of, might be revived and the offenders punished, which fact, by a clause in the constitution, would make such persons indelible in any office in the State. There is no provision by which any alteration of the constitution can be made until the year 1894.

HEALTH OF CHARLES SUMNER. The Boston Advertiser of Monday, speaking of Mr. Sumner, says that he has gained very much by his travels, and his general health is all that can be desired. But that the injuries which he originally received still make themselves felt in the most important part of the system. The medical authorities in Europe and America, who have considered his case, concur that with proper caution his complete restoration is certain, but it will be the work of time, and may be entirely arrested by any premature exertion. The European authorities, among whom are some of the highest names of science, advised against his present return to the excitement of public action, and went so far as to say in a written opinion, that he did it at the "peril of life." Mr. Sumner's medical adviser in Boston, who has carefully considered his case since his return, is unwilling that he should take his seat in Congress at the present season, except with the understanding that he shall content himself with the simplest discharge of his duties, without any active participation in the public business. And this opinion of his immediate adviser has the concurrence of other distinguished members of the profession.

Mr. Sumner, we understand, intends to be in his seat at the opening of Congress.

UNDESIRABLE TRAIL. The following is a list of the brands in this State, whose bills are uncurrent at the present time, with rates of discount:

Bank of Hallowell, Hallowell,	Dis.	75
Canby bank, China,	worthless—	75
Ellsworth bank, Ellsworth,	75	
Exchange bank, Bangor,	worthless—	75
Hallowell bank, Hallowell,	75	
Marquette bank, Bangor,	10	
Monroe River bank, Sanford,	50	
Sanford bank, Sanford,	50	
Superior bank, Rockland,	worthless—	50
Grocers' bank, Bangor,	50	

A HAZARDOUS ACT. The following item, which we find in the Norway Advertiser, recounts an act of heroism, in a female, which is rarely equalled, and could only have been prompted by that strongest tie of human nature, a mother's love.

One day last week, a little son of Mr. T. F. Bonds was playing in the saw mill at the upper part of the village, he accidentally fell through a hole in the floor, about two feet square, into the flume, where the water was about eight feet deep. The alarm was given by his playmate, and his mother was first to arrive at the place. On discovering the little fellow, she bravely plunged in, and the second time succeeded in bringing him to the surface, where she sustained herself and the boy by holding him with one hand to a beam, until assistance came to relieve them both from their perilous situation. The little fellow had taken considerable water into his system, but was not insensible, and neither he nor his mother suffered serious injury from their cold plunge into the water.

Mr. Rogers Ward of Bath, shot and secured six wild geese, out of nine, at Merry-meeting Bay on Wednesday.

The Oxford Democrat

PARIS, MAINE, DEC. 11, 1857.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING BY WM. A. FIDGIN & CO., PROPRIETORS.

JOHN J. PERRY, Editor.

Terms.—One dollar and fifty cents strictly in advance; one dollar and seventy-five cents within six months; two dollars at the end of the year. To which fifty cents will be added for every year which payment is delayed.

Advertisements inserted on reasonable terms; the proprietors not being responsible for any error beyond the amount charged for the advertisement. For the year, \$2.00. For the year, \$2.00. For the year, \$2.00.

Book and Job Printing PROMPTLY AND NEATLY EXECUTED.

LOCAL AGENTS.
Wm. B. LATHAM, M.D., Bangor, Me.
HENRY UTECH, Norway.

STATE OF MAINE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
Augusta, Nov. 20, 1857.

A. J. Adams, Esq., of the Executive Council, will be held at the Council Chamber in Augusta, on Monday, the twenty-second day of December next.

Attest: ALDEN JACKSON, Secretary of State.

Mormon Rebellion.

By recent accounts, it appears that the Kingdom of Utah is in open rebellion against the government; that Brigham Young has caused an advance train of the regular army containing supplies for the same, to be seized and confiscated. In conducting the "Mormon war" thus far, the President and all concerned have acted like so many fools.

Yet when we look the ground over, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact, that there has not only been foolery, but deep seated treachery at the bottom of this whole affair. In the first place, Brigham Young has been entrusted with the whole management of the affairs of this territory, by a black National Administration. Franklin Pierce continued him in office, when he knew that the communitarian rascal, was actually plotting rebellion against the United States authorities. Instead of bringing him to terms when he first commenced hostilities against the Government, he winked at his overt acts, and continued him, acting Governor of the Territory until he had ample opportunity to successfully fortify himself against any attack that might be made upon him.

Then again look at the course which Buchanan has pursued relative to this Mormon infidel. If he really meant to subvert Young and his democratic followers, why didn't he use the means to do it? His management of this matter thus far, would have disgraced a cabinet of old women. James Buchanan is too foolish a Mormon invasion, has made himself and his cabinet a complete laughing stock, not only for Brigham Young but for the whole world. The Mormon women just laugh the old Whig and his henchmen to scorn. If a subordinate officer of the Army had been guilty of such miserable management, he would have either been hung as a traitor, or drummed out of the camp as a fool. A large part of the regular army detailed for this service, were taken over Kansas, to aid the border ruffians in subduing that State to slavery. These troops with their powder and balls and bayonets, were ordered into that territory to enforce the State laws, and aid the pro-slavery government officers in their attempts to crush out freedom and establish a nigger oligarchy.

Brigham Young could make Utah one great Sodom, and legalize prostitution and lewdness all over the territory, and hold defiance at the laws of the general government, and drive their officers out of the territory, and confiscate the records of the courts, and murder the gentle, and declare himself independent of all law and all government; yet all this was of no consequence compared with the necessity there seemed to be to carry on a war against the inoffensive people of Kansas, and drag them at the point of the bayonet into subjection to the nigger drivers. For this reason, the U. S. Troops were drawn off from Utah, and sent to Kansas. The President, after keeping these troops prowling about Kansas all summer, at last, started off a small detachment to Utah.

Did the President, and Secretary of War know anything about the mountain passes through which these troops would enter the Salt Lake settlement? Did they or not, know that these passes were strongly fortified by Young and his deluded followers? In a word ought he not to have known that the old women of Utah under the lead of Young, can whip every mother's son of the United States Troops sent out there, without their firing a gun?

If the President had been half as well acquainted with the affairs of that territory as he ought to have been, he would have known all this, and made suitable preparations for the emergency. After all, this Mormon war answers one grand purpose, to wit, to plunder the treasury, and this seems to be one of the great fundamental ideas of the black democracy. They go in for anything in the shape of war, that will deplete the public money chest. This Mormon war is managed with the same regard for economy, that was manifested in the Florida war, where it frequently cost ten thousand dollars to hunt down and scalp an inoffensive squaw, and twice as much to worry down and murder an innocent, friendly Indian. So it has been in the Oregon war against the Indians. The difficulties in that territory have always been begun by the whites murdering peaceable Indians, and we have the authority of General Wool for this statement.

To rob and steal from the Treasury, spread slavery and catch runaway negroes, is modern democracy in its highest state of perfection. As to the economy or morality of the two governments, one under Brigham Young and the other under James Buchanan, the former certainly will compare well with the latter.

A two story dwelling-house at Damariscotta Mills, occupied by Arthur Tomlinson, was entirely destroyed by fire Friday forenoon. Insured for \$1000.

Meanness of the Eastern Argus.

Border ruffian doctrines apparently make men mean, at any rate, they seem to forget all rules of propriety, all courtesy, all decency. These thoughts were suggested by reading in the Argus a few days since, one of the most vulgar, scurrilous attacks that was ever put upon paper, upon the Hon. John M. Wood. We know Mr. Wood would never condescend to notice the scandalous article, or the man who penned it. Every one who is acquainted with Mr. Wood, knows that a more honorable, generous, high-minded man does not live. He is by all odds the most enterprising, public spirited man in Portland, and that city, for its present prosperity owes more to him, than all other men put together.

We ask the attention of our readers to the following extract from a letter in the Portland Advertiser, relative to this attack upon Mr. Wood, written by one who knows what he says. The facts therein stated, John M. Adams, with all his meanness, dare not deny:

"The editor of the Argus taunts Mr. Wood with his mode of living in Washington—the amount of his hotel bill—the character of his equipage—and the style of his horses. Now while all such allegations are beneath the character of a well bred gentleman, they are peculiarly mean and detestable in the present instance, for the reason that the family of the editor of the Argus, who spent a part of last session of Congress in Washington, were made the recipients of Mr. Wood's private party at Willard's, in which they received and entertained their company, and very frequently rode out in Mr. Wood's carriage behind 'those bays,' which the editor of the Argus now makes the subject of an ill-bred and contemptible fling. The hospitality was tendered in all sincerity and cordiality, and was apparently received in the same spirit, at all events it was received and improved upon without any manifestations of backwardness or expressions of reserve."

One would suppose that this public defamer would feel ashamed of himself, but if he has no sense of shame left, we should think his family, who were the recipients of Mr. Wood's generous hospitality at Washington, would feel mortified in the extreme. We have not seen the first man of any party who has read this detestable low-lived article, that he did not express feelings of disgust and loathing at the whole thing, especially for the contemptible party tool who wrote it.

Most of the dough-faced editors in Maine are an exceedingly cheap commodity, especially those little specimens of depraved humanity who, while they creep into other men's houses and out at their tables and partake of their generous hospitality, go away and slander the hand that has fed them and their families, and like the viper, sting the bosom that has warmed them into life.

The Legal Profession.

There is no more honorable profession than that of the law. We make this remark with the full knowledge that many will take issue with us upon this question. If so, we stand ready to meet it in its fullest and broadest scope; but this is not our purpose in what we have to say in this article. Few men in the community understand their legal rights, without consultation with those whose business obliges them to be versed in the law. But few farmers, merchants or mechanics have any time to devote to the investigation of legal questions. Yet these questions frequently arise and more or less men in all these professions find themselves to a considerable extent involved in their settlement. Sometimes men's personal liberty, sometimes their character and reputation, and sometimes their property is at stake. What can they do? Abandon their means of livelihood, spend four or five hundred dollars in purchasing books, and then study law themselves to get the necessary information to protect themselves, their families and property? This would be folly in the extreme.

The advice and counsel of a good attorney in such cases is the proper remedy. Now we have the clarity to believe a majority of the profession intend to counsel their clients in a way most beneficial to their interests. There may be exceptions, for it is very possible lawyers have their percentage of dishonest, corrupt men in their profession. Now we lay down this proposition, without fear of contradiction from any quarter, that a well educated, intelligent, honest lawyer has it in his power to do more to promote the peace, harmony and quiet of a neighborhood or town, than any other person in such community. In nine cases out of ten, men in the heat of blood and under the excitement of passion, when they call on an attorney for counsel will fight, if they are so advised. On the other hand, a good lawyer in as many cases, can persuade the belligerent clients to take a peaceable remedy. We will not deny the fact, that there are those in the profession who, for the sake of a little business, will stir up strife, they encourage men into lawsuits and quarrels, merely for the sake of a paltry fee. Such members of the bar deserve not only to be kicked out of the pale of the profession, but out of all decent society. They are a disgrace to the legal fraternity.

One word to young men just starting in the profession. Prepare your cases thoroughly, and then, with the approbation of your clients, manage them yourselves. It is too common practice not only among young attorneys, but old ones, to go through with all dressing and labor of preparing cases, and then when the trial comes on in court, associate with them another member of the bar, who knows but little about the facts, and to such yield the entire management of the matter. This kind of practice subjects clients to pay double fee, and generally the attorney who does the less labor gets the lion's share of the pay. Unless a young man who intends to live by his profession has sufficient confidence in his own abilities to manage his own cases, he might as well concede he has mistaken his calling and shut up shop. He never can, by always leaning upon another distinguish himself in his profession. At best, he will only be a sort of "hewer of wood and carrier of water," while others will pocket the reward of his toils and labors.

We intended to have said something about the "Oxford Bar," in connection with this part of the subject, but fear if we say what we think, some of our good brothers would accuse us of being personal, so we leave all such to make their own application.

The Recent Mail Robberies.
Tuckerman, who is under arrest for mail robbery, is still in prison, in New Haven, awaiting his examination. The letters found in his possession furnish ample evidence that he has perpetrated a series of robberies, by which valuable letters have been lost, from nearly all parts of the country, for nearly three months past. Mr. Holbrook, who detected him, declares that the proof is overwhelming. Hopes have been entertained that the contents of the Cuba mail, for Portland, which was the last stolen, would be recovered, but it proved to have been entirely destroyed. He is described as being "nervous, dejected, and fearful. One would hardly imagine a creature more haggard and careworn."

The New York Times, commenting on some speculations of the Daily Advertiser, relative to those robberies, says:—
"His manner of robbing the mails was so much like that adopted by the miscreants who committed the great bullion robbery on the Brighton Railroad in England, a few years since, that we think he must have formed his plans after reading the account of that transaction, which was published in our papers. The man not only fell before the first temptation, but he seized upon the first opportunity that was offered to rob, and after having been detected in his first great crime, he deliberately planned and executed another more base than the first. His father died absolutely of a broken heart soon after his son's shame became known, and with this terrible fact in his mind he plunged deeper into vice. He might have committed almost any other kind of robbery, and have reconciled the deed to conscience on the score of his necessities; but as an intelligent and educated man of business, he knew the enormity of his guilt, and the incalculable harm he must inflict upon others, by destroying the letters whose contents he purloined. He knew very well when he was destroying the letters he had stolen, that he was causing all manner of grief, of disappointments, of confusion in business, of estrangement of friendships, that he was depriving mothers and wives of the consolation of anxiously anticipated letters, and inflicting irreparable damage. Yet he remorselessly did all those things for the paltry gains which he was not absolutely in need of."

The man must be, and must always have been, a remorseless and heartless thief. Yet the Daily Advertiser thinks his last act must have been 'the last of a series which had its commencement in some great temptation acting upon a character, weak perhaps, but not bad.' But this is a pernicious sentiment to utter over such a base miscreant. A man who had even a spark of manly honesty in his breast could never have fallen to such baseness, or committed such atrocities."

TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION AT WATERBURY.
We publish the closing portion of a letter in relation to temperance matters, received just as our paper for this week was made up. The writer says:

"We wish you and the County to know, that we in 'Old Waterbury' are not behind in the good work."

We have held weekly meetings here for the past three weeks. The Rev. Z. Thompson has been with us, and lectured at the two last meetings. At the last meeting, which was on Thursday evening, 3d inst., an Association was organized, and the following officers chosen:

Farnum Jewett, President; J. H. Green, P. E. Mosher, H. Richardson, Vice Presidents; J. S. Hodge, Secretary; J. A. Green, Treasurer; C. Whitney, N. Rounds, Thos. Sawin, Executive Committee.

About fifty have already signed the pledge. The good work prospers finely. We intend keeping up the meetings through the winter. The towns of Albany and Stonham have organized associations also. Many in those towns have signed the pledge, who have been hard drinkers. Yours, J. S. H.

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BRIGHAM YOUNG NOT AN OXFORD MAN.
Our exchanges, by various interpolations, have at last charged us with saying that Brigham Young was a native of Oxford County. This, we are happy to say, is not the case; neither did we so state it. The mothers of Young and Dianora were sisters, and were both Massachusetts women. We cannot now call to mind their family name. One of them married Brigham's father, and settled in Massachusetts, while the other, Mr. Morse's mother, married and came to Maine. Whether the father of Young ever lived in this County, we have never been able to ascertain positively, but have been frequently assured that such was the case.

TRIESTIAN CLUB. The members of this club give another of their entertainments, at the Academy Hall, on this Friday evening. The programme embraces three pieces, which will be presented series of tableaux. Lovers of fun will be sure to get the worth of their money.

AMATEURS. We would invite the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Mr. A. B. Crockett, of Norway. Of his success in taking likenesses, we have little knowledge; but we have examined some views taken by him from the cupola of the Academy, in this village, which possessed more than ordinary excellence.

SPROWS. The card of E. H. Brown, of Norway, will be found in another column of this paper. We have had one of the stoves of his manufacture, in constant use for three years, and with the exception of a slight break, the result of accident, it would not seem to have been used as many months. Other persons in this place, who purchased stoves at the same time, have had to put in new ones, which they purchased of Mr. Brown.

Doubted! The rumor that Col. Smart has applied for a chaplaincy to the African Squadron, [People's Organ.]

Perhaps Ephraim has a strong desire to ameliorate the condition of some of the benighted natives by bringing over and selling a few hundreds to Southern planters, to be Christianized.

For The Oxford Democrat.

"Taxation."

MR. EDITOR: In your issue of Nov. 6th, I find an article signed "K." on the subject of "Taxation"—a subject of the greatest popular importance. The right of Taxation is one of the highest government prerogatives; and whenever exercised, should be reasonable and just."

I entertain the opinion, that "K." intended to do the community a service, when he called attention to this question. That he, whoever he may be, is capable of enlightening the people of this County upon this important question of financial reform, judging from the tone, scope and general character of this first communication, is very evident. It is high time the subject should be agitated in all its length and breadth, with a view to retrenchment and economy.

One of the great difficulties connected with this subject of laying and assessing taxes, is that of indirect responsibility. In relation to County taxes, the people entertain the opinion generally that the County Commissioners can control the extent of taxation. It is made their duty by law, it is true, to decide what roads shall be located—how much money shall be raised to pay county expenses, settle road damages, and all other expenditures. But conceding this to be their duty, it is not an arbitrary one; nor one which they can exercise independent of the interests and demands of the various local communities. I have the impression that every Board of County Commissioners would sincerely desire that the estimates for County expenditures should be at the lowest possible figure. They desire for their own credit, as well as for the relief of the people. But this desire, accompanied as it may be with the strongest effort to effect such a result, may be rendered, to a great extent, nugatory, by the persistent importunity and action of the people themselves.

Suppose, for instance, the people of a certain locality want a road. They petition. The Commissioners order notice and a time for a hearing. They view, examine and have that hearing. The general necessity and convenience of the road is the great question. On this point the petitioners call in the testimony of the most substantial as well as the most intelligent men at a distance, to bolster up the necessity of such a measure. The road is finally located, because it is made to appear necessary. Then comes the damages which fall upon the County and the people, in taxes. Now the question is, who ought to be responsible for this taxation—the County Commissioners, the Petitioners for the road, the Attorneys for the Petitioners, or the most respectable, worthy and substantial men in the County, upon whose testimony such road was decided to be indispensable? It seems to me that however anxious we may be to place the whole responsibility upon the County Commissioners, and however acquiescent they may be or have been in some instances, the whole burden cannot properly rest on them. The people themselves and those who act as Attorneys and Witnesses must bear their share; and if they will persist in having County roads over mountains and through every neighborhood, they must settle the bills and take the responsibility.

But let these things be as they may, one word should be said in relation to the present and succeeding Boards of County Commissioners. I would assert as a fact that cannot be successfully contradicted, that it is not in the power of those officers within three years from last January, (even if it were possible subsequently,) to make any marked change in the taxation of this County. And I will go further and say that even if the Legislature during the coming winter, should abolish the office of County Commissioner, and establish a reform method, the diminution of taxation within that time in this County must be very slight. If I am asked why, I would state: 1st. Because the road damages which constitute the largest amount of expenditures, have been incurred during the last three years, and must be settled during the next three years. 2d. Because we must be taxed to pay two thousand dollars of cash debt which it is understood the County owed at the commencement of 1857. And 3d. Because we cannot calculate on any marked diminution on other County estimates, independent of road damages. Therefore, in my opinion, our County taxes must continue to be during the next three years, about the same as they have been for the past three years.

Whatever our taxes may be now, or during the next three years, it is highly proper that the question should be thoroughly discussed. For my part, I wish to see the people taxed the smallest possible amount; and I wish to be honest with them and say, that much of their taxation depends on themselves. If, likewise, our system of managing these affairs is wrong, it should be corrected; while, on the contrary, if, on discussion, the system is not proved in fault, it is to be hoped that the evils of taxation may be traced to their legitimate source, and a proper correction applied.

I am satisfied that your correspondent "K." has abundant knowledge of this subject; and what I desire most of all, is, that he should lay that knowledge before the people. Let him portray the errors of taxation, and the leaks in the County Ship, for which we are all compelled to put out of pocket so liberally. If errors have been committed, and that is a general belief, whether true or not, their proper elucidation must constitute the foundation of reform. Let us have the facts.

DECLINE OF THE INDIAN RACE. Mr. A. H. Redfield, Indian agent for the Upper Missouri, has recently transmitted to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs his annual report. From it we learn that several of the tribes in that region have suffered terribly from the small pox during the last year. Mr. Redfield found thirty deserted lodges near Fort William, the owners of which had perished by small pox. A few years since, the Mandans themselves numbered over 500 lodges—now they cannot count over 40 or 50.

The aboriginal inhabitants of this country are rapidly passing away. The close of the present century will, in all probability, witness their almost total extinction. It is estimated that they now number about 500,000 in all North America.

For The Oxford Democrat.
MR. EDITOR: Some of your readers would like to have your correspondent "K." while investigating the financial affairs of this County look a little into the way and manner criminal matters have been managed for the last ten years. A long string of indictments are generally found at every court, the County put to enormous expense to pay witnesses and jurors, and then what becomes of a majority of these cases? I should like to know by what law a grand jury can find a bill of indictment for adultery against a person without any proof of the marriage of either of the guilty parties? I was in court at the term just closed, when Dennis Moore, who I understand is one of the most respectable citizens of Lovell, was tried on an indictment for "forgery." There was no proof put into the case that would begin to make out a case, and he was acquitted by the jury without leaving their seats. Why was he indicted, harassed, disgraced and put to the expense of a trial upon such humbug testimony? Why was the County put to all this expense to injure and insult an innocent man? Let those who caused this outrage answer if they can?

Judge Hathaway charged the grand jury against finding bills or entertaining complaints for simple assaults and batteries, over which justices of the peace have jurisdiction. Yet the very same jury found a bill of indictment against one Marston, for assault and battery, where he had once been tried for the very same offense before a magistrate. Why was this done? Why was the County put to all this expense? Why did not the County Attorney, if he knew it, instruct the jury, that the trial before a magistrate was a perfect defense to the whole matter? Why was Marston indicted, and then when the matter came up for trial a *not* *pro* entered by the Government?

If parties have civil causes in court, it may be very convenient for them to get up humbug prosecutions against innocent men, go in before the grand jury and have their witnesses in other cases taken in before the same tribunal and by this means get pay out of the County Treasury for themselves and their witnesses. I don't say these things have been done, but I want the matter looked into a little. I bring no charges against the County Attorney, or any members of any of the grand juries in this County. I want some of these bills that have been made up for the people to pay investigated a little, let the people see how it is, that witnesses get their fees into the County Treasury through the grand jury room. I would give something to see the criminal bills for the last court published. Some of my neighbors would like to get a squint at them. We want to see who those witnesses are, that are getting fat pay out of the County. I want to see some of these things explained. If these things are all right, daylight won't hurt them, if not, I hope "K." or somebody else will dig them out.

For The Oxford Democrat.

Patrick McGlinchey vs. Judge Taney.

"Heigh ho! I'll have you to know, There are great men in high life as well as in low."

For The Oxford Democrat.

Taxation.

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In the reports of the criminal court, now sitting in Portland, published in the newspapers of that city, we find under date of Dec. 4th, the following record:

State vs. Patrick McGlinchey, for being a common seller of intoxicating liquors in 1856, was put upon trial. The indictment, found in July, 1856, charged the selling to have been in the early summer of 1856. This prosecution has been continued from term to term since that time, and now when the State calls upon the witnesses, they all fail to remember anything about the matter, and the defendant is acquitted.

Hon. N. Clifford for defendant.
State vs. Charles Gallagher

In Wisconsin, the full vote for Governor, 44,473 for Randall, Republican, and 44,026 for Cross, Democrat. In Minnesota, the actual Republican majority for Governor is 230. There are, however, sufficient favorable returns to show a majority in favor of the Democratic candidate.

The President has dismissed from office the U. S. District Attorney for New York, for opposition to the election of Fernando Wood. This is a fine state of affairs, when the faithful discharge of high public duties is made of less importance than the elevation of a graceless scamp to a municipal office in the city of New York.

Rev. Isaac S. Kallack has resigned the pastoral charge of the church worshipping at Tremont Temple, Boston, to take effect in April. He is to engage in the practice of law.

Floor of excellent quality is now manufactured from white western wheat at Kendall Mills in this State.

In the case of Capt. Sanford, of the steamer M. Sanford, the jury found that he was guilty, and bound him over to the sum of \$2000, to await the decision of the Supreme Court, to which the case is to be taken.

The Post Office department has under examination, a patent metallic mail bag, which is water tight, and will float all the mail matter which can be crowded into it, and is then capable of sustaining three or four persons. It is designed for the convenience of ocean mails, so that, in case of wreck, the mails might be thrown overboard, and eventually drift ashore.

Mr. Tomann's majority over Wood, in the New York majority election, is 2,331.

Patrick Bradley was found drowned in the Penobscot at Bangor, supposed to have fallen in the river while in a fit.

The Legislature of Alabama has elected Hon. C. C. Clay, Jr., to the Senate of the United States for six years from the 4th of March, 1857, when his present term of office expires.

A monument to Major-General William J. Worth was inaugurated at New York on Wednesday, the 25th ult., and obsequies on the disinterred remains of the hero were performed with great display. The address was by Mayor Wood. General Worth died at San Antonio, Texas, May 7, 1849. On shields around the coffin were inscribed "Montevideo," "Chippewa," "Niagara," and "Florida"—scenes of his gallant services.

Seven newspapers in Minnesota have suspended publication, owing to the tightness of the money market.

Mr. Edward P. Backly, of Portland, a single man about 30 years of age, committed suicide in that city on Tuesday, by hanging himself in the slaughter house of Mr. Haggitt, at the upper end of Congress street, near the mile post.

The Daily Advertiser says: "Canadian reciprocity has market for two years past, on this side of the line, for two years past, \$12,634,210 worth of the products of the soil—and taken from us of those products \$19,469,400 worth. Before the Treaty the balance of this trade was largely in our favor. It is now heavily against us."

Perley, in the Boston Journal, says, "a verdant Yankee expectant for office was advised yesterday to apply for the consulship at the Lobo Islands, near Guam, remote. He had his letter written before he discovered the joke."

Joshua Eaton, Jr., a boy fourteen years of age, has been sentenced to the New Hampshire State prison for six years, to be kept to hard labor, for shooting Gen. Eliza Swann, aged fifteen years, son of Dr. Swann of Sandwich. The killing was in July last.

The Springfield Republican says Hon. N. P. Banks, now on his way to Washington, will return to Massachusetts about the 25th ult., after resigning his seat in Congress.

A bankrupt friend of ours was conducted with the other day for his embarrassment. "Oh, I am not embarrassed at all," said he; "it is my creditors that are embarrassed."

Said a fashionable spendthrift to a usurious broker of whom he wished to borrow: "Daddy, the ready is needed." "Yes, sonny," replied the broker, "but the needful isn't ready."

The patriot who robbed Rev. Mr. Nute in Kansas, is now postmaster, and the plundered \$5,000 worth of property has been returned paid for. [Christian Register.]

Mr. Andrew Edmunds of Kennebunk, Me., fell, while getting out of the cars at Portsmouth, N. H., on the 20th ult., and his forehead struck on a door-sill. He was taken up insensible and carried to the house of his son-in-law, Mr. P. M. Shaw, where he died on Saturday.

A communication in favor of the organization of the proposed new territory of Arizona, published in the San Francisco Herald, says that Lieut. Maury, the delegate to Congress therefrom, is a candidate for the Governorship of the territory. No doubt all the other anxious advocates of the movement are up for good fat offices.

The store formerly occupied by Messrs. Fling & Drew, in Gardiner, was entered recently in the night, and the safe robbed of about \$1500 worth of watches and jewelry. The goods had been attached, and were in possession of Sheriff Berry at the time of the robbery.

The dwelling house and barn of Capt. George Barnard of Danvers, Mass., was entirely destroyed by fire, Wednesday afternoon. Furniture saved. Buildings partially insured. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

Freeman R. Bryant, son of George Bryant of Machias, was drowned at Jumpsport on the 25th ult., by being knocked overboard by the boom of a vessel. His age was about 21.

We are requested to publish the following resolutions, adopted by Native Engine Company, No. 3, of Chelsea, on the occasion of the death of James B. Carter, of Woodstock. A committee of six accompanied the remains of their fellow-member, to his father's residence, and attended his funeral yesterday.

TUESDAY EVENING, Dec. 8th, 1857.
At a meeting of Native Engine Company, No. 3, of Chelsea, Mass., held this evening, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, We have heard with feelings of the deepest sadness of the death of our beloved associate and companion, JAMES B. CARTER, therefore

Resolved, That in loss of one of its most valuable and active members, who had endeavored himself to all, for his many virtues, and kindly sympathies, and his untiring efforts to advance the interests of the Company, and the community are also deprived of the services of one who has long been one of its staunchest public servants.

Resolved, That we shall ever cherish with feelings of the liveliest esteem, the memory of James B. Carter, who labored together, and forever grown will be the place in our hearts where his memory resides.

Resolved, That the Constitution of the Company be draped in mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That we tender to his surviving relatives our liveliest sympathy in their bereavement, and shall do all in our power to alleviate this dispensation of all-wise and ever-ruling Providence.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased, and also published in the Fireman's Advocate, of Boston, and the Oxford Democrat, of Paris, Maine.

PICKER'S OFFICE CONTAINING:
IVORY WELLS, Clerk.
Chelsea, Mass., Dec. 8th, 1857.

The grocery store of A. White & Co., in Tipsham, Me., was entirely destroyed, by the contents, by fire, on Thursday morning, a little after one o'clock. The stock was insured for \$700, and the store for \$150.

BRIGHTON MARKET.
At market 1200 head cattle, 800 Sheep, 2250 Hogs, 3000 Chickens, 4000 Ducks, 4000 Geese, 4000 Turkeys, 4000 Rabbits, 4000 Guinea Pigs, 4000 Cats, 4000 Dogs, 4000 Fish, 4000 Fowl, 4000 Eggs, 4000 Butter, 4000 Cheese, 4000 Lard, 4000 Soap, 4000 Candles, 4000 Oil, 4000 Flour, 4000 Meal, 4000 Corn, 4000 Wheat, 4000 Oats, 4000 Hay, 4000 Straw, 4000 Wood, 4000 Coal, 4000 Iron, 4000 Steel, 4000 Lead, 4000 Zinc, 4000 Copper, 4000 Tin, 4000 Silver, 4000 Gold, 4000 Platinum, 4000 Nickel, 4000 Cobalt, 4000 Manganese, 4000 Potash, 4000 Soda, 4000 Lime, 4000 Cement, 4000 Brick, 4000 Tiles, 4000 Stone, 4000 Marble, 4000 Granite, 4000 Slate, 4000 Limestone, 4000 Sandstone, 4000 Gneiss, 4000 Schist, 4000 Quartz, 4000 Feldspar, 4000 Mica, 4000 Asbestos, 4000 Graphite, 4000 Pyrite, 4000 Sulfur, 4000 Phosphorus, 4000 Carbon, 4000 Nitrogen, 4000 Oxygen, 4000 Hydrogen, 4000 Chlorine, 4000 Fluorine, 4000 Bromine, 4000 Iodine, 4000 Barium, 4000 Strontium, 4000 Calcium, 4000 Magnesium, 4000 Sodium, 4000 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