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## MISCELLANY.

### An Adventure with a Thug.

Not long ago a party of six gentlemen were assembled at a private table in one of the pleasantest hotels in Manchester. Of this pleasure I happened to be one, and the guest of the giver of the dinner. A pleasant and more social gathering I never witnessed, and although we sat down to the table at a little after six o'clock it was near midnight before we rose from it.

When the cloth was removed and the wines were set on the real enjoyment of the evening began. Toasts, speeches, and stories followed each other in quick succession, and with a brilliancy that I have rarely seen equaled.

Among those present was General L., a veteran, who had seen service in India until his face was as bronzed as his hair was bleached white by the suns of that burning sky. I was especially charmed with him. He was a frank, outspoken, genial man, and at once gained both your respect and friendship.

It was late in the evening when some of the company called on him for a story.

"A story?" he said, with a smile. "I am but a poor hand, gentlemen, at story-telling."

"Surely, General," remarked our host, "you have passed through some remarkable adventures."

"Oh, if that is what you want, I can oblige you. I have had some strange adventures in my life," said the General, thoughtfully. "Let me see. What shall I tell? Suppose I tell you my adventure with a Thug?"

"By all means," we exclaimed.

"Well, then," began General L., "leaving back in his chair, 'you must know that I went out to India in the service of the Company' nearly forty years ago. I was a mere lad at that time, being barely eighteen. I left England with a determination to make something of myself in the land to which I was going, and when I reached my destination I began immediately to apply myself to the duties of my profession. I labored hard, and soon made progress. I studied closely the manners, customs, and language of the natives, and spared no effort to make myself as thorough an Indian as possible. I wanted to fit myself for any station in the Company's service; for I meant to rise, and I knew that as I had no political influence to sustain me, I would have to depend on my own merits for promotion. It was slow work at first, but I persevered; and when I was forty-three, just fifteen years ago, I was Colonel of cavalry, and I flatter myself that I was the best-informed officer in the service with regard to the country in which I was serving. I do not say this through vanity, but simply to let you understand better what follows."

"About that time the authorities at Calcutta were making strong efforts to suppress the sect of Thugs, who, you well know, are a band of fanatics who make murder a part of their religion. They rarely molest a European, on account of the great danger in which it would have placed them, but they carried on a regular system of operations against the natives, and especially against those who were friendly to us. Certain sections of the country were kept in a state of the most complete terror by them, and their atrocities had increased to so great an extent that the authorities thought it necessary to at once inaugurate the most prompt and decisive measures for their suppression."

"In the district of Benares the trouble was very great, and the Thugs managed their affairs with so much dexterity that for a time they completely baffled the authorities. The command of this district was now given to me, on account of my knowledge of Indian affairs, and my long experience in the country. I did not need the letter of the Governor-General to assure me that it was a delicate and difficult task which was assigned me, and that I was expected to discharge it. I accepted the appointment immediately. I was given a regiment of mounted men, picked for their long experience in the country, and at once set out on my new command, being determined to use no half-way measures when I got there."

"Upon reaching the neighborhood of Benares we halted and encamped near the Ganges, about five miles from the city. I had two reasons for doing this. One was that I would be able by encamping there to move on the instant whenever occasion required it; the other, that I would be free from observation by the spies of the Thugs than I would be in the city. I said nothing, and permitted my men to say nothing of the cause of our coming, but at once set my spies to work. As I have said, I resolved to attempt no half-way measures with the assassins, but to proceed against them with the utmost vigour, and to spare none that offered any resistance to me. In short, I was determined to capture or exterminate them. Such as I captured

were to be sent to Calcutta for trial, but it was my intention that those should be very few in number, as I knew that stern measures on my part would do more to strike terror to the sect than a hundred civil trials and executions.

"Through the instrumentality of my spies I learned that my district was infested with a band of Thugs, quite large in number, and under the direction of a leader named Runjeet. He was described to me as the most active of all, and as one of the most dangerous men the country had ever known. I set to work at once. I scoured my district right and left, by day and night, and with good effect, too."

"By the time I had been there six weeks I had sent ten prisoners to Calcutta with their families, had hung twenty caught in the act of strangling their victims, and had destroyed one of their towns and a temple. With my own hand I broke the image of their goddess Kali into a thousand pieces, knowing that this would be a severe blow to them. This act, together with the rest of my career there, came near being fatal to me. The Thugs began to consider me the cause as well as the means of their misfortune, and at length made me the object of their special vengeance."

"When I had been in camp for about two months, my orderly informed me that there was a native waiting at the door of my tent to see me. I had him shown in at once. He was a small, spare man, of about thirty, and my first glance told me that he was possessed of more than ordinary strength. There was something unusually quiet and dead about him, and at first I loosened my pistol and regarded him with a suspicious glance. He did not seem to notice this, but saluted me humbly and respectfully. In reply to my demand to know his business, he stated that he wished to enter my service as a spy. He was well acquainted with the country, and was sure that he could make himself useful. He gave as his reason that his father and brother had recently been murdered by the Thugs and that he desired to avenge them. I looked at the fellow searchingly, but could gain nothing from his countenance, which was fixed and devoid of expression, save a strange and perplexing glitter in his eyes. He told me his name was Ali, and that he was a Mohammedan. I said to him that if he would come back at the same hour the next day I would give him my answer."

"After he left me I thought long and seriously of his request. I did not like his looks, but I thought he might be of service to me. I felt confident that, if faithful, he would make an excellent spy; and I thought myself competent to the task of watching him so closely that he would have no opportunity to play me false. So, after weighing the matter well in my own mind, I determined to engage him but not to trust him until he should have been fully tried."

"When I gave him my answer the next day I saw his eyes flash and a smile play around his mouth. In an instant his face resumed its stolid expression. I was startled by this, and was more than ever resolved to watch the man closely. I gave him simple and easy tasks at first. He performed them with so much skill and celerity that I began to place more confidence in him, and gave him more difficult and important duties to perform. Thus ten days passed away. At the end of that time I went out one day at the head of a small party to follow up a scent which Ali had discovered. Toward mid-day I chanced to be alone, having sent the men away on various errands. The heat was intense, and I dismounted from my horse and stood for a short while under a large tree to enjoy the shade which looked so tempting to me. I had been there scarcely ten minutes when a rustling in the leaves above me caused me to look up. I saw a dark figure leap toward me from the tree, and from the handkerchief, which he held ready in his hand, I knew he was a Thug and bent upon my assassination. He was so sudden and unexpected in his movements that he might have succeeded but for a timely interposition. He had hardly sprung from the tree when I heard the sharp report of a rifle, and the next instant the Thug fell crashing at my feet. I looked around in astonishment to discover whence this timely aid, and saw Ali running toward me at full speed, with his discharged rifle in his hand. He asked me anxiously as he came up if I were safe, and seemed gratified when I assured him that I was unhurt. He listened calmly to my expression of thanks, and said he was glad to be able to show me that my suspicions of his fidelity were unjust."

"I could not help blushing with mortification as he spoke, and I felt bitterly ashamed of having suspected him at all. I told him that he should have no occasion to feel hurt at my conduct again, as he had given me the best proof of his loyalty that I could desire. I could not see his face as I spoke, for his eyes were bent on the ground, and his head was lowered."

"A week passed away after this, and the success which had attended our efforts suddenly deserted us. I could not account for it. My movements were as secret and as energetic as formerly, and I felt sure that we had not yet damaged the Thugs to a sufficient extent to warrant our departure, but each day recorded new failures for us. Somehow I could not help connecting Ali with our want of success, though for the life of me I could not tell why I should do so, and I did my best to banish the suspicion as both ungenerous and unjust."

"Toward the close of the week I sent out a party with a better prospect of success than had been vouchsafed to us during the past seven days. That night, feeling somewhat worn down by my constant exertions, I retired early without undressing."

"I could not have been sleeping very soundly, for I was awakened by a slight rustling in my tent. I endeavored to spring up, but in an instant I was seized by a powerful hand, and a handkerchief, which is the instrument used by the Thugs in their work, was twisted around my neck. I managed to thrust my left hand between the fold of the handkerchief and my throat, and thus prevented the scoundrel from strangling me at once. By a powerful effort I succeeded in gaining my feet, but the fellow hung on to me with almost superhuman strength. I was counted then one of the most powerful men in the army, and I was much larger and heavier than my antagonist, but it was just as much as I could do to keep him from mastering me. By the dim light of the moon, which struggled in through the opening of the tent, I recognized in my adversary my native spy, Ali. Like lightning it flashed across my mind that the whole affair was a plot. Ali had been sent to win my confidence and throw me off my guard. The shooting of the Thug, a week back, had been simply a part of the plot. I knew that I had a powerful and desperate man to deal with, and I nerved myself to the task before me."

"The fellow's grip on the handkerchief was like that of a vice, and it seemed that he would crush my left hand. The strain on my throat was terrible, and I felt that unless it was released very speedily I would be at his mercy."

"A novel and desperate plan presented itself to me in this emergency, and I at once proceeded to put it in execution."

"Bracing myself for a mighty effort, I sank back slowly, as if being gradually overcome, and Ali with a triumphant glance tightened his grip on my throat, and bent over me until his flashing eyes were just above my face. With a sudden bound I sprang forward, recovering myself and throwing Ali backward. At the same instant I spit, with true aim, a mouthful of tobacco-juice straight into his eyes. Thoroughly astounded and thrown off his guard, he relinquished his hold on the handkerchief, and with a yell of pain clapped his hand to his eyes. This was just what I expected, and in another instant I put him out of the way of doing more harm by sending a pistol-bullet through his head."

"The next morning the expedition I had sent out returned, bringing two prisoners with them. From these I learned that my would-be assassin was no other than the notorious chief of the Thugs, Runjeet, who had sworn to take my life in revenge for the damage I had inflicted upon his sect."

"In a month more I returned to Calcutta, having thoroughly finished the work assigned me."

### Corruption in Post Office Department.

The Erie (Pa.) Dispatch has been looking into the management of the Post Office Department, and reports progress as follows:

"Postmaster General Randall, the high-minded, pure and incorruptible patriot who holds the position of private Treasurer to our lowly minded, modest and unassuming Dictator, having been drained dry of all the money he could beg, borrow or steal, has hit upon a scheme for 'raising the wind' which shows his intimate knowledge of the way in which revenues should be managed when a Republic is undergoing a peaceful revolution to a monarchy. It is one worthy a classical education and high order of genius, being no less than to farm out the revenues of his department. It is called a 'Plan to Restore the Mail Service of the South,' and is placed under the entire control of one Bryan Tyson. He has issued circulars 'By authority of the Postmaster General,' which are being sent to two men on each mail route in the South, proposing to give the first one of them who answers the circular the work at the highest compensation allowed by law, for and in consideration of, five per cent. of the total salary: payment to be made quarterly. The said Bryan Tyson to be recognized as the principal, and all payments of the Post Office Department for this work will be made to him. He then pays his agent, keeping back the five per cent. commission—four per cent. being returned to the

Postmaster General, and one per cent retained as his salary. Tyson particularly calls attention in his circular to the fact that he 'can take the test oath without any compunctions,' and that those who may be employed by him are not required to do so. The mail routes in the South are five hundred in number, and the sum which will be pocketed by Johnson, Randall and Tyson makes quite a respectable 'plum.'"

Such open, barefaced and disgraceful swindling and corruption was never before known. It would be bad enough if it was done secretly, but the brazen impudence of Randall and his colleagues, who are doing it openly and with no attempt at concealment, is unparalleled."

### The Famine in India

The following facts concerning the terrible famine now prevailing in certain districts of India are gathered from our last foreign papers:

"The distress is most prevalent and most dire in Bengal, and it exists in varying degree over the whole presidency. In Orissa, Oudha, Boerhood, the Cuttack, and other districts, the scarcity has been intensified to a degree that is simply devastating; thousands have died and are dying in abject want. The starving poor have crowded into Calcutta, and the streets are full of distressing scenes and incidents. It has been estimated that no fewer than 20,000 to 25,000 starving people are wandering about the capital. Disease aids want to thin the crowd with horrible rapidity; but the multitude grows notwithstanding, recruited continually. To cope with this distress effectually is hardly possible; the government action is complained of as sluggish; individual efforts, although they do much, are comparatively powerless to stem the tide. The native rich classes, however, are conspicuous by the exertions they make. At Mellick's Ghat the Bombay merchants have raised a fund, and they distribute food. The crowd of famishing men and women who come to this scanty meal has constantly increased, till at the time the mail left, 7,000 applicants crowded up. They were described as 'placed in order upon an open space, waiting for the distribution. On one side nearly 4,000 Hindoos, each with a leaf platter before him, were scattered on the wet ground, hastily partaking of the scanty dole they received. On the other side were thousands of famishing Musselmans ranged in like manner and watching with silent and greedy eagerness the meal of their Hindoo brethren, and counting with bitter longings the minutes till their turn should come. Under shelter of the Ghat crouched the women, girls and children. Outside the gates were hundreds and hundreds who had lost their chance till the next distribution. But over all a horrid dead silence. No chattering or converse; hardly a sound, excepting when at intervals some wretch threw up his arms with an ejaculation to Heaven, wrung from him by the unappeasable pangs of hunger. A stranger passing near would have no intimation that within a yard of the road 7,000 starving creatures had assembled to snatch a meal."

In Calcutta, where more relief is available than elsewhere, we are told that there are 20,000 starvings, subsisting on daily charity, and that the number of pauper bodies buried at one ghaut alone rose from 50, at which is stood last year, to 329 in the first nine days of August. The last weekly return from one little station (Balsore) shows 703 deaths, and even this fearful rate of mortality gives but an inadequate notion of the actual state of affairs, for we are further informed that, if we treble this number for the many who become the food of the jackal and the vultures in the lonely jungle or ditch, we shall not go beyond the sad truth. One relief agent finds people dying slowly of starvation in the midst of a crowded bazaar, in a village where it is so common for eight or ten to die daily in the streets that no one takes any notice. The horrors of pestilence are now being added to those of starvation."

A RUMSELLER NO GOOD CITIZEN. The Rev. John Chambers, of Philadelphia, in a recent speech before the American Union, said: "A dealer in liquor was tried for some crime, convicted, and sentenced by Judge Parsons. The next day a lawyer waited upon, and told him he could show a defect in the proceedings wherefor the man should be released. 'O,' said the Judge, 'that matter is settled.' But," said the lawyer, "he is a worthy man." A worthy man! and make drunkards? But," said the lawyer, "he is a good citizen." A good citizen! said the Judge, "and fill our jails and almshouses, and cause men to commit arson, and murder, and every iniquity? That question is settled, sir, and the man must abide the law." The name of that judge was Parsons, and may God give us more such Parsons as these!"

The corn crop of the United States, the present year is estimated at 1,000,000,000 bushels.

THE RUMSELLER'S REWARD. The following is an extract from an address by Thurlow Weed Brown delivered at Palmyra over the grave of a citizen who died of delirium tremens:

"You, gentlemen, who hold the country, go where the night is blackest, and poor, weary hearts are slowly breaking under the weight of woe! tell them you have joyous news! Tell them that for all this bitter desolation your palm is filled with gold! Tell the smitten victims of the household that out of their mouths, off their backs, and from their blighted fields, you and your chosen instruments have gathered a harvest of gold! Tell the pale, wasting wife and mother that you have a pretty percentage of all that was noble in the husband or kind father, in yellow gold! Tell the drunkard he dreams, perchance, that he can beat back the red billows that toss and consume him, and that for his body's death and soul's damnation you have gold! Stand at the threshold of the poor house and mocking-ly taunt the squalid, the deformed and idiotic, with the news that out of their ruin you gathered gold! Stand by the prison door, and as the remorseless hinge shrinks after the victim it enthralls, peer through the grating and cheer the living dead with the news that you sold them to crime and infamy for gold! Tell the murderer that you made him murderer for gold! Stand by the new graves of the last twelve months, and whisper to fifty thousand sleepers, victims of your regular traffic, that you slew them for gold! Enter the vestibule of perdition, and with the Bible in hand, read that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of Heaven."

GEN. HOWARD ON AMENDMENT. Major General O. O. Howard delivered, on Monday evening, a lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association of Brooklyn, New York, on "Our Christian duty to the South." The following paragraph shows that he is a little ahead of the pastor of the Plymouth Church in his republicanism:

"The fruits of our victory were manhood developed, strengthened and ennobled, and liberty enlarged, yet made universal. God had given us those fruits, and would hold us responsible for their proper use and for their preservation. The advocates of that love and forgiveness which affixed upon the rebels no guarantees whatever for preserving those precious fruits, asked, 'What pledge, pray, do you demand? For one, he was entirely willing to leave the matter of pledges and conditions to his Government, and when he said his Government, he did not mean one department of the Government. (Immense applause.) He saw no violation of the Christian principle in the Christian principle in the proposed amendment to our constitution. (Applause.) He detected no spirit of revenge in any of its provisions."

BADGERING WITNESSES. The English bench decided at Westminster, about a month ago, that it was a principle of common law that a counselor, in questioning a witness, should address him in ordinary tones, and in language of respect, such as is employed by one gentleman in conversation with another; that such lawyer has no right to question the private business or moral character of a witness, and further than it is apparent they absolutely affect his reliability, or touch the case in hand; and that a witness is not bound to answer questions put to him in an insulting or annoying manner. It is to be hoped that our judges will enforce a similar rule in the courts of this country."

ANECDOTES OF SOJOURNER TRUTH. She went to the market one day, and a Copperhead there took occasion to speak to the butcher of the colored race; that they were just fit for slaves, that God Almighty made them for slaves, and intended they should be slaves. Sojourner, knowing that the talk was meant for her, looked him in the face and said: "Sir, you ain't acquainted with God Almighty. That's what's the matter with you."

She was in the store of another Copperhead, whom she did not personally know, soliciting funds to take her to Detroit to carry sanitary supplies to colored soldiers there, and having asked others present, at length applied to him. "No, I won't give you a cent." She straightened up her tall form and asked: "Who te you?" "The only son of my mother." She threw up her hands and exclaimed: "Bless the Lord there was no more on'em."

Her speech to President Lincoln: "Mr. Lincoln, I'm happy to see you and give you my photograph. It's black, but it's got a white back to it. I shall be glad to get yours with a greenback to it." So she did.

HIGH-PRICED FIFTY. We see it stated that a pew in King's Chapel, Boston, was sold recently for five thousand four hundred dollars. One must have an ample income to be able to worship God in that church! If the gospel is preached there, it certainly cannot be preached to the poor, for they are without the means to purchase the right to admission."



# The Oxford Democrat

PARIS, MAINE, NOV. 2, 1886.

## Sold Cheap!

We think that the so-called Democratic party must have reached the conclusion, by this time, that in their alliance with the "Bread and Butter Brigade" they have sold themselves cheap. That a great political party, counting its numbers by hundreds of thousands, should fall into the hands of a few drill-sergeants, and follow after their lead to the music of the rogue's march, is a comedy that is not witnessed every day, or every year. The little clique of renegades who have sold themselves, soul and body, in every State, for the sake of a few leaves and fishes, do not, can not, on account of insignificance in numbers and respectability, come up to the dignity of a political organization. This small brigade, in and of themselves, do not constitute anything like a party, upon which the President can fall back for support. The great mass of the people, instead of being with them, look upon them with supreme contempt. All the party to which Andrew Johnson can look for support is the rebel-copperhead party, called by its leaders the Democratic party. What does this party get by making itself the tail end of an insignificant faction of political apostates? Now and then a crumb—nothing more. Andrew Johnson, instead of recognizing them (as he should, to treat them fairly,) as the party, and the only party, that supports his administration, almost entirely ignores them in the distribution of patronage. The best places go to the renegades, and then he has failed to do his duty to his copperhead friends, by way of making removals. All the best places now in Maine are held by republicans, with a few exceptions. Look at the Portland Custom House and Post Office, the two best offices in the State. Why not our Messrs. Washburn and Davis and let in Bion Bradbury or Col. Sweet, or some other good copperhead who has a terrible hankering in that direction? The copperheads who have been instrumental in merging the old democracy into the bread and butter clique must begin to think that men, as well as republicans, are sometimes ungrateful. No party has ever sold itself so cheap.

## How They Did It.

The question is often asked, how did it happen that Hon. Chas. J. Talbot was removed from the Surveyorship of Portland, while Mr. Washburn is retained in the Custom House, and Judge Davis holds on in the Portland Post Office. Rumor tells the story in this wise: It seems that old Andy and Sec'y McCulloch are a little shy of pitching into Senator Fessenden, or any of his pet office-holders, for the probable reason that they dislike to offend the Chairman of the Committee on Finance in the Senate. Getting an inkling of this, somehow, the copperhead and bread-and-butter tribe put the case in this way: That Mr. Talbot was not a special favorite with Senator Fessenden; that he, in fact, cared but little about him; but that Mr. Hamlin was the man who specially interested himself in Talbot's appointment. This settled the question. Up goes the axe, off goes Talbot's head, and in goes Charles P. Kimball to his place. This was quite a smart operation, and shows how dangerous it is to have friends.

No doubt, after this, all the office-holders will repudiate Ex Vice President Hamlin, and swear themselves in as original Fessenden men. We don't envy any man his comfort who holds a commission at the mercy of Andrew Johnson, or any of his tools in the Cabinet. They would all do better in the end to do as Mr. Hamlin did, resign, and cut loose from all connection with a wicked, contemptible administration. No man can have anything to do with it and not become more or less defiled.

Bread and butter are very convenient articles, but we envy no man the share received at the table of the Tennessee apostate. Better beg from door to door than to have to do with the bread-and-butter brigade.

**A DISGRACE.** The bold trick of the New York copperheads, in nominating for Congress, in a district where it was supposed there was not the remotest chance for defeat, such a man as John Morrissy, the prize fighter, is a stronger dose than even New York City democracy, which is the vilest article extant, can stand. The bare supposition that such a man should be named for the place is an insult to the whole people; but he carried his club, his party carried the nomination; and Tammany did not dare to hold back its endorsement. But there are some men whose sense of decency overrides party discipline, and they bolt. One whole organization, it is said, has gone over to the Fenton ticket. The staid Journal of Commerce urges every democrat, at whatever cost, to vote against him. There may be enough of these voters to save the city; we certainly hope so. If not, there will be strong temptation, when he presents his credentials, for Congress to assert its self-respect in refusing to admit him.

**FENTON SENTENCED.** At Toronto, Col. Lynch, an alleged Fenian, has been convicted, and sentenced to death. One defence was that he went to Canada as a reporter for a Louisville paper, and had nothing to do with the invasion. He is sentenced to be hung on the 13th of December; yet there is a probability that the government will commute the sentence.

## Houses! Houses!

In nearly all our cities, where business is brisk, the great cry is "houses! houses!" It is a fact that the greatest drawback upon the material prosperity in our cities is the want of houses and buildings in which to live and do business. In Portland, on account of the great fire, rents have become enormous—so much so that it is operating greatly to the damage of the city. People of enterprise are leaving the city, because they can get no place to live and do business; and many of this class the citizens and business men can poorly afford to lose. But the want of houses is not confined to the city. Nearly every village, where any great amount of business is done, is suffering in the same way at the present time. Men cannot get rents, and of course leave. Why is all this? There are several reasons. In many places real estate holders ask unreasonable prices for their lots, and the result is people will not buy; and if they buy no lots, they will make no houses, for themselves or anybody else. In asking exorbitant prices for house-lots, real estate holders are governed by a miserable policy,—a policy that not only materially injures them, but the whole community in which they live. Another thing, in every village there are too many miserly, selfish men, who board up their funds, put them into bonds, or other securities, to secure large interest, and will not invest a single dollar in any enterprise that will add to the common prosperity. If a worthy young man of limited means comes along, and desires to get a little help to get a start in the world, they give him the cold shoulder, and he goes where he can find friends, not all bound up in the garb of selfishness. In nine cases out of ten, it is the young man who begins life with small means that, in the end builds up your cities and villages. Look at John B. Brown and St. John Smith, who, some thirty or more years since, went to Portland, penniless boys, from old Oxford, and see what they have done and are now doing for Portland!

The high prices of materials and labor is another great drawback on building. It is a fact that men can scarcely afford to build, when materials and labor are at their present figure. Every man who does it runs a risk. Real estate and rents in a great many localities must fall whenever we go back to a specie basis. But we must have buildings and the man who erects them is a public benefactor.

**OUTRAGES IN UTAH.** The Mormons decoyed Dr. J. K. Robinson, of the U. S. army, out of Salt Lake City, and murdered him. They also seized Mr. Weston, the editor of the Union Vedette, and, with a pistol at his head, made him promise to leave the city. Mr. W. did not recognize such a promise as binding, and sticks to his post. The Mormons are becoming very overbearing, and are determined not to allow gentiles to live among them. The sooner the government clears out the foul nest, the better will it be for all parties. It will come to this eventually, while each year adds strength to the force of the "saints."

**S. F. WATERMAN.** Late P. M. at Mechanic Falls, answers Mr. Knap's call for help as follows:

"Although my successor had been previously appointed, I comply with the request by sending you \$20 in CONFEDERATE CURRENCY. I have put myself to some extra trouble to procure the currency for you, as I suppose you would prefer it to any other, in expectation that it will rise to par with 'My Policy,' when greenbacks will become worthless."

**THE HEALTH OF NAPOLEON.** A special dispatch from Berlin, Saturday, stated that a consultation had been held by eminent surgeons, and that they decided that the operation, which alone would save the Emperor, was impracticable, and that his death might occur at any moment. This statement lacks confirmation, and is probably anticipating an event deemed likely to occur, from his known feebleness, for a long time past. He is reported by those who have been in positions to know, to be weak and failing.

**GRAND DIVISION OF SONS OF TEMPERANCE.** The officers of this body, for the ensuing year, were elected and installed at Richmond, Tuesday, as follows: Benj. F. Tallman, Richmond; G. W. P.; Alphon J. Potter, Bath; G. A.; H. K. Morrill, Gardiner; G. S.; John S. Kimball, Bangor; G. T.; L. J. Fletcher, Bath; G. Chap.; J. C. Blagdon, G. C.; S. C. Archer, G. S. The session was very fully attended and a lively interest in the cause prevailed. [Bath Times.]

**WESTERN VIRGINIA.** The returns from the election show the Republican State ticket to be chosen, by a large majority. Boreman is elected Governor. The vote is larger than that of last spring, which disfranchised rebels. Wherever the rebels are allowed to vote, the "democratic" party shows a large vote; but Western Virginia has acted more wisely than did Maryland.

A dispatch to Hon. Sidney Perham, received Wednesday, stated that his brother, Joel Perham, Jr., was sick with cholera, in Chicago, with little chance of his recovery.

Cyrus W. Field gives notice that the tolls on the Atlantic cables are to be reduced one-half. This will make it cost \$50 in gold to send a message to England. The lines have not been overburdened with business at the old prices.

## The Rights of the Press.

The proceedings in the case of the Bangor Democrat excite attention, as bearing directly upon the freedom of the press, as guaranteed by the constitution. On this point Judge Tapley, in his charge to the jury, said:

"Freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of the press have long been considered a part of republican institutions and necessary ingredients of them."

"But this freedom has never been an unlimited, unrestricted right to speak, write, and publish without accountability. The press enjoys no such privilege now or at any other period in the history of the country."

"Its constitutional guarantee is not to trample upon the rights of the individuals; neither is it to destroy the very government which upholds and confers upon its privileges. No such anomalies exist in our laws. All its operations must be in obedience to and subject to laws of the land. It is not above the law that protects it, and every person who speaks, writes or publishes his sentiments must be held responsible for the abuse of this liberty. The constitution recognizes an abuse of the privilege, it is its legitimate use that is protected, and its abuse that is not."

"Treason to the United States consists in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort."

"Treason against the State consists in levying war against it, adhering to its enemies, and giving them aid and comfort."

"The offence may be committed by writing and publishing, as well as by speaking. It is the highest offence known to any law in any country, and when committed by writing and publishing the offender cannot screen himself from the just penalty of the law by saying he simply wrote and published 'his own sentiments.' It is treason, nevertheless!"

"When Jefferson Davis called the inhabitants of the rebellious States to arms against the laws and government of the United States, and set up a government independent of it, he spoke, wrote and published his 'sentiments.' Nevertheless it was treason!"

"There is no freedom of the press guaranteed by the Constitution or laws that will permit of such flagrant acts of wrong to the State or government. There is no legal right in an individual acting through the press to levy war against the government, and adhere to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort. That is not the freedom of the press conferred and protected by the laws of the land, but it is the abuse of its privileges for which it must be held responsible."

"When in time of actual war the publisher of a newspaper is guilty of treason by writing and publishing articles in a newspaper, the newspaper and the press, and property used to print and disseminate it becomes a public nuisance."

"If it becomes a public nuisance, it becomes liable to abatement. It has no pre-emptive right of existence in that form over that of any other kind of property."

The jury, composed of democrats and republicans, brought in their general verdict, and found specially as follows:

"The jury have taken into consideration the question of the Democrat of 1861, and find it was a nuisance and that it was justifiable to suppress it, and we find the value of the property destroyed over and above what was necessary to its suppression to be \$916.66."

So far, then, the jury adopt the reasoning of Judge Tapley. We think no thoroughly independent publisher will take exception to the decision, so far as the general principle goes, that its legitimate use is protected. The complications likely to arise in the manner of the abatement. We do not subscribe to the idea of its being left to the individual aggrieved. Such journals as that suppressed exerted a most pernicious influence throughout the war. A whole day was spent, during the trial, in reading from its columns its tirades against the government, the substance of which is familiar to most general readers, and which presented overwhelming proof that it was a nuisance, and was creating disturbance and disloyalty at home, as well as in the South, where it was admitted large numbers were sent.

There being no question as to the nature and extent of the influence of such publications, it was the province of the government to have taken them in hand, and put a stop to their treason, as was done in many cases; or a law of Congress would have pointed out a proper method of disposing of them. It is never safe to submit the abatement of a nuisance of any kind to the action of a mob.

**VERMONT.** The Governor has ordered a new election for a member of Congress in the third District in Vermont. In September the Republicans ran two candidates, which resulted in no choice by the people. They have now united upon Hon. W. H. Smith, who will be chosen without effort.

It is a curious fact that Mr. Noyes, republican, was chosen Representative to the State Legislature, from Island Pond, in consequence of a smash-up on the Grand Trunk. There were copperheads enough on the train to have changed the result, had they got through. Mr. Noyes is an engineer on the road, and a native of Norway.

**BATES COLLEGE.** We are in receipt of the catalogue of this institution for the years 1886-7. The summary shows the total number of students to be 48, of whom 24 are members of the Freshman class.

**Nichols Latin School.** This is the title assumed by the Maine State Seminary, and is under the same government as Bates College. It has in attendance a total of 186 students, as follows: Ladies' Course, 52; Latin School, 79; Academic, 34.

**DEATH OF REV. SYLVANUS COBB.** D. D. Rev. Sylvanus Cobb died at his residence in East Boston, Wednesday. He had been out of health for some time, but until within a few weeks was gradually recovering, when a relapse took place, and he passed away at eight o'clock on the morning of that day. [Press.]

**NORWAY.** As will be seen by his advertisement in another column, Mr. D. H. Young has removed to his new store in Real's Block. This store is elegantly fitted, and well suited to the constantly increasing business of its enterprising occupant.

Mrs. C. E. Barker has just removed to the store just fitted up, and is prepared to show the ladies all the varieties of the season.

A. Oscar Noyes is fitting up a new drug store, which he will soon have in readiness for occupation.

Repairs have been commenced upon the Universalist church. Besides the changes we have alluded to, it is designed to raise the house sufficiently to give room for a spacious hall. An addition will be made in the rear, for a platform for the Sabbath School exhibitions. Convenient ante-rooms will be constructed.

The new pastor of the Congregational church, Rev. Mr. Merry, was to be installed on Thursday.

Messrs. Crooker & Higgins are making arrangements to put up a large brick store, on the old stand, next Spring. It will be three stories high. Part of the materials are already on the ground.

Lt. H. M. Pearce, who was admitted to the bar, at the September term, has commenced practice in the village, as will be seen by his announcement in another column.

The Bowdoinham robbers have been committed to the jail in Augusta. This is the best prison in the State, and, with the care which probably will be exercised, they will be entirely safe.

The fellow who was taken in Dixfield, recently, for horse-stealing, was in the jail in October. He had made a wooden key that fitted the lock of his cell, perfectly, and not being able to reach the lock with his hand, worked it into its place with a stick, and turned the key with strings. He thus got out of the cell, and probably intended to have eluded the turnkey when he turned out the gas in the evening, but was not quick enough. The key was an elaborate piece of workmanship, showing an amount of mechanical skill that might have given him eminence, if it had been rightly applied.

Co. B, 324 Maine, announced a "re-union" at the Atlantic House, South Paris, on Thursday evening of this week. A notice of this meeting was handed us last week, but was mislaid. But for the accident, we should have been pleased to aid, so far as was in our power, in calling together the veterans.

**BENEFITS OF INSURANCE.** The Agent of the Travellers' Insurance Company, at Norway, paid over to Charles T. Greenleaf, last week, one hundred and thirty-seven dollars and sixteen cents, for injuries received in June last, by a log rolling upon his leg and breaking his ankle. This is the second payment on the same policy. Greenleaf having drawn fifty dollars on account of cutting off the ends of two fingers, making in all one hundred and eighty-seven and 16-100 dollars. Every person should avail themselves of this kind of insurance. It costs but little, and is of untold benefit. Fredland Howe, of Norway, is the regularly constituted agent for Oxford County.

At a trotting match in Augusta, last week, between Sheppard Knapp, Johnny Schmoker and Emperor, the former won the race in 2:38, 2:44, and 2:48. In consequence of a collision, Emperor was withdrawn after the first heat, and Johnny Schmoker was hopping from a cut in his hind leg. We gather these facts from the report of the Lewiston Journal.

**ACADEMY COURSE.** Hon. Elijah L. Hamlin, of Bangor, delivered a lecture at the Universalist church, on Thursday evening of last week. His subject was "The State of Maine."

**TALL CORN.** Charley F. Stevens, aged 6 years, son of J. L. Stevens, raised a stalk of corn 12 feet 10 inches in height. His brother, Winfield S., ripened 1-2 bushel of same kind of corn last season, and a quantity this year.

Among the last promotions, was that of Col. Clark S. Edwards, of Bethel, late of the Maine 5th, to be Brevet Brig. General.

At the late fair, Mr. A. S. Bartlett exhibited an elastic cushion for horse-shoes. It is a cushion of rubber, designed to fit between the shoe and hoof, relieving the concussion when travelling on a hard road, and protecting the foot from balling with snow. The cushion is highly recommended by some of the leading stable-keepers in the State.

The Price Current says a company lately organized in Portland has established a factory, out of the city, for making brick, by steam. The work is done with great rapidity, and the bricks are superior to any but pressed. The drying is done by steam, so that the work can be carried on without regard to weather.

**A SUPERIOR NUMBER.** The Phenological Journal for November contains sketches of the King and Queen of the Belgians, with likenesses; Chief Men among the Mormons, with many excellent portraits and other illustrations; and a host of reading suggestive and profitable to all. Price 20 cents, or \$2 a year. Address Eowler & Wells, 389 Broadway, New York.

**BASE BALL.** The game of Base Ball between the Hercules Club, of Hebron Academy, and the Resolute Club, of Paris Hill Academy, played at the Oxford County Cattle Show, was managed rather loosely, and gave satisfaction to neither club. Therefore another game was arranged to come off on the fair grounds Wednesday, on challenge from Hercules, but the improbability of play being possible, from continued bad weather, caused the absence of the Catcher, (and Captain,) and 3d Base of the Resolute, and it was only at the last moment that new men were added to the nine; but both parties were anxious for a decisive game, and mutual concessions were made to reach it. The Hercules took the bat at 2 P. M., and the game occupied 2 1/2 hours. The score was as follows:

HERCULES CLUB.		RESOLUTE CLUB.	
Runners, 1st base,	3	Runners, 1st base,	3
Runners, 2d base,	3	Runners, 2d base,	3
Runners, 3d base,	3	Runners, 3d base,	3
Runners, 4th base,	3	Runners, 4th base,	3
Runners, 5th base,	3	Runners, 5th base,	3
Runners, 6th base,	3	Runners, 6th base,	3
Runners, 7th base,	3	Runners, 7th base,	3
Runners, 8th base,	3	Runners, 8th base,	3
Runners, 9th base,	3	Runners, 9th base,	3
Runners, 10th base,	3	Runners, 10th base,	3

Clubs, 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Totals.  
Hercules, 2 0 7 4 9 1 1 2 0 26  
Resolute, 2 0 1 2 8 5 4 2 28

Captain, Mr. M. A. Hastings, of the Bethel Club. Team, Messrs. A. Burdham & Home. Runners, Mr. Wain 1, Down 1, Allen 1; Hercules, Burdham 1, Home 1, Cole 1. Fly catches, Resolute, Crocker & Higgins 1, Parker 1, Allen 1; Hercules, Crocker & Higgins 1, Burrows 1.

A challenge from the Bethel Club has been accepted by the Resolute, the game to be played on Saturday, on the Fair Grounds.

**THE MARKETS.** The Portland Price Current for Saturday makes the following wholesale quotations: Apples, \$2.50 to 4.00; Beans, 3.25 to 3.50; Butter—Store, 30 and 35, Country, 40 and 42, Choice, 42 and 45; Cheese, 15 to 18; Flour and Corn, scarce and advancing; Hay, \$20 and \$22; Lime, 1.45 and 1.55; Oil, lower,—Kerosene, 65 cents, in large quantities; Onions, 87 cents per bushel; Potatoes, 2.00 and 2.35 per barrel; Soap in good demand,—the demand for Leather and Gore so great that orders have been difficult to fill for a few days; granulated Sugars, 16 1/2 to 16 3/4.

**MEXICO.** A French frigate has arrived in Mexico, advising Maximilian to abdicate. The French troops are to be withdrawn. The Empress Carlotta has become crazy with the complications into which the affair has fallen; and the empire seems to be falling through. But the misfortune of Mexico is that the end of this fiasco does not leave any prospect of permanent and liberal government before her.

The Bowdoinham Bank robbers had a preliminary examination at Bath, last week. They were identified by the Cashier of the Bank, and his wife, as the men who came to his house in the night. They were also identified by the stable-keepers and hostler at Bath, where the horses were fed; and an interfering strap furnished at this stable was found on the horse when it reached Portland. The toll-bridge keeper also identified one of them, as having stopped two or three minutes and spoken with him on the night of the robbery. They have been bound over for trial next April, in the sum of \$50,000 each. One of the party is under bail for robbing the Adams Express Company.

**DEATH OF JUDGE ORVILLE JENNINGS.** We regret to learn from the Little Rock (Arkansas) Dispatch that Judge Orville Jennings, a native of Leeds, in this County, died at Little Rock on the 3d ult., at the age of 43, after a short and painful illness. Mr. Jennings graduated at Bowdoin College in the class of 1849. [Lewiston Journal.]

O. M. Shaw, Esq., the popular landlord of the Bangor House, in this city, has been made the recipient of an elegant gift in the shape of a magnificent gold watch,—one of Jacob's independent quarter second stop,—with beautiful case, the whole valued at \$300. One of his guests, Mr. J. C. Stodder, of New York, is the giver. [Bangor Whig.]

Dr. J. C. Ayer has presented to the city of Lowell a magnificent bronze statue of "Victory" which was prepared for the king of Bavaria, to stand at the entrance of his palace at Munich.

**TEXAS.** The Legislature, almost unanimously rebel and traitor, has rejected the Constitutional Amendment by a vote of 67 to 5. Texas is a land of thieves, bandits and rebels.

**MR. A. H. STEPHENS AND THE AMENDMENT.** A letter from Augusta, Ga., has the following notable paragraph in regard to the amendment to the Constitution proposed by Congress:

"Some prominent citizens, both of the class to be affected by the amendment and of that which it will not reach, express themselves in favor of its adoption. I am informed by one who professes to know positively, that Mr. Alexander H. Stephens recommends its adoption by the Legislature, and his brother Mr. Linton Stephens, so expressed himself within a few days. This latter circumstance is a sufficient proof of what the ex-Vice President thinks, as his brother generally shares his opinions on all leading questions. I know of several others of less prominence than Mr. Stephens, who think the Legislature should adopt it the day that body meets."

The only daughter of Secretary Seward died on Monday, of bilious fever. Her death was quite sudden.

**THE CROPS OF 1886.** The returns to the Department of Agriculture state that the corn crop has deteriorated from early frosts and excessive rains, but the quantity of the crop is larger than was ever promised in the country. The yield of wheat won't vary much from 143,000,000 bushels, showing a small per centage of decrease, which is fully compensated by the comparatively superior quality of the grain. This is 10,000,000 bushels more than the crop of 1885, and within 5,000,000 bushels of a product in proportion to the increased population.

The diminution in the South is more apparent. The estimates point to less than 17,000,000 bushels in eleven States heretofore unreported, a fraction less than five-tenths of the crop of 1885. The California wheat harvest of which little note has been publicly made in connection with the present crop, is in excess of 1860. The product of that young State was nearly 6,000,000 bushels. Now it is seriously claimed by leading California agriculturalists, that the surplus for export will nearly double that quantity.

It is evident the entire wheat crop will exceed, by several millions, that of 1885, when the yield was reported at 173,104,924 bushels. Then there were five and a half bushels to each individual. In 1866, the estimates point to five bushels to each inhabitant. There is no ground then for apprehensions of a scarcity, and little excuse in the amount of the crops for starvation prices. The yield of oats is extraordinary and the quality excellent.

The indications point to an increase of from 171,497,072 bushels in 1885 to 271,912,695 in 1886. It is the only crop in the South that maintains an equality with its last census exhibit. Hay is less in quantity than in the previous years by from one to two-tenths, but is better in quality. An analysis of Southern returns up to October 1st, does not warrant a reduction of the former cotton estimate much, (1,750,000 bales) thought it is too early for a final estimate. The severity of the damage from insects is reported increasing.

**PERSONAL.** The Press learns that Mr. Edward S. Morse, of Portland, whose valuable labors in the domain of Natural History are well known, has received an invitation to become Curator and Lecturer on the Mollusca in the Essex Institute, at Salem, and has removed thither in acceptance of the call. Mr. Alpheus S. Packard, of Brunswick, has been elected Curator and Lecturer on Entomology, in the same institution, and has entered upon his duties.

**LOUISIANA CONVENTION.** It is reported from New Orleans that Gov. Wells and Judge Howell, who claims to be President of the Constitutional Convention of 1864, are about to reconvene that body, and that they have ordered the election of delegates to fill the vacancies. The Governor has received the assurance from leading members of Congress that he will be sustained by force if necessary.

The great storm experienced this week came from the south-east, and seems to have extended along our whole coast. It was mingled snow and rain the whole distance. South of us the severe wind caused considerable damage. It blew furiously in this vicinity, but did no further damage than to overturn fences in several instances. The rain searched out the holes in dwellings thoroughly, so that few escaped the annoyance of stained walls and paper-hangings.

In Portland the tall chimneys of the mansion of Granville M. Chase were blown off even with the roof. A board which had been torn off was caught up by the wind and dashed through the parlor window of the residence of a Mr. Harmon.

The Journal says two bridges were swept away on the Androscoggin Railroad, the Slay bridge, 40 feet long, near Livermore Falls, and the bridge at Jay. These damages will prevent the running of trains to Farmington until the bridges are repaired, on which work a large force is already engaged.

The Farmington Chronicle terms the "Father of all Squashes," an Avon product, a little more than half as big as Elder Dunham's. What will it say of those described by our Hiram correspondent, that were drawn to the fair by six and eight oxen?

**FIRE.** The long woodshed of the Kennebec & Portland Railroad, near Vaughan's Bridge, containing 700 cords of wood, was destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon with all its contents. It is supposed the fire caught from sparks from the furnace of the steam sawing machine, the machine being in operation. [Press, 31st.]

The last joke on Commercial street is soliciting subscriptions for stock in a company to run ox teams between this city and Chicago in opposition to the principal rail way line. They propose to guarantee the delivery of freight forty days in advance of the G. T. R. Co. [Argus.]

An equally good joke is the public announcement of the G. T. R. R. Co. that it "will not be moved by any combination of railroads to increase the rate of fares and freight." The Grand Trunk is all of a neck ahead of any combination. [Evening Star.]

Reports from Japan state that the Tycoon had met with another severe defeat, and that in consequence he had abdicated.

At a special meeting of the Diocese of Maine, held at Gardiner, Wednesday, Rev. Henry A. Seeley, of New York, was elected Bishop.







