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## MISCELLANY.

### HOW I LOST MY WHISKERS.

"Do you object to smoking, sir?"

This I asked in my blandest manner of an old gentleman who sat with his face hidden by a newspaper, opposite to me in a railway carriage. All the seats in the carriage were filled. I and four others were on our way from Cambridge to enjoy the Christmas vacation. Our spirits were high, for there is a delight in banishing for a time all thoughts of comic sections, Newton's Principia, and the little-go, and entertaining, in exchange, visions of hops, skating-parties, and all the orgies which every right-minded family hold at that season in honor of King Christmas.

But I must introduce you to my chums; for chums we were, although our tastes did not lie in the same direction. Jack Stirrup is (or rather was at that period) a riding and hunting man, and was not unfrequently to be seen at Newmarket; Stretcher, on the other hand, loved boating, and preferred the sight of a well-developed biceps to that of the best bred hunter, and would often remark to Jack, "How on earth you can say that you would rather see the Two Thousand than the time race in the Colquhoun Sculls, I cannot for the life of me make out." Edward was a poor and reading man, but his wit and talents made him a universal favorite; whilst Davis was a rich, open-handed, good-hearted fellow as ever lived. For my own part, I do not think I had any well-defined peculiarity, but I did a little of everything. I read a little, hunted a little, had a fair income,—in short, if I had any characteristic at all, it was a love of laziness and practical jokes.

We congratulated ourselves in getting a carriage to ourselves, (with the exception of the old gentleman I have named,) for we intended to keep out the cold, and beguile our journey with sundry pipes and cigars. We had our cases out, and were preparing to light up, when we were astonished by my vis-a-vis dashing away the newspaper which had hidden his face.

"Do object to smoking? Yes, sir, I do object and beg that you will instantly replace your cigars in your pockets. I insist on having no smoking in this carriage!" We looked aghast at this sudden burst of old-gentlemanish wrath.

"Might I ask if you intend travelling far on this line, sir?" inquired Edward, in his comically-polite tone.

"What is that to you, sir? What business is it of yours where I am going to?" "I merely wished to suggest, in case of your travelling far, that, pleasing and delightful as it would be for us to enjoy your agreeable society, yet, nevertheless, we would try to bear the loss, should you prefer to change carriages at the next station."

"No doubt you would wish to get rid of me, but no, sir! I do not move my seat, and the first one that smokes I report to the guard."

"In that case, I fear we shall be obliged, painful though it be, to tear ourselves away," I said, as we drew up at a small station.

Fortunately we found the next compartment empty, and as we started again we pulled out our cigar-cases, this time to light their contents.

"The old boy has certainly got out of bed on the wrong side this morning," said I, puffing away.

"Or has made a mistake in his betting-book," remarked my sporting friend. We'll give him a benefit now, at any rate; I vote we take it in turns to puff smoke through the lamp-hole. Let's look at him; ha! cooling down a little; is about to compose himself to sleep. I'll trouble you for his night-cap; come and look at it, Fred."

The snow, which had been falling all day, now lay thick all around. Our eyes ached again, as we looked out of the window (which was itself all frosted over,) on to the dazzling snow which covered all the landscape; and as we stamped our feet on the floor of the carriage we began heartily to wish ourselves at our journey's end, and by the fireside.

"Halloo! what are we stopping for now? I wonder whether we're going to do an upset, or anything exciting of that kind?" said Davis, looking out of the window. "I don't see a train anywhere that we can have a friendly collision with."

"Get out here, gentlemen," said the guard, passing the window; "the line is snowed up, and we shall have to wait till it is clear."

The grumbling which this pleasant announcement caused was immediately stopped by our hearing the voice of our disagreeable companion in the next compartment. "Line snowed up, is it?" said that gentleman, trying to appear calm in his fury. "and we get out here? Oh! and do you suppose I am quietly going to submit to this? The line ought to have been cleared ready for us. I shall bring an action."

"But, sir," I said, "how on earth could they—"

"Might I request to know who spoke to you, sir? I consider your remark and interference excessive impertinence."

This was a little too bad, and I turned and whispered to Jack that we would devise some plan of giving our friend a lesson demonstrative of the evils attending a bad temper at Christmas time.

We were fortunately stopped at a distance of only two hundred yards from a station; but a very poor station it was, without any waiting-room or refreshment-rooms.

The station-master, who was a pleasant sort of fellow, said we would have to wait but a couple of hours, and gave us a room, where we made the best of a bad job, and having sent for some beer from the nearest "public," became, as Edward mathematically observed, "approximately happy."

The old gentleman, however, had not vented all his wrath, but kept on anxiously staring the snow and the railway people at intervals. After we had warmed ourselves, Stretcher proposed that we should have some soup; but, as no one volunteered, I suggested that we should get on our way sooner if we all went out and helped to clear away the snow from the line. To this all agreed, (with the exception of our amiable friend, of course.)

We had worked away merrily for about an hour, and were congratulating ourselves on being able to start again, when Jack came running up with a very pleased expression of countenance, and as he tapped me on the shoulder, I remembered that he had not been with us for the last half hour.

"Give me the screws quick," I said "and go to the bottom of the stairs, and prevent anyone coming up."

I bored hole after hole as noiselessly as I could, and having made the door as fast as eight good screws would make it, I ran down stairs and whispered, "All right!"

"Is there a gentleman up-stairs, sir?" said the station-master, walking towards us. "He asked me to wake him in time for the train, and it's just ready to go."

"O, he won't like to be disturbed till the last moment, you may be sure," said Jack. "By the by, I wished to talk to you of a plan by which I think your station might be improved."

Now architecture happened to be one of the station-master's hobbies, and they were soon in deep discussion. I beat a hasty retreat to the guard, and producing a sovereign, said: "If you get us off in five minutes from now, waiting for no one, and ring your bell at the very last minute, this is yours."

"All right, sir? the luggage is all in, and most of the passengers. Take your seats. Going on?" he shouted, while I stood with my watch in my hand.

"One minute left! Ring the bell now," I said. If they undo those screws in one, or even five minutes, I'll eat them."

We jumped into a carriage, the guard gave the final whistle, and the train moved slowly on. We anxiously watched the result of our plot, with our heads out of the window. After waiting one or two minutes, we noticed a figure gesticulating at the station window. The train then passed into a deep cutting, and we lost sight of it.

I think I have forgotten to say that I was going to spend the Christmas with a college friend. He had gone down a few days before, and had promised to meet me at C—station.

You may imagine that I was not sorry to find myself arrived there, nor yet to see my friend Tom stamping his feet on the platform, no doubt thoroughly tired of waiting for the train. As we drove up, he began talking of the different arrangements he had made for our mutual amusement. "To-morrow," he said, "I've set aside for a skating-party; I've had the pond in the park swept, and invited all the jeune demoiselles within reach, and as they have all accepted, it will give you a very fair idea of our native beauty."

Now, of all jolly things in the world, I think a skating-party is the jolliest. Tom says that I am fond of showing my skating off; but I deny that this has anything to do with it. In the first place, the frosty weather (and the muffled claret) induces high spirits; then there are the tumbles to laugh at, and the ladies' skates to strap on (which last, in my own mind, is not the least pleasant part of the entertainment.)

We had by this time reached the house, and, after having accomplished our toilets, Tom took me into the drawing room.

"I did I wish it at that moment. I saw the whole affair at a glance. I had been playing a practical joke upon the gentleman in whose house I was sitting, and had been describing him in the most ridiculous light to his daughter. How I hated Tom for laughing, (his sister was nearly as bad, by the way,) while I sat turning alternately red and pale, considering what on earth was to be done. At this moment a servant entered the room."

"A telegram for Miss Grumblethorp." She hastily looked it over, and then read it aloud to us: "Shall come by the 8:30 to-morrow morning. Some young jackanapes have played a practical joke, and caused me to miss the last train to-night."

At last I found words: "Tom," I said "I must fly. Miss Grumblethorp. I cannot sufficiently apologize to you."

"O, you need not apologize to me, nor must you go, either. Tom, you must devise some escape out of the dilemma."

"It would certainly never do for the governor to recognize you. He'd never forgive you, and would cut me off with a shilling. O, I have it! I sentence you, in punishment, to cut off those whiskers and moustache—he'll never know you then."

"Never!" I said, with determination. "I'm not a vain man, but I will never voluntarily make a fright of myself."

"O, I'm sure you'd look much better without them," said Miss Grumblethorp; "besides, remember the skating party to-morrow; I want you to teach me so much. You really must not go."

I was not proof against this. The adorable Miss Minnie actually wished me to stay. Again, I recollected that I had no other invitation for Christmas, and all my family were spending the winter abroad. Under these circumstances, I determined to risk all, and stay where I was sure to enjoy myself.

Next morning I rose early, had a clean shave, and borrowed a pair of light-blue spectacles. When I met Miss Grumblethorp, on my way to breakfast, she declared the disguise was capital, telling me at the same time that her father had arrived, and was in the breakfast-room. I was formally introduced, and by the way that he received me it was evident he had not recognized me in the least.

"Always glad to see Tom's friends," said the good old boy, in quite a cheerful tone. "Thank goodness he does n't choose for companions such puppies as those who insulted me yesterday. I wonder whether they consider themselves gentlemen!"

In this strain he continued to talk all breakfast time, whilst I answered with perfect gravity, not daring to look at Minnie, for I felt sure she was enjoying the joke.

## BREVITIES.

When is a nutmeg like a prison window? When it is grated.

A girl who has lost her bean may as well hang up her fiddle.

When is a literary work like smoke? When it comes in volumes.

When may a loaf of bread be said to be inhabited? When it has a little indian in it.

Some philosophers advise the girls not to marry blacksmiths, because they all have hardened vires.

Why is twice ten the same as twice eleven? Because twice ten is twenty, and twice eleven is twenty-two.

Why ought a greedy man to wear a plaid waistcoat? To keep a check upon his stomach.

Why are fowls the most economical stock for farmers? Because for every grain of corn they give a peck.

Why are tilting skirts like a slaughter-pen? Because lean and fat calves are seen in them.

In a large "XXX ale" vat, in Chicago, a week or two since, there were found four bushels of dead rats.

A Boston correspondent of the Independent says: "After having one's ancestors come over in the Mayflower, the next best thing is to write for the Atlantic."

A furrier, having facilities for renovating old furs, advertising in a perfectly grammatical manner, "Capes, victorias, &c., made up for ladies out of their own skins."

A fashionable, but ignorant, lady, desirous of purchasing a watch, was shown a very beautiful one, the shop-keeper remarking that it went thirty-six hours. "What, in one day?" she asked.

"When we picture the hundred or more trunks that ladies travel with," says Punch, "we cannot help reflecting how happy is the elephant, whose wife, when on a journey, has only one trunk."

"Charlie, my dear," said a loving mother to a hopeful son, just bidden into breeches, "Charlie, my dear, come here and get some candy." "I guess I won't mind it now, mother," replied Charley. "I've got in some tobacco."

A Western poet is the author of these epigrammatic lines: "The old dog Tray's ever faithful, they say; But a dog that is faithful can never be Tray."

## The Undiscovered Country.

Could we but know The land that ends our dark, uncertain travel; Where the thorn's happier hills and meadows lie— Ah, beyond the spirit's innocent veil A sight of that country could we surely know, Who would not go?

Might we but hear The hovering angels' high imagined chorus, Or catch, letimes, with wakeful eyes and clear, Our radiant vista of the realm before us— Who, one rapid moment given to see and hear, Ah, who would fear?

Were we quite sure To find the peerless friend, who left us lonely, Or there, by some celestial strain, aspire To gaze in eyes that have been love-lit only— This weary mortal coil, were we quite sure, Who would endure?

A GOOD SAMARITAN. Some three months since a man was going to Bangor in the steamer fell between the wharf and the boat, and broke one of his legs. He was taken to the Walker House, where he was kindly cared for, and his daughter was sent for to come up and take care of him. The father and daughter were at the house about eight weeks, until he got so strong that he could start for Bangor. On leaving the Walker House, Mr. John Hilt, the landlord, presented him with the bill of board for himself and daughter, declining to receive any pay. Mr. Hilt also raised a subscription, leading it himself with \$5.00, to pay the surgeon's bill. [Press.]

TAKING BOARD FOR THREE YEARS. Joseph Shea, of East Pittsburg, has entered into a contract with the State of Maine for three years. Shea gives his personal services, and the State, through W. W. Rice, Esq., of Thomaston, furnishes board and clothes. Mr. Shea was induced to enter into this arrangement in consequence of forgetfulness on his part. He borrowed a team from one Mr. Dane and forgot to return it. [Ex.]

During a trial in Bangor, the Courier says one of the witnesses was asked of whom he learned the business of silver plating. He answered, "Mr. Johnson." A rascally black republican, outside the bar, queried, "Was it Andy?" "No, sir," said the witness, "he is in the copper trade." The Court smiled audibly.

The Richmond Whig publishes this item: "Caroline James a colored woman, died in this city on the 15th inst., at the advanced age of 130 years. She was only once married, and leaves thirty-five children. She was formerly a slave of Mr. Benjamin Flecher.



PARIS, MAINE, FEB. 8, 1867.

## Our Common Schools.

An examination of the report of the State Superintendent of Common Schools will satisfy any one that the people of Maine are liberal in raising money for the support of our common schools. Considering the onerous taxes with which the people are now burdened in other directions, \$477,131.56 is a handsome sum to be raised and paid for these purposes in 1866. The people raised \$22,068.24, over and above the sums required to be raised by law, and \$810.60 of this was in Oxford County. The average per scholar was \$2.01. Besides these sums, there was paid in Maine last year \$35,368.87 for tuition in private schools and academies within the State, and \$5,308.80 for the same purposes out of the State. The sums annually expended by our people for school purposes certainly are ample to give the rising generation a good business education.

It is true that school privileges are not uniform throughout the State. Scholars in cities, large, compact towns, and villages have an advantage over those residing in sparsely settled territory, and in the rural towns, yet there are but few places in Maine, where scholars are deprived of all common school advantages. We have 3741 school districts, and 418 parts of districts, and in these districts there are 149 graded schools. Each one of these graded schools ought to be equal to an academy in discipline, the number of studies pursued, and in the branches of education taught. After all that the people of Maine pay for common school education, we all know that our common schools are not what they should be. The number of children between the ages of four and twenty-one years was, last year, 212,834, yet the average attendance for winter and summer was only 93,285. In the winter season, when all scholars should attend, the average attendance was but 97,828. It is an important question for all to consider, why so large a number of children and young persons absent themselves from our common schools. We apprehend that it arises from a combination of causes. A large number have entered upon business pursuits, or are teaching, though ranked as scholars till twenty-one years of age. Parents are found in every town who seem comparatively indifferent as to whether their children attend school or not. Some, for very trifling reasons, will take their children out of school; others, living a distance from the school house, will take no pains to get them there; while a third class daily see their children loafing in the stores and other public places from the beginning to the end of the school with little apparent compunction. Another reason is found in the large number of poor teachers employed in our town schools. Good teachers that are up to the times are comparatively scarce. But few persons engage in teaching as a profession. A man may be thoroughly qualified so far as literary qualifications are concerned, and yet prove an unsuccessful teacher. Tact, in governing a school, is just as necessary as mental culture, in teaching. Many school teachers fail in another very important particular,—they fail to secure the affection and good-will of their scholars. Unless a teacher can do this, his school is a failure. Other teachers have so many eccentric notions that they render their schools very unprofitable, while others ride particular hobbies, until they ride a majority of their scholars outside the school-house.

In many cases, school committees are in the fault; and, back of all this, towns, for electing men utterly incompetent for their places. Superintending sch. of committees in many respects occupy a more responsible position than any other town officer. They should be men of sufficient literary qualifications, of good judgment, and, more important than all, good sound common sense. These officers often allow incompetent teachers to enter schools, and, worse, let them continue after their schools are useless, and in many cases worse than useless.

There are other evils connected with our common school system which we would be glad to notice, but we must defer them to another time. This is a great and all important subject. The vital interests of more than two hundred thousand children and youth in our State is at stake in this matter of common schools. The people of Maine have never been fully awake to this great moral and intellectual interest in their midst. The scale of improvement in our common schools should be raised higher. In order to do this, there should be a general movement in that direction among the people. Let every friend of popular education take hold of this matter in earnest, and the work will be done.

PARIS MONUMENT ASSOCIATION. The association was organized nearly three years ago, for the purpose of raising fund to erect a suitable monument in memory of the brave soldiers from this town who lost their lives in the service of their country. Only one more effort will be made, and it is hoped and earnestly desired that a patriotic public will generously aid the effort of those who have labored so long in behalf of this noble object. It is proposed to erect a granite monument in the square at South Paris Village. A levee will be held at Atlantic Hall, South Paris, on Thursday evening, Feb. 21. The entertainment will consist of dramatics, speaking, tableaux and a variety of music from our best performers. A full house is solicited.

## Agricultural College.

We learn that the Trustees of the Maine Agricultural College have elected Hon. Phineas Barnes, of Portland, to the Presidency of the College, with a salary of \$3000. They have also adopted the plans of Fred Law Olmstead for the buildings, which will involve the erection of small buildings for the several purposes required, rejecting the idea of an elaborate edifice. The selection of Mr. Barnes for the Presidency is a warrant that looks as though the institution will be made a practical and efficient means of promoting the objects contemplated in the grant. He has evidently given the matter careful consideration, and formed some definite plan of what the college should be, and how it may be conducted so as to make the expense bear lightly upon those who are to be students. He suggests that manual labor, rightly conducted, with suitable machinery, may produce nearly the whole subsistence of the students, carefully distinguishing between producing and earning. He does not propose to do this in shops, wherein the demand for the labor might be fluctuating, and perhaps entirely cease, but plans to have them work on the farm, which could not fail to produce their provisions, with a surplus with which to purchase articles which they could not raise. He cites the fact that all our colleges are carefully encouraging gymnastic exercises, the boat-club, and base-ball, as a necessary muscular training, to invigorate the student. This he thinks can be as well accomplished by labor in the field, within six months of the year. By a system of relays, the labor would be so managed that no student would be obliged to spend a whole day in the field at any season, but would be able to carry on his studies throughout the full year. Even our colleges recognize the necessity of some labor, in giving a long winter vacation, to allow students to teach a term of school, which would be unnecessary in this institution. Thus he assumes that to be of practical use the college must give a general English education, as well as to train in agriculture and mechanics; it must do it cheaply, so that the masses to be educated can avail themselves of its advantages; it must partake of the home character, and not have teacher and student come in contact at stated intervals only; and must make the student feel in graduating that he has acquired a practical education. We shall look for good results to accrue from this institution.

MASSACHUSETTS LIQUOR CASES. The Boston Transcript, speaking of the recent decisions under the liquor law, says:

"More than three thousand cases are affected by the ruling of the Supreme Judges, in most of which the defendants have been sentenced to houses of correction. The law allows the State Courts a certain discretion in imposing penalties for first offenses against the statute, and in many instances simply a fine of \$50 has been imposed. But where a party has been found guilty on a second complaint, it becomes obligatory on the Court to imprison the offender in the house of correction for the term of three months. The fines have in nearly all cases been settled where imprisonment has not been included in the sentence. Many of the persons convicted have from two to ten terms of incarceration hanging over their heads, from which there now seems to be no avenue of escape. Considerable suffering will be caused in numerous families who will for the time be deprived of the support of those formerly providing their means of living. A large number of the doomed consist of men and women with no capital. They dealt in spirituous liquors merely to procure additional means of subsistence other than that afforded by their labor."

The latter clause seems to be a very peculiar reasoning. In each case, it seems, one family suffers, while, if fined only, the business would continue, and each bar cause greater suffering in ten times as many families. It should be taken into the account that the public should be shielded from suffering, as well as criminals.

THE INDIAN QUESTION. Col. Parker, the Indian aide to Gen. Grant, has submitted a proposition to settle the Indian disturbances. He proposes to transfer the management to the War Department, the establishing of territorial governments for the Indians, an inspection board to examine accounts of Indian agents, and a commission, consisting of whites and educated Indians, to visit all tribes, hold talks with them, show them the benefits of permanent peace and the abandonment of nomadic life, the adoption of agricultural and pastoral pursuits and of consolidating in one territory. The American Government protests that it can never adopt the policy of the total extermination of the Indian race within her limits, numbering not less than 600,000, without a cost of untold treasure and lives of her people, besides exposing herself to the abhorrence and censure of the entire civilized world. Maj. Gen. Pope has written a letter to Gen. Grant in favor of the Indian Bureau being transferred to the War Department.

CONGRESS. The tariff bill gets on slowly, and may fail altogether. A resolve against a further reduction of greenbacks passed the House. Secretary McCulloch proposes to issue a hundred millions of four per cent notes, to pay the compound notes, the former to be used by the banks as a part of their reserve. This measure is approved by the banks, and will pass Congress. The whiskey tax will not be reduced. The bills that became laws by lapse of time, without the President's signature, have been certified for publication.

Ex Gov. Hunt, of New York, died on Saturday morning, at one o'clock.

From our Regular Correspondent.

## Letter from Augusta.

AUGUSTA, Feb. 4, 1867.

A large amount of legislative business was disposed of last week, as Friday was the last day for receiving petitions for private legislation. At this time about eighty acts and resolves have been finally acted upon. Several questions of importance are yet to come up, the principal of which are the railroad consolidation scheme, the amendments to the liquor law, and State assumption of the war debts. These measures are before the Committees, and will be reported at an early day. The question of State assumption is a contest between the large towns and cities on the one hand, and the rural districts on the other. The latter are numerically stronger in the Legislature, but speaking ability and parliamentary tactics are more on the side of the former. Prognostication of the result, with any degree of certainty, is not easy. The people of the State and, I believe, the Legislature are opposed to monopolies, and consequently the consolidation scheme will meet with small favor. Three railroads were chartered last week,—the Houlton branch, the Portland and Ogdensburg, and the extension of the Androscoggin to the Grand Trunk. Doubtless the extension of the Maine Central to Portland will be chartered.

The question of repealing the law which prohibits marriage between a white person and a negro, mulatto or Indian excited considerable interest in the House, when it came from the Senate, passed to be engrossed. The vote in the Senate passing the bill to be engrossed stood eighteen to two. When the bill came up for its third reading, such was the disgust and horror exhibited on the part of some of the members that one could easily have conceived himself suddenly transferred to the Legislatures of Alabama or Georgia. No one seemed willing to step forward and advocate the bill, and no one had anything to say against it, but "amalgamation," "miscegenation," "woolly heads," &c., was heard in audible whispers through the House amid calls for the question, and impatience at delay. Finally, after a few disjointed remarks in opposition, and an able speech in favor of its passage by Mr. Stevens of Augusta, the question was taken by yeas and nays, and resulted in indefinitely postponing the bill,—58 to 37. The Democrats, of course, voted against it. Mr. Brown, of Hampden, moved a reconsideration, and the vote was reconsidered, and the question on passing the bill to be engrossed was laid upon the table, and Wednesday next assigned. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that this subject has been brought up before the Legislature at all. It is an old statute, a relic of the prejudices of the past, and the statute book a dead letter. No one thinks of enforcing it, no one ever thought of enforcing it, and it never was enforced. This is one of those questions that cannot be regulated, controlled or influenced by statutory enactments. These things are regulated by the laws of society, of good taste and of decency, and it has rarely been the case this law is ever violated. Society sits in judgment upon the case, and metes out the penalty. Statutory enactments cannot prevent such unnatural alliances, and the lack of such statutes will not render them more frequent. Besides, the law is unjust, in that the innocent are made to suffer for the guilty, and, as such, it ought to be repealed. The only penalty attached to a violation of this statute is to render such marriage null and void, and the innocent offspring of such unlawful marriage is made illegitimate, and deprived of the benefit of the law of descent and inheritance. This is manifestly unjust and cruel. We shall expunge from our statutes that last relic of barbarism, that recognition of caste, that principle which inaugurated the rebellion and fanned its fires, and is now the great obstacle in the way of reconstruction. We shall cleanse our eyes, that we may see clearly and rebuke with consistency the faults of others. When a question of this kind is presented to a Union Legislature in the State of Maine, and is met with such demonstrations of prejudice and disgust, it is easy to understand the animus of the late rebellion. "For if such things are found in the green tree, what may we not look for in the dry?"

A resolve has been presented regulating the distribution of the Adjutant General's report for 1864-5. It is uncertain yet who will receive these much coveted documents. The Legislature of '65 distributed them, on paper, by resolve, which resolve was repealed by the Legislature of '66, and a substitute passed. The resolve now before the House repeals that of '66, and provides anew for their distribution, and yet they are not ready, and will not be before next autumn, and perhaps not before the assembling of another Legislature.

An act has passed the Senate, and is pending in the House, establishing the legal rate of interest at six per cent, but providing that parties, by written contract may fix a greater rate, not exceeding eight per cent.

The village of Saco has been incorporated as a city. The petition of Benj. Brooks and others for State aid to repair the road through the notch in Grafton, and petition of James Brown and others in aid of same, were presented and referred.

An act to repeal an act providing that notaries public shall pay a duty to the State has been indefinitely postponed.

The Committee on State Library have under consideration the subject of procuring a life-size portrait of Abraham Lincoln to be placed in the Rotunda.

The Trustees of the Agricultural College met at the State House, last week, and chose Phineas Barnes, of Portland, President, with a salary of three thousand dollars per annum.

The annual report of Eaton Shaw, State Commissioner for the sale of intoxicating liquors, has been received, and presents some curious facts with regard to the amount of sickness in some of the towns of the State, as shown by the amount of sales.

Paris has suffered to the amount of \$1,710.99; Norway, \$1,835.14. Bethel has purchased \$1,828.86; Rumford, \$920.68. Woodstock has prescribed \$213.52, while Greenwood, an adjoining town, with less population, has needed the amount of \$1,254.46. Bath indicates the greatest amount of sickness, having purchased to the amount of \$4005.27; Lewiston \$2802.70; Brunswick \$3236.29; Portland \$2832.11; Bangor \$2592.92. Amount of sales in the State for the year, \$96,152.25.

February 6. Many of the members spent the Sabbath at home, and we had an unusually thin house on Monday. Considerable routine business, however, was accomplished.

On Tuesday, the usury bill, which passed the Senate, came up by assignment in the House. The bill, as it passed the Senate, provides that the legal rate of interest shall be six per cent, as heretofore, but that parties, by written agreement, may agree on a higher rate, not exceeding eight per cent. The House amended by striking out "eight per cent," and, after considerable discussion, the bill was indefinitely postponed by the close vote of 57 to 55. Mr. Stevens, of Augusta, moved a reconsideration, and the House assigned Thursday next for the further consideration of the matter.

Bill providing that a majority of the School Committee shall be present at the examination of all candidates for teaching in their town was discussed at length, and the first day of April assigned for its further consideration.

The Committee on Interior Waters will, to-day, report favorably on petition of S. R. Locke and others for leave to maintain a dam and sluice across Kezar River, at Lovell.

The Committee on Fisheries will report an act to prevent the extermination of trout in the waters of Maine.

The Committee on Incorporation of Towns will report order of notice on petition of John J. Perry and others, of Oxford, for a village corporation.

An act setting off Rufus Stowell and others from the South Paris Village Corporation will pass to be enacted to-day.

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THE MARKETS. The Price Current gives the following quotations: Apples \$4.75 and 5.00 per barrel; dry apple,—sliced 13 and 14, cored 12 and 13; pea beans \$3.50 and 3.75; store butter 25 and 28, best table 38 and 40; Java coffee 35 and 38; flour 25 and 50 cents lower; corn \$1.28 and 1.30,—stock light; lard 13 and 14; molasses 46 and 55; kerosene 65 cents, in large lots; onions 75 and 80 cents per bushel; shipping potatoes 40 to 50 cents; eggs 35; granulated and crushed sugars 15-17; a fair demand for fine fleece and pulled wool, and holders are able to obtain better prices than last week. The medium grades of miscellaneous descriptions have begun to move more freely, and the whole market evinces a more healthy tone.

The Price Current, in speaking of the flour market, says, "some lots ordered from the West four or five months ago, are just arriving." From complaints that have been long and loud, we presume the shipments were by the Grand Trunk. Last Thursday, we are informed, a car-load of passengers were carried to Portland, who had been about a week from Detroit. They left Montreal Tuesday afternoon, and were attached to a night freight at Island Pond, reaching South Paris so as to go in by the early passenger train to Portland.

Messrs. Atwood, Buck & Co., South Paris, are selling a lot of flour that was shipped about the middle of September, and reached its destination the very last of January. There is truth in the remark of Mr. Blaine that the Grand Trunk is the longest line of railroad in the world.

Last week, while the ship-builders, in convention, were showing how their interests were being taxed to death, Uncle Sam's officers, on the alert on the coast, overhauled a British schooner, laden with knives, spikes, etc., but part of which appeared on the manifest, for a port in Maine. The vessel and cargo was seized, which spoiled that little smuggling plan.

Sunday afternoon, Rev. Dr. Carruthers read to his congregation a letter renewing his request to be dismissed from the pastoral charge of the Second Parish Church. He said it was apparent that, for the present at least one Congregational church should be erected in place of the two destroyed last summer. One such would accommodate all at present not connected with other churches, and the society could erect a sanctuary, commodious, substantial, and easily accessible. He withdrew that such society may choose its own pastor. He requests the calling of a council to take the question into consideration.

The Journal says the North Turner Universalist Sewing Circle will hold their annual levee at Washington Hall, North Turner, on Thursday evening, Feb. 14th. A sled will be given to the handsomest lady present, to be decided by ballot.

## Oxford Items.

In October last, Mr. W. W. Dennen, of this town, had a yoke of steers taken from a pasture in the night-time. In December last Gould Johnson and Geo. F. Trundley, of Oxford, were arrested by Marshall Heald, of Portland, and Deputy Keesh, of Mechanic Falls, for breaking into a dwelling-house in Fownal. Suspicions having rested upon these persons, as being the ones that stole Dennen's steers, Messrs. Heald and Keesh set themselves to work to get the facts out of Johnson and Trundley, they being confined in Portland jail. Their efforts proved successful, and enough was learned to put the officers on the track of the steers. It appears that they were driven from a pasture in Oxford in the night to Westbrook, and the next morning sold by Johnson to Mr. Hall, of Dixfield, who sold them to J. C. Jack, of Topsham, and Jack sold them to Asa Field, of Falmouth. Here Mr. Dennen, in company with Officer Keen, found his steers, and drove them home on Thursday last.

The old mills belonging to the Robinson Manufacturing Co., which were saved from the great fire in December last, have been repaired, and are now running on full time.

Rev. A. C. Herrick is giving a course of lectures on his "Travels in the Holy Land," in Oxford Village.

John Harper, Esq., has finished his new wooden mill at Welchville. It is a substantial, beautiful building, 50 by 85, three stories high, with a spacious basement, finished in excellent style, and will run four full sets of machinery. Mr. Harper is now putting in his machinery. The new mill was "christened" by a grand levee, a few weeks since, by the Methodist society at Welchville, from which they realized a very handsome sum, which is to be appropriated for the benefit of their flourishing Sabbath school in that village.

Match blocks and nearly all kinds of lumber are manufactured at this village, in the mill of Capt. George W. King. Capt. King is an experienced lumberman, having carried on the business quite extensively on the Kennebec waters, before removing to Oxford.

Maj. Wm. S. Dodge, who served in the Commissary and Quartermaster Departments of the Union army through nearly the whole war, resides in this village. He has an excellent farm and resides in one of the best mansions in the County.

B. F. King, Esq., has purchased and enlarged the old Company store, filled it with a large stock of goods, and has a large retail trade.

The water power in this village is a very valuable one, the dam flowing back the Little Androscoggin River into both the Hogan Ponds. This water power is capable of propelling a much larger amount of machinery than is now on the falls, and we believe the day is not distant when it will be occupied.

BUSINESS CHANGE. We notice that the firm of T. Hersey & Co., plough manufacturers, at South Paris, has been dissolved, Mr. Merrill, one of the partners, having purchased the whole establishment. The verdict of the people hereabouts is to the effect that no farmer in this County need go from home to find a plow or a cultivator that will do good work and prove a durable article. The Hersey plow is advertised as a specialty all over the State, even to Acrostook. Mr. Merrill is determined to satisfy all his patrons in the quality and finish of the implements sold.

A. G. Barbour has purchased an interest in the business of S. Richardson, So. Paris. The new firm will continue the stove and tin-ware business. The old customers of Mr. Barbour will be glad to see him again established in trade.

BETHEL LECTURES. The fifth lecture will be delivered on Wednesday, 13th inst., by Prof. J. B. Sewall, of Brunswick. Subject, "The Downfall of the Grecian Republic; or how they lost their liberties." In these days one can derive many an useful lesson from the study of history, and possibly no story will be more interesting than that of the Greek Republic. Prof. Sewall will be sure to present his subject in an attractive style.

THE WEST AUBURN AFFAIR. The Daily Journal of Wednesday says that the negro who was once arrested has been again taken into custody, and has confessed that he is one of the parties who committed the murder. He implicates a white accomplice, who has been arrested, but his name is not given. Officers are endeavoring to ascertain whether the statements of the negro can be confirmed.

The weather is fickleness itself. Last week, our thermometer indicated a range of 68°. Candlemas day was bright and beautiful till towards night, when the sky became cloudy. Prophets have not informed us whether the clouds came early enough in the day to save another winter. The warm sun settled the snow fast, but Monday and Tuesday gave another fall supply.

Last week, the thermometer at South Paris and Norway indicated—18°; here—8°,—a difference of 10°. The difference in height is about 320 feet.

DIVORCING. We notice that the firm of Stevens, Haskell & Chase, which expired by limitation on the 1st inst., has been somewhat changed. Mr. Chase retires, and is succeeded by Mr. J. N. Lord. The new firm name is Stevens, Lord & Haskell.

## DEMOCRATIC ADVICE TO DEMOCRATS.

The Newburyport Herald, a sturdy supporter of Johnson and his policy, and which is frequently quoted and commended by its Democratic contemporaries for sound views on national affairs, gives the South and its Northern allies this piece of advice:

"There are two parties in the United States that do not seem to realize the extent to which they have been whipped in the last half-dozen years,—the rebels who failed at arms, and the Democrats who failed at the ballot-box. It is time for the first to understand that never more can Southern society be restored, or Southern rights, even as the most moderate of them, the Union men, understood them. Hereafter, there is to be an equality of races and classes among all citizens; and to a great extent,—hardly too great for us,—the Government is to be consolidated. They must make the best of this situation as it is. The latter, the Democrats, might as well know first as last that no more, for a long time at least, will the people rally under that name; they must seek a different track for their machine."

A RECONSTRUCTION. A dispatch from Washington says:

"A bill of much importance has been drawn up and laid before the reconstruction committee by Mr. Bingham, which is favorably considered by several members thereof, and is likely enough to be embodied in any new reconstruction project submitted by the committee for the action of Congress. The bill provides that until the States whose relations to the Union are still practically discontinued by rebellion shall be fully restored, and be duly represented in Congress, the President shall, without delay, through the Secretary of War, provide rules and regulations for the full protection of all persons in said States, and enforce the same by military authority, and shall prohibit the infliction of any cruel or unusual punishment, and prevent the denial to citizens therein of any of the rights and immunities of citizens of the United States, and the infliction of any other or greater penalty upon blacks than the law prescribes for whites for the same offences; and no civil court shall have jurisdiction in any matter named herein."

A controversy has arisen between Prof. Hall, of the New York State Geological Museum, and Edward Maguire, of Saratoga Springs, touching the bones recently exhumed at Cobeco, the former holding them to be the bones of a mastodon, and the latter that they are the bones of a large show elephant that died and was buried in Cobeco nearly forty years since. Prof. Hall thinks the bones have lain in the earth 25,000 years—a sturdy difference. [Boston Journal.]

SUNDAY SCHOOL EXHIBITION. The Universalist Society at Norway announce that the Sunday School Exhibition, preparations for which have been for some time in progress, will be held at Concert Hall, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of next week, Feb. 12th and 13th. An interesting programme will be presented. Gen. Virgin, the Superintendent of the school, with his corps of talented teachers, are working earnestly for the full success of the exhibition, and the public may have confidence that they will accomplish what they undertake.

A CANARD. The report that Gen. Butler had sued Brick Pomeroy for libel is false, and originated with the latter. With refreshing impudence, Pomeroy has published a series of letters purporting to be a correspondence upon the subject.

NEW MODE OF ELECTIONEERING. A dispatch to the Boston Journal concerning appointments in Massachusetts says: politicians now have to secure the influence of two parties. That of democrats is necessary to secure appointments, with republican influence to obtain confirmation.

ARREST. A dispatch from Galena, Ill., says that Samuel Mills, who, it is alleged, murdered Geo. Maxwell, at Francoula, N. H., last December, was arrested at that place, Monday.

Frederick Seward, who has been on a secret mission, or a pleasure-trip on a government vessel,—the public has not been informed which,—returned on Monday.

We are indebted to Geo. G. Stacy, Esq., State Librarian, for a copy of his annual report. The several members of the Oxford delegation,—as well as Capt. Ripley,—have our thanks for numerous favors.

An amendment to the appropriation bill, giving \$150,000 for the erection of two new forts in Portland harbor, was stricken out, on Monday. Mr. Blaine made a speech in favor of the amendment.

MILLINERY. The attention of purchasers of millinery goods is invited to the notice of Miss E. A. Hackett, in another column.

The Press says that eight illegitimate children have been recently born or are about to be launched into life at the Alma House. It is an interesting matter of inquiry how the reporter was able to state the number so precisely.

The telegraph says Senator Sprague has arrived in Augusta. The ceremony of presenting him with a quarter of a million of dollars worth of property will come off on the 15th inst.

Our exchanges report an interesting revival in the Congregational society at New Gloucester, of which Rev. W. R. Cross is pastor.







