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NEW SERIES, VOL. 18, NO. 47.

PARIS, MAINE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1867.

OLD SERIES,

VOLUME 35, NO. 5.

**The Oxford Democrat,**  
IS PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING BY  
**F. E. SHAW,**  
Editor and Proprietor.

TERMS—One Dollar and Fifty Cents per year in  
advance; Two Dollars if payment is delayed.  
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## POETRY.

### SEA VENTURES.

I stood and watched my ships go out  
Each one by one unsmiling face,  
What time the quiet harbor filled  
With good tide from the sea.

The first that sailed, her name was Joy,  
She spread a smooth, white, ample sail;  
And eastward drove with bending spars,  
Before the singing gale.

Another sailed, her name was Hope,  
No cargo in her hold she bore;  
Thinking to find in Western lands  
Of merchandise a store.

The next that sailed, her name was Love,  
She showed a red flag at the mast—  
A flag as red as blood she showed,  
And she sped South right fast.

The last that sailed, her name was Faith,  
Slowly she took her passage forth;  
Tacked and lay to; at last she steered  
A straight course for the North.

My gallant ships they sailed away,  
Over the shimmering summer sea,  
I stood and watch for many a day—  
But none came back to me.

For Joy was caught by Pirate Pains—  
Hurt upon a hidden reef—  
And Love took fire and fountained fast  
In whirling seas of grief.

Faith came at last, storm-beat and torn,  
She recomposed me all my loss;  
For as a cargo safe she brought  
A Crown linked to a Cross.

## MISCELLANY.

### MODES OF PROPOSING.

There seems to be other ways of getting  
a wife besides advertising for one.

A young lady in England, it is said,  
the heiress of some property, had occasion  
from time to time to consult a lawyer, who  
was one of the trustees of the property,  
though not much older than herself, on mat-  
ters of business. The lawyer wholly en-  
grossed with his profession, listened to her  
politely at these interviews, answered her  
briefly, and that was all.

At length she came to him one day to  
consult him about an offer of marriage which  
had been made to her. He heard her story,  
his attention being half occupied all the  
time by some papers on the desk before  
him that he was arranging. As soon as she  
had finished he paused a moment from his  
work, put himself into an attitude of reflection,  
and said, musingly:

"Well! Yes! Marriage is certainly an  
important subject, and every body must  
think of it at some time or other, I suppose,  
though I have never thought of it particularly  
in my own case."

Then turning to the young lady he asked  
her if she was particularly interested in the  
young gentleman who had proposed to her.  
She said she was not.

"Well then," said he, "if you have a  
fancy for being married, here am I. If  
you think you could be comfortable and  
happy with me, I am at your service.  
Think of it."

The lady said she would think of it, and  
retired, while the lawyer returned to the  
work of arranging his papers.

A month afterward they were married.

On the subject of the fate of the disap-  
pointed suitor history is silent.

The above is an English story. The next  
is a French one.

A young lady, wealthy, beautiful, and ac-  
complished, went to Paris to see the Ex-  
position and the other wonders of the place.  
She had no male protector. As it is under-  
stood that you can procure any thing you  
wish for in Paris, she determined to provide  
herself with one.

A week or two after this, an intelligent  
and handsome young salesman in one of the  
principal "magazines" had his attention at-  
tracted by a very charming young lady who  
came in several days in succession to make  
purchases, and always came to his counter,  
where she usually held more conversation  
with him than the business strictly required.

At length, one day when she had made some  
purchases she asked him if he would do her  
a favor to come himself with the messenger  
who should bring the articles to her apart-  
ment, as she wished to see him on some  
private business; and she gave him her ad-  
dress.

When he came, she received him as a  
friend, and told him in the course of the in-  
terview that she had come to Paris to see  
the Exposition, but she had no male protec-  
tor, in consequence of which she was great-  
ly restricted in her movements and sub-  
jected to much inconvenience. What she  
proposed to him was, that he should enter  
into her service as a brother during the two  
months of her stay. She had selected him,  
she said, after some considerable quiet ob-  
servation about the town among the gen-  
tlemen to whom she thought such a proposal  
could properly be made. If he accepted  
her offer she said she would make him am-  
ple compensation for the loss of his situation,  
and for the time that would be required for  
him to find another.

The gentleman said he would accept.  
"It is understood, however," added the  
lady, "that the very first instance in which  
you depart in the slightest degree from  
your role, which is that of my brother, even  
by so much as paying me a compliment,  
all is over between us."

The gentleman said he agreed to the con-  
dition.

The contract was faithfully kept on both  
sides. For two months the lady enjoyed

the countenance and protection of her tem-  
porary brother, who came every morning to  
attend her in her visit to the Exposition,  
and to the various public amusements of  
Paris, and in the evening to the opera and  
the theatres. He was a young man of fine  
personal appearance and agreeable manners,  
and he faithfully confined his attentions  
within the limits prescribed by his employer.  
At the end of the time the lady expressed  
herself well satisfied with the manner in  
which he had performed his duties, and  
took leave of him—putting into his hands  
at the same time a packet which he, on sub-  
sequent opening, found to contain notes of  
the Bank of France to an amount sufficient  
to indemnify him ten times over for the tem-  
porary loss of his usual employment.

The next day the lady left Paris by the  
morning train for Liverpool, where she was to  
take passage by the steamer for her native  
land. We cannot, unfortunately, determine  
from this circumstance what her native land  
was, inasmuch as not only the American  
steamers sail from Paris, and take passen-  
gers thence to all parts of the civilized  
world.

On the morning of the day following, as  
the lady was entering the carriage that was  
to take her to the quay, she received a pack-  
age by express from Paris. On opening it  
she found that it contained a casket of jew-  
elry, consisting of diamonds of great value.  
They were from her "brother." He had  
invested the whole sum which she had given  
him in this way.

She was so touched with the delicacy with  
which her companion had manifested in re-  
turning the value in this form instead of re-  
fusing to receive it when it was offered to him,  
and with the feeling on his part toward herself  
which his action denoted, that she gave up  
her voyage, returned to Paris, and sought  
the gentleman again to thank him for his  
present.

In about a month afterward they too were  
married.

These two stories are both characteristic  
of the manners and usages of the respective  
countries in which they are said to have  
occurred.

The two following are Yankee stories,  
and they are equally characteristic of their  
origin.

A young Boston merchant, who had come  
into the city when he was eighteen, and  
had devoted himself strictly and carefully  
to his duties, found himself at the age of  
thirty-two in possession of a large and fast  
increasing capital, at the head of a very  
prosperous and lucrative business, and in  
the receipt by means of it of an ample in-  
come, but no wife. He first bought and  
furnished a house in a handsome part of the  
town, and then began to cast about for the  
means of finding a lady to place at the head  
of it.

There were plenty of frivolous and fash-  
ionable women about him, whose idea of  
a husband was a gentleman to work all day  
in the counting-room in order to furnish  
them with money for their dresses, and with  
a house containing suitable parlors for their  
balls and parties. But they were not of  
his kind. He wished for a wife one who  
had some idea of duty to be performed.  
He concluded that he must seek one among  
those who had been trained to the perform-  
ance of duty.

"New Hampshire is a good State," said  
he to himself, musing.

So he went from his store round the cor-  
ner to the counting-room of a commission-  
merchant, who acted as agent for the sale of  
goods manufactured by a large company at  
Dover, and asked for a letter of intro-  
duction to the superintendent of the mill,  
vouching for his respectability. The mer-  
chant wrote a letter as follows:

"The bearer of this is Mr. A. B., a gen-  
tleman thoroughly respectable, and worthy  
of entire confidence in every respect."

Armed with this missive, he went to Dover,  
presented his letter to the superintendent,  
and asked permission to go through the  
mills and observe the different opera-  
tions. The permission was granted, and he  
commenced going the rounds. After a  
time he came into an immense hall, where  
several hundred girls, of all ages from eight-  
teen to twenty-five, were engaged in weav-  
ing—or, rather, in watching and supervising  
the weaving done by the looms. They were  
all active, healthy and intelligent. Many  
of them were extremely beautiful, and they  
were, without exception, easy and grace-  
ful in their movements. No awkward  
maids can be seen among the looms and spin-  
ning-machines of a cotton mill.

"The finest assortment," said the gen-  
tleman to himself, "that I ever saw. If a  
man cannot suit himself here it is of no use  
for him to look any further."

So he proceeded at once to make an ex-  
amination of "the goods." He first, from  
a seat near the foreman's desk, surveyed  
the countenances, bearing and general de-  
meanor of the various operatives. Then he  
walked about the room, and held a little  
conversation with one and another, here  
and there. Finally he took his selection.

He made some inquiries of the foreman in

regard to the character of the one whom he  
had chosen. Receiving very favorable an-  
swers, he asked incidentally as it were, her  
name and where she came from, and ob-  
tained the desired information.

He took the next train that went into that  
part of the country, and stopped at the vil-  
lage in question. At the tavern he fell into  
conversation with the landlady about vil-  
lage affairs, and from her obtained much  
additional information. The girl was the  
daughter of a farmer, respectable, though  
in humble circumstances, was well edu-  
cated as all New Hampshire girls are, and bore  
an excellent character. He went to the  
farmer's house, and, after a long conversa-  
tion for which negotiations for the pur-  
chase of apples formed the pretext, but of  
which the real object was to give the father  
and mother an opportunity to become ac-  
quainted with him, he bade them good-by, and  
after arranging to have the apples—three  
barrels of them—packed and sent to Bos-  
ton.

To make a long story short, the gen-  
tleman went back that same afternoon to Dover,  
called at the young woman's boarding  
house, and asked to see her on business;  
and he so far succeeded in his negotiations  
with her as to induce her to close her en-  
gagement at the mill, and go home and con-  
sult her father and mother on the "busi-  
ness" in question.

In about a month they too were married.  
The gentleman's friends think that he has  
got a charming and most excellent wife,  
though they cannot imagine how he found her  
in that out-of-the-way village in New  
Hampshire. They live very happily to-  
gether in Boston, and she attends faithfully  
to all her duties as wife and mother, having  
been trained to the performance of duty  
from her childhood. It would be a betrayal  
of confidence for us to give the street  
and number where they live.

In all the preceding cases the matches  
were made in a very business-like and mat-  
ter of fact manner. There is one story re-  
maining to be told, which is of a much  
more romantic and sentimental character,  
so that those readers who do not fancy ro-  
mantic tales may perhaps as well pass over  
the remainder of this article.

A student who had completed his studies,  
and was commencing his professional  
life under very favorable auspices, was on  
his way home late in the autumn to make a  
little visit to the parental roof. It was in  
old times, when the only mode of convey-  
ance for travellers was the stage-coach.  
Among his fellow passengers in the coach  
was a young lady of very agreeable person  
and manners, who first attracted his notice  
by her kind consideration of an aged woman,  
who was assisted into the coach at a way-  
side inn. In the course of the day the gen-  
tleman became pretty well acquainted with  
the young lady, whose name he ascertained  
was Mary W—. He began to feel a  
strong interest in her, and it would seem  
from the result that the interest was in some  
degree reciprocal. In the course of the  
conversations that they held together in the  
stage and also in walking up certain long  
hills, where such of the passengers as were  
so disposed got out to relieve the horses,  
they learned mutually many particulars of  
each other's parentage and history, so that  
as the day passed on they began to feel  
somewhat like old friends.

During the afternoon a rain storm came  
on. The roads became wet and heavy, and  
the progress made was slow. The sky was  
overcast, and darkness supervened at a  
very early hour, while the stage was yet  
several miles from the village where it was  
to stop. As the wheels went on ploughing  
through the mud and ruts, the passengers  
became uneasy, for the driver had no lights.  
The young lady, however, evinced so much  
calmness and composure as gradually to in-  
crease the interest which the student felt  
for her. The danger was real, as the event  
proved, for just as the coach reached the  
top of a hill the wheels on one side went off  
the edge of the road into a ditch, and the  
coach overturned.

The student called out to the passengers  
to lie as still as possible, so as to get out  
quietly, one by one, from the opening in  
the side of the coach which was uppermost.  
He was himself near the door on that side,  
and was the first to escape. He then as-  
sisted the others by feeling, for it was so  
utterly dark that nothing could be seen.  
The young lady came next but one. The  
road was so wet and muddy, he said, that  
she could not step in it, and she must let  
him carry her to the bank on the other side.  
She consented.

So he took her in his arms and began to  
carry her across the muddy road, feeling his  
way in the utter darkness, made more  
intense by the trees of a forest that bordered  
the road. She yielded herself so readily to  
his grasp, and reclined her head so confi-  
dently upon his shoulder, that he was en-  
couraged to whisper in her ear, "Mary, are  
you engaged to be married?" She answered,  
"No." "Are you willing to be my  
wife?" She answered, "Yes." He sealed  
the promise with the usual little ceremony,

and then placed his prize upon a flat stone  
by the road-side, the surface of which re-  
flected the sky sufficiently to make its form  
just visible, after which he went back to as-  
sist the other passengers.

I believe that this couple were not mar-  
ried within the month, but they were duly  
united at the proper time. The lady after-  
ward often told her friends that she always  
had the most agreeable associations with  
the idea of the upsetting of a stage-coach,  
though they could not imagine why.

We cannot absolutely guarantee the  
truth of all these stories, but leave our  
readers to exercise their own judgment  
and discretion in regard to their credibility.

A TALENT FOR CONVERSATION. A talent  
for conversation has an extraordinary  
value for common, every-day uses of life.  
Let any one who has this gift enter into a  
social circle anywhere. How every one's  
face brightens at his entrance. How soon  
he sets all the little wheels in motion, en-  
couraging the timid, calling out unostenta-  
tiously the resources of the reserved and  
shy, subsidizing the facile and making every-  
body glad and happy.

To converse well is not to engross the  
conversation. It is not to do all the talking.  
It is not necessarily to talk with very great  
brilliance. A man may talk with such  
surpassing power and splendor as to awe  
the rest of the company into silence, or  
excite their envy, and so produce a chill  
where his aim should be to produce warmth  
and sunshine. He should seek the art of  
making others feel, quite at home with him,  
so that no matter how great may be his at-  
tainments or reputation, or how small may  
be theirs, they find it immensely just as  
natural and pleasant talking to him, as  
bearing him talk. The talent for conversa-  
tion, indeed, more almost than anything else  
in life, requires tact and discretion. It re-  
quires one to have most varied knowledge,  
and to have it at instant and absolute dis-  
posal, so that he can use just as much, or  
just as little, as the occasion demands. It  
requires the ability to pass instantly and  
with ease from the playful to the serious,  
from books to men, from the mere phrases  
of courtesy to the expressions of sentiment  
and passion.—[Mistakes of Educated Men.

EXTENSIVE PREACHING. The N. Y.  
Evening Post gives the following account by  
Rev. Newman Hall of the way in which he  
acquired his habit for extensive preaching:

"When I went to college, it seemed to  
me that I should never be able to say a  
word in public without writing. But I soon  
determined that if I was going to be a preach-  
er, and particularly if I wanted to be any-  
thing like a successful preacher, I must  
form the habit of extemporaneous address.  
So I went into my room, locked the door,  
placed the Bible before me on a mantle,  
opened it at random, and then on what-  
ever passage my eye chanced to rest, pro-  
ceeded to deliver a discourse of ten min-  
utes. This practice was kept up for an  
entire twelve months. Every day, for a  
whole year, ten minutes were given to that  
kind of speaking, in my own room by my-  
self. At first I found it very difficult to  
speak so long, right to the point. But then  
if I couldn't talk on the subject I would  
talk about it—making good remarks and  
moral reflections—being careful to keep up  
the flow, and say something to the end of  
the term allotted for the exercise. At the  
end of twelve months, however, I found I  
could not only speak with a good degree of  
fluency, but that I could hold myself strictly  
to the subject in hand. You take this  
course. Don't do your practicing on an  
audience. That is outrageous."

LOST TIME.—Let any man pass an evening  
in vacant idleness, or even in reading some  
silly tale, and compare the state of his mind  
when he goes to sleep or gets up next morn-  
ing, with its state some other day, when he  
has spent a few hours in going through the  
proof, by facts and reasoning, of some of the  
great doctrines in natural science, learning  
truths wholly new to him, and satisfying  
himself, by careful examination, of the  
grounds on which known truths rest, so as  
to be not only acquainted with the doctrines  
of themselves, but able to show why he  
believes them, and to prove before others  
that they are true,—will find as great a dif-  
ference as can exist in the same being; the  
difference between looking back upon time  
unprofitably wasted, and time spent in self-  
improvement. He will feel himself in one  
case, listless and dissatisfied; in the other,  
comfortable and happy. In the one case,  
if he did not appear to himself humble, he  
at least will not have earned any claim to  
his own respect; in the other case, he will  
enjoy a proud consciousness of having, by  
his own exertions, become a wiser, and  
therefore a more exalted nature.—[Lord  
Brougham.

BEHAVIOR IN COMPANY. On the subject  
of behavior in company, Leigh Richmond  
gives the following excellent advice to his  
daughters: "Be cheerful, but not gigglers.  
Be serious but not dull. Be communicative,  
but not forward. Be kind, but not servile.  
Beware of silly, thoughtless speeches; al-

though you may forget them, others will  
not. Remember God's eye is in every face,  
and his ear in every company. Beware  
of levity and familiarity with young men;  
a modest reserve without affectation, is the  
only safe path. Court and encourage serious  
conversation with those who are truly  
serious and conversable; do not go into  
valuable company without endeavoring to  
improve by the intercourse permitted to  
you. Nothing is more unbecoming, when  
one part of a company is engaged in profit-  
able conversation, than that another part  
should be trifling, giggling, and talking  
comparative nonsense to each other."

A NEW NAME FOR IT. Some years ago  
at a session of the Supreme Court in Nor-  
ridgewock, an attorney moved and caused  
to be entered a "non-suit" in a case at a  
moment when the counsel for the other  
side was out of the court room. When the  
latter returned and learned that his case  
had been non-suited in his absence, he pro-  
tested in open court against such a pro-  
ceeding, alleging that the trick was accom-  
plished while he had "temporarily gone  
out to take the air," (about 11 a. m.)

When he sat down the attorney who had  
moved the non-suit rose and gravely ad-  
dressed "his Honor" as follows:

"May it please your Honor, I have prac-  
ticed in this court and in other courts a  
great many years, and at the bar and else-  
where have I heard it called by a great many  
different names, but I must confess here  
that I never heard it called by that name  
before. My brother counsel on the other  
side in this case has got a new and a very  
felicitous name for it!"

"Going out to take the air" has to this  
day hardly ceased to be proverbial at the  
shire town of Somerset county.

CONSCIENTIOUS. A revolutionary sol-  
dier was running for Congress, and his op-  
ponent was a young man who had "never  
been to the wars," and it was the custom  
of old Revolutionary to tell of the hardships  
he had endured. Said he:

"Fellow citizens, I have fought and bled  
for my country. I helped to whip the Brit-  
ish, and the Indians. I have slept on the  
field of battle with no other covering than  
the extremity of his coat-tail, and interrupted  
him with:

"Did you say you had fust the British  
and Indians?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did you say you had slept on the ground  
while serving your country, without any  
cover?"

"I did!"

"Did you say your feet kivered the  
ground you walked over with blood?"

"Yes," replied the speaker, exultingly.

"Well, then," said the tearful sovereign  
as he gave a sigh of tearful emotion. "I  
guess I'll vote for 'other fellow, for I'll be  
glamed if you ain't done enough for your  
country."

MAKING FOR YOUNG MEN. Keep good  
company or none.

If your hands cannot be usefully em-  
ployed, attend to the cultivation of your  
mind.

Always speak the truth.

Make few promises.

Live up to your engagements.

Keep your own secrets, if you have  
any.

When you speak to a person, look him  
in the face.

Good company and good conversation  
are the very sinews of virtue.

Good character is above all things else.

Your character cannot be essentially in-  
jured except by your own acts.

If one speaks evil of you, let your life be  
such that no one will believe him.

Drink no kind of intoxicating liquor.

Ever live, misfortunes excepted, within  
your income.

When you retire to bed, think over what  
you have been doing during the day.

Make no haste to be rich, if you would  
prosper; small and steady gains give com-  
petency, with tranquillity of mind.

Never play at any game of chance.

Avoid temptation, through fear you may  
not withstand it.

Never, run in debt, unless you see a way  
to get out again.

Never borrow, if you can possibly avoid  
it.

Never unnecessarily speak evil of any  
one.

Keep yourself innocent if you would be  
happy.

Save when you are young, to spend when  
you are old.

A negress, speaking of one of her children  
who was lighter colored than the rest, said:  
"I nebber could bear dat brat, 'cause he  
show dirt so



# The Oxford Democrat

PARIS, MAINE, DEC. 13, 1867.

## SPECIAL NOTICE.

We are receiving gradual additions to our Subscription List, but desire to increase the number a thousand during the winter, in which event we promise to enlarge the paper, and put on a new dress. With a little effort among the friends of the paper this can be done, and now is the time to make the effort.

We design visiting the different towns and villages in the County as soon as possible to effect arrangements by which our circulation shall be increased, and an agency established for the convenience of our subscribers, and to procure all the local intelligence that transpires from week to week. We cannot expect to give the amount of reading matter of the large city papers, but we can do what they cannot, furnish local intelligence of interest to our patrons, and we are careful in our selection of reading matter, and thus furnish a paper covering different ground from all others, and which will be indispensable to every family.

Our subscription price is low, and we make this offer to our subscribers that those who make the advance payment DURING THE WINTER, shall have the advantage of the advance rate; otherwise our terms of \$2.00 a year will be strictly enforced.

We offer a PREMIUM on new subscribers, as follows:

An additional copy for every five subscribers obtained.

For TEN subscribers, any magazine of the value of THREE dollars, at club rates, for one year, or the money.

For TWENTY subscribers, the value of SIX dollars in magazines, or papers, at lowest club rates, or the money.

We will also club with the popular magazines, at their lowest rates, payment invariably in advance.

**What Good Faith, or Credit is Worth.**

Permanency or stability should characterize the doings of a great government like ours, or the most ruinous consequences will result to our national credit. The bonds of Boston sell higher in the London market than those of the great United States. And why? Because Boston pays her interest in gold cheerfully, as a matter of justice and honor, and never talks of liquidating the principal in depreciated currency, or any other evasive manner. Hence she has credit; and that credit is worth, as the broker's tables show, just twenty cents on the dollar in favor of Boston's five per cent bonds against the national six per cent. In other words, Boston can borrow money at ten per cent off the face of the obligations, while we must submit to a discount of thirty per cent three times as much, and pay one per cent, additional interest. This is the money value of credit, and it would be well if politicians could remember that this actual commercial commodity can be damaged by words as well as actions.

It is said the Western members favor Butler's plan of paying the five-twenty bonds in greenbacks, but the policy is indefensible, being in contravention of the honor and good faith of the Government, and disastrous to the business interests of the country.

Precisely so it is, in relation to taxing Government bonds. We admit that it seems a hardship for the poor to pay heavy taxes, while the rich have their money exempted in bonds; but it should be remembered that it was a great necessity which called for a loan from the people, in a national emergency, and we have only to endure the burden till it be remedied, as it soon will be; but let the national faith be upheld, however great the sacrifice. It is in this way only that we can sustain ourselves in the eyes of the world and maintain our own self respect.

The worst feature of the clamor about taxing bonds is, that it is a perfectly heartless move so far as certain party hacks are concerned, who are using it as a hobby.

There is no danger but the question will be settled right, by the people, if they will look at it candidly and without prejudice. Look at it as an honest man does at a hard bargain, and carry out the contract to the letter.

## Impeachment.

This question has been disposed of, probably finally. The House, by a vote of almost two to one, has decided that the "assumptions" relied upon by the Judiciary Committee do not call for the impeachment of the President.

This course will disappoint our democratic friends, who hoped to have a nice little scrimmage to add to their political capital, for another year. They cannot be gratified. The movement cannot be regarded as a partisan one. If Mr. Johnson can offer a plausible excuse for expending Mr. Stanton, he will have a fair prospect of serving out his term. If on the contrary he takes courage from this escape to set up his judgment of the constitutionality of the tenure of office act, and refuses to comply with its requirements, he will put himself clearly in the wrong, and find that vote promptly reversed. The reasons for Mr. Stanton's suspension must be presented to the Senate within the next two weeks, or Congress will ask why.

**THE TIDES ON THE MESSAGE.** The Tribune says the President's message is a strong compound of statesmanship and passion. His views on construction are full of anger and prejudice, but his views on finance are patriotic and wise. It says two other parts of the message should receive patient consideration, as they contain much that the nation will generally approve.

The world says the message is not inferior in political courage to former messages, though not equal in condensed strength or closeness of logic. The document is remarkable mainly for its moral intrepidity, and for the novelty of some of its arguments. The President views that suffrage is not a fit thing to confer upon negroes by Congress, even if it has the authority so to do, and the portion of the message devoted to this subject is commended to the thoughtful personal of every man with white blood in his veins, and who desires the perpetuity of our free institutions. It concludes by stat-

ing that the message is a document rich in matter and of unusual interest. It is bold without indecorum, and confronts Congress with their pernicious views of the Constitution, without conceding into discourtesy. The Herald has no editorial comments. The Times is also silent.

**YORK COUNTY ELECTIONS.**—The York County elections, as our reader knows, engaged the attention of the Governor and Council last week. There were two irregularities in the returns. In York 239 ballots were cast, having, contrary to law, certain "distinguishing marks" constituting the words and figures, "Democratic Nominations, Sept. 9, 1867." If these irregular votes are counted, the Democratic county officers are elected; if not, the affairs of the county will be administered by Republicans. The question arises whether the Governor and Council have authority to reject these votes after they have been received by the municipal authorities, and this question has been referred to the Supreme Judicial Court for decision. The Senatorial question is further perplexed by a return of 1625 votes from Kennebecport. This is evidently an error, as Kennebecport has never cast more than five or six hundred votes, but the decision of the Council is that in this case they cannot be expected to go behind the returns; the Senate alone can go into that investigation; and upon the face of the returns it appears that there is no choice, which fact they report accordingly.

## Report of the Secretary of War.

The report of General Grant as Secretary of War *ad interim*, is quite lengthy and goes into all the management of that Department since he took charge of it. One of his first moves was to cut off a large number of sinecures. On this point he speaks as follows:

A long war had entailed upon the army practices of extravagance totally unjustifiable in times of peace; and as the increase of the regular army since 1860 (now almost the entire army) is officered by men whose army experience does not go back to that period (and therefore they may not know but their indulgences at the expense of the general government are all legitimate,) retrenchment was the first subject to attract my attention. During the rebellion, ambulances and mounted orderlies at every headquarters had come into use; and since the rebellion they have been continued, if not at every post of a single company, at least generally throughout the army. A discontinuance of this civil was necessary both to the discipline and efficiency of the army and the relief of the Treasury. Orders were therefore given to both for breaking it up and seeing to its execution.

All the surplus and useless stores of the Quartermaster's Department are being sold; this relieves the Government of a large amount of expense in rents, and permits the dismissal of an army of employees.

He also states that he is reducing the enormous expense of maintaining troops between the Missouri river, and the Pacific coast. The completion of the Pacific Railroad is, in his opinion, the only way that the cost in that arm of the service can be materially reduced.

## FREEDMAN'S BUREAU.

No changes have been made in the organization and practical working of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, except such as have been caused by the appointment of District Commanders under the Reconstruction act.

The detail of officers serving with troops has enabled the Commissioner to reduce the number of bureau agents. Twenty-eight civil agents have been discharged and forty eight mustered out.

The amount of "abandoned land" now in possession of the Bureau is 215,024 acres much of which is swamp land and scarcely any affording revenue. The number of pieces of town property is 950.

Mr. Jencks, a lawyer of Rhode Island, and M. C., the author of the Bankrupt act, has labored to effect a reform in the civil service of the government, by requiring that applicants for office shall submit to a competitive examination. An article on this matter in the last North American Review, has been printed in pamphlet form, and has been furnished us. It is a reform in the right direction, and will secure a class of worthy appointees, on meritorious grounds, rather than by political favor. Senator Patterson of New Hampshire is said to be engaged in the preparation of a bill establishing the same regulations for the foreign service.

**THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE** of the War Department for the support of the army during the ensuing fiscal year was \$51,000,000, but a revised estimate, based upon the number of troops remaining in the service after the execution of Grant's order for the reduction of the army, lessens the sum nearly sixteen million dollars. The entire estimate will accordingly be reduced from \$77,000,000 to about \$61,000,000. The Army and Navy Journal, in the interest of the Regular Army, is the only one of our exchanges, which disapproves of Gen. Grant's proposed reduction of the army.

**BANKRUPTCY.**—The Star learns that at last accounts there had been one hundred and sixty-three bankruptcy cases entered in this State—about fifty cases being in the first district, and twenty-eight cases in the second district.

Bankrupts had better hurry up, for under the act no discharges can be obtained on any application made after the 1st of June, 1868, unless the bankrupt's assets are sufficient to pay 50 per cent. of his debts, or unless a majority of his creditors consent, in writing, to his release.

## From Our Boston Correspondent.

BOSTON, DEC. 9, 1867.

**Dear Democrat.**—Mr. Dickens has just declared his first series of readings in this city. When the tickets for the four nights of the course were sold, a month ago, at the bookstore of Ticknor & Fields, the crowd was so great and the English method of sale so dilatory that some of those who stood near the end of the line of purchasers which encircled the whole of Hamilton Place, waited from eight o'clock in the morning till the same hour at night before reaching their turn. A great many of the tickets, the price of which was \$2, were bought by speculators who were early on the ground, and who sold them afterwards at prices varying from \$5 to \$20.

The readings took place in Tremont Temple, and on each night every seat has been occupied, while a limited number have been admitted to stand in the aisles. The audiences have represented the learning and wealth of the city. The stage was furnished with a large crimson screen to serve as a background for the reader, who stood at a small desk with foot lights in front, to give effect to the expression to his face.

At eight o'clock, Mr. Dickens walks quietly up the steps of the stage to the desk, and without any preliminary remarks, takes up his book and commences to read. The narrative or connecting portions he reads rapidly, with a rising inflection peculiar, but not unpleasant. His voice is not powerful, but flexible and penetrating, so that, though he speaks without effort, he is heard in all parts of the room. He at once throws himself with the greatest ease into his characters and gives his conception of them with such perfect dramatic fidelity, and changes so naturally from one character to another, that you see the actual personage of his story before you. His power of facial expression is wonderful, and is alone a sufficient index of the character speaking, so that you understand, without needing any other guide, whether it is Squeers or John Bowdler or Smike who stands before you. In this respect, his reading is the most perfect and complete I have ever listened to. There are those who read with more force, with more pathos, but none who so completely, without the adventitious aid of costume or stage effect, identify themselves with the spirit of the creation they represent. A delicate humor runs through the whole reading, and when speaking in the character, Boots at the Holly Tree Inn, nothing can exceed his complete assumption of the garrulity, the small wisdom and the dignified deference of the old servant. Certain it is that with all the desire of seeing Charles Dickens, there is something more, a real merit and faithfulness of delineation in his reading, to keep so fastidious an audience quiet and fixed with interest for two hours.

Mr. Dickens is above the middle height, spare and thin, with an appearance of well preserved health and temperate habits. His dress is a little foppish. He wears black—a dress-coat, a white neck tie, a small bouquet of red and white flowers in his button-hole, a large gold-watch chain, extending from pocket to pocket across his vest, with a huge locket pendant from his middle. He has glittering rings on both hands, which by the way, are rather small and handsome. He says "fast" and "best" instead of "first" and "best," and "finger" instead of "figure," and "jew" instead of "due." His head is broad at top, his side hair of an iron grey, is combed straight forward and flares out in thin waves from his temples. His manner is entirely unassuming or self-conscious. As you look at him, it is hard to realize that, not yet an old man, he has created a world of life and character, as real to us as history itself. At ten o'clock he finishes his task and retires as quickly as he entered.

While in the city, Mr. Dickens was at the Parker House, where, it is said, he pronounced "the cooking good," his fare to him, as to all Englishmen, being a matter of importance. He walked eight or ten miles daily, wrote part of the day, made \$20,000, and during the winter will probably make \$200,000. He attended some private dinners and gave one or two private entertainments. Of course he has been overwhelmed with invitations and requests for his autograph, and one enterprising photographer has offered him \$500 for the privilege of taking his pliz. But there has been no public demonstration, the thing has not been overdone, and the author of "American Notes," on his return to England will have an opportunity to write something more generous than that work, which, while it was just enough in its ridicule, failed to look at anything but the petty short-comings of our national manners or speech, and took no philosophical or comprehensive view of the better sides of our national character. J. D. L.

The movement is quite extensive to procure a repeal of the tax on manufactures. The conviction is becoming almost universal that the existing system of internal taxation is needlessly cumbrous and burdensome, and that it is destructive to the most important industries of the country, without yielding a revenue sufficiently large to constitute an adequate compensation for the depression in manufactures and business occasioned by it. This feeling of dissatisfaction is greatly increased by the testimony of persons who have made internal taxation the subject of special investigation. Hon. David A. Wells, the Special Commissioner of the Treasury Department, brings from countries where the different methods of raising a revenue by this species of impost have been tested for years in succession, testimony to the effect that the method now in vogue here has been found unsatisfactory and is now obsolete.

**THE KENNEBEC REPORTER.** Gardiner, shows great care in the selection of its items. This is a disinterested compliment, the editor being a stranger to us.

## [Correspondence of the Democrat.]

WALTHAM, MASS., NOV. 25, 1867.

**Members of Lodge No. 6, M. E. S., Fairfield, Me.**

BROTHERS: I was obliged to write my last letter in haste, and thought I should certainly have plenty of leisure time to gather information, as well as have time to frame my ideas in language that would do at least justice to some rule of Rhetoric, but I must either write unprepared, or not now; so I will do the best I can, and let it go at that.

I suppose you all know that the great speciality of this factory is, everything is done by machinery, and that all its machines were invented here, and for the occasion. There are other factories where watches are at present made on somewhat the same plan but they are all offshoots of this. The American Watch Factory, is not only the largest in America, but the largest in the world. When the idea of employing machinery for the purpose of Watch making was first originated, I am unable to state; but think the first attempt known was some fifteen years since, on the site of the present factory, by one Dennison, and two or three other gentlemen. They were unable to make the thing a complete success, but they proved to the world, that the thing could be done, although their funds were insufficient to carry them through. R. E. Robbins, (the present Treasurer and sole holder of the company) bought the stock, buildings &c., and collecting all the inventive talent possible, invested his last dollar and pushed through everything in his way.

"Yankee like," and succeeded in making an immense fortune for himself and others, as well as making some of the best time-keepers in existence. The building, or buildings, are of no style of architecture that I know of, but are just suited for their purposes, and are light, airy, and healthy. The front, on Crescent Street, is about 400 feet in length, and two stories in height. About one fourth the distance from each end is a large square brick structure, three stories in height, which contain the principal office as well as the doors through which all the operators must pass to reach their several rooms.

Between the street and river, are two other wings running parallel with the front, and one of equal length; connecting these wings are three others running in a contrary direction. This gives most excellent light and air to all. The courts which are formed by this arrangement are ornamented with fountains, flowers &c., to please the eye of the beholder. Everything that can tend to improve the health or morals of the operatives, (of which there are about 700) is done without stint of labor or money. The amount of pipes, lead and iron, used for conveying water, gas and steam for heating and lighting the rooms, &c., is enormous. There are two distinct factories under one roof, (or set of roofs, as you will,) in the larger one or larger part, are made the "Home," "Ladies," "Elery," "P. S. Bartlett" and Waltham Watches, and in the other the celebrated "Appleton and Tracy," and the other, nicer kinds. The whole number made each month, is 8000, about 300 each day, 50 each hour, or one every two minutes. The remarkable degree of proficiency, which old hands have attained is astonishing, both in the use of their hands and in strength and accuracy of the eye. An old hand will instantly detect a variation of the one hundredth part of an inch, and correct it without the aid of a glass. Screws are made here so small that it requires 350,000, three hundred and fifty thousand, to weigh a pound, yet a person making them, will detect the least flaw in one, and will make easily 2000 each day. Each has a particular work to do, and does nothing else, except it be to help his neighbor when in trouble. Nearly one half employed, are females, who do the work where ninety of touch or rapidity is required; they make excellent workmen, but can never learn to repair or regulate the delicate machines or tools they use; when troubled, they give up in despair and run to the nearest man for help. The great requisite in watch-making, is plenty of light, and not too strong; this is furnished by over twelve hundred windows, and the work is arranged to accommodate the various windows. Nearly every branch of mechanical and ornamental industry and art, is there represented. Engineers, File makers, machinists, stone-cutters, Blacksmiths, pipers, painters, glaziers, paperhangers, bookkeepers, Masons, Carpenters, engravers, draughtsmen, leather-workers, Colorists, &c., &c., with a plentiful sprinkling of yankee "school-marks" and masters. Every civilized nation is represented, although the Yankee predominates, and of these last, Maine claims the larger share. Every tool and machine, is manufactured here, and invented too. The best talent, regardless of expense, is retained here, and every effort is made to produce more, better, and cheaper watches, than can be furnished by any other company. A Horse R. R., runs past the factory to convey operatives to and from their work.

Every thing connected in any way with the corporation goes like clockwork; every one knows his, or her work, and does it, and nothing more. The boarding houses are large, with spacious airy rooms, well furnished, and kept neat and clean. Board is high, but the pay is also nearly double that of almost any other company in New England. But I have "run on" about long enough for the patience of the readers, and the editor, so I will "run down" for to night by bidding all a goodnight. E. E. P.

**THE KENNEBEC REPORTER.** Gardiner, shows great care in the selection of its items. This is a disinterested compliment, the editor being a stranger to us.

**THE HAZARD WHIG** says, Capt. John A. Webster, of the Rev. Cutter, Mahoning, moved on Thursday last, the schooner "Fleetwood," at Fox Island, and delivered her into the custody of the Collector at Belfast, in which district she was seized. The seizure was made for alleged smuggling, and the vessel is valued at about \$4000.

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## [Correspondence of the Democrat.]

AUGUSTA, DEC. 6, 1867.

**To the Editor.**—By some blunder on the part of the town officers of Bethel, the returns were so imperfect as to oblige the Governor to issue the certificate of election of Representative in that District to the Democratic candidate. This will give him an opportunity of going to Augusta, and getting his travel and a few days attendance, but the Legislature will dispose of the matter very summarily by amending the returns to correspond with the records, which will give the seat to the Republican candidate, but may perhaps, prevent his voting or acting in the organization of the House.

In the organization of the House, it is believed that Hon. T. C. Woodman, of Bucksport, will be elected Speaker without opposition, and S. J. Chasbourne, of Dixmont, Clerk. For Assistant Clerk, H. A. Shorey, of the Bath Sentinel and Times, will probably be the winning man.

The Presidency of the Senate lies between Robie of Cumberland, and Crosby of Penobscot, with chances in favor of the latter.

In the organization of the Departments, but few changes will be made. Mr. Higbourn will be re-elected Treasurer, Gen. Caldwell, Adjutant General, Col. W. P. Frye, Attorney General, and Isaac R. Clark, Land Agent; For Secretary of State, the contest is between Hon. John J. Perry, of Oxford, and Col. F. M. Drew, of Brunswick, and their strength at this time seems so evenly balanced, that it is difficult to determine which will win; in either case a good officer will be secured.

## INDEX.

**TEMPERANCE.**—Mr. Editor: Understanding your columns are open for interesting items from the towns in the county, I would like to say to your readers, we have at Buckfield village, a flourishing and active Lodge of Good Templars, which meet every Saturday Evening. Our worthy Chief, Mr. Waldron, is a live man in the cause, and is well supported by the other officers of both sexes, who not only know, but delight to do their duty. Among the members which embrace not only gentlemen and ladies of influence, but many veterans from the bloodless fight, where rum and other kindred spirits were spilt upon the ground like water and an expensive law suit followed, which tried men's purses and principles. Besides the meetings at the Lodge, we have others at East Buckfield, the old battle ground which is known as one of the strong holds that gave king alcohol so many shots in his locker, that he left the rats for a while at least. The large school district at this place, is not known to have even a moderate drinker in all its borders. Among the converts from rum's doings were three hard cases, viz:—Charles Goodwin, of East Buckfield, who now lectures in this and neighboring towns to the acceptance of all, and is destined, if he keeps the pledge, to make his mark, causing his wife and children to rejoice; Stephen Records, of Buckfield, who is an active temperance man doing a good work, causing his aged parents and brother much peace and joy at home, and Albin Robinson, of East Sumner—now a respected citizen—ready and willing to put his shoulder to the wheel, which gives great encouragement to his family, parents and numerous friends; being an active and faithful man at the deck gun, against the rebels, we rely upon him when danger comes. Being a delegate from the Good Templars, I was rejoiced to hear him some of the fruit of Auburn, November 14 and 15 inst. The Bull Run victory of Mass. did not discourage the numerous body which was composed of members of the different societies in Maine, and when the State Attorney said he was no longer a moderate drinker, it was felt as if Maine would not follow in the footsteps of her mother any further than they led in progression to a higher life. All the remarks had the right ring in them, showing no defect. How beautiful to see members from all the different religious societies standing on one platform, for the good of man. Truly union is power.

## HARTFORD.

**WESTON, THE PEDESTRIAN.** The failure of Weston to make 100 miles in 24 hours, in his several trials, seems to be regarded by the public, as the result of speculation. But the following statement of his last attempt seems to correct this view of it.

The Cleveland Leader thus speaks of the progress up to the time of accomplishing the ninety one miles: "At Springfield he complained somewhat of blistered feet, but his increasing gait left no room for apprehension. Three miles beyond Concord the road became heavy and sandy, but this seemed to have no effect upon the walker, who kept the horses on a brisk trot, and entered the Tremont House at Concord, at forty five minutes past seven, having walked ninety one miles, and having three hours and nine minutes in which to accomplish the remaining nine miles. He complained of a slight dizziness, and asked for some tea. While this was in preparation, an examination of his feet showed that they had been so blistered by the fearful ordeal of the day, that further progress was at present impossible and cruel. He was earnest and stubborn in his determination to finish his feat, but a council of his advisers decided against him, and he yielded. From Portland to Chicago his average daily walk was forty-seven and three-twenty six miles.

**THE HAZARD WHIG** says, Capt. John A. Webster, of the Rev. Cutter, Mahoning, moved on Thursday last, the schooner "Fleetwood," at Fox Island, and delivered her into the custody of the Collector at Belfast, in which district she was seized. The seizure was made for alleged smuggling, and the vessel is valued at about \$4000.

## Editorial and Selected Items.

**NICK TROUT.** We are indebted to Mr. J. G. Rich, of the Angler's Retreat, Upton, for a mess of rich trout, two weighing about three pounds each. We should like to regale up there, ourselves, and try our hand at it, though we always preferred fishing in the warm season.

**Prof. C. D. ROBINSON**, of Portland, favored us, last week, with one of his talented readings, at Academy Hall. His pieces were well chosen and admirably rendered. He is an excellent elocutionist, and has a large share of dramatic talent. He always draws a fashionable audience, on the Hill.

**Hundreds of barrels of apples** have been sent up the Mississippi river to Minnesota, simply to pass the Winter. They will come down again in the Spring.

**Much excitement prevails at Goderich, Canada**, over the success of a salt well just sunk there. In many respects one is reminded by it of the oil fever.

**Mr. John M. Robinson**, of East Sumner, sold a yoke of oxen last week, for four hundred twenty-five dollars, which girt 8 feet, 2 inches.

**A deer weighing 200 pounds** was killed at Cape Elizabeth on Tuesday, and, save one that was killed at "Richmond Island" is the only deer that has been known or seen in the vicinity of the Cape for over seventy years. It may be the one that Mayor Stevens, of Portland, turned out last year, because of the difficulty of keeping him. He was seen around Gorham in the Fall.

**A sub-committee of the School Committee** of Portland, recommend that immediate measures be taken to induce the city at an early day, to assume the entire cost of all books and stationary required by the children in the public schools of the city.

**The attempt to clear the Docket in Kennebec County**, resulted as similar attempts before have, in leaving it about where it was. About 150 cases were disposed of, and that number of new entries made. An intermediate court is needed for the larger counties, to ensure speedy justice to litigants, and in smaller counties where a term has been abolished, as in this county.

**The articles we published** entitled "why leave New England," were written by Zina Stone, Esq. of the Lowell Vox Populi. Mr. Stone is a native of Bethel, and was an apprentice in this office. He has compiled some valuable statistics of our own State, and is now doing the same for Massachusetts. His articles are copied extensively, and are very valuable.

**ENLARGED.** The Bath Daily Sentinel and Times commends us this week considerably enlarged and otherwise improved. It is now the largest daily ever published in that city, and its proprietors promise still further improvements. It is a pleasure to chronicle this evidence of its prosperity. The proprietors are deserving of the best success.

**Brown Thurston and Co.** have disposed of their interest in the Portland Price Current, to the Messrs. Rich, one of whom, Mr. M. N. Rich has been the editor, and is a writer of great ability, especially on commercial matters.

**Gen. O. O. Howard**, of the Freedmen's Bureau, was in Bangor last week, (assisting at the nuptial ceremonies of his brother), and addressed the Young Men's Christian Association.

**Gen. Neal Dow** arrived home last week, after nineteen months' absence in Europe. He will lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association soon, it is said.

**The Governor and Council** have decided in the York Co. cases that there is no choice for Senator. The matter of the county officers is still under advisement.

**Over twenty thousand copies** of Mr. Blaine's speech, together with his rejoinder to General Butler, have been subscribed for at the Globe office, where it has been stereotyped, and a large edition is to be issued in New York.

**The Washington correspondent** of the Portland Star says that Gov. Chamberlain has succeeded in getting a settlement of a large portion of the Maine war claim. The correspondent also states that the consideration of the remainder of the claim will not be taken up at present.

**We have received Retrenchment, No. 2**, but it is crowded out this week. Also, original articles from "Hartford," and several other correspondents, which must lie over.

**The correspondence from Augusta**, Waltham and Boston, will be read with interest. We shall be furnished with original correspondence of interest, from time to time.

**We are indebted to Messrs. Perham, Blaine, and Lynch** for valuable public documents.

**Bankruptcy Courts** for this County, will be held at the office of George A. Wilson, Esq. South Paris, on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 10 o'clock A. M., by Hon. Seth May, Register for this District.

**The latest rumor** is, that a new democratic slate has been made up, at Washington, and that Gen. Hawkeye, is to be the democratic nominee for President. The General always had many enthusiastic supporters in the army, but he was then fighting on the right side. He could not carry his men over to give aid and comfort to the rebels, any better than McClellan could.

**The Oxford North Quarterly Meeting** will meet in the Union meeting house, at Rumford Corner, the first Wednesday and Thursday, January 1st, and 2nd, commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M.

JOHN MOODY, Clerk.



Freight taken as usual.  
L. BILLINGS, Agent.  
May, 22d, 1866—



## Farmers' Department.

"SPREAD THE FLOW."

All the arts and sciences pertaining to life, are closely linked together, and are intimately connected with Agriculture.—ARICOLA.

### Crops in Maine this Year.

We condense the following review of the crops of 1867, from a long article in the Farmer:

In conformity to our usual custom at this season, we present a general review of the weather and crops of Maine for the present year. Our figures may be relied upon as in the main correct.

The past season in this State has been in many respects less favorable for our crops than any we have had for some years. The spring was very cold and backward. The great amount of wet weather in May and June kept the ground cold and unfit for cultivation, and also interfered greatly with putting in crops and other spring labors. Corn in very many places throughout the State was not planted until from the 10th to 13th of June, although the average time of planting was about the 4th of the month. Spring grains were also consequently late sown, and potatoes were not planted in some instances, until a month later than they often have been.

The yield of hay, by far the most important crop grown in the State, is fully as large as in previous years; and we put down the yield at about 1,000,000 tons. In 1855—one of our best hay seasons—the yield in this State was 1,429,511 tons, and some writers give our present season's crop as fully up to this amount, but are confident it is far too much. The weather for securing this crop was, during the first half of July, very favorable, but after that time a very large amount of hay was badly damaged by the heavy rains and cloudy weather. There is little hay in our State that was summered over from last winter, and although the present season's yield will be sufficient for our stock, we think much less hay will be shipped from this State than in previous years.

The great lesson forced upon us by the present year's experience is this. Farmers do not commence haying early enough. To say nothing of the far greater nutritious value of hay cut the last week in June and the first week in July, with that cut a month later, the other advantages attendant upon early haying are sufficient to call the farmer's attention to the matter and enforce upon him its practice. As a general thing we have our best weather for cutting and making hay during the first two weeks of July.

Indian corn has this year had a much shorter period for growth, and a less favorable season than the average; but notwithstanding this the yield is a fair one, and may be safely stated at 1,300,000 bushels. The period for the growth of this crop in our latitude cannot be safely set down at more than ninety-two days, although in some seasons it is much longer, and in some a late spring or an early autumn frost somewhat abridges this time.

The grain crops are generally light.—They were nearly all late sown, with the exception of wheat, and the great amount of wet weather in August induced rust, which caused a very imperfect filling of the grain. Spring wheat is beginning to assume its former importance, and a considerable breadth was sown last spring. It is yielding a fair crop and will produce probably 175,000 bushels. The annual product of other grain crops will be very nearly as follows: Barley, 700,000 bushels; oats 2,000,000; rye, 100,000.

Potatoes are very much below the average. Nearly all of them were late planted and the rust the latter part of August put an end to their growth. The rot has injured the crop less than was at first feared, but there is no size to the tubers. The entire yield of the State will not be more than 4,000,000 bushels, against 6,000,000 in 1866.

The crop of apples is a general failure. There are many reasons for this, and the subject is one which we hope our experienced fruit growers will discuss the coming winter. Attentive orchardists must have learned much from another season's work among the trees, and we hope to hear of their experience and opinions at an early day.

The season for grapes has been poor, on account of the wet, cold season, and some varieties that have generally ripened heretofore, fail to do so this season. Not only grapes, but pears and other fruit seems to lack their characteristic flavor this year, probably owing in a great measure to the same cause.

The lessons which force themselves upon us in thus reviewing the season and its labors, may be briefly given as follows:

1. As far as possible, land for grain and hord crops should be prepared for seeding in the fall.
2. Plant a variety of corn that is sure to ripen in three months from the time of planting.
3. New varieties of potatoes generally ripen earlier than the old sorts, are less liable to suffer from rust or rot, and consequently yield a better return.
4. Farmers should commence haying at least ten days earlier than is generally practiced. This gives a better produce and is apt to secure good weather.
5. Apple trees that are pruned, manured and otherwise cared for, usually yield a good crop every year.

If the best time to engage in a business is when others are leaving it, the present is a good time to buy sheep, says J. Harris, in the Agriculturist.

### Grape Culture.

Grape culture, in one of the back towns of this county, has proved quite a success. Twelve years ago, Moses Dannels (now deceased) introduced the first improved grape vine into the town of Newfield. This was an Isabella. The success that attended this introduction led to the increase of the number of vines, so that in half a dozen years this gentleman and his sons had their yards about their buildings filled with vines. Mr. Dannels experimented with various grapes, but settled down at last in the conviction that the Concord is best adapted, all things considered, to cultivate in his locality. The success of his experiment was at this time conceded, even by those men who had smiled most derisively at his neglected corn and potatoes for "foolishly experimenting on grapes." Grape culture was soon to pay. A single vine was known to yield the value of \$40 in a single season, and year after year witnessed the same ample yield. Neighbors procured layers, and now whole acres may be seen devoted to this single product.

Mr. Dannels was the propagator of the variety called by him the "State of Maine," a grape which has obtained favor at Newfield, and also abroad. It is similar to the Concord in many respects, though rather more prolific. It is, however, inferior to the Concord in flavor; a circumstance that will undoubtedly enable the Concord to maintain its unrivalled popularity.

Now and then there comes a Fall in which an early frost occurs; and such is found to be the greatest disadvantage in the way of raising the grape in that locality. This Fall a fine crop was on the vines, but just about the time of their beginning to turn, a frost struck, and was the means, in single yards, of the loss of hundreds of dollars. However, such experience does not discourage the grape growers. They say "We must expect some years will not prove quite so favorable as some of those we have been having; still we know that in spite of such disadvantages, on the whole, raising grapes will pay." Doubtless some means will be devised for successfully encouraging an earlier ripening of the fruit. Already it is seen that the distance allowed from vine to vine was not sufficiently great. Instead of twelve feet, those set out hereafter will be fifteen, as this gives more room to each vine for freely admitting the sun. It is found that a vine attached to a building, or even a close board fence, is not affected so soon by frost; doubtless from the radiation of heat from the solid substance during the night. A little more experience, we doubt not, will enable these grape growers to so adapt this valuable product to the circumstances of that locality as to make it an entire success. That the grape in its native state abounds in Newfield, is a circumstance favorable to the successful growth of improved varieties. Propagation is carried on altogether by layers. Vines secured in this way are considered by far the best.—The cost of securing a vineyard of four years' growth is equivalent to just the value of the use of the ground, inasmuch as grape-growers will set the vines and exercise all care for the yield during the first four years.

The manufacture of wine heretofore has been attempted, commanding a ready sale at profitable rates. But this year it is different. The grapes when brought to market would not compare with those growing where frosts had not reached. No dealers were jealous of these "country grapes," and many were carried back from market again, rather than to be disposed of for the only price they would bring, ten cents a pound. Considerable quantities have therefore been pressed.—[Biddeford Union.]

Do NOT SELL LEAN CATTLE.—We commend the following to our readers, as a matter of great importance. It is from the Farmer:

"Farmers sell too many of their beef cattle when they are in merely ordinary beef condition. In doing this there is a twofold loss that but few consider. The animal yields a less number of pounds, and the meat brings a lower price. Between ordinary beef and really choice fat beef, there is always a difference of two or three cents per pound, and this difference, when added to the whole number of pounds when the animal is in the best condition, will be found to be no mean amount. Nothing pays better than the few bushels of grain that puts the finishing touch upon what is generally denominated a good beef animal. Those of our readers who have followed this often repeated advice in our live stock market reports, are witnesses to its soundness. Do not be in a hurry to market under ordinary circumstances, until cattle are really fat. The same applies to all other market animals."

WINTERING A COLT. To our young correspondent at Gouldsboro', we may say that in general times, colts just weaned should never be tied while in the stall, although they should be halter-broke; nor should they be suffered to stand upon a hard floor. Prepare a stall or pen sufficiently large for them to remain at perfect ease while confined therein, and let the ground form the bottom or floor of it. As to feed, give early cut hay or rowen, a small quantity of oats once or twice a week, and make a considerable free use of carrots. Keep them out of doors and in the yards all the time during the day time in winter, when it is prudent to do so.—[Maine Farmer.]

Capt. D. Farrington, of Croton, Hudson river, raised this season 150 1/2 bushels winter wheat on 5 1/2 acres. He applied 1 3/4 ton bone dust, and the grain was sown on 16th October.

### Dry Goods, Millinery, &c.

## NEW GOODS!

The subscriber would respectfully inform the public that he has taken the store lately occupied by Bates & Thayer, and has just put in a full stock of

### New & Desirable Goods,

Consisting of

## DRY GOODS,

OF ALL KINDS,

## GROCERIES,

## Crockery & Glass Ware

## HATS, CAPS, BOOTS & SHOES

## ROOM PAPER,

## Gents' Cloths of all kinds,

## Ladies' Dress Goods,

## Dress Trimmings, Braids,

## Fancy Goods, Fine Stationery.

All of which are new, of the best quality and latest styles, and will be sold at

EXTREMELY LOW PRICES!

Please call and examine, and be satisfied that there is no necessity for going out of the place to do your trading.

J. H. RAWSON.

## NEW GOODS!

## F. A. YOUNG,

COR. RAILROAD AND MAIN STREETS, WEST PARIS, ME.

Is receiving a FULL LINE of

## Dry Goods, Groceries &c.

Purchased in Portland and Boston this last week, at the lowest prices.

DOWN TO THE HARD PAN!

## MY GROCERIES

Are of the best quality and OLD LADIES' come from miles around to PURCHASE MY TEAS!

Please call and examine my goods and prices before purchasing elsewhere.

Wanted 10,000 bush. Potatoes Nov. 1st, 1867.

## NEW GOODS!

## M. C. FOSTER,

Has for sale a good selection of

## Dry Goods & Groceries,

AT THE STORE

Corner of Maine and Pleasant Streets, BETHEL, ME.

All of which will be sold at the lowest rates. Please call and examine.

## MILLINERY AND

## FANCY GOODS,

Just received at

## L. J. BROCK & CO'S,

SOUTH PARIS, ME.

Hats and Bonnets New and if desired.

## MRS. S. W. SANDERSON'S,

MAIN STREET, OXFORD VILLAGE.

Can be found a choice selection of FALL AND WINTER

## MILLINERY

AND

## FANCY GOODS!

At the usual LOW PRICES.

Straw and Felt Hats Colored, Sewed and Pressed.

Dress and Cook Making done to order.

S. W. SANDERSON.

Oxford, Oct. 14, 1867.

## FURS & FURS.

## HOWE & BEAL

Have just received a choice stock of

## Ladies' & Childrens' Furs,

Consisting of

Fitch, Russian & Siberian Squirrel, French Cony and River Sable.

IN

## Capes, Collars, Victorines and

## Muffs

BUFFALO ROBES, LINED AND UNLINED,

Prices Very Low.

HOWE & BEAL.

NORWAY, Oct. 23, 1867.

## JUST RECEIVED!

Direct from Boston, a good assortment of

## Fashionable Jewelry!

consisting in part of

Bog Wood, Jet and Steel Sets,

GOLD FINGER RINGS,

Silver thimbles, Watch chains, Spectacles

Also,

AMERICAN, ENGLISH & SWISS

Watches, Time Pieces,

Striking and Alarm Clocks.

The above goods were bought at Manufacturer and Importers, for Cash, and will be sold at very low prices.

WATCH WORK done in the best manner, at small

S. RICHARDS, JR.

SOUTH PARIS.

## NEW DRUG STORE!

## A. D. WILSON,

## Druggist & Apothecary,

BUCKFIELD, ME.

Physician's prescriptions carefully compounded, and all orders promptly attended to.

at Bethel Village.

### Miscellaneous.

## THE OXFORD COUNTY

## Insurance Agency!

Was established Aug. 1865, and now represents

\$20,000,000 CAPITAL!

as follows:

Ætna of Hartford, \$5,000,000

Home of New York, 4,000,000

Hartford of Hartford, 2,000,000

New York Life, 8,000,000

Travellers', 1,000,000

Any one desiring SAFE INSURANCE will do well to procure a policy in one of the above reliable companies.

## FREELAND HOWE,

AGENT,

NORWAY, ME.

## Fall & Winter Goods!

JUST RECEIVED AT

## HOWE & BEAL'S,

From the different markets, a large stock of

## AMERICAN, FRENCH & ENGLISH

## DRY GOODS,

Of every style and variety. Also,

## Carpetings of all kinds,

## FEATHERS

And Household Furnishing Goods.

We also keep on hand a large assortment of

Trunks, Valises, Reticles, &c.

W. I. GOODS, CROCKERY WARE, &c.

We respectfully invite our former friends and patrons and the public generally to call and examine our stock. We will guarantee our prices to be as low as the lowest.

HOWE & BEAL.

Norway, Sept. 30, 1867.

## PANIC PRICES!

## No More Combination.

The Subscriber would respectfully announce to the citizens of SOUTH PARIS and vicinity that he has lately purchased a large and well-selected stock of choice

## GROCERIES!

Which he will now offer to them at exceedingly LOW PRICES! By always keeping the best articles, and selling them at the least possible margin above the Wholesale Prices, he hopes to merit a fair share of your patronage.

THE BEST FLOUR FOR AN ADVANCE OF 25 CTS. OVER THE COST.

## PROVISIONS.

He has always on hand the best of

## FRESH MEATS!

As well as a stock of Corned and Salted Meats, Hams, Tongues, &c., which will be sold at favorable prices.

## TANNING!

Having purchased the Tannery of Messrs. Shurtleff & Co., and secured the services of that veteran in the business, CHARLES McFARLAND, I am prepared to tan, by the old fashioned process, Wax Leather and Calf Skins in the best possible manner.

Also, constantly on hand, Wax Leather and Calf Skins.

Call and examine the Stock and prices.

SAMUEL F. BRIGGS.

## OXFORD COUNTY

## SEWING MACHINE

AGENCY.

At D. H. YOUNG'S,

Norway, Maine.

Where may be found the

SINGER, GROVER & BAKER, HOWE,

WHEELER & WILSON, FINEKE & LYON

And all the new and most popular machines, from \$6.00 to \$150.

ALL STANDARD MACHINES,

Warranted to give satisfaction.

Machine Trimmings always on hand.

## Farm for Sale.

THE subscriber offers for sale his farm, situated two miles north of Paris Hill in the town of Paris, known as the Isaac Mason farm, containing 75 acres of good land, mostly divided into fields and pastures, with an abundance of wood and watered by a never failing brook. It has 500 fruit trees in bearing, and a young orchard of 100 trees beginning to bear. The house is new with excellent water in the kitchen. Barn and out buildings are in excellent repair. Will be sold with crops if desired. A part of the purchase can remain on mortgage.

ALSO,

A small farm adjoining, at about 40 acres of land and the buildings, known as the Irish Reilly homestead, with a thirty young orchard in bearing condition, plenty of wood, and an excellent brook passing nearly through the lot.

These two farms are so conveniently situated that they can be united, making a grand large farm if desired. Apply to S. S. GILES, on the premises. A great bargain can be had here, as a change of business makes it imperative to sell.

Paris, Aug. 18, 1867.

## SHINGLES & CLAPBOARDS,

OF ALL KINDS AND OF THE VARIOUS QUALITIES.

For sale by the subscriber at MEXICO.

Any communications regarding this kind of lumber promptly answered, and very orders promptly filled.

HENRY W. PARK.

## Farm for Sale.

The farm known as the Billy Williams farm, situated upon the banks of the Androscoggin in Hamden, is hereby offered for sale. It consists of about twelve acres of first quality land, the most productive of clover land, and one hundred acres of pasture, timber and woodland, and has upon it a story and a half house in good repair, a barn, out buildings and orchard. For terms of payment, see particulars, call on William Stone near the premises, or

D. HAMMONS,

Bethel, Aug. 3, 1867.

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The farm known as the Billy Williams farm, situated upon the banks of the Androscoggin in Hamden, is hereby offered for sale. It consists of about twelve acres of first quality land, the most productive of clover land, and one hundred acres of pasture, timber and woodland, and has upon it a story and a half house in good repair, a barn, out buildings and orchard. For terms of payment, see particulars, call on William Stone near the premises, or

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