

The Salary Measure.

That Congress has felt compelled to respect the public sentiment relative to the iniquitous legislation of the last session, called "the Salary Steal," is gratifying, and much praise is due Eugene Hale, and all our Maine delegation, for their earnest efforts in effecting a reform. Mr. Hale's committee reported a bill, restoring the Salary, virtually, to the old figure, making it \$5,000, the \$500 over the old law being the average amount of mileage and stationary allowance.

This bill ought to have passed, but after nine days bugging and equivocating on the part of those members who desired to retain the advance, Ben. Butler, who professed to be a convert to reform, fell from grace again and headed the opposition for a new proposition, embodied in what is called the Harburt bill, as follows:

That from and after the passage of this act the compensation of Senators, Representatives, and Delegates shall be at the rate of \$6,000 per annum, payable monthly, and in addition thereto the actual individual expenses of each Senator, Representative, and Delegate in going to and returning from the seat of Government once in each session, to be estimated in writing by each.

Sec. 2. That the compensation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be at the rate of \$2,000 in addition to his pay as Representative, amounting to \$4,000; and that of the Vice President shall be the same amount, with the same allowance for traveling expenses as herein before provided.

Sec. 3. That all laws and parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. That the Secretary of the Treasury is required to cover into the Treasury all sums that may remain undrawn, or which have been received as increased compensation, under the provisions of said act approved March 3, 1870, and which shall have or may come into his possession by the return thereof.

This bill passed the House, though Hale, Dawes and others manfully contested the matter, amid howlings and attempts to silence and cough them down. It provides for the payment of only \$500 more than the Hale bill, it is true, and is a reduction of the obnoxious law of the last session, but it will not satisfy the people, because it is an attempt to evade the manifest sentiment to restore the law to the old amount, or approximating to it.

The Oxford Register denounces the Harburt bill as the last Salary Steal, and charges its passage to Butler and other administration leaders; yet it was supported by Fernando Wood, the democratic candidate for Speaker and Eldridge and Randall, other leaders of that party, and three-fourths of the democrats in the House while it was, opposed by nearly half of the republicans, and could not have passed but for democratic votes.

The Boston Post, democratic, puts the blame where it belongs, upon its own members, and denounces those who have voted for the salary steal in the following forcible manner:

"As for the democrats, they are swept away by the power of the prevalent mercenary influence. They have no footing in the House. The action of their caucus meant surrender to the plunderers of the treasury. So it was interpreted by the democratic press, and so they will be finally judged and consigned to oblivion. They have basely betrayed the trust reposed in them by a great party, just as the people are re-investing it with power, and there are no political anomalies too severe for their desert. Their fate, like that of the majority of the republicans, will be a warning for many years."

Let the odium of this legislation fall where it belongs, upon those who voted for it, irrespective of party.

Insane Hospital Finances.

The Committee of the Executive Council who have been examining into the financial affairs of Maine Insane Hospital, have closed their labors. Their examination has been thorough and has been going on for nearly three months. All the hospital accounts for the past three years have been carefully examined. The committee found some irregularities in the hospital accounts and recommended a change in the financial officer and also in the person having charge of the hospital farm. They also recommended some method of keeping the accounts and making the quarterly settlement with steward and Treasurer.

The Great Cause of Crime.

Judge Aldrich of Boston, on the occasion of sentencing a prisoner, a few days since, remarked that liquor brought the accused to such a fate, and said:

"He had observed that at least seven eighths of the cases had their foundation in the use of intoxicating liquors. The victims marched in a ghastly procession through the court house, and it was common knowledge that the liquor saloons of Boston were open day and night, where the people so inclined, and particularly the young, could be fitted and prepared for crime. There was not a session of the court that he was not appealed to, when about to impose sentence on a person for crime for leniency, upon the ground that the offense was committed while under the influence of liquor. If he could have his way in bringing about a remedy, he would commence at the other end of the crime—the cause, origin and primary influences (which, though not expressed in words, were well understood to mean the rum-sellers). Though he was willing to listen, and had listened patiently, to these constant appeals for mercy, he was tired of hearing them so frequently repeated, when the great and fruitful cause of misery was left untouched. It would be as easy to attempt to dam the Mississippi at its mouth as to check the progress of crime while the numberless places where intoxicating liquors were sold are allowed to continue and prosper. There was no way to stop crime but to stop the cause of it."

Speaker Blaine on the Franking Privilege.

The Boston Advertiser publishes the following letter written by Speaker Blaine to a Boston gentleman, relative to the franking privilege:

Washington, D. C. Dec. 17, 1873.

My Dear Sir:—Your note of inquiry is at hand. You are in error in regard to the post-office committee of the house having prepared a bill for the restoration of the franking privilege to members of Congress. The committee have, I understand, agreed upon a bill providing for some method of supplying stamps for the transmission of public documents which we print in such needless and extravagant profusion. It seems to me the wiser and better way would be to dispense with the documents. I never could see the justice or the propriety of paying from the public treasury for the printing of books for gratuitous distribution among a small fraction of the people. The enormous edition of the agricultural report, for instance, though costing so much, only affords six hundred copies to each congressional district, whereas the total population is one hundred and thirty thousand, and the average number of voters twenty-five thousand.

And then while members of Congress cannot be expected to pay the postage on a vast mass of public documents, amounting in the aggregate to several hundred dollars, it is quite safe to say that the persons to whom the documents are addressed would in a large majority of cases decline to take them from the post office if they had themselves to pay the postage. The government, therefore, not only furnishes the books gratuitously, but pays for the transportation beside, in order to induce people to accept them. I think it wise to stop a business of this kind, and thereby save nearly or quite two millions annually to the public purse.

As to restoring the franking privilege for the individual correspondence of members, I can hardly conceive any one would do it. There would be no possible convenience resulting from the revival that would compensate for the general injustice and odium of the act, especially at this time, when there has been no fair trial of the new system. The personal and official correspondence of any one member is not large enough to be pecuniarily burdensome. Just remember that three hundred dollars will pay the postage on ten thousand letters, and then find the Congressman that writes half that number in a single year. We have the cheapest postage, all things considered, of any people in the world, and about the fairest thing I know of is for every citizen, public and private, to pay his own share of it. I should vote for any exception to the rule of uniform and universal payment, it would be in favor of newspaper exchanges and the free circulation of country papers within their own walls.

Very sincerely yours,

J. G. BLAINE.

State Prison Finances.

The State Prison Inspectors have finished their examination of the affairs of that institution, which they find in satisfactory condition. We learn that they find the sales of carriages for the year have amounted to \$75,383.18, which sum is nearly \$11,000 more than last year's sales. The sales of shoes manufactured at the prison have amounted to about \$10,000, which brings the total sales for the year up to more than \$90,000, against \$82,000 last year. The profits will be about \$7,000, which, on account of the fire, will be a trifle less than the profits the year preceding.

—The Democratic press of the State is attempting by virtue of display lines to give the impression that Mr. Leighton, the Treasurer of the Insane Hospital is a defaulter. Such is not the case. Mr. Leighton was first appointed by Gov. Chamberlain, and was well recommended and there has been no evidence to show that he intended to defraud the State. He did not keep his books in so clear a manner as is deemed desirable, and for that reason the Council deemed it best that he should be removed. The State has lost nothing, the committee finding after a thorough investigation that Mr. Leighton was not attempting to defraud the State. The man is doubtless unfortunate but not a scoundrel. He tendered his resignation three weeks since.—Press.

—The N. Y. Tribune of last Wednesday says editorially concerning Attorney General Williams, that a serious responsibility rests upon the Senate. "The fitness of Mr. Williams for Chief Justice is impugned on grounds which are apparently very strong. The bar in this and nearly every State are almost unanimously against him. If the information which the Senate has relative to his character and abilities is unfavorable, he ought not to be confirmed. The President made the nomination in good faith, but may have been mistaken in the selection of this particular man. If so, we trust he will make another nomination more acceptable to the bar and the country."

—The City Solicitor of Boston has given a decision that the women recently elected as members of the school committee are not eligible. In support of his opinion he cites the decision of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts that women cannot be appointed justices of the peace. The journals, however, show the solicitor that the law creating school committees only provides that such boards shall consist of a number of "persons" divisible by three, and under this they assert that woman may hold the office.

—The wife of Alexander Agassiz, son of the late Professor, died Monday of pneumonia, superinduced by fatigue in the sympathetic attendance upon the father-in-law during his illness. Mrs. Agassiz was the daughter of the late G. R. Russell, and grand daughter of the late Robert G. Shaw of Boston. She was a lady of remarkable worth and culture, and her genial presence will be missed from a wide social and literary circle.

STATE COLLEGE.—Hon. Nelson Dingley, Jr., Hon. Sidney Perham, Hon. A. M. Robinson, Rev. S. F. Dike, and Hon. James M. Stone have been elected Examiners of the State College for the ensuing year.

—It is reported that Gen. J. C. Caldwell of Ellsworth, Me., is to be appointed successor to Hon. J. L. Stevens as Minister to Paraguay and Uruguay.

"Turning of the Tide."

Owing to the severe storm of Friday evening, the second lecture of the Paris Hill course was postponed until the following night. Though this evening, also, proved very unfavorable, an audience of about one hundred assembled in the Court House.

Mrs. AGNES YARBROUGHT, the lecturer, is a young woman of fine appearance and address. Her voice is clear and powerful, though not coarse—and could be distinctly heard in every part of the room. Her enunciation was distinct and clear. The lecturer did not claim for woman any rights or privileges, other than those which every fair minded man must grant to her. She made the ballot box a secondary object; but claimed the immediate recognition of woman's equality with man, socially, intellectually and financially. These three points she set forth so logically, and yet so impressively, none could be offended, and it seemed that all must have been convinced of the propriety of the positions taken by her. It would be desirable to give an abstract of the lecture, but space will not permit. The lecture was good, true and noble; and no person could hear such views without being purified and elevated.

The third lecture of the course will be delivered by Hon. Israel Washburn, of Portland, on Friday evening, January 9.

—Among the enterprising business men of Paris Hill, is JAMES C. MARBLE, Esq., the well known Powder manufacturer. He has powder mills at Buckfield, in which his son Elmer and son-in-law Thayer, are partners. They do about \$20,000 worth of business a year there, making a superior article of blasting and sporting powder, which sells readily in our State. They supply the State Companies at Brownville, and have a large trade with them.

Mr. Marble has been engaged, with Montreal parties, for about seven years in manufacturing powder at Windsor, Canada, on the Grand Trunk road. They have succeeded in driving the English imported powder out of the markets in the Dominion. They make their kegs and boxes, and do a lumbering business there of about \$50,000 a year, and have also commenced manufacturing DuPont. They keep 40 to 60 hands employed, and the monthly pay roll for labor amounting to \$3000.

Mr. Marble is an energetic business man who always takes a lively interest in the industries of our village, though his principal business is located elsewhere. He is a leading Stockholder and Director in the Paris Hill Stock manufacturing company. He has represented the town in the legislature, and is a whole hearted, estimable citizen, such as we delight to honor.

Shocking Tragedy in Grafton.

Corner E. B. Goddard of Bethel, was called upon to hold an inquest upon the body of Mrs. Lucy Tenny of Grafton, Thursday. He proceeded to the house of James D. Tenny in Grafton, with Dr. Wiley of Bethel, and summoned a jury of inquest, and after a careful and patient examination, they came to the following result:—"That Mrs. Lucy Tenny came to her death on the morning of the 24th inst. by violence from the hands of Moses Tenny, her husband."

The facts elicited at the inquest show that Moses Tenny is eighty eight years old, his wife seventy five. They have often quarreled, and always lived unhappily together. Mr. Tenny has been blind for five years, and his lower limbs are entirely paralyzed. He has been supported by the town of Grafton for several years at the house of his son (J. D. Tenny). That on Wednesday morning last, Mr. J. D. Tenny and his wife were awakened by a disturbance in the room of the old people. But the disturbance soon quieted down, and they thought no more of it, as such disturbances were of so frequent occurrence. After the younger Tenny had built the fire in his own part of the house, he went into the other part to build the fire in his father's room as usual, and saw his mother lying upon the bed with her mouth open, and his father sitting up in bed with the bed clothes around him. He went to the bed and found his mother dead and so said to his father. He expressed no surprise, and remains entirely silent on the subject. The Coroner found marks of violence on her body, also on her neck and face.

A warrant will at once be issued by County Attorney Foster for the arrest of Moses Tenny.

E. W. W.

Christmas at Hebron.

The Programme of the Hebron Sabbath School exercises on Christmas eve, was as follows.

Prayer by Deacon Moody; Music.—Christmas Anthem; Recitation, Bertha Everett; Declaration, Harry Barrows; Dialogue.—"Piano and Spinning Wheel," with music by H. A. Cushman.—"Not so Young as I Used to be," Tableau.—The Knapsack—three scenes—1st. Knapsack, 2nd, 3rd, Knapsack; Music—solo and chorus—"Died in the Street," Miss Hattie Bailey, Mr. Parinotto; Recitation, Hannah Whitman; Declaration, Freddie Gurney; Dialogue—"Receiving calls at the School Room;" Select Reading, Lucy Blomkamp; Tableau—"Open your Mouth and Shut your Eyes;" Music, Bertha Everett; Recitation, Nellie Glover; Recitation, Abbie Hibbs, a little girl 3 years old; Dialogue—"Miss Wintergreen's Secret;" Tableau—"Courtship, Past, Present and Future;" Declaration, Winna Bearce; Declaration, James Pike.

These exercises were not through till half past nine. Then came the distribution of presents from a well filled and large tree, which made old folks as well as young, joyous and happy. The whole passed off to the satisfaction of all.

But there is one query, "Where was the point in the tableau, Knapsack?"

II.

—The New Hampshire State Grange of the "Patrons of Husbandry" was instituted at Manchester Tuesday.

From our Special Correspondent.

Norway Items.

The Christmas Festivals at the Universalist and Congregational Churches have been highly successful—a perfect joy to all the little ones—a very happy surprise to many of the older ones, and a highly enjoyable occasion to all.

The many friends of the Rev. Mr. Taber made their appreciation and remembrance of him manifest in the form of a present of a very nice "Easy Chair."

The pupils of the Norway Liberal Institute made manifest their appreciation of the labors of their principal, O. M. Metcalf by the presentation of Zell's Encyclopedia. Dr. F. E. Crockett received a very fine gold watch chain. Judging from the frequent call of his name, "Old Nick" must have very bountifully remembered Bro. Drake of the Advertiser. Indeed to enumerate one half of the valuable presents made would fill more than the space allowed me.

The Assembly at the Elm House on Christmas night, was largely attended; all say that it was an excellent affair. The next of the course will be given on New Year's night.

We understand that there is in contemplation a party to be given at the Beal Hotel on New Year's night.

At a Court of Bankruptcy held at So. Paris, Geo. L. Farnum of Norway, and Caleb Chaplin of Harrison, were appointed assignees in Bankruptcy of the Norway Paper Manufacturing Co., E. E. Upham of Portland assignee of the firm of J. W. & A. G. Parsons.

Mr. W. H. Whitcomb, of the firm of Whitcomb & Oxnard, has been presented with a beautiful gold seal ring, by the young ladies employed in the Clothing room of the firm.

Mr. D. H. Young has disposed of his house for one in Portland.

The Shoe Factory employs now about a hundred hands.

The correspondent of the Norway Advertiser writes:

Among the changes, improvements, &c., in this town this past season, we will mention Henry W. Poor has moved his old two story house, one of the first built in this town, and converted it into a stable, and built a nice farm house. Harvey L. Newton has built a wood house and contemplates making an addition to his dwelling. Orrin J. Lovejoy has built a large farm house on Farmer's Hill.—James Stevens, Esq., P. M. at South Andover, has built a large two story house and ell, in place of the one destroyed by fire about a year ago. Messrs. Gould, Adams & Co., have built a store house at their Starch Mills. Asa A. West has built and moved into a cottage cottage house near the Corner. Moses Cutting has built an ell to his house. The Congregational Society assisted by the ladies circle, are building a large two story house, to be used as a parsonage. The two houses owned by J. N. Winslow of Portland, which were moved from North Ramford are nearly finished and will early in the spring be ready to occupy.

The Crystal Fountain Water Co., have laid an aqueduct of more than a mile in length, at a cost of nearly \$1200; it is in successful operation. We now have three aqueducts running into the village which cost in the aggregate about \$2500. Wm. Jones has sold his farm to his brother Alphonso who has sold a timber lot from the same to P. M. Newton.

Rev. Wm. A. Merrill of Kennebunkport is supplying the desk at the Congregational Church.

Rev. Mr. Hillman of Newry, preaches half of the time at the Methodist Church. They propose to give an entertainment at the Town Hall New Year's eve where they will be happy to meet their friends and the public generally and no doubt they will be greeted as usual with a crowded house.

North Norway Items.

While Mr. Wm. C. Pierce was getting wood, a few days since, a tree which he was felling lodged on another, and while cutting that, it sprang a little and a limb struck him on the head and knocked out his senses. One of his sons rubbed him with snow and revived him, when he said he must go to work to cut a load for the team which would soon be there, but as his head bled freely he concluded to go home, where he arrived faint from the loss of blood. An ugly looking wound was found, large enough for the finger to lay in it, and it was feared the skull was broken. Dr. Evans, with Dr. Jewett dressed it, but found the skull not broken. Had the blow been an inch further, it would probably have produced instant death. His father received his death wound from a tree 47 years ago.

Rev. Jesse Gay has sold his farm and gone to Saco.

Mr. Adams lately sold his farm to Mr. Farnum, and goes to Lisbon. Mr. F. sold his to Mr. Richardson of Bridgton. So the world moves.

People are busy, improving the good sledding, hauling ash, white birch and elm wood; also hoop poles. It is very fortunate for us that Mr. Albert Sanborn and Soubs buy so much ash this winter, as our apple crop was cut off.

The Clothes-Pin Factory takes our white birch, the tanneries the bark, the citizens our coarse wood. May these industrial pursuits increase more in our thriving village.

Mr. Bradley Frost has sold his Pool farm Olive Pool, who intends to move in the Spring from Boston Highlands.

P.

Rumford Items.

Warren M. Adams sold H. A. Small a hog last week, eighteen months old, that weighed when killed 714 lbs.; he also killed a pig seven months old, that weighed 370. Can any one present similar, or larger figures on porkers? Mud City will have to try again. Mr. Small sold this champion porker to J. S. Ward, Esq., of Haverhill, Mass., who takes it there to show that old Oxford cannot be beaten, especially on big hogs.

Bethel Items.

One of the most desirable changes that continually occurs in society is the more general celebration of the holidays, and this custom confined years ago to a large extent to cities and larger towns, has crept gradually into the rural district until now every hamlet resounds with the sounds of mirth and many happy faces smile the compliments of the season. It is well for a people like ours as restless and impetuous as the tides of the ocean to throw aside the wearying toils of business, and with wives and children enjoy the festive relaxation of the nation's holiday.

Christmas was celebrated here with unusual eclat. The three societies in our village united and held a Christmas Festival Wednesday evening, in the First Congregational church, which was a great success. It was just such a pleasant entertainment as we think can be had only in Bethel. The evening was delightful, the snow glistened, bells gongled, and from within the warmed and lighted walls happy voices soon ed.

At six o'clock the church was filled to its utmost capacity. David F. Brown, Esq., called the assemblage to order and after prayer by the Rev. Mr. Morse, pastor of the M. E. Church, Rev. Mr. Simmons was called upon, who addressed the children in a very fitting manner. Excellent and appropriate music by the Choir, under the charge of Prof. Chamberlain, gave additional charm to the occasion. The Christmas trees two in number bore a multitude of presents.

Rev. Mr. Morse received here a quantity of greenbacks, his wife another lot and other gifts, and the members of the several schools were all remembered by their teachers and parents. Many of the little hearts were made glad by many gifts lavishly bestowed. Much credit is due to the ladies of the several societies for the way they trimmed the walls of the church. The occasion on the whole was one of interest, characterized by much good feeling and some pleasant, and may be productive of much good.

J. G. Rich Esq., was severely injured last Wednesday, by being kicked on the side of his face near the cheek bone by one of his horses. Dr. Wiley being near by dressed the wound, and we understand he is now doing well as can be expected.

Sydney Cross died very suddenly Tuesday night from hemorrhage of the lungs. He was in the shop at work as usual during the day.

A gentleman from Windham, by the name of Dow, is making arrangements to put in machinery into the Chapman mill in the west part of the town to manufacture clothes pins. Maj. Grover and Gilman Chapman Esq., who owns a tract of timber land in that section, have contracted to furnish Mr. D. with 2,000 cords of white birch the present winter, which will be worked up into clothes pins.

Buckfield Items.

The Old Folks' Concert, for the benefit of the Baptist church, last Tuesday, was a success. The net proceeds were \$135, to be appropriated to erecting the new house of worship, which, by the way, is nearly ready for dedication. The society mean to pay all the bills before having this interesting ceremony, and are expecting to accomplish it early in January.

The house is frescoed very handsomely, and cushions are ordered for all the seats. A good organ has been purchased from Lewiston, and a new chandelier presented by Chas. E. Jose, of Portland.

The house, when completed, will probably be the neatest and prettiest house of worship in the County. The windows are stained, and the Vestry constructed so that it may be thrown open into the main auditorium, when needed.

Rev. Mr. Linsley, the Pastor, is entitled to much credit for his valuable aid in assisting the Society to build the house. May he live long to enjoy it and bless the community with his labors.

It is expected that Rev. A. K. P. Small of Portland, former Pastor, will preach the dedicatory sermon.

The new chapel stands on a beautiful location on Maple street. The church is only twenty years old, and has been sadly tried by fire.

Among the many gifts distributed at the Concert and Fair, was a splendid Bible, which fell to the lot of Mrs. Alfred Shaw, one of the choir.

The sledding was never better for hauling wood than now.

Andover Items.

The winter schools in this town are all in progress; the School Agents have been very fortunate in their selection of teachers. They are as follows: District No. 1, Miss J. C. Haines; Primary department, Miss E. S. Sewell. District No. 2, M. T. Newton; No. 3, H. Jennie; No. 4, J. A. Roberts; No. 5, W. Richards.

A young man by the name of Green, was brought out of the woods about two weeks ago and carried to the hotel, where he stated that he had been kicked across the back by one of the men while in camp; he became unable to use his limbs, and soon became deranged; he sank very rapidly, and died in about four days. His remains were taken to Weld for interment. We understand that he was a worthy and respectable man, and the cause of his death is very strange. We hope that the affair will be investigated, and if any of the crew caused his death they will be brought to justice.

There is to be a Grand Entertainment on New Year's eve, at Town Hall, Andover, for the benefit of the M. E. Church. The entertainment will consist of a popular Farce, Dramatic Dialogues, Declarations, Recitations, &c. Music by a Quartette Choir. To conclude with an Oyster Supper and other Refreshments. All lovers of a good time are respectfully invited.

Pen Order.

A call has been issued for a convention of Maine dairymen to organize a State Association. The time and place are not stated, but it will probably be held at Augusta some time in January or February.

Summer Items.

Christmas observed at Jackson Village by the Baptist and Universalist Societies, at their houses of worship—the Baptists having a tree on Wednesday evening and the Universalists on Thursday evening. There were crowded houses, a plenty of presents and a good time generally.

Many in town are getting out Shovel Handles, working up the ash at their doors. Some are getting 3 to 400 dozen. They have 75 cents a dozen, hauled to Paris or Buckfield, for Andrews & Waldron.

Mexico Items.

Chas. E. Virgin has a hen which laid an egg, last week, that measured 8 1/4 inches by 6 3/4.

Ed Edwards is quite sick. Mrs. Nancy Potter died a few days ago.

R. L. Taylor has just closed the school in the Henry Durgin District, and commenced another in the Corner District. Augustus Roberts is teaching the Harlow Hill school, and John Trask the school in the Trask District.

Fryeburg Items.

A petition has been in circulation in the western part of the town, asking for the establishment of a new post office very near the line between Conway and Fryeburg, the new office to be called East Conway, N. H. The petition has been signed by a large number, and no doubt will be successful. The new office will be of great convenience to West Fryeburg people, who have to depend upon every self-appointed mail carrier for the transportation of their mail from the village.

We were congratulating ourselves on having the pleasure of listening to a lecture by Gov. Perham last Friday evening, (Dec. 19th.) but, alas! for human hopes! he failed to appear. Being afflicted with a severe cold, he remained at Brownfield. He intends to give us a lecture soon.

Saturday evening, a "spelling school" was held in the village school-house. The spelling was preceded by some fine recitations by the smaller scholars. This school numbers nearly sixty (60) scholars. It is being successfully taught by B. W. M. Keen.

Mr. Farrington shows that he understands now business is done, and how to advertise it, too. He has published a neat little paper, called "E. C. Farrington's Monthly Gazette." Vol. I, No. 1, has appeared. It is an eight page sheet, adorned with pictures of Christmas trees, Old Santa, and the fashions. It contains a Christmas story and other reading matter, a song with music, and has four columns devoted to advertising Mr. F.'s business. We believe that the subscription price of this magazine is "free gratis, for nothing." A visit to Mr. F.'s stores confirms the fact that he knows what people want for holiday gifts.

The village people are feeling happy over the prospect of having a town clock.

Crocoata.

A correspondent of the Press writes that Seth Stewart of Fryeburg, raised and sold to Mr. Barnes Walker of Lovell, one hundred and twenty five young turkeys, whose aggregate weight was 1155 pounds, or an average of a little more than nine and one quarter pounds each.

Mason Items.

Since the severe weather of November we have had a most splendid time for business. A more pleasant December is rarely experienced—plenty of snow for heavy logging, but as there is but little of that done here, it is no drawback. Our people are all very busy, everybody seems to have enough to do. Our hay-mows are diminishing rapidly. Cattle came to the barn hungry, and the prospect is that they will eat their way through our big hay-mows, by next May. The rise in the price of corn will prevent the use of as much provender as for the past winters. Stock of all kinds is looking nicely, and there is no reason why it should not winter well. There is an abundance of water. The brooks and swamps are frozen but very little.

The sound of the steam whistle is heard at West Bethel. The people of that quiet little village are waking up from their long sleep, and rubbing their eyes to see what's "the matter." Two stores with full stocks of goods are in active operation, and the streets are as smooth as a pond. Birch, oak, ash and poplar is coming in to the Steam mill from every hillside.

Christmas has come in right merrily. The people of this village and the adjoining places had a nice little festival at the Free-will Baptist Meeting house last evening. No sound of trumpet or ringing of bells ushered in the glad evening, but joy sparkled in every eye, and brightened every countenance. Old and young met together, and grey hairs and flaxen ringlets commingled promiscuously. The trees were beautifully arranged, and their fruits were as various as the hopes and fears, loves and desires of the eager throng, waiting to pluck and enjoy. The evening passed very pleasantly. There were songs by the Glee Club of West Bethel accompanied by music on the organ. The recitations by the little folks added much to the entertainment. We might name some who bore a more conspicuous part in getting up and carrying through to so happy a conclusion the whole affair, but where all did so well we forbear to make any allusion to them. That the recollection of this evening may gladden the heart of many a child in the days to come, and quicken the blood in the sluggish veins of the aged is the wish of the writer. And I will close by wishing you, Mr. Editor, and all your readers, a Merry Christmas.

G. H. B.

Hon. W. P. Frye is in New Orleans, taking testimony for Congress. Senator Hamlin is also spending the holidays there. Speaker Blaine returned to Maine. Mr. Hale is on duty as one of a special Committee to see about further appropriations for the Custom House.

Uncle Tom's Cabin was played to a crowded house at this village, last Tuesday evening, netting the sum of sixty dollars. The parts were well sustained by home talent, and all were delighted. By special request this exciting Drama will be played again on New Year's evening, Thursday, January 1, 1874. The curtain will rise at precisely 7 o'clock.

Stoneham Items.

As Mr. L. N. Cole, of East Stoneham, was sawing birch belts for spools, on the 18th inst., he had his third finger of the left hand disjunct at the second joint, and thrown back under the little finger. It was amputated and dressed by Dr. Vaneau of Waterford, and appears to be doing well.

There is good sledding, and the people are active in hauling birch for spools. It is sawed in strips in number of places, and then hauled to Lynchville Spool Factory, to

