

DECEMBER.

December was the tenth month in the old Roman calendar, when the year was divided, nominally, into ten months, with the insertion of supplementary days to complete the time required for a revolution of the earth around the sun. By the ancient Saxons December was styled "wintermonat," or wintermonth. Amongst the modern Germans, on account of the anniversary which occurs in it of the birth of Christ, it is still termed "Christmonat." December has with us been characterized by grey, leaden skies, rain, brief sunshine, and rarely a very fine day or two. A severe southerly gale occurred on the 24th, followed on the 27th with sharp frosts. The month ended in rain.

Dec. 2nd, 1552, died St. Francis Xavier, a zealous christian missionary in Africa and various parts of the east. He was a contemporary of Loyola's, a word from whom first led St. Xavier to really serious thought.

Dec. 2nd, 1824, a Mechanic's Institute was opened in London. There had been one in Glasgow somewhat earlier, at which the philanthropic Dr. Birkbeck lectured. They have not succeeded anywhere, as at first anticipated.

Dec. 4th, 1833, the first anti-slavery meeting was held in one of the United States. Doubtless this quiet gathering together of a few, to the unthinking majority seemed a matter of no moment.

On December 4th, 1833, the survivors, with their friends, held a convention in Philadelphia, when eloquent remarks were delivered, or read from the apologetic notes of absentees. The "*Boston Commonwealth*" thus summarizes on the meetings' thoughts on the past, as well as on the duties of the present period. "It has been a long time since the fight against slavery was organized. The changes since have been rapid and immense. There has been no episode in our history of deeper import than this memorialized in Philadelphia. While it signified a direct protest against bodily slavery, it meant much more in the influence it worked likewise in mental release, and as Samuel Longfellow puts it in the revelation it made of 'the power of a moral sentiment.' Heroic it indeed was. It called to its succor the noblest blood. Our great poets, our great preachers, our great literary men, were under its impulse. It united Emerson with the laborer, Theodore Parker with Albert Barnes, the simplicity of Whittier and the culture of Longfellow, the free-lances like Pillsbury, and the stern conservatives like Bryant, and it brought the magic soul of woman into play, and had the fine word of Curtis as brother to the exquisite tenderness of Furness and May. There is no side that is not beautiful in such a moral passage of history. We recognise it and bow to it a reverent head, for it is only on such a spirit of self-sacrifice and unceasing hope and work and self-criticism that the future of our nation depends.

So we conclude all must move forward, and that Phillips' wise advice cannot be lost on the winds. We are not out of the woods. Solved problems have only opened larger problems. There are still cares that command every thought. The poets, and the philosophers, and the men of sciences and arts, are needed as they have been in the past and will be in the future. We meet the wanderers in the streets, and the ill-clad, and the mental sufferers, and the brazen pride of wealth and priesthood, and from every by-way there drives to us some appeal for human reform. The nobility of the deeds done will

not atone for the neglect of present duties. We love the old anti-slavery men as only men can love who see that all past reforms must in the nature of life have been tentative. We must not borrow the prestige of the good deeds of our fathers. What is theirs is theirs for us to honor, and to yield us legitimate fruits, which can only be useful so far as they nourish in us the desire for continual progress."

In Dec. 1882, when engaged in the fatal field of African travel, sustained by funds from English friends, died the son of a Paduan barber, Giovanni Battista Belzoni, who first came before a British public as an athlete; of almost gigantic stature, and commensurate strength of body he performed great feats. His fame was acquired, however, as an Egyptian traveler, collector and exporter of Egyptian works of art, and of his doings while thus engaged he published an interesting account.

REAL ESTATE.

The year just closed has been one of splendid opportunities to the speculator, and if indications may be taken as a criterion, safe investments may be made for a long time to come. During the month of December there were eighty transfer registered, representing a cash value of \$146,200 against 33 for the same period of 1882, representing \$67,966, showing that more than twice the amount of business was done in the month just past, than in December 1882. The volume of business for the two entire years stand pretty much in the same proportion as their respective closing months, that is to say, for the year 1882 we had 544 transfers valued at \$972,767, whilst 1883 comes to the front with 1005 for which the purchasers paid \$1,915,272, or within about \$30,000 of doubling the volume.

Although the present showing is splendid, the promise for the coming year is equally good, if not better. The building of the Island railway will give employment to a great many, and the good times generally resulting from the distribution of large amounts of money may be reasonably looked for. In addition the railway lands will be thrown open to *bona fide* settlers, who will be enabled to secure lands at \$1 per acre, which are now and have been locked up beyond the reach of the speculator, and which on account of their nearness to the railway, will rapidly appreciate in value.

ORIGIN OF THE TUPPERS.

Martin Farquhar Tupper in lately lecturing on Martin Luther, said that his own predecessors had come from Luther's country. His family sprang, he said, from a Count Conrad of Teshfurth in Thuringia, the first who was regarded by his namesakes as "chief lord" Topp Herr (whence the name of Tupper.) Conrad's heirs after flourishing in their old home for centuries before the Reformation, had for their Protestantism to leave Germany in the days of Charles V. and his evil son Philip. The poet's direct ancestors escaped from Hesse Cassel to Guernsey, in the sixteenth century. Another party of the Tupperts reached Sandwich in Kent, and thereafter founded Sandwich in Massachusetts, as testified by Freeman's history. The most noted of the English bard's Protestant cousins in America, is the eminent statesman, Sir Charles Tupper, now filling the responsible position of Canada's High Commissioner to Great Britain.