

THE PULPIT AND THE PRESS.

We condense the following from an able article in the *Scottish American Journal*, and endorse the views expressed.—Ed. STANDARD.

A large amount of attention has lately been devoted to this subject. It has formed the main topic of discussion in many religious assemblies; in the columns of newspapers, and through the medium of the pulpit itself, the arguments *pro et con*, have found expression; and, as was to be expected, very diverse opinions have been uttered, and very antagonistic conclusions formed.

It is questionable whether any practical good can arise from such a discussion.—Both the agencies in question have their appointed spheres; and by confining themselves to their legitimate functions both may succeed promoting in a large degree the cause of educational progress and moral reform. There is nothing antagonistic between them; the one indeed is auxiliary to the other; and it can be only by losing sight of the specific character and direct object of each that the one can be considered the rival of, or superior to the other.

By general consent, and by immemorial usage, the pulpit is the vehicle for the inculcation of religious truth, and the chief among many agencies, for stimulating the religious affections, and for aiding the growth of the spiritual life. Its function therefore, is peculiarly sacred and divine; and while it may be allowed that the mention of secular themes, or the discussion of political subjects, is not wholly inadmissible in pulpit ministrations, yet it must be conceded on the other hand, that any attempt to convert the pulpit into a forum or platform would be to derogate its character, and proportionately lessen its influence in dealing with the higher realities of life. Such a view, indeed, may restrict the subjects with which the pulpit can legitimately deal, and render necessary an appeal to other sources of information and power.

And this is decidedly consistent and proper. As contradistinguished from this the press has a secular rather than a spiritual aspect; and in fulfilment of its mission it is at liberty to avail itself of every possible source of information. It exists primarily, indeed, for the impartation of knowledge on current events, and its province is rather to report and circulate news of all kinds than to seek the establishment of either religious, philosophical, or scientific theories, on assumed or clearly demonstrated premises. This very fact secures for the newspaper a variety which is denied to the sermon, and which gives it a potent charm for any and every class of readers. Within its pages vice and virtue, ignorance and knowledge, poverty and wealth, selfishness and generosity, tyranny and freedom, literature and art, science and religion, blend their influences, and appear side by side. There is thus an appeal to every condition of intellect and to every phase of society; and whilst unrestricted by the rigid laws which apply to the pulpit, its discourses or its facts can be perused at all times, in all places, and under all conditions.

It is but natural, therefore, that the newspaper should acquire a high degree of popularity amongst all classes of the community, and that it should have a proportionate influence in forming public opinion, and in regulating national action. In this respect it is a powerful educational agency. The man or the community would be demented who should underrate or despise its influence. It is both a reflex of opinion and a means for the formation of opinion; and no more could either the church or society dispense with its influence than it could abrogate the form or the college. These considerations, however, do not justify the assumption that the press is superseding the pulpit. He is an enemy to both who ventures upon such a proposition. They are auxiliary to each other; and the great social and moral reformation of the age will be best advanced by ensuring their conjoint and harmonious action.

THE FIRST SOUND TELEGRAPH.—The project at present under consideration in England, of establishing a line of telegraph across the Atlantic continent from the Cape of Good Hope, reminds us of the various fact, not generally known, we believe, that the earliest system of telegraphy for signalling over long distances originated among the African negroes. It is still more remarkable that the means used were telephonic, and the signals were read by sound, and not by the eye, as in the case of the semaphore or other early signalling devices. The "climber," as the instrument used is termed, is still in existence, and has been in use from time immemorial in the Cameroons country, on the west coast of Africa. By the sound produced on striking it, the natives carry on conversation with great rapidity and at several miles distance. The noises are made to produce a perfect and distinct language, as intelligible to the operator as that uttered by the human voice.—*Scientific American.*

The Ottawa *Free Press* recommends the Government to place an armed vessel at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy this winter to prevent such injuries as were last season inflicted on Canadian fishermen by the crews of United States fishing vessels.

A despatch from Lord Carnarvon to Lord Dufferin is published concerning the latter's British Columbia speech. It says: "I cannot convey to you the substance of

my appreciation of the ability with which you have dealt with this difficult question, and of the valuable language in which you brought your views before the delegation. Your speech will have the best effect upon the public opinion of British Columbia, and of every part of the Dominion, and will contribute greatly to induce that calm and deliberate view which is called for in a case surrounded by so many and great difficulties as is the present controversy."

The Standard.

SAINT ANDREWS, DEC. 13, 1876.

LATEST NEWS.

President Grant is urged to resign that some one of independence may act as President during the time Congress is settling the question of who is to be President.

The Ottawa Government in accordance with request of lumbermen has agreed to fix duty on imported park.

Gov. Caron is not expected to recover. The canals have closed. The weather is fearfully cold at Montreal.

Two incendiary fires occurred at Yarmouth last week.

Several marine disasters are reported at New York.

The news from Constantinople is more pacific—even hopeful. The interview between Gen. Lyndell and the Marquis of Salisbury, resulted in a complete friendly understanding.

The prospects in India are not so gloomy in the famine threatened districts.

The ministerial crisis in France continues.

The weather reports from New York state that extreme cold continues.

OUTSIDE PAGE.—There is a very concise and well written article, entitled "Story of the Eastern Question, Simply Told," which is worthy of a careful perusal, as it explains the causes which led to the present difficulty in Europe, and it also gives some matters of history, with which many persons are not familiar. "Principal Caid on Belief of the Scriptures," and also some stanzas on "The Republic of Letters" which will amuse the members of the fourth Estate, are published on the same page.

A FEW WORDS WITH CORRESPONDENTS.

"A PARENT'S" letter is received; would it not be more advisable to make the matter known to the proper authority, than to publish the letter over an assumed signature?

"INQUIRY" letter is too personal, and deals with matters with which the public are in no wise concerned. The report he alludes to, may or may not be true, but he is mistaken in supposing that such a petty method of revenge would be approved by any well-balanced mind. Our correspondent, "Inhabitant" is we fear like some others, who suppose that a newspaper is the proper vehicle through which to make known their grievances real or imaginary; we will undeceive them, however, and state that one of the most important duties of an editor is to know what to insert and what to reject, and it matters not what his own likes or dislikes are; it is a duty he owes to his patrons not to publish personal attacks. True, the castigation deservedly given by our correspondent is merited, but as an impartial journalist, we cannot consent to add to the oblique which the person alluded to is heaping upon himself. There is an old saying "give him rope enough and—" he will do the rest.

Burning of the Brooklyn Theatre.—A Horror of Horrors.

On the night of the 5th inst. the Brooklyn Theatre caught fire, during the performance of the play of "The Two Orphans." Within five minutes the whole inside of the building was ablaze, and such was the effect upon the large audience, that it was seized by a panic, and the rush for the door was fearful; people rushed madly on, many fell down and others followed them, blocking up every avenue of egress. It has been ascertained that upwards of four hundred people, men, women and children, were burned in the blazing ruins. Over two hundred and eighty bodies were recovered, and the scenes were heartrending in identifying the remains. The terrible calamity was made the subject of discourse in the New York churches on Sabbath last. The City of Brooklyn is in mourning. The New York *Herald* has eighteen columns of a description of the fire, list of bodies identified, and other information with reference to the terrible calamity.

OUR HOME COMPANION and Canadian Teacher, for December has been received. In a previous issue we commended this excellent and useful monthly to the attention of Teachers and others. All its departments are carefully made up, each has its own attractive features—the mathematical department is worth more of itself than the subscription price of the Magazine, viz.—\$1.50 per annum, with an oil thimble. In fact, its literary, fireside, children's

and publishers departments are calculated to bring profit and pleasure to the school and domestic circle. Each number contains 32 pages.

HOLIDAY GOODS.—Mr. H. R. Smith of St. John announces in our columns, his stock of Christmas and New Years presents in Books, Stationery, Toys, &c., which will be delivered at St. Andrews, free of freight.

Cockburn Bros. offer for sale some beautiful Holiday Articles for toilet and other purposes.—See Advt.

Messrs. Old & Turner have also received, and are opening for the Christmas season, choice articles for ladies and gentlemen's wear, holiday presents; and offer liberal inducements to cash buyers. Their advertisement will appear in next week's STANDARD.

When Mr. Moody was preaching in Farwell hall in Chicago, the other day, the singing of one hymn did not go well, partly because it was pitched too high. "I can't preach after such singing as that," he exclaimed. "Now let everybody sing the chorus." And he got them to sing as he wanted to.

[If Mr. Moody desires artistic and classical music to accompany his preaching, he should come to St. Andrews, where, in a church we know of, may be heard every Sabbath, such strains of discords, both vocal and instrumental, as have never yet, we will venture to say, greeted his nervous aural sense.]

DEATH OF MRS. BAYARD.—Under the proper heading, a notice of the death of this amiable woman is inserted. Many here well remember her as Miss Susan Wilson, daughter of the late John Wilson, Esq., of Chamcook, and afterwards as the wife of Dr. Wm. Bayard of St. John. Mrs. Bayard was universally beloved by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. Many in St. Andrews deeply sympathize with Dr. Bayard in his great loss.

CAREER OF MOODY AND SAGNEY.—This valuable work will be delivered by Mr. Cockburn, during the present week to subscribers. Persons who have not ordered a copy can do so by leaving their names at Dr. Cockburn's Dispensary.

Old Winter finally set in on Saturday last with an easterly snow-storm which lasted during the day, and during the night and on Sunday. The thermometer fell to six below zero, which with a northerly wind made it decidedly cold. It commenced snowing and blowing on Tuesday, and it is probable that there is now sufficient snow for sleighing.

DEATH OF HON. C. R. WHIDDEN.—We learn from exchanges the death of our old and respected friend, C. R. Whidden, of Calais, on Sunday 3d inst. When quite a youth, "Mr. Whidden" resided with his parents, and a genial, talented boy he was. We have long known him, and it gave us pleasure to learn in after years, of his success which his talents and probity won for him. He filled several important public positions—offices of trust and honor. As a Representative and Senator of Maine, Mayor of Calais, City Solicitor, Collector of Customs, he adorned those offices—the gift of his constituents. He was a man of versatile talents, and was esteemed for his domestic and social qualities. In early life he became a member of the Baptist Church, and lived up to his profession. Alas! one after another old friends have gone to a better country. Mr. Whidden leaves a wife and family to lament the loss of an devoted husband and affectionate father.

Professor Huxley says: "The general notion of an Englishman when he gets rich is to found an estate and benefit his family. The general notion of an American, when fortunate, is to do something for the good of the people and from which benefits shall continue to flow. The latter is the noble ambition."

Hon. George Brown appeared before Court of Queen's Bench at Toronto, to answer the charge of contempt of Court for having published in the Toronto *Globe* an article commenting severely on the action of Judge Wilson in reference to the libel suit of Hon. Mr. Simpson against the *Durham Times*—better known as the "Big Push Case." Mr. Brown was not represented by counsel, but urged the matter himself.

In a Connecticut village a church member had a grudge against his pastor. Instead of satisfying it in the ordinary way, by bringing a libel suit or getting up a scandal, he took a novel way of his own. At the evening prayer meetings freedom was given to all who wanted to speak, and this brother improved the opportunity, not by making angry or scurrilous harangues, but by quoting passage after passage from the Bible descriptive of the peculiarities of the pastor.—At meeting after meeting, with voice and manner as meek as those of Moses at his meekest, he would recite these passages, with not a word of comment, but throwing all the comment into the modulation of his voice and the expression of his countenance. He finally got even with the minister, who, worried out of all patience, handed in his resignation. The church is now vacant, and will be a promising field of labour for any clergyman, old or young, whose spiritual hide is as repellent as alligator leather.

A NEW PASSAGE TO THE SEA.

The complete success attendant on the construction of the Suez Canal, it is thought, has now been fully equalled by the opening up of a new passage to the sea from Amsterdam. As a work of scientific and engineering skill it demands a congratulatory notice; whilst in its commercial and practical effects it is certain to prove of great value.

It has long been felt that Amsterdam needed a more direct passage to the North Sea. The Zuyder Zee, on a branch of which Amsterdam is situated, is navigable only by small vessels; and had it not been for the North Holland Canal, the trade of Amsterdam would long since have been crippled for the want of a proper outlet. That Canal, however, was inadequate to the demands made upon it, and was rather a tributary to the success of Rotterdam in opposition to its rival. By the Canal now open, Amsterdam has gained direct access to the ocean by a route of less than fifty miles. The Canal is from sixty to ninety feet wide at the bottom, with a surface width of from two hundred to four hundred feet; and when fully excavated it is calculated to float vessels drawing at least twenty-three feet of water. In the construction of this Canal three things have been aimed at. The first has been to shut off the Zuyder Zee from the Lake Y; the second to construct the Canal through the lake, and from that to the ocean; and the third to form a harbor on the coast where the Canal reaches the ocean. These things have been effectually accomplished, at a cost of about \$10,000,000, and the amount of labor in surmounting some of the obstacles which were encountered renders it one of the greatest engineering and mechanical works of the age.

As a mere illustration of this, two facts only may be cited. The bed of the lake has been pumped clear of water for a space of 12,500 acres; and in the construction of the harbor not less than 640,000 tons of concrete have been used, whilst two jetties stretch more than a mile into the ocean, with a space apart from each other at the shore of 1,300 yards.

The Canal was opened with appropriate ceremonies, and amidst tumultuous demonstrations of public rejoicing, on the first of the present month. It was a fit occasion for enthusiasm; for it will contribute most effectually to the trade and prosperity of Amsterdam; and it furnishes another proof that science and labor can overcome the most formidable obstacles. The honor of devising the great work is due to Sir John Hawkshaw, and English and Scotch engineers have been foremost in carrying it into effect.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION OF SAWDUST.—Sawdust is a dangerous material wherewith to fill attics, nor is it wholly substance to strew upon floors. Several cases have recently been noted where conflagrations have been caused by cigar stumps igniting the sawdust, which smoldered slowly in the receptacles, unperceived, and finally set fire to the adjoining woodwork. Sawdust, moreover, when slightly impregnated with oil or grease, is very prone to spontaneous combustion. We published not very long since, an instance where the sawdust sifted down through cracks in the floor boards, and accumulated between the beams, where it absorbed spilled oil, it eventually burst into flames, which nearly destroyed the entire edifice.—*Scientific American.*

A Glasgow farmer was recently arrested for selling adulterated cream. On analysis this cream was found to be adulterated with only seventy-three per cent of skimmed milk. How particular his customers must have been?

Some boiler makers in Dubuque put a boy in a boiler to hold a hammer-head to the rivets as they were driven in, and when they were all completed he was found too big to come out of the hole. He stripped and greased his skin, but it was of no use, and it took six men an hour and a half to cut him out.

A distinguished French scientist died. M. Charles St. Claitre-Deville was a chemist and mineralogist of great ability. He discovered amorphous and insoluble sulphur, thus showing, for the first time, a simple body in two conditions, differing not only in physical characteristics, but in essential chemical properties.

ANOTHER ENCOUNTER WITH THE INDIANS BY UNITED STATES TROOPS is reported. General Mackenzie has attacked and put to the rout a band of Choyenne Indians in the Big Horn Mountains. The village was destroyed, and a large number of the hostile tribe were killed or wounded. One officer and five privates, however, were killed, and twenty soldiers wounded. It is now proposed to pursue Crazy Horse, who is reported to be on the Rosebud river. Such assaults ought to have the effect of intimidating the Indians; but it is still questionable whether this is the most humane or righteous policy. The tribes may be defeated, yet not conquered; and, in any case, the victory over them will be dearly won.

THE GRAND LODGE OF THE I. O. G. T. OF CANADA has just closed its annual session at Ottawa. The past year appears to have been a prosperous one, the Grand Secretary reporting a membership of 37,000, and the Treasurer and income of over \$8,000. By an almost unanimous vote the action of their delegates at the E. W. G. L. was sustained. A communication from the National Lodge U. T. A. pertaining to union, was received, and a committee appointed to report upon it.

The official statement of the national debt of the United States on the 1st inst. has been issued. It shows the debt to be \$2,789,336,099, being an increase for the month of \$457,000. This is not a very encouraging picture, viewed in the light of preparation for a resumption of specie payment.

The Minnesota Supreme Court has decided favorably on the constitutionality of a State law taxing liquor sellers for the maintenance of an asylum for inebriates.

REPORTED DEFAUCATION.—It is reported that another official employed at one of the principal stations on the I. C. R. has stepped down and out, with "portable property."—*Haltic Herald.*

Mattinsse, Beaver, Sapp & Sonskins Cloth of superior quality, and Low Prices, at the "Albion House."

E. JOHNS, MAGEE

DIED.

At St. John, on Saturday evening 9th inst. SUSAN MARIA, wife of WILLIAM BAYARD, M. D., &c., and daughter of the late John Wilson, Esq., of Chamcook, aged 56 years.

HANDSOME FOR XMAS!

Scriptural Mottoes, PERFUMERY, PHOTO FRAMES.

A VARIETY OF **TOY ORNAMENTS.**

A SELECTION OF ELIGANT WRITING PAPER and Envelopes.

USEFUL AND FANCY ARTICLES

SUITABLE FOR XMAS & NEW YEARS PRESENTS.

TOGETHER WITH A SUPPLY OF Sago, Gelatine, Tapioca, and other articles required at this Holiday Season.

FOR SALE BY **Cockburn Bros.**

D. C. 12, 1876.

Kinsey's Lock Blocks!

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USEFUL, AMUSING, INSTRUCTIVE!

With these Blocks you can make your own Picture Frames, Crosses, Brackets, Wall Pockets, Anchors, Letters, &c.

100 in EACH BOX.

Two Sizes, Only 25 & 30 cents per box.

Together with an assortment of **BEAUTIFUL BOOKS SUITABLE FOR Xmas and New Years Presents.**

FOR SALE BY **H. R. SMITH,** 14 King Street.

DR. J. E. GRANT,

SURGICAL AND MECHANICAL DENTIST,

CALAIS, MAINE.

TEETH EXTRACTED, AND FROM ONE TO A WHOLE SET INSERTED.

Dr. Grant will visit his patients in St. Andrews every three months.

OYSTERS! OYSTERS!

SERVED UP IN ALL STYLES AT THE "MEGANTIC HOTEL."

FOR SALE BY PINT, QUART OR GALLON.

Private families supplied at short notice.

Fresh from St. John & P. E. every boat.

Dissolution & Copartnership

A partnership existing between Hughes and Whitlock was dissolved this day by mutual consent. All debts due the firm must be paid to W. H. Whitlock, who will adjust any claims against it.

JOHN E. HUGHES, W. H. WHITLOCK. St. Andrews, Nov. 17, 1876.