

# The Weekly Observer.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1841.

Vol. XIII. No. 32.

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## Weekly Almanac.

| FEBRUARY—1841. | SUN    | MOON  | FULL     |
|----------------|--------|-------|----------|
|                | Rises. | Sets. | Rises.   |
| 3 WEDNESDAY    | 6 59   | 5 15  | 23 10    |
| 4 THURSDAY     | 6 58   | 5 21  | 11 10 53 |
| 5 FRIDAY       | 6 57   | 5 28  | 11 35    |
| 6 SATURDAY     | 6 56   | 5 36  | 0 14     |
| 7 SUNDAY       | 6 54   | 5 45  | 0 45     |
| 8 MONDAY       | 6 53   | 5 56  | 1 24     |
| 9 TUESDAY      | 6 52   | 6 07  | 2 1      |

Full Moon, 6th, 8h. 55m. evening.

**BANK OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.**  
THOMAS LEAVITT, Esq., President.  
Office in Prince William's near the Market square, opposite Sands' Brick Building.  
Discount Days—Tuesdays and Fridays.  
Hours of Business, from 10 to 3.  
BILLS or NOTES for Discount, must be left at the Bank before three o'clock on the day immediately preceding the discount day.

**COMMERCIAL BANK OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.**  
LEWIS BURNS, Esq., President.  
Discount Days—Tuesdays and Fridays.  
Hours of Business, from 10 to 3.  
BILLS or NOTES for Discount, must be left at the Bank before three o'clock on the day immediately preceding the discount day.

**BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.**  
ALFRED SMITHES, Esq., Manager.  
Discount Days—Tuesdays and Saturdays.  
Hours of Business, from 10 to 3.  
BILLS or NOTES for Discount, must be left at the Bank before three o'clock on the day immediately preceding the discount day.

**NEW-BRUNSWICK FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.**  
Office open every day, (Sundays excepted), from 11 to 1 o'clock.  
JOHN BOVD, ESQUIRE, PRESIDENT.  
Committee for January.  
R. F. HAZEN, JOHN HAMMOND, JOHN KINNEAR.

**NEW-BRUNSWICK MARINE ASSURANCE COMPANY.**  
Office open every day, (Sundays excepted), from 10 to 3 o'clock.  
JAMES KIRK, Esquire, President.

**PROTECTION INSURANCE COMPANY, Of Hartford, Connecticut.**  
INCORPORATED 1825.  
Capital 150,000 Dollars.  
With liberty to increase to Half a Million of Dollars.  
THE whole of the first named sum, \$150,000, is invested in securities, and on the shortest notice could be cashed and applied to the payment of losses.

**LOSS OR DAMAGE BY FIRE.**  
As in like cases, similar institutions, and will give personal attention to the survey of premises, &c. in the city, on which insurance is desired.  
Application in writing (post paid) from other parts of the Province, describing the property to be insured, will receive prompt attention. The correctness of which description shall on all occasions be binding on the part of the applicant.  
W. H. SCOVILL.  
St. John, N. B. 3d Sept. 1840.

**Marine Insurance.**  
AN Association of MERCHANTS having been formed for the purpose of insuring, in all kinds of Mercantile and Freight, have appointed a Committee of the following Gentlemen for the purpose of fixing premiums, arranging and settling losses, &c. viz.—JOHN BURNAN, A. S. FERRIS, JOHN HAMMOND, and JOHN WALKER, Esquires. Application to be made to J. J. G. WOODWARD, Brokers, Office, Feters, 21st April, 1840.

**EMIGRANT AGENCY OFFICE.**  
Fredericton, September 26, 1840.  
NOTICE is hereby given, that the Office of the Assistant Emigrant Agent will be kept in the lower part of the Phoenix House, immediately opposite the Army Hospital; and that the hours will be the same as at other public offices—from 10 till 3 o'clock; where Immigrants and others can transact business connected with that Department, and advice and assistance will be afforded to persons wishing to obtain land for settlement, or who may desire employment in this Province.

Persons having Land or Property to dispose of can have a description of the same entered in a Book to be kept for that purpose; and applications for rent or purchase of land may be received at this Office, which will be registered in a similar manner.  
EDWARD WARD, Assistant Emigrant Agent.  
Letters forwarded to be post paid.

**WILLIAM REYNOLDS,**  
Bookseller, Stationer, and Binder,  
West side Cross Street, A doors from King Street, St. John, N. B.

**IMPORTER and Dealer in all kinds of Mercantile and School Books, by the most approved authors; Works in the different departments of Literature and Science; Maps, Charts, and Nautical Instruments; Musical, Mathematical and Philosophical Instruments; fancy Hardware and Cutlery; Fishing Gear; Steel Pens; Ladies' and Gentlemen's fancy Dressing Cases; Work Boxes, Dials, &c. &c.  
Books imported to order.**

**Flour.**  
THE Subscriber having erected a set of GRIST MILL MACHINERY at Black River, of the best English manufacture, with five run of French Iron Stones, is now Grinding FLOUR of an excellent description from sound and sweet American WHEAT, which he will supply to Bakers and Families at the lowest market rates, for prompt payment.  
A constant supply of FLOUR, Horse Feed and Bran kept on hand at his Store, South Market Wharf.  
ROBERT D. WILMOT

**British and Foreign Newspaper Office,**  
India Club House, and Colonial Reading Rooms, Chichester, England.

**P. L. SIMMONDS, Newspaper and Advertising Agent.**  
A neat Agent and Advertiser, supplies with promptitude and regularity, and upon moderate terms, all the London, Provincial, and Foreign Periodicals and Newspapers. Advertisements, orders and communications received for every Newspaper published.  
TERMS: A quarter's payment in advance, or a respectable reference in London.  
Agent for all the Canadian, Nova Scotia, New-Brunswick, Newfoundland, Bahama, and West India Papers, which, with the Newspapers from the other British Colonies and Foreign Parts, and the principal London, Irish, and Scotch Journals, are regularly filed at Mr. Simmonds's News Office and Reading Rooms.

## The Garland.

FLOWERS.  
BY J. A. GIBSON.

A thousand wild flowers have their birth  
In many a lonely haunt of Earth,  
Where foot of man hath rarely stirred,  
Where human voice is seldom heard—  
The richest, loveliest spots of ground  
That ever care-worn man hath found:  
Where Nature, like a laughing child,  
Looks always beautiful and wild,  
Without a thought, without a fear,  
That Art will rudely enter there.

There's many a beauty-haunted glade,  
Belted with depths of forest shade,  
Where the thick foliage, backward rolled,  
A flowery circle doth unfold;  
All open to the broad blue sky,  
And fair clouds slowly floating by,  
Alluring spirits of the air  
To stay their flight and sojourn there—  
To wile a few of Day's bright hours  
On a soft couch of Earth's fair flowers.

And there are valleys green and still,  
Crossed by a brook or some sweet rill;  
Tall silent trees from either side  
Darken the faint waves as they glide:  
The sounds that wake the silence deep  
Seem low-voiced whisperings of sleep;  
But for the air's cool heaving breath,  
Life might be thought a dream of death.  
These silent haunts, so fair and lone,  
A thousand flowers have overgrown.

Wild flowers—bright flowers—at Spring's first  
From the dark breast of Earth leap out;  
A thousand more to life arise  
'Neath Summer's deep voluptuous skies,  
As through the solemn Autumn's reign  
Bloom on the hill, and skirt the plain;  
Bright stars of earth, of all rich hues,  
Fed by sweet winds and silver dews—  
Sweet daughters of the sun and air,  
That bloom and fade without a care.

Bright flowers! in lonely spots that lie,  
To bloom awhile, then drop and die—  
What though no kindly hand may die—  
Sheds light around their drooping place,  
Nor gentle fingers garlands fair  
Gather to deck their loose-blown hair—  
Their life is glad, their haunts are sweet;  
Soft winds and light-beams on them beat,  
And near them birds and murmuring bees  
Make music with the rustling trees.

Wild flowers! how much that's deep and wise  
About your still existence lies!  
Oh! I, like you, would bide afar  
From the rough world's unceasing jar,  
Where Nature, with her open book,  
Teacheth the eye right to look  
And leading through her fair haunts show  
Much that the heart still pants to know.  
A life thus spent, so calm and sweet,  
Might make us grieve with death to meet.

## Miscellaneous.

**Extracts from late English Papers.**  
**PRESENTS TO THE QUEEN.**—Since the birth of the Princess Royal, a great number of appropriate votive trifles have reached Buckingham Palace from various parts of the kingdom. They consist generally of fancifully worked articles of infant apparel. Unfortunately for the fair fabricators of these simple but expressive tokens of loyalty, none find their way to the illustrious lady, to whose gracious acceptance they are in all humility proffered, unless those which are fortunate enough to be presented through some official channel. Such is etiquette, perhaps somewhat too rigidly observed when the motive is as laudable. All packages addressed to the Sovereign are opened by, or in the presence of, the deputy steward of the household, whose duty it is to report the contents to the Lord Steward; and should that high functionary consider them worthy of being laid before her Majesty, they are either presented by himself in person, or consigned to the charge of the lady in waiting for the time. Gifts connected with literature, the fine arts, or science, are almost invariably accepted; but articles of personal attire or ornament generally become the perquisites of the Queen's principal attendants, however costly the fabric, or curious the workmanship may be. Any departure from this rule must, therefore, be considered as a marked compliment.

Such an one has recently occurred. A case, containing a present of the latter description, was received at the Palace on Monday, intended for the Princess Royal, should her Majesty be graciously pleased to sanction its acceptance. The amiable donor, a venerable spinster residing in the neighbourhood of Huddersfield, seems, as the *on dit* goes, to have taken especial care that the creation of her fairy fingers should suffer no damage in transit. Like the conjuror's puzzle, there was ease within ease, one of curiosity wrought wicker work; a second of Spanish mahogany, with the royal arms and the letters, "P. R." in a lozenge, richly emblazoned on the lid. This was again enclosed in a strong tin case, superscribed "For the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, Buckingham Palace, London."

These mysterious cases contained an infant's cap and robe, worthy of a Princess. They are described to be of the most exquisite and fanciful design. The cap is composed of that delicate, but almost exploded fabric called "cushion" lace, in the manufacture of which dames of high degree formerly delighted to excel. On the crown piece the royal arms of England are embroidered in dead gold, the circular fillet exhibiting the national insignia of the rose, thistle, and shamrock, wrought in gold and colours, within the interminable scroll of raised needlework. The robe is equally unique. The material is of the finest cachemere, lined with ermine down; the colour, royal purple; the hood, which is quilted and padded, is lined with rose-coloured satin, the loops of flock gold, with tassels of small pearls. The robe is edged all round by a broad stripe of crimson Geneva velvet, bearing the royal arms, and the insignia of the three nations embroidered in dead and burnished gold, and relieved with silver fretted work in points. The great merit, however, of these elegant articles of infant apparel is said to consist in the elaborate beauty of the needlework. Her Majesty, to whom the presents were exhibited immediately on arrival, expressed her warm admiration of

the skill, taste, and patience bestowed upon them, and commanded intimation of their acceptance to be transmitted to the accomplished artist, who no doubt requires no richer reward for her "labour of love and loyalty."

**PRESENT TO THE QUEEN.**—Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent has given directions to her apothecary to have a splendid covertlet made for the infant Princess Royal, to be presented, on the day she is christened, to Her Majesty. It is to be composed of the richest green satin lined with white silk, and ornamented with flowers and embroidered in a manner perfectly unique. The decorations are to be superb in the extreme, and several ingenious females are employed in finishing it against the time it will be wanted. The whole is to be composed of British manufacture, and the work completed by English artists and their assistants.

**AVICATOR OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.**—While about to enter upon the famous Polish campaign, the emperor was one day playing chess in the Tuileries with Marshal Berthier, when the Persian ambassador was announced, as requesting an audience. The Emperor would no more permit it to be suspended, than would Charles of Sweden, leave his chess-board when the Turks commenced battering down his house in Bender. Bonaparte ordered the ambassador to be shown in, and M. Amadee Jaubert was commanded to the presence as interpreter. The emperor continued his game with Berthier, overhauling the astounded Persian with questions all the while, in his usual rapid manner of asking for game information. The Mussulman found it difficult to plant his replies suitably; the various topics being Turkey, Persia, Mohammed, and the Koran; eastern manners, wives in sacks, the vaccine, military discipline, and ten thousand other matters. The Persian however steered his way like the really skilful diplomatist he was. He exalted Persia in his own estimation, and the Koran, and the eastern manners, wives in sacks, the vaccine, military discipline, and ten thousand other matters. The Persian however steered his way like the really skilful diplomatist he was. He exalted Persia in his own estimation, and the Koran, and the eastern manners, wives in sacks, the vaccine, military discipline, and ten thousand other matters.

**BRAVEY AND HUMANITY.**—We find that the mate of the Cyclops, whose conduct when leading the Turks at the taking of Sidon obtained for him such flattering reports, was the son of Lieut. General Sir H. J. Cumming, Colonel of the 12th Royal Lancers, and the same officer who, when serving in her Majesty's ship Hastings, saved on two different occasions the lives of two men, by jumping overboard after them, the one the carpenter, and the other a seaman of that ship, for which the Royal Humane Society awarded him a medal.

**PRINCE ALBERT'S WALKING-STICK.**—This splendid stick is now, and ever will be, the reigning fashion—not as superfluous of dress, but as a mark of rank; and it contains a miniature of the emperor, and a powerful stand of light military telescope, which may be screwed into a tube; and taking into consideration the opulence of his Royal Highness and most of the nobility, and the high character it bears among men of science, together with its moderate price, we may venture safely to assert, that no gentleman will be without one, invented by David G. Brothers, 33 New Bond Street.

**A ROYAL SPEECH.**—Among the most interesting of the great change of manners which one hundred and seventy years have produced in England, perhaps few are more striking than the difference between the styles of the past and present speeches of our monarchs. The style of Charles the First, scarcely thought less polite or less witty than the present, have a familiarity, a bluntness, and a homeliness, which make them sound odd in our ears. The following is from Charles's speech at the opening of the second Parliament, in 1661:—"I will not conclude without telling you some news—news that I should think myself unkind and ungrateful if I did not impart to you. I have been put to many a choice among which there could be no foresight of any inconvenience that may ensue, you would live to see an old bachelor, which I think you do not desire to do. I can now tell you, that I am resolved to marry, but to whom I am resolved to marry, if I did please, it is with the daughter of Portugal."

And I will make all the haste I can to fetch you a Queen's title, who, I doubt not, will bring great blessings with her to me and you.

In the same session Charles finishes one of his speeches thus:—"The mention of my wife's arrival, puts me in mind of your yet to put the coronation upon her; but her entrance into the town may be with more decency than the ways will now suffer it to be; and to that purpose I pray you would quickly despatch and pass such laws as are before you, in order to the settling of the ways, in order that she may not find Whitehall surrounded with water."

**The Church of Rome.**—The Roman Official Almanac, recently published, affords the following information relative to the Papal See and the Roman Catholic Hierarchy:—"The present Pope, Gregory XVI., stands 258th on the list of the possessors of St. Peter's chair. His Holiness was born on the 18th of Sept. 1765, elected on the 21st February, 1831, and invested with the tiara four days afterwards. Among the present Cardinals nine were created by Pius VII., 12 by Leo XII., and 31 by his present Holiness, without reckoning six more in *pelle*. Pius VIII. created but very few Cardinals, and all of them are dead. Most of the present Cardinals have been elevated within the last ten years. Forty-two or forty-four have died during the present pontificate. Of the living Cardinals fifty are Italians, of whom 30 are subjects of the states of the Church, nine of Sardinia, four of two Sicilies, and four of Lombardy. Only six are not Italians. The Pope and Cardinals Mai and Mezzofanti are men of celebrity in literature. There are only two princely families who have members in the Sacred College, the Giustiniani and the Barberini. The oldest Cardinal is 85, the youngest 39. There are only nineteen Cardinals under 30 years of age. Of the sixteen new bishops created by Gregory XVI. the greater part are in America, some in Sicily and Sardinia, and one at Algiers. It was not until this year (1840) that Vicars Apostolic received their missions. There are three in England one at Gibraltar, one in Sweden, four in Holland, two in Germany, four in Turkey, eleven in China, four in Africa, two in America, three in the East Indies, and three in Oceania, of whom one is in Australia. The same missions are for the most part filled by Frenchmen. The nuncios of the first rank at Paris, Madrid, and Lisbon are vacant, that at Vienna alone is filled."

**THE ENGLISH IN NORWAY.**—The English language is spoken very generally, and not merely a respect, but an evident affection, is universally shown for the English character, which is as gratifying as it is unusual on the Continent, where all respect, or even fear us, but few love us. Our habits of living, and of thinking, amalgamate much better with the Teutonic than with either the Gallic or Italian character; and of all the Teutonic races, the Norwegians seem to sympathize with us the most readily. Any introductions that the traveller may have brought, will here pass for their full value; and he will not find it difficult to enter into the best society.—*The Angler in Norway.*

**HUNGARIAN JEWS.**—There does not exist throughout the whole of Hungary one purely Jewish colony; but here, as elsewhere, they are scattered over the kingdom in cities, towns, and villages. In 1785, their numerical amount was only seventy-five thousand and eighty-nine, but twenty years later it had already extended to one hundred and twenty-seven thousand, eight hundred and sixteen, making in that comparatively brief period an increase of fifty-two thousand, seven hundred and twenty-seven, more than two thirds of the entire number; and according to Caspovich, whose statistical work on Hungary was published in 1829, they had then attained the immense aggregate of one hundred and sixty-five thousand, seven hundred and seventy-seven! They have in the country three hundred and forty-two synagogues, and as many Rabbins.—*Miss Pardo's City of the Maggior.*

**DYING FOR GLORY.**—Our readers will remember the fact of the blowing up of the fortress of Michailoff, on the Crimean coast, some time ago, in order that it might not fall into the hands of the enemy. The Emperor of Russia, in order to perpetuate the remembrance of this heroic act of a soldier, named Osseppoff, who volunteered to fire the train, has ordered that the name of Osseppoff shall be kept ever on the list of the first company of grenadiers, of the regiment of infantry of Pouginskii, the first soldier, and that on calling over the list, when the name shall be mentioned, the answer shall be, "Died for the glory of the Russian arms in the fort of Michailoff."

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**SIR WALTER RALEIGH.**—The name of Sir Walter Raleigh is unquestionably one of the most renowned and attractive, and in some respects the most remarkable in English story. He acted a part in all the various projects of public life, military, naval, and civil; and was illustrious in all. He was a projector on the grandest scale, an improver of naval architecture, a founder of colonies, a promoter of distant commerce. As the introducer or disseminator of two important articles of subsistence and luxury, he in a great degree contributed to augment the food and to modify the habits of all the nations of Europe. His fortunes were alike remarkable for eventual success and plausible reverses. Raised to eminent station, through the favour of the greatest female Sovereign of England, he perished on the scaffold through the dislike and cowardly policy of the meanest of her kings. To crown all, his fame in letters, particularly as the author of that memorable work with which "his prison hours enriched the world," placed his name in glorious association with those of Bacon and Hooker, as it otherwise was with those of Essex and Vere, of Hawkins and Drake.—*From an elaborate article in the Edinburgh Review for April, 1840.*

**SUGAR IS ONE OF THE MOST ANCIENT PRODUCTIONS OF INDIA;** its Sanscrit name, *sukkar*, is obviously the origin of its European designation, as *sukkar kand* is of sugar-candy. The cultivation of the vine was introduced from the south of Europe by the Saracens; it was extended to the Canaries by the Portuguese, and from thence it was taken to Hispaniola by the Spaniards in the year 1506. Nowhere have the effects of the introduction of new vegetables into favourable localities been more remarkable than in the coffee and cane plantations of the West Indies; and nowhere has the importance of selecting the best species for cultivation been more fully manifested. The introduction of the Bourbon and Otaheite canes, instead of those descended from the original stock imported from the Canaries, produced a complete revolution in West India property about the close of the last century. It was not until late that this cane was introduced into the East Indies; but it has spread rapidly, and the climate all over India seems adapted to it. A comparison between the sugars of the East and West Indies is an excellent illustration of the great importance of culture. Indeed, it will generally be found that acclimated plants attain greater perfection in the country where they have been adopted, than in that of which they were originally the natives. For instance, pulses, potatoes, garden fruits, &c.; and the reason is sufficiently plain; in their new country great attention is paid to their culture—in their native land too much confidence is reposed in spontaneous production.—*Athenaeum.*

**THE CHILD A MORAL INSTRUCTOR.**—A child is a moral instructor, and the silent lessons it teaches are far more valuable and enduring. The value of the sermons preached by the most eminent preachers, and those who have visited our prisons, and who have had to deal with the most hardened criminals, know that there is a more powerful agent in a father's heart, which even the fires of the worst guilt have not dried up; and the name of a child, like the wand of the prophet, has drawn living waters from the flinty rock. . . . The highest value in human life; every emotion of love, felt or received, is a part of education which cannot safely be disregarded. So far, then, as it is possible, no system of education should totally neglect the affections in a father's heart, which even the domestic life. Except in very desperate cases, the interchange of affectionate communication between fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, every morning and evening, is of inestimable importance to morality. . . .

**LEARNED EYES AND UNDERSTANDINGS.**—Nothing is more remarkable in the practical pursuit of any science than this kind of difference in vision. I have known very observant and quick-sighted men fail to perceive a double as in the heavens; while to others, more practised, though using the very same telescope, both objects were distinctly *d*-lined. The secret of it lies in knowing exactly what to look for, and therefore knowing how to adjust not merely the focus of the eye, but what may be termed the focus of the judgment, so as to be able to pitch the understanding into such a key that the information may be understood when it comes. I remember once being pointed out at the Geological Society, when a bottle was produced, which was said to contain certain zoophytes. It was handed round, in the first instance, among the initiated on the foremost benches, who commented freely with one another on the forms of the animals in the fluid; but when it came to our hands, we could discover nothing in the bottle but the most limpid fluid, without any trace, so far as our optics could make out, of animals dead or alive, the whole appearing absolutely transparent. The surprise of the ignorant at seeing nothing, was only equalled by that of the learned who saw so much to admire. Nor was it till we were specifically instructed what it was we were to look for, and the zoophytes were removed from those benches, and to that moment had seemed perfectly unobserved. The wonder then was, how we could possibly have omitted seeing objects now so palpable.—*Bird's Hall.*

**THE SYRIANS AND THE ENGLISH.**—The Syrians are generally treated in Syria with civility, and the English are everywhere popular, and highly respected. The Syrians have a high opinion of our wisdom and upright dealing. "The word of an Englishman" is proverbial, and they believe that he can do many more things than making wafers and penning knives. It is curious that a very general belief prevails, both in Egypt and Syria, that the English will one day take possession of these countries, and travellers have been asked more than once by Christians, if he knew when the English were coming?

**RELATIVE MAGNITUDE.**—Mrs. Somerville remarks that the mighty chain of the Andes, and the yet more lofty Himalaya mountains, bear the same proportion to the earth, that a grain of sand does to a globe three feet in diameter.

**ATMOSPHERIC PHENOMENA.**—At a recent meeting of the British Scientific Association a letter from India was communicated, which described a most remarkable shower of grain that took place last March near Rajket, in the Presidency of Bombay. It occurred during one of those thunder storms to which that month is liable; the grain not only falling upon the adjoining country, and being of a kind quite unknown to the natives. A corresponding, yet more curious circumstance, the truth of which was long doubted, happened about 60 or 70 years since in the district of Madras, when Major Harriet, author of *Struggles through Life*, observed a fall of fish, numbers dropping on the hats of some European soldiers who were in full march across the spot, and being made into a curry for the commanding officer.—[These are, doubtless, strange stories, if true.—Ed.]

**THE YEAR, FROM AN OLD ALMANAC.**—January for new year's gifts; February for parades and valentines; March for looks in water; April for fools; May for milk-maids and their gawling; June for green peas and mackerel, beans and bacon; July for hay in the country; August for corn; September for oysters; October for brewing good beer; and November for drinking it. After all these have passed, some for work, but I for meat and drink—after all come December, with the bars full of corn, the larders full of beef and pork, the barrels of beer, the ovens full of Christmas pies, the pockets full of money, the master and mistress full of charity, and the young men and maids full of play.

**JOHN MILTON'S AGREEMENT FOR "PARADISE LOST."**—This curious document, namely, John Milton's original agreement, bargaining with Samuel Symonds, in 1666, regarding the copyright of "Paradise Lost," is stated (by the *Loveson's Courts*) to be now in the possession of Mr. Rogers, who is better known to the world generally as a poet than as a banker; indeed, it is doubtful, whether the fact of the poet, being a wealthy banker and having a splendid mansion in St. James's place, may not be news, or an apocryphal statement in the estimation of many. The document was for some time in the possession of a distinguished publisher. It consists of one page of foolscap, signed by the contracting parties, and witnessed by "John Fisher," and "Benjamin Green," servant to Milton. The poet was blind at the time of the signature, nevertheless, his autograph is remarkably clear, and never less legible. The copyright of the poem was sold for £10, there being £5 paid in advance, and £5 at the expiration of two years, when 1,500 copies had been sold. For each edition, not exceeding 1,500 copies, the poet was to be paid £25; but in the year 1719, the poet's widow sold the remainder of the copyright for £7. And yet seventy years! it is said, was the purchase money for the agreement! It is now framed and glazed, and occupies a conspicuous position in the lawyer's dwelling in St. James's place.

**An Accommodating Family.**—The Sax-Coburg family is a very accommodating one in matters of religion—Lutheran, Greek, Roman Catholic, and Church of England, according as it is allied itself with the Imperial, Royal, and Princes' houses of Russia, England, Prussia, and Liechtenstein.

**HEAD AND HEART.**—The Head commands, the Heart executes; the Head resolves, the Heart forgives; the Head is ingenious, the Heart is feeling; the Head wounds, the Heart heals; the Head conquers, the heart capitulates; the Head is therefore a lion, the Heart a woman. We could carry the comparison still farther, and say, Head and Heart are husband and wife, for Head and Heart, as we have just seen, are always of different opinion. The Head, like my lord's husband, liberates and conquers; the Heart lets it speak, and takes its own way after all, like my lady wife. My Lord Head makes his approach with a graceful bow; my Lady Heart stoams us with sweet glances and tender words.

**NEW COMET.**—The French papers seize with avidity the appearance of a new comet, as one of the remarkable series of prodigies which the year 1840 is to be made famous to all future time. Nothing but this, they say, was wanting to make it commemorable. The new comet is certainly not fictitious, but the Bremen comet of Berlin, has certainly been observed by an astronomer at Modena on the 1st of December. This comet is not visible except with the assistance of a telescope. At present it is to be seen in the constellation of Andromeda.

**Bones of Elephants, &c. in France.**—M. Riviere and Briggs have discovered some elephant bones between Joinville de Pont and Champigny. They are placed in sand, which presents the following section:—regulate earth and aluminous diluvial flint deposit, diluvial sand, and lastly, sand very rich in fossil bones, and is superior to that of the Marine and Senechal. Gaultier de Claubry states, also, that a vertebra of the Pleistocene, and some remains of a crocodile and fishes, have been discovered in the coal field of Bert, in the department of Allier.

**Made of Interesting Potato Crops.**—M. Zeller, Director of the Agricultural Society of Darmstadt, in 1838 planted two plots of ground, of the same size, with potatoes; when the plants had flowered, the blossoms were removed from those in one field, while those in the other field were left untouched. The former produced 470 lbs., the latter only 87 lbs.

**Height of Clouds.**—The altitude of clouds in the South Sea, under the influence of the trade winds, was found, by the officers of the Venus, to be between 900 and 1,400 metres (2,952 to 4,593 feet).

**Height of Waves.**—The highest wave which struck the French ship Venus, during her voyage, was 75 metres (23 feet); the longest wave was three times the length of the frigate, or 150 metres (492 feet).

**China.**—The Lower Classes.—Sir George Staunton, connected with the last British embassy in China, speaking of the results of Chinese government, says—"In the course of our journey through the Chinese empire, on the occasion of that embassy, I can recall to my recollection the report of Canton, of course, expected) but very few instances of beggary or abject misery among the lower classes, or of splendid extravagance among the higher; and I conceived myself enabled to trace almost universally throughout China the unequivocal signs of an industrious, thriving, and contented people."—*Davis's Chinese.*

**Preservation of Magna Charta.**—Sir Robert Cotton, while collecting his literary treasures, being one day at his tailor's, discovered that the man held in his hand, ready to be cut up for measures, the original Magna Charta, with all its appendages of seals and signatures. He bought this singular curiosity for a trifle, and recovered in this manner what had long been given over for lost.—*Note to Pepsy's Journal.*

**Soft soap and flattery are awful slippery things and wonderful in their effects.**  
With his feet he is unsteady, never since  
Walked so unsteadily.