

passing out-of-doors carried torches and lanterns, which were curiously reflected on the overhanging clouds.

Thousands of people were sure that the end of the world had come, many dropped their work and fell on their knees to pray, others confessed to their fellows the wrongs they had done and endeavored to make restitution.

The meeting-houses were crowded, and neighborhood prayer-meetings were formed, and the ministers and old church members prayed long prayers, mentioning the nations and individuals of Bible times who had been destroyed on account of their sins, and begging that as God spared the great city of Nineveh when it repented, so He would forgive them, cheer them again by the light of the sun and give victory to their armies.

It is said that the Connecticut legislature being in session, the members became terrified when they could not see each other's faces, and a motion was made to adjourn, when Mr. Davenport arose and said:

"Mr. Speaker, it is either the day of judgment or it is not. If it is not, there is no need of adjourning. If it is, I desire to be found doing my duty. I move that candles be brought, and that we proceed to business."

All the shivering, frightened people began now to look forward to evening, hoping that as the moon rose full at nine o'clock, her light would penetrate the gloom; but all the children who coaxed to sit up and see her grew very sleepy, their strained eyes were not rewarded by her beautiful beams, for at eight in the evening the darkness was total; one could not distinguish between the earth and the heavens, and it was impossible to see a hand before one's face.

Then all the weary children were sent to bed after the most honest prayers that they had ever prayed, and the older people sat up to watch for the light that never before had appeared so glorious.

And never dawned a fairer morning than the twentieth of May, for the sun that opened the flowers and mirrored itself in the dew-drops, brought the color again to the children's faces, and filled every heart with confidence.

The birds sang joyously, the cattle returned to their pastures, the places of business were opened, and every one went about his work more gentle toward man and more grateful toward God.

After the darkness was past, several persons travelled about to gather all possible information concerning this memorable day, and Dr. Tenny wrote an account of what he learned while on a journey from the east to Pennsylvania. He says the deepest darkness was in Essex County, Massachusetts, the lower part of New Hampshire, and the eastern portion of Maine (where my great-grandmother lived). In Rhode Island and Connecticut it was not so great; in New Jersey peculiar clouds were observed, but the darkness was not uncommon, and in the lower parts of Pennsylvania nothing unusual was observed.

It extended as far north as the American settlements and westward to Albany, but its exact limits could not be ascertained.

In Boston the darkness continued fourteen or fifteen hours, varying in duration at other places.

As it was impossible to attribute the darkness to an eclipse, the wise people formed many theories respecting it; being convinced that it was due to immense fires in the woods, winds blowing in opposite directions, and to the condition of the vapors; but Herschel says: "The dark day in northern America was one of those wonderful phenomena of nature which will always be read of with interest, but which philosophy is at a loss to explain."—*Ella A. Drunkwater, in St. Nicholas for November.*

WINTERING TENDER PLANTS.

Upon this subject the "Rural New Yorker" says:—"In a good cellar we can keep our century plants, oleanders, and cactuses from November till May; and there, too, our cannas, caladiums (the green-leaved section), dahlias, crape myrtles, and fuchsias. Should frost be likely to penetrate, we can cover up with dry hay or straw, just as we would in the case of potatoes or apples. Straw spread over the leaves of the century plants won't hurt them a bit. Hollies, English yews, camelias, and other somewhat tender evergreens, if established in pots, can, too, be safely wintered in a dry, airy cellar, even with no straw covering over their branches; but their roots had better be protected by placing the pots somewhat closely together and packing marsh-hay or straw or leaves between them, or even plunging the pots over the brim in dry sand, sawdust, or earth. If these plants be not in pots, but instead, lifted from the garden with a good ball of earth about their roots, they can be successfully wintered in the cellar by planting them rather closely in a sand or earth-bed and mulching with dry hay.

"A cold-pit as winter quarters is better than a cellar for some plants; but a cramped-up, little place is worse than useless. The length, breadth and depth of the pit should be guided by the kinds, size, and number of the plants to be wintered in it; but I advise three or six feet deep, four to six feet wide (length of sash), and in length from one to any number of sashes.

"After storing, we keep the pit uncovered day and night in mild weather, tilt up the sashes in mild but wet weather, and even on fine frosty days we tilt up a little at noon. During intense frosty weather we keep the pit rather close, merely sliding down the shutters a few inches at noon; and in case of heavy snows or storms we leave all covered up for a few days. But I make it a point to omit no feasible opportunity of ventilating, or, at least, light-giving; and of many hundred plants thus cared for last winter not one perished."

MR. LONGFELLOW AS A STORY-TELLER.

I do not see that the poetry of Mr. Longfellow has changed much in the last twenty years, except that it has become graver in its tone and more serious in its purpose. Its technical excellence has steadily increased. He has more than held his own against all English-writing poets, and in no walk of poetry so positively as that of telling a story. In an age of story-tellers he stands at their head, not only in the

narrative poems I have mentioned, but in the lesser stories included in his "Tales of a Wayside Inn," for which he has laid all the literatures of the world under contribution. He preceded by several years the voluminous poet of "The Earthly Paradise," who has no fitting sense of the value of time, and no suspicion that there may be too much of a good thing. I would rather praise his long narratives in verse than read them, which is but another way of saying that I prefer short poems to long ones. About the only piece of criticism of Poe's to which I can assent without qualification is that long poems are mistakes. A poem proper should produce a unity of impression which can only be obtained within a reasonable time; it should never weary its readers into closing the book. This is very destructive criticism, but I am inclined to think there is something in it, though it is not respectful to the memory of Milton. Mr. Longfellow's stories can all be read at a single sitting, which insures the unity of impression which they ought to create and which they do create beyond any modern poems with which I am acquainted. Mr. Longfellow has always shown great taste in the selection of his subjects, and it was a forgone conclusion that he would delight his admirers in his "Tales of a Wayside Inn." Every tale in that collection was worth a new version, even "The Falcon of Sir Federigo," which the young Barry Cornwall sang when Mr. Longfellow was a school-boy.

Mr. Longfellow's method of telling a story will compare favorably, I think, with any of the recognized masters of English narrative verse, from the days of Chaucer down. His heroics are as easy as those of Hunt and Keats, whose mannerisms and affectations he has avoided. They remind me of the heroics of no other English or American poet, and—unlike some of Mr. Longfellow's early poems—are without any manner of their own. They as certainly attain a pure poetic style as the prose of Hawthorne—a pure prose style.—*R. H. Stoddard; Scribner for November.*

HAYES'S TITLE.

However varied may be the opinions concerning the validity of Hayes's title to the Presidency, there is not a question in the minds of either Democrats or Republicans upon one important point, viz.: the unquestionable right of Dr. Pierce's Family Medicines to the title of the Standard Remedies of the age. Listen to the voice of the sovereign people.

NEW ORLEANS, June 10th, 1878.

Dr. R. V. PIERCE, Buffalo, N.Y.:

Dear Sir,—Your Pleasant Purgative Pellets seem to be particularly adapted to the wants of the people in this warm climate, where bilious affections are particularly prevalent. I regard them as the best cathartic I have ever tried.

Yours truly,

JOHN C. HENDERSON.

BOSTON, Mass., May 14th, 1878.

Dr. R. V. PIERCE, Buffalo, N.Y.:

Dear Sir,—Your Golden Medical Discovery has cured my boy of a Fever Sore of two years' standing. Please accept our gratitude.

Yours truly

HENRY WHITING.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East Indian missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy, for the speedy and permanent cure of consumption, bronchitis, catarrh, asthma, and all throat and lung affections, also a positive and radical cure for nervous debility and all nervous complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive, and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send, free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, with full directions for preparing and using, in German, French, or English. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. W. Sherar, 149 Power's Block, Rochester, N.Y.

JUST PUBLISHED—SENT FREE.

Complete History of Wall Street Finance, containing valuable information for investors. Address Baxter & Co., Publishers, 17 Wall Street, New York.

In the public gardens of Vienna a bear underwent an operation for cataract. He was blind in both eyes. A strong leather collar was firmly buckled round his neck, and the attached chain passed around a bar of the cage. Two powerful men pulled him up, so that a sponge containing chloroform might be applied to his nose. The first evidence of the action of the chloroform was a diminution of his struggles, one paw dropped and then the other. The door of the den was opened and his head laid on a plank outside. The cataracts were removed, and the bear was drawn back into his cage. Next morning he came out of his den, staring about him, caring nothing for the light, licking his paws, and evidently glorying in the recovery of sight.

THERE is a clock in the Guildhall Museum, London, of which the motive power is hydrogen gas, generated by the action of diluted sulphuric acid on a ball of zinc. The clock itself resembles a large coloured glass cylinder without any cover, and about half full of sulphuric acid. Floating on the top of this acid is a glass bell, and the gas generated forces forward this concave receiver until it nearly reaches the top of the cylinder, when, by the action of a delicate lever, the valves become simultaneously opened. One of these allows the gas to escape, thereby causing the receiver to descend, and the other permits a fresh ball of zinc to fall into the acid. The same operation is repeated as long as the materials for making the gas are supplied, and this is effected without winding or manipulations of any kind. The dial plate is fixed to the front of the cylinder, and communicates by wheels, etc., with a small glass perpendicular shaft, which rises with the receiver, and sets the wheels in motion.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

CHICAGO had its first snowstorm October 22nd.

THE foot-bridges over the Thames have been made free to the public.

LAST year 14,410 new houses and 270 streets, covering a length of forty miles, were added to London.

A LIBERAL elder of the Established Church of Scotland has recently given £8,000 to its various schemes.

THE Collegiate Church of New York city will celebrate the 250th anniversary of their organization, November 21.

THERE are over 22,286,000 more acres of farm land under cultivation in the United States than there were four years ago.

CALIFORNIA is finding a market for its honey in England, one ship recently taking over eighty-seven and one-half tons.

ON one Sunday 7,663 children, under fourteen years of age, entered the public houses of London for intoxicating drink.

WE are glad to see that the report of the murder of five missionaries in New Zealand by cannibals is authoritatively denied.

THE exposure to salt water and the climate of England is causing Cleopatra's Needle to crumble since its erection in London.

THE inundation which carried away the dyke on the Damiatta Branch of the Nile immersed 80,000 acres of land, on which were fifteen villages.

ENGLISH speculators have sold about fifteen tons of stone by the ounce, as specimens of Cleopatra's Needle, which still remains whole and unbroken.

REV. DR. RIGGS, the missionary to the Dakotas, claims that there are 275,000 Indians in the United States, and that they are increasing instead of dying out.

AT the recent entertainment given by the Chinese Minister in London his wife was present and did the honours as hostess. Oriental prejudices yield to Western civilization.

NEARLY all the large exhibits in the Maryland Institute Fair at Baltimore were recently successfully photographed at night by the electric light. The sun will no longer have the monopoly of taking light pictures.

THE damage by inundation on the Damiatta branch of the Nile is estimated at \$2,500,000. Two hundred and fifty lives have been lost. The Government is accused of neglecting all precautions against such a calamity.

THE corner-stone of the Knox Memorial Institute was recently laid at Haddington, Scotland, the birth-place of the reformer. It will cost about \$45,000. The Earl of Haddington, who presided, is a descendant of John Knox.

THE U.S. Post Office Department now provides tin envelopes for sending by mail needles or any other pointed and sharp articles, which would be likely to protrude through paper envelopes and thus injure other mail matter.

THE Buffalo "Express" proposes this question: "Can a country be very 'hard up' which consumes fifty million gallons of whiskey, ten million barrels of beer, twenty-seven million pounds of tobacco, and two billion of cigars in a single year?"

As the result of the efforts of Presbyterian women to evangelize their sex in American Western Territories where Mormonism or Popery or Heathenism has sway, their Board has now 24 missionaries in Utah, 23 in New Mexico, and 5 in Alaska.

THE Hartford "Religious Herald" says that a recent Sunday excursion train in that State took only six passengers in consequence of earnest protests from Christians in that community and a ringing trumpet-blast from the pulpit. Let that example be imitated.

ON Sunday, October 6, sermons in aid of the United Temperance Mission were preached in about 150 pulpits of Birmingham, Eng., and its suburbs, including all the churches with one exception. The following week was devoted to conferences and public meetings on this important subject.

"If the Church of England is to continue a hot-bed of Romanism she must cease to be the State Church of a Protestant nation." That is the way they are putting it in England now. Dr. Pusey may yet be seen to be the "Architect of Ruin" for the Anglican Establishment.

A CONSTANTINOPLE despatch says Arif Bey, President of the Red Crescent Committee, has gone to Mecca ostensibly to superintend the execution of the sanitary arrangements adopted at the approach of the Courbanbaram festival. His real motive, however, is to confer with pilgrims from India, Afghanistan and Central Asia, who will reach Mecca in large numbers within the next month, to influence them favorably towards the British policy and adversely to Russia.

PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM of Prussia and his suite attended service at Ilfracombe Parish Church, England, while on his recent visit. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of Oxford. Although a pew had been reserved for him, says the "Ilfracombe Gazette," the Prince came in such a quiet manner that the pew-opener did not recognize him, and he contentedly remained during part of the service standing in the aisle among other victims of the season pressure until a chance came for a seat, the one which had been set apart remaining unoccupied.

THE N. Y. "Christian Intelligencer" says:—"Will not one of Mr. Beecher's friends suggest to him the propriety of extending his reading to the Old Testament. On a recent Sunday he said, as reported in the N. Y. 'Times,' 'The old Ten Commandments belong to a barbaric state. They are a string of negatives. It is not till you get down into the New Testament that you find 'Thou shalt.' Yet in Deut. vi. 5, we have the most complete summary of human duty ever conceived, stated in positive form, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.'"