

the consciousness of 'a conscience void of offence, both as regards man and God.' We shall go on the even tenor of our way, and can afford to pass over the despicable yelping of illiterate curs and unprincipled liars, tondies, and quasi-editors. We have one consolation to fall back upon, and that is—The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The perfect day is drawing nigh when merit shall be rewarded, and when fools and knaves and illiterate hirelings and immoral characters shall be banished beyond the pale of a more perfect social organization. There is no place under God's earnest sky for such characters."

We have sought in vain to discover the cause of all this divine wrath. It may be something connected with the Dunedin pump; or, as the Otago story charges the *Review* with "besmearing the fame of our wives and daughters with his filthy innuendoes, there may be a Brixton in the case. But, be all this as it may, the editors are terribly in earnest. It may be said that, in small and rough communities among the Otago gold fields, this sort of thing is a matter of course, and that, when Dunedin has crept up to the Sydney and Melbourne standard of prosperity, decency of language will come, in the regular advance of civilization, to its newspapers. This is true as far as it goes, but it does not quite account for all that is before us, and which is worth a moment's idle commentary: Amongst very vulgar and wholly uneducated people, coarse language and disgusting words are a matter of course. The vocabulary of a costermonger or a cabman is very scanty, and it is possible to believe that he scarcely realizes the extreme filthiness and coarseness of many of his habitual expressions. In the lowest strata of low life many of the worst phrases have been conventionalized, and convey scarcely any meaning to those who use them or to those to whom they are applied. They are, like the flourishes of old-fashioned penmanship, mere expletives, without any direct sense. It is a hasty conclusion, therefore, to suppose that the habitual use of coarse and offensive speech by very uneducated persons necessarily implies a corresponding moral degradation. The variations which a genuine White-lappler plays upon the derivations of "blood" is a case in point. These derivations are applied indiscriminately to objects of praise and blame, love and hatred: and are often used absolutely in no sense at all. They are the stupid resources of an inadequate *copula verborum*. But all this does not apply to such talk as we have quoted. Nor is it, after all, chosen on Mr. Chubb's principle. It is not that the gold-diggers of New Zealand could not understand any other language, or appreciate any other style, than that indulged in by the Dunedin and Otago editors, because it may be questioned whether they understand it now. The peculiar point of it escapes their appreciation. If any of our readers are at the trouble of looking again at the number of speech of Mr. J. G. S. Grant, they will observe that, though it may not quite come up to "the test of the highest University in Europe," yet it is plain that it is written by a man of some sort of education, and addressed to readers of some sort of education also. O'Connell silenced a fish-fag exuberant in Billingsgate by calling her an equilateral triangle, and condemning her to a quadratic equation; but it may be doubted whether a New Zealand navvy would see any force in saluting an editor as a vapid editorial stork and a Stafford Street twinkler. The question, not altogether uninteresting, is what manner of man the editor of this Dunedin *Review*, and what manner of men his readers, must be. Mr. J. G. S. Grant asserts that his circulation, albeit of 1,000 copies in Dunedin weekly, exceeds that of any contemporary, and that "it is filled up as a precious Koran from its commencement." No doubt, Otago journalism suits Otago readers: the supply is not out of all proportion to the demand. And this leads us to some appreciation of what colonial life really is. Colonization is not pursued by mere hedgers and ditchers, but it is the work of men of some sort of education; that lamentable education which writes and reads such journalism as we have given specimens of. It is not its mere coarse vituperation and its vulgar slang that is its sole characteristic, but its effectation of high-mindedness, its claims to the assurances of religious conviction, its fictitious morality, its attempt to persuade itself and others that public interests can be furthered and social duties promoted by this personal invective and senseless remoteness. All this, it may be said, is only after the American model—the true type of colonial civilization. This may be so; but it involves a melancholy consideration. Must it be a matter of course that all our colonies are to be Americanized?

The United States present the example of a community which has certainly suffered a social and political degradation. There was nothing in the country of Washington and Franklin to lead to the anticipation that it would ever become the country of Lincoln and Butler. What are we to forecast of the future of a country which starts with a higher form of civilization than the North American States did, and yet which, partly by reason of its higher type, permits the existence of Otago and Dunedin journalism as it is? Modern colonies have not yet succeeded in even equaling the social and moral type of the mother country. Neither Spain nor Portugal stands at the present moment high in the European hierarchy, but Mexican and Brazilian life is much lower. The original vices of the Anglo-American colonists have only grown more inveterate by time. Climate may have a good deal to do with it, since Canada undoubtedly stands higher in all

that makes society worth living in than do the United States. The Australasian settlements have greater elements of material prosperity; but there are awkward signs, among which its journalism is not the least pregnant, that they are not likely to throw off that bias which has been the ruin of the American character, and of American institutions too.

Summary of the Telegraphic News of the Week

Peace rumors continue to absorb attention. The latest is from the Washington correspondent of the Tribune, who predicts that a cessation of hostilities preliminary to peace negotiations, will take place within ten days.

The Herald's Savannah correspondent of the 8th., represents affairs in the city quiet and unchanged, and reiterates reports as to the movements among the citizens of Georgia for Union.

Late Richmond papers are violent in their criticisms for and against Jeff Davis, and his conduct of the war.

Hood's defeat and Sherman's triumphant march through Georgia, are attributed to imbecility of Southern leaders.

Tennessee State Convention passed resolutions abolishing slavery in that state forever unanimously.

The Hon. Edward Everett died suddenly yesterday morning of apoplexy.

Richmond papers announce the arrival of Francis P. Blair in that city, supposed object of his visit to be on a peace mission. Senator Foote, late of the Confederate Congress, was arrested by the Confederate pickets while attempting to cross the line to reach Washington. He is now held in strict confinement.

Confederate refugees confirm the report that General Lee has sent troops to South Carolina to oppose Sherman.

Parson W. G. Rownlow has been nominated for Governor of Tennessee by the Unionists of that State.

A Court of Enquiry is to be held in Washington in regard to the failure of the late expedition to Wilmington.

The Richmond Examiner says:—"One thing is truly to be feared, which is the decay of public spirit before the continual spectacle of executive folly and legislative subservience."

The U. S. sloop of war San Jacinto was wrecked off Bahama Banks, Jan. 1st.

The public buildings in Washington are draped in mourning, and the departments are closed in respect to the memory of Hon. Edward Everett.

Mr. Blair has returned from Richmond—He had an interview with Jeff Davis. During the interview Davis said he would either receive or send Commissioners of Peace to Washington, and he inquired if they would be received by our Government. No terms of peace were indicated.

Correspondence from Beaufort under date 9th., state that Commodore Porter's immense fleet of Iron-clads and frigates, was about standing from there to make a second attack on Wilmington.

A large body of troops were on transports ready to participate.

A. D. Richardson and J. H. Brown, correspondents of the Tribune, had escaped from a rebel prison in North Carolina, and arrived safe at Nashville. Several other prisoners escaped with them. It is now asserted that Blair's visit to Richmond was on private matters; although Richmond papers insist he was sent there to negotiate peace.

Advices from Gen. Thomas say active operations are suspended by the inclemency of weather. His army is supplied well. Hood is reported as still fleeing South.

A reliable report from Alabama states that the Legislature of that State will soon adopt resolutions favoring a return to the Union.

Never before has the rebel press spoken so despondingly of the situation.

In regard to military investigations at Washington the Tribune correspondent says:—"Gen. Butler's testimony before the Committee on the conduct of the war, lifts the veil which has closely covered so many disasters and blunders in front of Petersburg. His testimony produced a profound impression, and a summons was issued for Gen. Grant and other high officers."

Full reports of the capture of "Fort Fisher" have been received and all the Confederate defences on Federal Point.

The Federal loss in killed and wounded is estimated at nine hundred. The Confederate loss five hundred killed and wounded, and two thousand five hundred prisoners, and seventy-two guns. The storming party met with a desperate resistance inside the Fort. An explosion of the powder magazine in the Fort, killed and wounded two hundred, mostly Federals. One fifteen inch gun burst on board the iron-clad "Mohopac," but without fatal injury to any one.

Richmond papers of Monday officially announce the capture of Fort Fisher, and confess that it is a great disaster, sending Wilmington against blockade running, and a great loss to the Confederacy.

Brigadier General Terry who commanded the land assault on Fort Fisher has been made a Major General.

Admiral Porter speaks in high terms of the efficiency of our iron-clads. He says:—"The 'Monadnock' is capable of crossing the ocean alone when her compass are once adjusted pro-

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