

truth and godliness; in a word, to practice that wisest of all selfishness—to live for the public good.

THE WEB OF LIFE.

"I have cut off, like a weaver, my life." The Holy Spirit here employs a comparison to illustrate the uncertainty of life. He compares it to a weaver employed to manufacture a piece of cloth, and liable from one moment to another, to be required by his master to cut the thread, and submit his work for inspection. We have all a web to weave for our Master. Every minute, every second the shuttle passes and repasses, leaving after it a thread—a thought, a word, an action. What shall be the length of our web, we know not; we may be called to cut it, even at the commencement. It is not with the piece that we have to do; that depends not upon us. Our business is to see that it is well woven, that it be according to the dimensions prescribed in the word of God—that the work we use be the love of God, and that it be wrought under the influence of the Holy Spirit. It is said of the hypocrite, that his hope shall be as the spider's web. Let us take heed that we make not spider's webs, which may deceive the eyes of man, but will not abide the inspection of God.

Let us be aware of deceiving ourselves as to the length of the web which remains for us to make. Too often we set before us a multitude of things which we imagine must be done before we die. One says, I have my children to educate and provide for; another, I have my house to build; another, I have pious enterprises to execute and bring to a happy termination—I require for this a certain time, which I trust God will be pleased to grant me. But suddenly, in the midst of all these projects for the future, death comes and cuts the thread. Then all is ended for this world. Was it wise, to make these things the subject of so many anxieties? Ought we allow them to interpose between the tomb and us, and hide it from our view? Should we not, each morning, prepare ourselves to spend the day as if we were to die that night?—*N. Y. Evangelist.*

News Department.

From the Latest English Papers.

INCREASE OF THE NAVY.—The public will learn with great satisfaction that the government has resolved to call upon parliament to vote the necessary supplies for a considerable addition to the naval forces of the country. It is not, as we have frequently had occasion to remark, in the number of her Majesty's ships-of-war that our chief deficiency is to be traced, and probably there never was a time of peace at which a more powerful naval armament could be equipped for sea.—But the most essential condition of our maritime strength is a body of well-trained seamen to man those vessels, and to contribute to the defence of our coasts. The commission which has been sitting for some time past to consider the best means of manning the navy has adopted several valuable suggestions from officers whose judgement and experience may be relied on; and we presume that it is in consequence of these recommendations that the government and the Admiralty have resolved to add about 5,000 seamen to the fleet, with a proportionate addition to the marines. It would be an error to attribute to this measure a greater degree of political importance than it deserves, and although it happens to correspond in point of time with the proclamation of the French Empire, there is probably no direct connexion between the two incidents. But we cannot be ignorant that an extraordinary degree of activity has prevailed for some time past in the dockyards of our most powerful neighbour, and that while some show has been made of a reduction in the French army, the navy of that country has been augmented to an unprecedented extent. To place our own protective forces on at least an equal footing is therefore the first duty of the ministers of this country, and we are satisfied that the nation will gladly respond to a call which does not exceed what our pacific policy and our territorial security absolutely require.—(*Times.*)

NATIONAL DEFENCE.—It is said that the increase to the army, in *personnel* and *material*, will include an addition to the artillery branch of 2,000 men, and 1,000 horses, and carriages and ammunition waggons for 200 guns. We understand that it is proposed in the new estimates to add to the present strength of the Royal Marines 1,500 men. We stated some time since that the naval forces of England would include 10 screw line-of-battle ships. We believe that before this time next year we shall have double this number of two and three deckers, propelled by screw-machinery, afloat. Messrs. Penn & Co., and Messrs. Maudslay & Field, are ordered to construct screw-machinery for eight of the line-of-battle ships in course of construction. Orders have recently been issued to hasten preparations for commencing the construction of the batteries in the Isle of Wight, and expedite the works as much as possible.—*Standard.*

NEW DISCOVERIES AT NINEVEH.—Letters received in Paris from M. Place, Consul at Mosul, report further excavations and successes among the mounds of Nineveh. Among the recent gains from this rich mine of antiquities, besides a large addition of statues, bas-reliefs in marble, pottery, and articles of jewellery, which throw light on the habits and customs of the inhabitants of the ancient city, the French explorers have been able to examine the whole of the Palace of Khorsabad and its dependencies. In so doing, they are said to have elucidated some doubtful points, and obtained proof that the Assyrians were not ignorant of any of the resources of architecture. M. Place has discovered a large gate, twelve feet high, which appears to have been one of the entrances to the city,—several constructions in marble,—two rows of columns, apparently extending a considerable distance,—the cellar of the palace, still containing regular rows of jars, which had probably been filled with wine; for, at the bottom of these jars, there is still a deposit of a violet color. The operations have not been confined to the immediate vicinity of Khorsabad. M. Place has caused excavations to be made in the hills on the left bank of the Tigris, within ten leagues from Khorsabad. In them he has found monuments, tombs, jewellery, and some articles in gold and other metal and in stone. At Dziziran there is a monument, which, it is supposed, may turn out to be as large as that of Khorsabad. At Mattai, and at the place called Biriim, M. Place has found bas-reliefs cut in solid rock. They consist of a number of colossal figures, and of a series of full-length portraits of the Kings of Assyria. M. Place reports that he has taken copies of his discoveries by means of the photographic process; and he announces that Colonel Rawlinson has authorized him to make diggings near the places which the English are engaged in examining.—*Athenæum.*

Accounts from Jerusalem, of the 26th October, mention that the Commission appointed to settle the question of the possession of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, raised by the governments of France and Rome, separated a few days before, without being able to accomplish that object.

UNITED STATES.

CONGRESS, DEC. 30, 1852.—Mr. Cass's resolution calling for information respecting the new British colony in Central America, was taken up and adopted.

Mr. Fish, (whig) of N. Y., presented the memorial of the proprietors of the New York and Havre mail steamers, asking an increase of compensation or a release from their contract.

By telegraph from New Orleans we have late and very important news from Mexico. It appears that Count Bouillon, the leader of the French movement in Sonora, has capitulated, his forces had surrendered their arms, and the insurrection was at an end. This reminds one of the old couplet concerning a former monarch of the Count's country, who

"With forty thousand men,

Marched up the hill, and then marched down again." Thus ends all the rhodomontade about foreign acquisition of territory in that quarter.

THE ADVANCE IN FLOUR.—The recent rise in flour of some two or three shillings per barrel, says the Rochester Union, will ensure a small fortune to some of our citizens, who have large quantities in store in the Eastern market. We are informed that one million establishment of this city, has over 40,000 barrels, another 25,000, a third 16,000, in New York, or now on the way there, and others have smaller quantities.

ACRES OF PORK.—A correspondent of the Louisville Courier says that in East Louisville, the five extensive pork houses have five or six acres of barrelled pork, piled up three tiers high, in open lots. There are not less than six acres, which would make eighteen acres of barrels if laid side by side, exclusive of lard in barrels, and pork bulked down in the five pork houses, sheds, &c. Besides the above slaughtered hogs, there are five or six acres of live hogs in pens.

The steamship Georgia, which arrived from Aspinwall on Friday, brought California gold dust to the value of over two millions and a half of dollars.

The statistics of the United States mint show that during the past year the golden deposits amounted to \$51,059,295, and the coinage to \$51,505,658. Over eighteen and a half millions of three cent pieces were coined during the year, notwithstanding which fact, change is a very scarce commodity in all sections of the country.

THE MACKEREL FISHERY.—The following statement of the mackerel fishery in the district of Barnstable is furnished to the *Yarmouth Register*:—Vessels employed, 18,738 tons; men do. 2,376; boys do 706. Mackerel packed: No. 1—24 390 barrels, value \$253,900; No. 2—22,212 barrels, value \$177,969; No. 3—15,043 barrels, value \$90,258. Total value \$522,134. The value of the Mackerel is estimated at \$10.88, and \$6 per barrel for Nos. 1, 2, and 3, which is the average price for the season.

The workmen in the Navy Yards of Philadelphia and Charlestown have quitted work, in consequence of an order from the Navy department, requiring them to work an hour longer each day than usual—viz., to commence at sunrise and end at sunset, when there are less than eleven hours between those periods, allowing one hour for dinner, and that ten hours are required when eleven hours elapse at sunrise and sunset.

NIAGARA FALLS AND LAKE ERIE.—Professor Silliman, the eminent geologist, discredits the opinion advanced by some, that the gradual wearing away of the rocks of Niagara Falls may possibly result in draining Lake Erie. In a recent lecture he remarked:—

"They will not halt at their present station, but retreat slowly and surely about two miles further, where they will stop again for an unknown period, and probably forever, since at this place the hard limestone will form both base and top of the falls, and thus probably stop the rapid and sure destruction of the rock. Some have thought that they would finally reach Lake Erie, and that then the lake would be completely drained. Such an event is impossible. At the point already mentioned, the torrent will gradually wear away the surface of the limestone, forming a rapid, and henceforth Niagara will be one of the lost wonders of the world."

SUCCESS OF THE CALORIC SHIP.—The caloric steamship Ericsson went down on her trial trip on Tuesday last. She started off at fine speed, making 12 knots an hour with the wind and tide.—*International Jan. 8.*

HAVANA, DEC. 29, 1852.—For some time past the greatest activity has reigned amongst the African slave traders of this island. Vessels have been and are fitting out in every port, even here, under the very noses of the authorities, whom rumour states are largely interested in the speculations; it is even said that some of them have taken shares in the ventures; but I am inclined to think they reckon more upon the fees of so much a head, which they consider they are entitled to, for every negro brought to this island from the coast of Africa. Several cargoes have been landed within the last few weeks, and the British frigate Vestal has brought into this port no less than four prizes for adjudication—vessels which have fitted out for the African slave trade, and this, too, within less than a week.

The names of the prizes are the Venus, a notorious slaver, the Carlota, and the Custros Hermanos, all topsail schooners. The last vessel brought in is the Arrogante Emilio, a fine large brig. On board the Venus, my friend the Marquis of— informs me, every thing denoted her destination. Not only was she fully equipped for the slave trade, but all the captain's letters and papers, which were seized, mentioned the number of negroes he expected to bring from the coast, and he even went so far as to calculate the amount of profit he hoped to derive from the speculation.

The Venus was fully provided with a slave-deck, shackles, and all the other requisites for a voyage to the coast of Africa; but upon being captured, the captain declared he was a coasting vessel, and produced Havana custom-house clearances to that effect; however, upon strict search being made, it was discovered he had also another set of documents, from the Spanish authorities, for the coast of Africa. Thus, added to the fact of his being allowed to depart from the port during the night, has given rise to a suspicion of connivance on the part of the authorities. Moreover, I have heard that upon the seizure of his vessel by the captain of the British frigate, the master of the Venus fell on his knees, and confessed that he was bound to the coast of Africa, but at present on his way to the Cayes, off Cardinas, where he was to wait the arrival of the schooner Carlota to complete his equipments, which she was to bring to him. Upon the boat proceeding to the Cayes indicated by the captain of the Venus, sure enough, there was the Carlota, as also the Custros Hermanos, fully laden with the necessaries for a slaving voyage, which were to have been put on board the Venus, and another vessel, no doubt the Arrogante Emilio, which was expected to rendezvous at those Cayes.

The Vestal, having captured the three vessels above alluded to brought them to Havana for trial, which was to have been commenced on the 23d December, when the owners, doubtless supposing that the captain of the Vestal's attention would be wholly engrossed with the case of the three prizes, gave orders to the Arrogante Emilio to sail, which she accordingly did at about 11 A. M. the same day. The Vestal very soon afterwards followed, and brought her, also, back into port for adjudication. This latter vessel has a slave deck, and is in every way fitted for a voyage to the coast of Africa for slaves; that that was her destination, was notorious to every body, and it was openly spoken of. But no effort on the part of the Spanish authorities will be left untried to obtain the liberation of these vessels; and the Spanish Judge of the Mixed Commission being one of the greatest slave dealers in the island, of course justice cannot be expected from him. The result will be, that the Spanish and English judges will be unable to come to a decision in the matter, in which case, I understand, it is the custom to toss up for an arbitrator, who will decide, of course, should he be a Spaniard, against the right of the British to detain the vessels in question. The owners of the captured vessels have already been furnished by the Spanish authorities, since the vessels were brought into port, with documents, purporting to prove that the said vessels, when captured, were bound on legal voyages.

The greatest excitement prevails here in consequence of the capture of these vessels.

The Captain of the Port, Luna, came ashore from the Vestal upon that vessel's return to port with the Arrogante Emilio in tow, and fairly danced with rage on the public wharf, much to the amusement of certain of the spectators. As Captain of the Port, he will have to explain how it was the Venus was allowed to leave Havana, in the dead of the night, in contra-