

**Technical and Bibliographic Notes / Notes techniques et bibliographiques**

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming, are checked below.

L'Institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

Coloured covers/  
Couverture de couleur

Coloured pages/  
Pages de couleur

Covers damaged/  
Couverture endommagée

Pages damaged/  
Pages endommagées

Covers restored and/or laminated/  
Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée

Pages restored and/or laminated/  
Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées

Cover title missing/  
Le titre de couverture manque

Pages discoloured, stained or foxed/  
Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées

Coloured maps/  
Cartes géographiques en couleur

Pages detached/  
Pages détachées

Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black)/  
Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)

Showthrough/  
Transparence

Coloured plates and/or illustrations/  
Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur

Quality of print varies/  
Qualité inégale de l'impression

Bound with other material/  
Relié avec d'autres documents

Continuous pagination/  
Pagination continue

Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion along interior margin/  
La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la distorsion le long de la marge intérieure

Includes index(es)/  
Comprend un (des) index

Title on header taken from: /  
Le titre de l'en-tête provient:

Blank leaves added during restoration may appear within the text. Whenever possible, these have been omitted from filming/  
Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte, mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont pas été filmées.

Title page of issue/  
Page de titre de la livraison

Caption of issue/  
Titre de départ de la livraison

Masthead/  
Générique (périodiques) de la livraison

Additional comments: /  
Commentaires supplémentaires:

Wrinkled pages may film slightly out of focus.

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below /  
Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10X	14X	18X	22X	26X	30X
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12X	16X	20X	24X	28X	32X

# THE PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE, AND WEEKLY JOURNAL.

Vol. I.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1847.

No. 23

## MY LITTLE STEP-SON.

BY MRS. WELBY.

I have a little step-son, the loveliest thing alive,  
A noble, sturdy boy is he, and yet he's only five;  
His smooth cheek hath a blooming glow, his eye is black as jet,  
And his lips are like two rose-buds, all tremulous and wet;  
His days pass off in sunshine, in laughter and in song,  
As careless as a summer rill that sings itself along,  
For like a pretty fairy tale that's all too quickly told,  
Is the young life of a little one that's only five years old.

He's dreaming on his happy couch before the day grows dark,  
He's up with morning's rosy ray a-singing with the lark;  
Where'er the flowers are freshest, where'er the grass is green,  
With light locks waving on the wind his fairy form is seen,  
Amid the whistling March winds, amid the April showers;  
He warbles with the singing birds, and blossoms with the flowers.  
He cares not for the summer heat, he cares not for the cold—  
My sturdy little step-son, that's only five years old.

How touching 'tis to see him clasp his dimpled hands in prayer,  
And raise his little rosy face with reverential air!  
How simple is his eloquence! how soft his accents fall  
When pleading with the King of kings to love and bless us all;  
And when from prayer he bounds away in innocence and joy,  
The blessing of a smiling God goes with the cheerful boy;  
A little lambkin of the flock within the Saviour's fold,  
Is his my lovely step-son, that's only five years old."

## MELTING THE HEART.

BY MRS. WELBY.

I wandered out one summer night,  
'Twas when my years were few,  
The wind was singing in the light,  
And I was singing too.  
The sunshine lay upon the hill,  
The shadow in the vale,  
And here and there a leaping rill  
Was laughing on the gale.

One fleecy cloud upon the air  
Was all that met my eyes,  
It floated like an angel there  
Between me and the skies;  
I clapped my hands and warbled wild,  
As here and there I flew,  
For I was but a careless child,  
And did as children do.

The twilight hours like birds flew by,  
As lightly and as free;  
Ten thousand stars were in the sky,  
Ten thousand on the sea;  
For every wave with dimpled face  
That leaped upon the air,  
Had caught a star in its embrace,  
And held it trembling there.

I heard the laughing wind behind  
A-playing with my hair;  
The breezy fingers of the wind,  
How cool and moist they were.

But wherefore weave such strains as these,  
And sing them day by day,

When every bird upon the breeze  
Can sing a sweeter lay!  
I'd give the world for their sweet art,  
The simple, the divine—  
I'd give the world to melt one heart  
As they have melted mine.

## CHAPTERS FOR CHILDREN, No. II.



PROOFS THAT THE EARTH IS A GLOBE.  
(From the Youths' Cabinet.)

Most boys and girls that are able to read, know that the earth is round like an orange; though some, perhaps, do not know exactly how people go to work to prove that this is the earth's figure.

For a long period, during the infancy of science, the world in which we dwell was considered as the largest body in the universe. It was supposed to be an immense plane, diversified with a few inequalities, and stretching in every direction to an unlimited extent. It is now, however, proved to a demonstration, that all the continents, islands, and oceans on its surface form a body, which is nearly the figure of a globe. This position may be proved and illustrated by the following considerations:

1. When we view a ship taking its departure from the coast in any direction, as it recedes from our view, we may perceive the masts and rigging of the vessel, though the hull is out of sight, and, as it were, sunk into the water. On the other hand, when a ship is approaching the shore, the first part of it which is seen is the top-mast; as it approaches nearer, the sails become visible, and last of all, the hull comes gradually into view. The reason of such appearances obviously is, that the round or convex surface of the water interposes between our eye and the body of the ship, when it has reached a certain distance, while the sails and top-mast, from their great elevation, may be still in view. The contrary of all this would take place, were the earth and waters an extended plane; the top-mast, being the smallest body, would first disappear, and the hull, presenting the largest surface to the eye, would be seen after the top-mast and part of the sails had disappeared. The figure at the head of this article will illustrate these positions; where it is evident that a line drawn from a tower or mountain to the hull of a vessel, passes under the convex surface of the sea, while a line drawn to the top-mast passes above the surface; and as light flows in straight lines, the top-mast will be visible when the hull is hid.

2. That the earth is round from east to west appears from actual experiment; for many navigators, by sailing in a westerly direction, have gone quite round it from east to west. They have sailed in a westerly direction, and without turning back, have arrived at the same port from which they set out.

3. That it is round from north to south, appears from the following circumstances: when we travel a considerable distance from north to south, or from south to north, a number of new stars successively appear in the heavens in the quarter to which we are advancing, and many of those in the opposite quarter gradually disappear; for example, in sailing toward the south, when we approach toward the equator, the brilliant constellation called the Cross makes its appearance, which is always invisible in this country. This would not happen, if the earth were a plane in that direction. Were it not for the frozen seas within the polar regions, which interrupt navigation in those directions, vessels would, long ere now, have sailed around the earth from north to south.

If, then, we admit that the earth is of a globular form, it follows that it may be inhabited on all sides, and consequently, that those who live on the opposite side of the globe must have their feet pointing toward our feet, and their heads pointing in an opposite direction: and likewise, could we suppose a hole bored through the centre of the earth, commencing at the point opposite to where we now stand, it would terminate at our feet, and would measure nearly eight thousand miles.

### THE SOFT ANSWER.

BY T. S. ARTHUR.

"I'll give him law to his heart's content, the scoundrel!" said Singleton, walking backward and forward, in an angry state of excitement.

"Don't call harsh names, Mr. Singleton," said lawyer Trueman, looking up from the mass of papers before him, and smiling in a quiet, benevolent way, that was peculiar to him.

"Every man should be known by his true name. Williams is a scoundrel, and so he ought to be called!" responded the client, with increasing warmth.

"Did you ever do a reasonable thing in your life when you were angry?" asked Mr. Trueman, whose age and respectability gave him the license to speak thus freely to his young friend, for whom he was endeavouring to arrange some business difficulty with his former partner.

"I can't say that I ever did, Mr. Trueman; but now, I have good reason for being angry, and the language I use, in reference to Williams, is but the expression of a sober and rational conviction," replied Singleton, a little more calmly.

"Did you pronounce him a scoundrel before you received this reply to your last letter?" asked Mr. Trueman.

"No, I did not; but that letter confirmed my previously formed impressions of his character."

"But I cannot find, in that letter, any evidence proving your late partner to be a dishonest man. He will not agree to your proposed mode of settlement, because he does not see it to be the most proper way."

"He won't agree to it, because it is an honest and equitable mode of settlement, that is all! He wants to over-reach me, and is determined to do so if he can!" responded Mr. Singleton, still excited.

"There you are decidedly wrong," said the lawyer. "You have both allowed yourselves to become angry, and are both unreasonable; and if I must speak plainly, I think you are the most unreasonable, in the present case. Two angry men can never settle any business properly. You have unnecessarily increased the difficulties in the way of a speedy settlement, by writing Mr. Williams an angry letter, which he has responded to in the like unhappy temper. Now, if I am to settle this business for you, I must write all letters that pass to Mr. Williams, in future."

"But how can you properly express my views and feelings?"

"That I do not wish to do, if your views and feelings are to remain as they now are—for any thing like an adjustment of the difficulties, under such circumstances, I should consider hopeless," replied Mr. Trueman.

"Well, let me answer this letter, and after that, I promise that you shall have your own way."

"No, I shall consent to no such thing. It is the reply to that letter which is to modify the negotiation for a settlement, in such a way as to bring success or failure; and I have no idea of allowing you, in the present state of your mind, to write such an one as will most assuredly defeat an amicable adjustment."

Singleton paused for some time before making a reply. He had been forming in his mind a most cutting and bitter rejoinder to the letter just alluded to, and he was very desirous that Mr. Williams should have the benefit of knowing that he thought him a "tricky and deliberate scoundrel," with other opinions of a similar character. He found it, therefore, impossible to make up his mind to let the unimpassioned Mr. Trueman write this most important epistle.

"Indeed, I must write this letter, Mr. Trueman," he said. "There are some things that I want to say to him, which I know you won't write. You don't seem to consider the position in which he has placed me by that letter, nor what is obligatory upon me, as a man of honour. I never allow any man to reflect upon me, directly or indirectly, without a prompt response."

"There is, in the Bible," said Mr. Trueman, "a passage that is peculiarly applicable in the present case. It is this—'A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger.' I have found this precept, in a life that has numbered more than double your years, to be one that may be safely and honourably adopted, in all cases. You blame Mr. Williams for writing you an angry letter, and are indignant at certain expressions contained therein. Now, is it any more right for you to write an angry letter, with cutting epithets, than it is for him?"

"But Mr. Trueman—"

"I do assure you, my young friend," said the lawyer, interrupting him, "that I am acting in this case for your benefit, and not for my own; and, as your legal adviser, you must submit to my judgment, or I cannot consent to go on."

"If I will promise not to use any harsh language, will you not consent to let me write the letter?" urged the client.

"You and I, in the present state of your mind, could not possibly come to the same conclusion in reference to what is harsh and what is mild," said Mr. Trueman;—"therefore I cannot consent that you shall write one word of proposed reply—I must write it."

"Well, I suppose, then, I shall have to submit. When will it be ready?"

"Come this afternoon, and I will give you the draft, which you can copy and sign."

In the afternoon, Mr. Singleton came, and received the letter prepared by Mr. Trueman. It ran thus, after the date and formal address—

"I regret that my proposition did not meet your approbation. The mode of settlement which I suggested was the result of a careful consideration of our mutual interests. Be kind enough to suggest to Mr. Trueman, my lawyer, any plan which you think will lead to an early and amicable adjustment of our business. You may rely upon my consent to it, if it meets his approbation."

"Is it possible, Mr. Trueman, that you expect me to sign such a cringing letter as that?" said Mr. Singleton, throwing it down, and walking backward and forward with great irritation of manner.

"Well, what is your objection to it?" replied Mr. Trueman, mildly, for he was prepared for just such an exhibition of feelings.

"Objection! How can you ask such a question? Am I to go on my knees to him, and beg him to do me justice? No! I'll sacrifice every cent I've got in the world, first—the scoundrel!"

"You wish to have your business settled, do you not?" asked Mr. Trueman, looking him steadily in the face.

"Of course I do—honourably settled!"

"Well, let me hear what you mean by an honourable settlement."

"Why, I mean—"

The young man hesitated a moment, and Mr. Trueman said, "You mean a settlement in which your interest shall be equally considered with that of Mr. Williams?"

"Yes, certainly; and that—"

"And that," continued Mr. Trueman, "Mr. Williams in the settlement shall consider and treat you as a gentleman?"

"Certainly I do; but that is more than he has done."

"Well, never mind. Let what is past go for as much as it is worth. The principal point of action is in the present."

"But I'll never send that mean, cringing letter, though."

"You mistake its whole tenor, I do assure you, Mr. Singleton. You have allowed your angry feelings to blind you. You,

certainly, carefully considered before you adopted it, the proposed basis of a settlement, did you not?"

"Of course I did."

"So the letter which I have prepared for you states. Now, as an honest and honorable man you are, I am sure, willing to grant to him the same privilege which you asked for yourself, viz: that of proposing a plan of settlement. Your proposition does not seem to please him; now it is but fair that he should be invited to state how he wishes the settlement to be made—and in giving such an invitation, a gentleman should use gentlemanly language."

"But he don't deserve to be treated like a gentleman. In fact, he has no claim to the title," said the young man.

"If he has none, as you say, you profess to be a gentleman, and all gentlemen should prove by their actions and words that they are gentlemen."

"I can't say that I am convinced by what you say, but, as you seem so bent on having it your own way, why, here, let me copy the thing and sign it, said the young man, suddenly changing his manner."

"There now," he added, passing across the table the brief letter he had copied, "I suppose he'll think me a low spirited fellow, after he gets that; but he's mistaken. After it's all over, I'll take good care to tell him that it didn't contain my sentiments."

Mr. Trueman smiled, as he took the letter, and went on to fold and direct it.

"Come to-morrow afternoon, and I think we'll have things in a pretty fair way," he said, looking up with his usual pleasant smile, as he finished the direction of the letter.

"Good afternoon, Mr. Singleton," he said, as that gentleman entered his office on the succeeding day.

"Good afternoon," responded the young man. "Well, have you heard from that milk and water letter of yours—I can't call it mine."

"Yes, here is the answer. Take a seat, and I will read it to you," said the old gentleman.

"Well, let's hear it."

"DEAR GEORGE.—I have your kind and gentlemanly note of yesterday, in reply to my harsh, unreasonableness and ungentlemanly one of the day before. We have both been playing the fool; but you are ahead of me in becoming sane. I have examined, since I got your note, more carefully the tenor of your disposition for a settlement, and it meets my views precisely. My foolish anger kept me from seeing it best. Let our mutual friend, Mr. Trueman, arrange the matter, according to the plan mentioned, and I shall most heartily acquiesce.  
Yours, &c.

THOMAS WILLIAMS."

"He never wrote that letter in the world!" exclaimed Singleton, starting to his feet.

"You know his writing, I presume," said Mr. Trueman handing him the letter.

"It's Thomas Williams' own hand, as I live!" ejaculated Singleton, on glancing at the letter. "My old friend, Thomas Williams, the best natured fellow in the world!" he continued, his feelings undergoing a sudden and entire revolution. "What a fool I have been!"

"And what a fool I have been!" said Thomas Williams, advancing from an adjoining room, at the same time extending his hand towards Singleton.

"God bless you, my dear friend!" exclaimed Singleton, grasping his hand. "Why what has been the matter with us both?"

"My young friends," said old Mr. Trueman, one of the kindest hearted men in the world, rising and advancing towards them, I have known you long, and have always esteemed you both. This pleasant meeting and reconciliation, you perceive, is of my arrangement. Now let me give you a precept that will make friends and keep friends. It has been my motto through life, and I don't know that I have an enemy in the world. It is,

"A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger."

PREACHING AND LABOUR GIVEN UP FOR THE PAUPERS.—Owing to the rush of paupers at Bellevue, New York, it has been found necessary to erect some 200 bunks in the Chapel of that institution, and also to convert the work shops into hospital rooms. Two or three sheds are now in course of erection, for the reception of a large number who are now without a shelter over their heads.

## THE REVELATIONS OF ASTRONOMY.

(Continued from North British Review.)

When the advocates of the undulatory theory were embarrassed with difficulties, they entered into an alliance, offensive and defensive, with astronomical theorists. The existence of a rare elastic medium, diffused through universal space, which that theory required, was regarded as the resisting medium which retarded the motion and shortened the periods of comets; and the changes in the period of Encke's comet were pronounced to be the undoubted result of this obstructing force, although the very opposite effect was produced on Halley's comet, the period of which regularly increased at every succeeding return. The theorist, however, is never perplexed, and his resources never fail. Encke's comet and Halley's move in opposite directions—the one from west to east, and the other from east to west; and it has therefore been suggested that the luminiferous ether revolves from west to east, in virtue of a rotary motion communicated to it by the continued motion of the planets in the same direction, thus producing a different effect upon the two comets! When we consider the nature of a comet, the variations in its phenomena during any portion of its period, and the striking differences between its colour, its brightness, and its apparent magnitude, at its successive re-appearances, we need not wonder that a body thus susceptible of change, and actually changed, should not return in precisely the same period of time. If the other comets, like Encke's expand as they enter the colder recesses of space, their tails, which are even when near the sun one million of miles in length, may encounter other objects or come into mutual collision, and thus deprive one or other of the conflicting bodies of a portion of its mass. Our knowledge, in short, of the nature and design of comets, of the functions which they perform during their long residence in foreign climes, is so utterly insignificant, that to make it the foundation or the support of any theory is unworthy of a sound philosophy. Those speculators, who believe that there is a compensatory adjustment in the mutual action of the planets, in virtue of which the solar system will, if left to itself, have an eternal duration, will not readily admit the existence of a resisting medium which must ultimately destroy it, and those who like Sir Isaac Newton, believe that the sun is recruited by comets, and that the vapours of comets, when rarified and diffused through space, may, under the influence of their own gravity, be attracted down to the planets, and become intermingled with their atmosphere, will not consider the supposition unreasonable that a comet does not return to our system either of the same tonnage or with the same freight.\*

Having thus briefly surveyed the planetary domains—those glorious spheres of which Omnipotence has given the life to man, and to other beings—his equals, or perchance, his superiors; and having cast a glance at those pilgrim stars which seem to maintain a secret correspondence with our own,—our readers must now transport themselves across aerial steppes, which, uncheered by life or by light, stretch from the outer planet of our system to that of which the nearest star is the Sun. This inconceivable void, measuring more than 21,000,000,000,000,—twenty-one million millions of miles across in every direction upwards, downwards, and around us, separates our system from the sidereal heavens. These heavens, with all their host, once seemed to revolve daily round our terrestrial ball, and ignorant and presumptuous man, believing that they did, imprisoned or burned the philosophers that proved it to be false. To an eye removed from the earth, and at the verge of our system, as ours is supposed to be, the very idea becomes ridiculous. To that eye, the earth is not even visible, and the whole starry creation, and the sun itself, dwindled into a star, stands fixed and immovable. Here reigns universal silence and repose. Nothing moves but the throbbing heart—nothing is heard save the anthem to nature's Lord—great and marvellous are thy works—just and true are thy ways.

Before we enter upon a survey of the sidereal heavens, we should fix in our memory the following measures of celestial magnitude and distances:—

\* "I suspect," says Sir Isaac Newton, "that the spirit which makes the finest, subtlest, and the best part of our air, and which is absolutely necessary for the life and being of all things, comes principally from the comets."

	Miles.
Diameter of the earth, - - - - -	8,000
Smallest Diameter of Jupiter and largest diameter of Saturn -	80,000
Diameter of Saturn's Ring nearly - - - - -	150,000
Diameter of Sun, - - - - -	880,000
Distance of the moon, from the earth, - - - - -	240,000
Distance of the earth from the sun, - - - - -	96,000,000
Distance from the remotest planet (the New Planet) from the sun, - - - - -	7,400,000,000
Greatest distance of comet of 1680, - - - - -	12,000,000,000,000
Distance of the nearest fixed star, $\alpha$ Centauri, -	21,000,000,000,000
Distance of 61 Cygni, - - - - -	558,000,000,000,000

$\alpha$ Lyrae	1	and 11 mag.	43 sec's distant.
$\alpha$ Tauri	1	and 12 "	108 "
$\alpha$ Aquilæ	1½	and 10 "	152 "
$\beta$ Geminorum	2	and 12 "	208 "

SO FEW AT THE PRAYER MEETING.

It is a general subject of complaint, that a very small proportion of the members of the church are found in attendance at the meetings for prayer. This is true, to a still greater extent, of the male members than of the females. That this is not to be attributed, in all cases, to an inability to command the time, is very manifest. In a revival of religion, the same class of persons can easily find time to come out almost every evening of the week. There is too much reason to believe that one great source of the difficulty is that which is suggested in the following article from the *Puritan*. We hope that the individuals to whom the article applies will give an honest answer to the questions which are subjoined, and "do the first works."

1, Are not a very large proportion of the younger male members of our churches, habitually absent from the weekly lecture, prayer or conference meeting? And do not this class beyond all others need their quickening and purifying influence?

2, Do not many, and in some places, most of these junior male members, belong to one or more of the secret societies, which have of late been enlisting multitudes in their ranks? and do they not, must they not, on pain of being fined, attend the weekly meetings of the societies to which they respectively belong? Do they not thus fetter themselves with obligations and responsibilities which consume the time that of right should be given to the weekly religious meeting?

3, Do they not also show that they have here a "chief joy" which they prefer above Jerusalem, by often turning out in great numbers, and with solemn pomp, to honour the burial of a member, or wife of a member of one of their lodges, who made no pretensions to religion, while they take no pains to attend the funeral of a deceased brother or sister of their own church, that has adorned the gospel in life and in death?

If these questions are not wholly groundless—as with respect to some places I am sure they are not—then I hope all concerned will ponder the subject in the fear of God. For one, I cannot but say, it seems to me that every Christian must be ready to say of all associations which lead professors of religion to love their meetings more than those of the church of Christ, "O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united."

APPLES OF GOLD.

And the Lord had respect unto Abel, and to his offering; but unto Cain, and to his offering, he had not respect.—Gen. iv. 4, 5.

Here are two brothers, bringing each of them an oblation to the Lord. Cain, as a husbandman, brought of the produce of the ground he cultivated; Abel, as a shepherd, some of the firstlings of his flock, with the fat of them; consequently, both believed that there was a God that made the world, and was to be worshipped; and yet one was accepted, and the other rejected. Cain's sacrifice was wholly eucharistical, or a thank-offering to God, for the blessings of his providence. Abel's was not only of the eucharistical, but of the expiatory kind; and while it was an expression of gratitude for the blessings of Providence, it was also typical of the atonement by Christ, and expressive of his hope of redemption through him; but what made the chief difference between them was, that Cain presented his offering while his heart was withheld, and without faith in Christ; so was of the wicked one. Abel brought both his person and sacrifice, an offering to the Lord: he presented his oblation, and performed the other parts of worship, with faith in God, and the promised Saviour, and with sincerity, humility, and love. Thus God had respect to him and his offering; accepted first his person as justified, then his offering; but neither the person nor offering of Cain found acceptance with God. Reader, mark the difference; by this, Abel speaks to thee: art thou in a state of acceptance with God by faith in Jesus? Is thy whole dependence for pardon and life on Christ crucified? Dost thou obey from a principle of love? Then thou shalt be blessed with righteous Abel here and for ever!

Thank-offerings paid to God  
Still need th' atoning blood;  
Faith makes them with acceptance go,  
As Cain and Abel here do show.

—Bogatky's Treasury.

When the observer turns his attention to the heavens, his first desire is to know the number of the stars which are visible to his naked eye, and he is surprised to find it much less than he anticipated. Astronomers have determined that in both hemispheres they do not much exceed three thousand, namely, 20 of the first magnitude, 70 of the second, 220 of the third, 500 of the fourth, 690 of the fifth, and 1500 of the sixth. But the number of stars capable of being seen by the telescope, has been reckoned above one hundred million! and if we now regard it as probable that all nebulae are clusters of stars, as indicated by Lord Rosse having resolved by his great telescope the nebula of Orion, the number of stars, or suns, or systems, may be regarded as beyond the power of numerical expression.

In surveying the starry heavens, astronomers naturally directed their attention to the stars of the first magnitude. Although the smallest of our planets, when viewed with a telescope of considerable magnifying power, exhibit a distinct circular disc, yet when the same telescope was directed to Sirius Arcturus and others, no trace of a disc was seen, and the star appeared as a brilliant point of light. This fact alone demonstrated that they were placed at an enormous distance from the earth; but as soon as it was found that, even when observed with good instruments, the same stars did not change their place in the heavens, when viewed from the two extremities of the earth's orbit, a base of 190 millions of miles, astronomers despaired of obtaining anything like a measure of their distance. By the use of improved instruments, however, and improved methods of observation, it has been determined by Mr. Henderson and Mr. Maclear, after years of incessant labour, that the parallax of the nearest fixed star  $\alpha$  Centauri, is a little more than nine-tenths of a second, indicating a distance so enormous, that if a sun were large enough to fill the whole of the earth's annual orbit, that sun would, when seen through a powerful telescope, have a diameter of only 9-10ths of a second!† The celebrated Prussian astronomer, Professor Bessel, whose death the whole scientific world is at present deploring, found a parallax of one-third of a second in the double star 61 Cygni,‡ and M. Struve of Pultova, a Russian astronomer of distinguished reputation, has discovered a parallax of a quarter of a second in a Lyrae.§

After the telescope had undergone considerable improvement, the attention of astronomers was directed to what are called double stars, or to two stars of the same or of different magnitudes, that are, or appear to be, situated near one another. A star will appear double, or will be optically double, even when the one is far removed from the other in space, and has no connection whatever with it; but those stars only are properly called double stars, or are physically double, in which the one revolves round the other, and thus forms what is called a Binary System. M. Argelander has endeavoured to separate the optically double stars from the rest. Selecting 27 double stars, whose distances varied from 32 seconds to 7 minutes, he found that 13 were physically double, 9 optically so, and 5 doubtful. Conclusions, however, of this kind cannot be received as rigorously true, till after centuries of observation, and even then it is still possible that an optically double star may be a system in which the period of revolution is extremely great. Captain Smith has given us the following list of stars optically double, Argelander's distances being slightly altered in accordance with his own instruments:—

\* The numbers here given are sufficiently accurate, and most of them are easily remembered.  
† The same astronomers have found in Sirius a parallax "not greater than half a second, and probably much less."—*Cycle of Celestial Objects*, vol. ii., p. 163.  
‡ Bessel makes it 0".3136, which gives for the distance of the star 657,700 mean distances of the earth from the sun, or 62,481,500,000,000 miles.  
§ The Astronomer Royal has not been able to confirm this result.

## SCRIPTURE ILLUSTRATION.



Jewish Phylacteries.

"They make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments."—Matthew xxiii. 5.

Our young friends, who have read the twenty-third chapter of Matthew, will remember that Christ speaks of the *phylacteries* of the Jewish rulers. He warns the people whom he addresses, against the example of the Scribes and Pharisees, and remarks, that they "say and do not," and that they do a great many things "to be seen of men," rather than for the service of God. He says, "they make broad their phylacteries," in order to appear religious. Perhaps our friends would like to learn a little more about these phylacteries. A phylactery was a piece of parchment, or shred of linen, with portions of scripture written upon it, and fastened upon the forehead or arm. The above is a picture of those worn on the arm. We have had it engraved on purpose to show how they were worn. This phylactery was worn by the common people only at the hour of prayer, but the Pharisees wore it constantly, and made it in the time of our Saviour extravagantly broad and conspicuous. The Jews thought they had a direct command from God to wear these badges. But they probably misunderstood the direction that was given to them.

The passage of scripture which they quote to support this practice, is in the thirteenth chapter of Exodus. You may turn to it and read it, if you please. In the ninth verse, it reads, "It shall be a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes." The Israelites understood this command literally; but we think all that was meant by the words, was that the people of God should continually remember his law and observe it—that they should think of all his past goodness, and that it should no more be lost sight of, than an object can be when it is hanging upon the arm, or bound around the forehead. —*Youths' Cabinet.*

## A FEMALE HEROINE.

About five years since, Miss Fidelia Coburn, left the fire-side of a wealthy and doting father, an affectionate mother, beloved brothers and sisters, with all the luxuries and pleasures of a New England home, found her way alone to the back woods of Canada, and cast in her lot with the degraded sons and daughters of Ham. The first year and a half she remained in the family of Mr. H. Wilson, at Dawn Mills. Since that time, her labours have been at this place. She came here with thirty dollars in cash, but shortly after her arrival was defrauded of a large share of it, thus being entirely destitute of means, and dependent on Elijah's God for her daily food. Under such circumstances she commenced, and with the aid of two or three friends succeeded in putting up a log cabin about eight by fourteen feet, where she opened her school, and after having taught through the day, sewed most of the night for the coloured people, from whom she received a moiety of food in return. In this way she lived; and for some length of time, less than a peck of corn meal was her weekly fare. Opposed by such difficulties, and without receiving aid from the public, for two years Miss Coburn laboured to instruct the parents in morals and religion, and the children in the most common English branches. Her room served as a place of religious worship, and for Sabbath schools and Bible classes. About a year since, Miss Coburn's father died, and left her about two thousand dollars to be paid in several instalments. A portion of this has been received and expended this summer for fitting up a house, and building a new school house, which serves also as a place of worship. This house was dedicated on the 14th instant.

Miss Coburn has now under her care twelve children, whom she has taken with the intention of educating, and expects to increase this number as fast as means are placed in her hands. She has some ten acres of cleared land—two cows—a few

farming implements, &c., which are considerable helps toward sustaining the Mission.—*Letter from Canada in the Union Missionary.*

## CANADA, AND ITS LITERARY PROSPECTS.

"Knowledge is power," is a trite axiom, but which, whether we search ancient and modern history, or reflect on the events of our own lives and experience, meets with abundant and convincing proof.

Man, when first dismissed from paradise, and under the primeval curse entailed upon his disobedience, wrested from the stubborn and unfruitful soil a hard earned subsistence. Art assisted him in procuring what nature tardily poured forth, and the ground, teeming with plenty, was compelled to unfold its hidden stores. Mankind increased. The earth was filled with different races, nations, tongues, and people, whose habits, wants, tastes, and manners became dissimilar. The products of various climes and regions differed, and an exchange of superfluities was rendered necessary. Agriculture wrestled with the earth, accursed by man's transgression: art and industry lent their aid: commerce interchanged the commodities of various climes; and literature and science, assisting art, crowned man's industry with the blessings of wealth, civilisation, and refinement. Such is the history of civilised man. Its truth is confirmed by the records of ancient empires in Holy Writ; it is further illustrated by the annals of Greece and Rome, the fame of which is handed down by bards and historians, but whose glory remains alone in mouldering ruins and in classic page.

England affords a striking example of the influence of literature upon the destinies of a country. Before the time of Alfred, who introduced learning and science, she was successively conquered by the Romans, harassed by the Picts and Scots, subjugated by the Saxons, and infested and plundered by the rapacious Danes. But when, under his auspices, the first impulse to knowledge was given, the dark clouds of ignorance began to disperse; weakness and consequent dependence was changed for strength and independence; the light of intelligence burst through the gloom, and that country which had been for centuries tributary to, and governed by foreign powers, assumed her proper rank in the scale of nations.

Under successive monarchs her resources were fully developed, and her strength became known. Like Samson, she shook herself from the bands with which ignorance and superstition had bound her, crushed their hundred hydra-heads, and that kingdom which had been oppressed by invasions from abroad, and distracted by dissensions at home, became feared, respected, and admired by all nations in every quarter of the globe.

"The sun never sets upon her vast possessions;" the ocean bounds her wide domain, laves her distant shores, and bears the flag of Albion in triumph on its waves. The voice of her gospel messengers is heard in every clime; her legislative influence is felt by every people; her commerce is wafted by the winds of heaven to every habitable region of the globe; and her sons of science have almost carried their researches to the impenetrable regions of the ice-girt poles.

In that favoured land, religion is advancing; legislation improving; commerce and manufactures increasing; and agriculture unfolding its ample stores. Whence all this prosperity, wealth, and happiness? Doubtless from the Deity himself; but, as a secondary cause, from the increase of knowledge consequent upon the diffusion of literature. The sword has been a mighty conqueror during past ages, but now has arisen a weapon mightier far.

"The pen of literature is mightier than the sword." Without it, the wealth of England would have been lavished in vain in the contest which she waged with Napoleon. In vain would she have attempted to cast down his ambition, which, like the image set up by the Babylonian tyrant, all nations, tongues, and people, were required to worship.

England has hitherto been in a progressive state, and is still advancing onwards. What will be the climax to mark the termination of her greatness, and the commencement of a perhaps sudden and fearful decay, is alone written in the decrees of Omniscience.

Canada, in its various relations of immigration, population, agriculture, commerce, literature, science, and political power, seems destined to follow the general rule of nations, as traced out by the Almighty Disposer of empires. Her agricultural products are increas-

ing; her mineral stores are being brought to light; her commerce is daily extending; her literature is steadily, though slowly, improving; and perhaps, at no very distant period, may be rendered celebrated by the genius of bards and writers, to whom Canadian soil may give birth.

At the present time, but few works by native authors have been published in the province. A writer, who visited Canada six or seven years ago, states: "The books chiefly met with in the book stores are American reprints of English works, which, though imported at a duty of thirty per cent., when passed through the custom-house here, can be sold at about half the price of the English editions; and when smuggled across, and the duty of thirty per cent. evaded, they can of course be sold at so much less. The consequence is, that few English editions are sold of any work of which the Americans make a reprint; as these, having nothing to pay the authors for copyright, can furnish them so much cheaper than an English publisher could do. A very few books are published originally in Canada, such as school books, local histories, and works for which the demand is likely to be large in the province; and these are quite as well executed as they would be in any part of the United States."

Though the foregoing be true of the time alluded to, yet, during the last four or five years, a marked improvement has taken place. Standard English works have been reduced in price, and are rendered more accessible to the reading public: the thirst for knowledge has increased, and an improved taste for literature is now manifested; which may be attributable partly to the establishment of superior educational institutions, and partly to the various societies for promoting and disseminating knowledge.

Newspapers are the chief, and nearly the sole arena for the employment of the wits and pens of the literati of this country; and although not conducted with that masterly spirit and dignified character which stamps with the impress of genius and greatness the leading journals in the mother country, they are not deficient in learning and talent, and are perhaps as well adapted to the wants and tastes of the Canadian community as could be reasonably expected. It must, however, be admitted, that many trashy journals emanate from the press, which either meet a speedy and deserved fate, or drag on a lingering existence.

The editing of a newspaper has too often been thought a simple task, and an easy method of procuring a livelihood; and hence many have assumed the honours and responsibilities of editorship, without being qualified for the task either by education or experience, and consequently have only added to the number of ephemeral and worthless prints which occasionally spring into a short-lived existence.

The first paper issued in this province—the *Quebec Gazette*—was printed in that city in 1765, six years after its conquest by the British. The *Gazette*—the oldest paper existing in Montreal—was not published till some years after. And nearly ninety periodicals are now circulated in the province, a number greater, in proportion to the population, than that of the United States.

The first American paper was published at Philadelphia in 1719. The number of journals is about 800, of which 50 are published daily, and their annual circulation about 60,000,000. Compared with England, the circulation of newspapers in the United States has a numerical preponderance of nearly 6 to 5½; the number of stamps issued for the year in Britain, according to a late return, being only 56,443,977. It must, however, be remarked, that the return was refused by the British parliament.

Estimating, however, the population of the United States at 18,000,000, and that of the United Kingdom at 30,000,000, one cannot fail to be struck with the comparison.

It would be a matter of some difficulty to ascertain correctly the number of papers actually sold in Canada: judging, however, from the countries alluded to, and the modern date of many towns in the province, it may be safely limited to two millions, which would give a weekly circulation of nearly 1000 to each.

The great desideratum yet to be supplied, is a journal of sufficient influence, and conducted with such ability, as to give a healthy and elevated tone to the press generally; to control and direct public opinion into its proper channel; to overlook and carefully watch the proceedings of the legislature; to analyse principles; to exhibit political measures to public view; to supervise all questions of general

utility, whether relating to agriculture, commerce, education, or jurisprudence, and in fine, to exert the same power over the press of this country as the *Times* does over that of Europe.

As education progresses, and the intellectual energies of the "sons of Canada" become developed, it may be presumed that men of ability and genius will arise, to conduct this important department of literature to maturity and perfection.

The decrees of Providence are as firm as they are inscrutable. What, therefore, may be the future position of Canada, whether a free and an independent nation, or a supplementary state or province, is unknown to human ken. The Creator, however, has assigned certain laws, equally affecting empires as well as individuals. Greatness of character in man depends upon the efforts of a powerful genius and a well directed mind: greatness of nations, upon collective wisdom, and a well governed community. Ignorance is weakness, nay, more, is sinful; but "knowledge is power." It is to the mind of man what blood is from the fountain of life to the body. It furnishes strength to the intellect, reason to the mind, and judgment to the understanding, as the precious fluid imparts flesh, bone, and muscle to the human frame. Deprive the body of the one, life becomes extinct: deprive the mind of the other, intelligence is extinguished, and the soul becomes totally dead.

"Vita sine literis mors est."

#### DR. CANDLISH ON THE SABBATH QUESTION.

At a meeting held lately in Manchester, on the important subject of whether the Lord's day is to be desecrated by the running of railway trains, the Rev. Dr. Candlish made the following pertinent remarks:—

Rev Dr Candlish.—It's very easy of some to say that all Sabbath protection ought to be done away with, and that then in that case men's principles would be tested—men's principles would be tried—and that the defects they would have in the observance of the Sabbath would be the touch-stone of their allegiance to the Lord of the Sabbath. But we cannot forget the petition, "lead us not into temptation"—we cannot believe that it is the will of God that men should be tempted above what they are able to bear. And I venture to say that this temptation, above all, namely, the temptation to which a man is subjected when he has to balance between having a starving wife and family at home, and some small encouragement for work on the Lord's-day—this temptation is one which ought to be put out of the way of our fellow-men. It is a temptation that no Christian man would desire himself to be exposed to. It is peculiarly dangerous, all the more, still all the more dangerous, because I venture to say cases of conscience could at this moment be put to Mr Stowell or myself, which neither he nor I could safely solve. Talk of keeping the Sabbath without protection that men's principles may be tried! Leave other commandments without protection that men's principles may be tried. Leave the sixth commandment without protection that men's principles may be tried. And the protection we seek, remember, for the fourth commandment is just the very same in principle and the very same in extent as the protection which we seek for the sixth, the seventh, the eighth, and the ninth. Can we, by any species of protection, impart to the natural mind that is characterized in Scripture as "hateful and hating one another,"—can we impart to the natural mind the spirit of that love that worketh no ill to his neighbour? No, Sir. But are we on that account to repeal our laws against murder, and violence, and all sorts of atrocity? Who would be guilty of such sophistry in reference to the sixth commandment. Men talk of coercion as if we were now proposing in Scotland to revive some of the old laws that were enforced in days to which I shall not particularly refer, as to fining and imprisoning men who did not attend their parish-church. Men talk of coercion as if we were proposing to march the whole community by tuck of drum to church every Lord's-day morning. But a plain man will not thus be misled. What is the protection we seek? It is just that every human being, so far as public legislation can go, or public measures can go, shall have the Sabbath and the whole day entirely to himself, that he may give it entirely to his God, whose day it is. And, I trust, that none here will be led away by the vain cry of injustice to the poor man. Sir, can they be the benefactors of the poor man who, after the toil of the whole week, would exact from him his sweat on the Sabbath, too? The curse of the fall has rested on the six days, but God has kept the seventh clear of it. The curse of the fall, "in the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread"—that curse lies on the six days of labour; but, God be praised, His Sabbath, the seventh day, has been left free from the curse of the fall, and still pervaded with the type and character of heaven.

The article of Eggs is actually sent from Ohio, by Railroad to Boston: In May, 1842, seventy barrels, containing nearly 60,000, were thus sent.

## SELECTIONS.

**CURIOUS GRAMMATICAL AND TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS.**—We observed an advertisement in the *Times*, lately, for a respectable middle-aged woman of good character, as “good plain cook in a small gentleman’s family.”—A London morning paper says:—“Mr. King, purveyor to her Majesty, at Brighton, who purchased, at the Smithfield Club Cattle Show, the *Highland Scot*, fed by Prince Albert at Flemish Farm, which obtained a silver medal, had the honour of supplying, by royal command, a splendid sirloin to the royal dinner table, of which both her Majesty and the prince partook.”—In a circular just issued by the Glasgow Temperance Society, the punter has caused the committee to make the following truly Milesian announcement:—“A ton of potatoes being nearly five times the weight of a ton of wheat, is supposed to yield a greater amount of nutriment.”

**CHINESE PRINTING.**—According to the best authorities, the art of printing was known in China upwards of 900 years ago. In the time of Confucius, B. C. 500, books were formed of slips of bamboo; and about 150 years after Christ, paper was first made; A. D. 715, books were bound into leaves; A. D. 900, printing was in general use. The process of printing is simple. The materials consist of a graver, blocks of woods, and a brush, which the printers carry with them from place to place. Without wheel, or wedge, or screw, a printer will throw off more than 2,500 impressions in one day. The paper (thin) can be bought for one-fourth the price in China that it can in any other country. The works of Confucius, six volumes, four hundred leaves, octavo, can be bought for nine-pence. For an historical novel, twenty volumes, one thousand five hundred leaves, half a crown is the price amongst the Chinese.—*Martin’s China*.

**WALKING ON THE WATER.**—A Dutch officer asserts that he has invented a species of shoes which will enable a man to walk and run on the water, and if upset to float on it. The shoes are attached to an apparatus which covers the entire body, leaving the free use of the arms, and the apparatus is said to be shot-proof. Several experiments have been made, and are said to have proved successful.

**MYSTERIES.**—Content thyself with what is clearly revealed, and leave what is hid and above thee unto God. Be not thou so bold as to measure the boundless mysteries of God by thy narrow, confined understanding; neither do thou presume to reject what thou canst not comprehend. What is of God is above thee, for God is God; he is clothed with honour and majesty, and with that light which is inaccessible.—*Lobb*.

Corpulent persons, desirous to regain their shape, should apply to some newspaper establishment for the office of collector.

Wilberforce believed that Sir S. Romilly and Lord Castlereagh became deranged from over exertion, the consequence of continuing to labour on Sunday as on other days.

In order to render floors clean and white without soap, and diminished labour, mix one pint of slackened lime with three parts of common sand, and scrub the boards well with a hard brush, and this mixture will have the desired result.

**A NOBLE FORTUNE NOBLY USED.**—The Duke de Luynes, who inhabits the Chateau Dampiere, in the environs of Versailles, has recently given a hundred thousand francs to the sufferers by the inundations in France. The Duke de Luynes has an income of 1,500,000 francs a year, and devotes every year 500,000 to deeds of benevolence, and as many more to the encouragement of the fine arts.

**THE ORIGIN OF THE TERM “NEWS.”**—The origin of this word has been variously defined, “News is a fresh account of anything;” “It is something not heard of before;” “News is an account of the transactions of present times.” The word “news” is not, as many imagine, derived from the adjective new. In former times, between the years 1595 and 1730, it was a prevalent practice, to put over the periodical publications of the day, the initial letters of the cardinal points of the compass, thus:

N  
E—|—W importing that these papers contained intelligence from  
S  
the four quarters of the globe; and from this practice is derived the term of newspapers.

**THE POOR MAY DO GOOD.**—I was visiting a brother minister a few years ago with a view to assist him at a missionary meeting which was to be held in his chapel. While I was in his house he called me into the kitchen, for what purpose I did not know till the scene explained itself. There stood an aged woman about 80 years old talking with the minister, and looking with a smiling countenance, and with sparkling eyes, as far as such aged orbs could sparkle, upon some silver which my friend at that moment held in his hand. It might have been supposed she was going to receive this money to multiply her comforts; for all her income was half-a-crown-a-week from the parish, and what the kindness of friends might occasionally bestow, out of which she paid eightpence for lodgings; but no, she came to give, not to receive. That money, amounting to more than ten shillings, she had earned by knitting various articles and selling them, and she was then in the kitchen, where I saw her, to place it in the hand of her minister for the Missionary Society. So you see the poor can do something for God’s cause, if they have “a mind to work.” But they may also do much in the way of direct effort for the conversion of souls. Can they not warn a profane sinner? or explain the way of salvation to those that are ignorant and out of the

way? or distribute tracts, and talk about their contents? or invite the neglectors of public worship to the house of God? Let the poor understand, value, and enjoy their privilege.—*Memoir of Elizabeth Bales, by J. A. James*.

**EXPLOSIONS.**—In order to remove an immense mass of rock in tunnelling for the Coleraine and Londonderry railway, it was advertised that a tremendous explosion would be caused at Downhill. About 12,000 people attended to witness it, from all parts of Ulster and the North of Scotland. There were 12 steamers in the offing! 35 cwt. of powder were employed. The mass dislodged was 22,000 tons. In the tunnel previously excavated, 500 persons afterwards partook of a dejeuner. The place was illuminated by 1,200 lamps. It was quite a gala scene.—*English Paper*.

**FRUIT.**—A farmer who is famous for good fruit, says he raises his trees in the following manner:—He takes a cutting from the best tree he can find, hits the end of the cutting into a large potato, and sets it in the earth, leaving but one or two inches of the cutting above the ground. The cutting soon sends out roots and grows rapidly making a fine tree which needs no grafting.

**SLANDER.**—It is a poor soul that cannot bear slander. No decent man can get along without it; at least none that are actually engaged in the struggle of business life. Have you a bad fellow in your employment, and discharge him, he goes round and slanders you; refuse another some modest boon which he has asked, he goes round and slanders you. In fine, as we said before, we would not give a cent for a man who is not slandered; it shows that he is either a milk-sop or a fool. No, no; earn a bad name from a bad fellow, and you can easily do so by correct conduct; it is the only way to prove that you are entitled to a good one.

If dried peas, either for soup or eating whole, are soaked till they begin to vegetate (about two days) they will taste as sweet as green peas.

**THE VELOCITY OF A CANNON BALL OR SHOT.**—When the mammoth cannon was recently proved at South Boston, the heaviest shell was thrown about three miles, and the time occupied in its journey was a minute and a half. Thus it appears that its velocity was only about double that of some of the English railroad expresses.

**FLIGHTS OF BIRDS.**—A vulture can fly at the rate of 150 miles an hour. Wild geese can travel at the rate of 90 miles an hour. The common crow can fly 25 miles, and swallows 62 miles an hour. It is said that a falcon was discovered at Malta 25 hours after the departure of Henry IV. from Fontainebleau. If true, this bird must have flown for 24 hours at the rate of 57 miles an hour, not allowing him to rest a moment during the whole time.

**BUCKWHEAT.**—The New York Courier’s correspondent remarks that buckwheat is but little known in England—as food for man, it is utterly unknown. It is sometimes sown to keep pheasants from more valuable crops, and around bee hives for the sake of the honey which the bees extract from its flowers.

**HENS.**—We have frequently seen it asserted in our agricultural papers that hens are the most profitable fowls that a farmer can raise. We are inclined to believe the statement substantially true. The only requisite is to keep them well, and see that they are constantly fed with meal, grain, lime, gravel, and, indeed, all those substances which they naturally require to preserve them in a state of health. Hen keeping has now come to be properly regarded as an essential branch of farming, and as competition increases, improved breeds and models of management will be indispensable to success. We think that by judicious management, the net profit of hens may be made to exceed that of any fowls usually kept on the farm. They devour large quantities of rubbish, and are servicable in thus converting much that would otherwise come under the denomination of refuse, to a profitable use.

**WOODLANDS.**—Many farmers pursue a very erroneous policy in reference to their woodlands. Instead of cutting all clean as they go, it too commonly is the case that only the older and larger trees are selected, or those which are decayed or dead. This method is scarcely to be pursued without serious detriment to the growth, as, in felling, many small trees must inevitably be lacerated or destroyed outright. If the growth is thick, extensive openings will be made, and, besides, roads must be cleared in order to get out the wood after it is cut. The most economical plan is to cut all smooth as you proceed. The clearing thus effected, if it be intended for a future growth, should be immediately enclosed and carefully protected from the intrusions of cattle, sheep and other animals, by which the young sprouts, which start with great vigour and pursue their growth rapidly, would be broken and destroyed. In France this is the plan universally pursued, and, according to some authorities, the only one which the government, under whose special supervision all the forests of the kingdom are rigidly retained, allows.—*Maine Farmer*.

**THE OCEAN.**—So vast is the Atlantic Ocean, that all the ships in the world might be dispersed over it so that one might not be in sight of another.

**A LONG TRAIN.**—A correspondent of the Rochester Democrat writes thus:—“On our way east we passed the longest train of cars on the Boston and Albany road that has ever crossed the track. It was composed of 122 cars of an average length of 30 feet each—making a train of over 3700 feet, or near three quarters of a mile long, and all drawn by one powerful engine.



NEWS.

**SNOW STORM.**—One of the severest snow storms which has occurred at Quebec this winter commenced on Saturday the 27th February, late in the afternoon. It continued during the night with a strong easterly wind, and part of the next day. The quantity of snow fallen on a level is something more than a foot. In the hardwood lands, where it does not drift, the depth of snow is now about five feet six inches. In many of the fields the fences are no longer visible, and the drifts about the houses are to the height of the eaves of the houses of one story. The roads are greatly obstructed. Of the state of the streets and roads within the limits of the city, they may be visited as a curiosity. Time must be allowed to make them tolerable. We are sorry to hear that the carriage of his Lordship, the Bishop of Montreal, with himself and one of his daughters, was upset yesterday. They have not, however, received any serious hurt. We are sorry to hear that a farmer of Lorette, of the name of Gauvin, or Louis Denis Moisan, who had been to the Quebec market with a load of hay, perished in the night of the storm, within a short distance of his home, his horse having got out of the road. Both the man and the horse were discovered next morning frozen to death and nearly covered with the snow drift. He has left a widow and several children.—*Quebec Gazette.*

A general meeting of merchants and others interested in the establishment of a line of telegraph between Halifax and Quebec, was held at the former city on the 20th ultimo, when resolutions were passed, approving of the project, and for organising a company to establish the line through Nova Scotia to the boundaries of New Brunswick.

**A SUCCESSION OF ILLS.**—One day last week, the wife of Mr. Adam Dills, of Gainsborough, while in the enjoyment of her usual excellent health, fell down in a fit and shortly expired. About the same time, a daughter of Mr. James Dills, (who lives two or three miles higher up the Chippawa Creek than Mr. A. D.) not very long married, was brought to her father's house, and died within an hour after her arrival. She had been sick—and not expected to recover, and wished to be conveyed to her old home, that she might die there. Her bereaved husband presently returned to his own house—found it a smoking ruin—nothing saved.—*St. Catharine's Journal.*

The Merchant shop of Thomas Sharp was broken into about ten o'clock on the night of the 16th instant, and Bank notes to the amount of £110, about 33 lbs. weight of coppers, and a number of promissory notes and other papers, stolen and carried off. A search-warrant was issued by J. Knowlton, Esq., J. P., and part of the property was early next morning recovered: say £46 15s. of the Bank notes, the greatest part of the promissory notes, and all the coppers. Thomas Parks, a resident of the Township, in whose dwellinghouse and on whose person the money was found, is now in the Gaol of the District, charged with the offence.—*Guardian.*

**WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH.—INQUEST.**—(Huron District.)—On Monday evening the 15th inst, about seven o'clock, the dwelling-house occupied by Mrs. Isabella Anderson, of Swat, Lot 27th, South East-hope, was discovered to be on fire by some of the neighbours, and although in a short time after the discovery they were on the spot and rendered what help they could give, so far as the extreme heat and fire permitted, yet, awful to relate, the poor woman was consumed in the burning, excepting the trunk of the body, which was dragged out, and next morning some portion of the skull and bones were found. She was alone in the house, her only child, a boy about 11 years of age, having gone the same day to the back concessions of North Easthope to see some friend. It is supposed that some sparks, or fire from the chimney, which was of mud and sticks, had communicated with some straw or oat sheaves piled in the upper part, or in a small apartment adjoining.

Mr. Youatt, the well-known veterinary surgeon, committed suicide, at his residence, in London, on Saturday week. He had recently speculated largely; and his schemes having proved unfortunate, he had suffered great mental depression, and at last took poison. The deceased was in his seventieth year.

**SMALL CHARGES AND HIGH PROFITS.**—A curious enough illustration of the mode by which profits are augmented by reducing charges, is supplied by some documents issued by the projected "General Conveyance Company for Passengers and Parcels." Stating with 500 omnibuses, and a stud of 4000 horses, and all other necessary appliances, and charging not more than a penny a mile for each passenger, the nett annual profit to the proprietors is made out to be £130,553, or 65 per cent. on the capital invested! This per centage is moreover founded on the cautious calculation, that the omnibuses may not fill *once* every journey, and for this contingency the allowance of a third is made. But then comes the parcel department. By unexplained methods, parts of which are to be secured by patent, the omnibuses are to be made available for the conveyance of parcels, the collections of them and the deliveries being so managed as to cause neither inconvenience nor detention to the passengers. Charging for these parcels at the rate of a halfpenny per mile for 11lbs. weight and under, and going on the assumption that each omnibus will not carry more than one parcel per mile, the profit is put down at \$70,000. This added to the passenger profit, makes a total of £209,553, or 104½ per cent. on the capital! If two parcels per mile be carried, the profit will be 150 per cent! If three parcels be carried, 198½ per cent. will be the gain. Well may the ingenious projectors say, that these profits ought to be "more than amply sufficient to give full satisfaction to all parties."—*Morning Post.*

**EMIGRATION IN MID-WINTER.**—Emigration is still in progress from the port of Sligo, even in the depth of a most severe winter! It is stated that more than three thousand persons have left that port for America since October last. All accounts concur in stating that great numbers of small farmers,—as many at least as can scrape up the means,—are making up arrangements to emigrate early in spring by the many vessels which are expected to return to America after discharging their cargoes of Indian meal.

**DRINKING IN SCOTLAND.**—Another return we have before us is unfortunately little creditable to Scotland, in the amount of spirits consumed by its population. It is entitled "Returns of the Consumption of Spirits—British, Foreign, and Colonial—in the United Kingdom, from 1800 to 1845 inclusive;" and an account of the quantity of malt which paid duty. From the return of the spirits it would appear that the consumption for the

United Kingdom is about one gallon per head of the population; but taking the consumption of the three kingdoms separately, the consumption of—

England is about.....8-10ths of a gallon per head.  
Ireland " .....9-10ths " "  
Scotland " .....2½ gallons (?) "

Scotland certainly appears to little advantage in this return. The decrease in Ireland since 1838 is surprising—from 12,334,281 gallons to 7,638,993 in 1845.—*Greenock Advertiser.*

Ronald Gordon, late secretary and accountant to the Exchange Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh, has been sentenced to fifteen years' transportation for acts of embezzlement. Unsuccessful railway speculations had led him to employ the property of the bank, which he hoped to repay hereafter.

The Oregon Spectator says the whole territory is wide awake for new laws, caucusses convening, &c. All the machinery of a republican government, in its most democratic form, is going ahead finely. The same paper of August 20th, says:—"Difficulties between the whites and natives are constantly increasing and gradually assuming a more serious aspect.—Within the last few days we have heard of two unhappy cases; one in Clatsop county, which resulted in the death of one of the natives; another in Champeog county, in which two of the Wallah Wallah Indians were wounded by a party of settlers firing upon the encampment.

**ARREST.**—A young man in New-York, named Linch, has been arrested for embezzling dry goods to the amount of \$10,000 from different persons who have employed him the last year.

Dreadful sickness and mortality prevails among the Mississippi Volunteers. The Americans were in possession of El Passo del Norte.

**REMOVALS.**—A detachment of eighty Kentuckians and Arkansas cavalry was cut off within thirty miles beyond Saltillo, by Gen. Monson. They formed an outpost, and were surprised and taken prisoners without resistance. Major Borland, Cassius M. Clay, and Major Games were captured. The capture of Lieutenant Ritchie and ten dragoons, with despatches for General Taylor, is confirmed. Our accounts say they were cut off between Monterey and Victoria, and were all killed. The despatches are said to have contained the whole plan of our operations. Another says that twenty dragoons had reached Victoria in safety, but there is no doubt of the death of Lieutenant Ritchie. Young Ritchie was lassoed and dragged across a corn-field. An officer of the Ohio regiment, supposed to be Lieutenant Miller, had been murdered near Chihuahua, awfully mutilated.

**SERVED HIM RIGHT.**—B. F. Walker, a Representative in the Legislature of Missouri, has been expelled from that body for publicly and grossly insulting a female in the streets of the capital of that state.

**ALBANY, Feb 6th.—HEAVY DAMAGES.**—Simon Cunliff has obtained a verdict with \$5000 damages against the Mayor, &c., of Albany, for injuries sustained by him in August, 1840, when the bridge across the basin, at the foot of State street, fell, causing the death of some thirty citizens, and injuring a great many others. The plaintiff was on the bridge at the time, and by the fall had his hip broken.

**FOOD OF THE IMMIGRANTS.**—We have been shown a specimen of the food which the Irish immigrants usually bring with them to support life while crossing the Atlantic. In color, it resembles guano, but in form, it presents more the appearance of coarse meal. We were unable to learn the name by which it is known, but we understand that it is a kind of berry, which is first dried in the sun, and then ground up for use. The flavor is quite offensive, and the food as we understand, is unpalatable in the extreme.—About the only article of food besides this, which the immigrants use, is the common sea biscuit. The first article which they call for on reaching our Alms House is the potato, which they prefer to the best of meats.

**THE SHIP FEVER.**—The character of this disease is proving itself to be much more fatal than it has heretofore been considered. One of the visitors of the Alms House, Mr. Thomas Middleton, who had been among some of the recently arrived paupers, caught this fever a few days ago, and died from its effects on Saturday last. Three of the best physicians in this city attended him, but they could not master the disease. We are also informed that two Custom House Inspectors who lately visited the Pontiac, have since died from a fever which they contracted while performing their duty as inspectors. There is, indeed, much cause of alarm on this subject. If this disease is to get a foothold in our Alms House and Hospitals, we have reason to apprehend the most melancholy consequences.

PRODUCE PRICES CURRENT—MONTREAL, March 8, 1847.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.			
ASHES, Pots, per cwt	27	0	a	27	6	BEEF, Prime Meas,						
Pearls, .....	27	6	a	28	0	per brl. 200lbs.	60	0	a	00	0	
FLOUR, Canada Superfine, per brl.						Prime, .....	50	0	a	52	6	
196 lbs. ....	35	0	a	00	0	Prime Meas, per tiercc.	30lbs.	00	0	a	00	0
Do. Fine, .....	32	0	a	33	0	PORK, Meas, per brl.						
Do. Sour, .....						200lbs. ....	90	0	a	95	0	
Do. Middlings, ..						Prime Meas, .....	75	0	a	00	0	
Indian Meal, 168lb.						Prime, .....	65	0	a	00	0	
Oatmeal, brl. 22lb.	33	0	a	33	9	Cargo, .....	00	0	a	00	0	
GRAIN, Wheat U.C.						BUTTER, per lb. ...	0	7	a	0	8	
Best, 60lbs. ...	6	6	a	7	0	CHEESE, full milk,						
Do. L.C. per min.	6	0	a	6	3	100 lbs. ....	40	0	a	50	0	
BARLEY, Minot, ...	3	0	a	3	3	LARD, per lb., best	0	0	a	0	7½	
OATS, " " " "	2	3	a	2	4	TALLOW, per lb.,						
PEASE, .....	5	0	a	5	2	rough, .....	0	4½	a	0	5	

THOS. M. TAYLOR, Broker.

THE PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE AND WEEKLY JOURNAL is Published for the Proprietor, JOHN DOUGALL, every Wednesday Morning, at 5s. per Annum, payable in advance. Orders to be addressed, post paid, to Mr. R. D Wadsworth, No. 4, Exchange Court.