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THE
PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE,
AND WEEKLY JOURNAL.

Vol. I.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1847.

No. 26

THE BELL OF THE ATLANTIC.

BY MISS P. M. CALLKINS.

[When the steamer struck the shore, the dashing of the waves against her frame caused the bell to toll. The tone of this bell is uncommonly shrill and clear, and heard at such a time, must have seemed like a peal from another world.]

Storm-spirits, ye did well,
To swing the funeral bell,
That sad night;
Noting down with iron pen,
When the struggling souls of men
Took their flight.

'Mid the raging tumult round,
How the shrill entrancing sound
Fills the air!
Over-mastering the gale,
Childhood's shriek, woman's wail,
Man's despair!

From eternity's dark land,
On whose cold brink they stand,
Hark! it rolls;
Pealing forth the notes of woe,
Ringing loud, ringing slow,
For the souls!

Ah! 'tis not the broken deck,
Man, man's the only wreck
Worth a tear!
Oh, ye seas! what a prize,
What a costly sacrifice
Ye took here!

Yet they perished not in vain:
From their peril, from their pain,
Let us turn
To the lessons they unrolled,
Worth an argosy of gold,
But to learn.

For the sons of God were there,
Men of faith, men of prayer,
Unsurpassed;
And the love of Christ had power;
'Twas an anchor in that hour,
Holding fast.

There was one* whose face was seen,
Like a shining and serene
Crystal sea:
Sublimed, as if the soul
Had already passed the goal,
And was free.

There was one† of manly brow,
"We are nearer *Jesus now*,"
Was his cry:

Then the rushing surge swept o'er,
And the loosened seraph bore
To the sky.

One calmly said‡ "Of old
My Saviour's voice controlled
All my woe:
And if through the raging sea,
Now he says, 'Follow me;'
I will go."

No thought amid the strife,
Of his own death or life,
Had the chief; §
The burden on his breast,
Was the lives of all the rest,
And their grief.

They dropped into the wave:—
Some found in it a grave,
Some an ark:
Down, down into the deep,
As they fall, as they leap,
Hark! oh hark!

Now the loud and silvery bell
Like an anthem seemed to swell,
Shrill and sweet;
And a group of angels came,
With their bosoms all in flame,
Friends to meet.

They caught the jewels bright,
As they burst forth in light,
From the clay;
And the souls and seraphim
In a sweet thanksgiving hymn
Passed away.

Yet still upon the deck,
'Mid the breakers and the wreck
Swings the bell;
Now an anthem floats around,
Now a low and dirge-like sound,
And a knell.

Above the thundering breeze,
And the heavy booming seas,
Peals its woe,
Like a requiem in the air
Wildly mournful: It is there
Swinging slow

SURGICAL OPERATIONS WITHOUT PAIN.

A variety of instances have lately been recorded in the public journals, in which severe surgical operations have been performed, without the patient having the consciousness of pain. Dr. Morton, of Boston, an obscure dentist in the "Athens of America," as Kean styled the "city of Notions," will have his

* Dr. Armstrong. The serene and heavenly expression of his countenance, during the whole of that trying Thursday, has been mentioned by several of the survivors.

† This gentleman, (whose name was not known to the passenger who related the circumstance,) was heard several times expressing his confidence in God, and encouraging others to trust in Him. He was in the saloon, and was heard to utter the words quoted above, just as the sea broke over, and dashed the saloon from the deck, crushing or drowning all who were in it.

‡ A gentleman from Ohio; name not known.

§ The noble self-forgetfulness of Captain Dunstan cannot be too highly praised, since it seemed to spring from a high sense of the responsibility of his post, and his duty as a man and a Christian. Calm, gentle, self-possessed, assisting and counselling others, or toiling for their safety, without rest or refreshment during their protracted peril, he was probably too much exhausted and benumbed, to struggle with the waves and secure his own safety.

name engraved on many a sufferer's heart. He it is who in conjunction with Dr. Jackson of the same city, has had the honour of introducing to the world a effectual method of rendering patients insensible of pain, by the inhalation of the vapour of the strongest sulphuric ether. This is not a new remedial agent, it is true, for it was used many years ago to lessen irritation in the chest in the latter stages of pulmonary disease. The late Dr. Daniel, of Exeter, frequently ordered it, and it has also, we understand, been frequently used by other medical practitioners. It is new, however, as regards operative surgery, and there cannot be a doubt, from the cases recorded in the hospitals of the metropolis, as well as those in the provinces, and in America, that it is one of the greatest discoveries of the age. The patients are thrown into a state nearly resembling that of complete intoxication from ardent spirits, or of narcotism from opium. This state continues but a few minutes,—five to ten—but during this period the patient is insensible to pain. There is this difference between the action of alcohol and that of the vapour of ether—that with the former the stage of insensibility is preceded by a stage of nervous and vascular excitement, whilst in the latter the insensible state comes on almost immediately. In the numerous cases which have been reported, the ether appears to have had different effects upon the nervous system; and this has probably been owing to the quantities of the vapour inhaled. Thus, in several cases, the effect has been to deprive the patients of the power of feeling and moving; but they have been conscious all the time, and have witnessed every step of the operation performed on them—though without experiencing pain. In the majority of cases, however,—and these probably where the ether has been most adroitly administered, there has been a total loss of consciousness; and the patients, on waking up from the slumber produced, have expressed their surprise not only at the operation being over, but at the apparently short time which it has occupied. The value of the agent is attested not only in the minor operations of surgery, such as the extraction of teeth,—but also in the most tedious and distressing, and those involving the greatest amount of danger from the shock given to the nervous system. Severe operations of various kinds, including the Cæsarean operation, have been performed under the influence of ether in the great London Hospitals; and so many cases have been reported in the provincial journals that the efficacy of the remedy is now beyond a doubt.

A few of the more remarkable cases are the following:—An Irishman was brought into the London hospital with a compound fracture and dislocation of the tarsal bones of the foot. The man, after considerable reluctance, at last consented to amputation of the leg, provided the pain was in some way diminished. The vapour of ether was had recourse to, and applied in the presence of Dr. Pereira and a numerous assembly of medical gentlemen. In five minutes, the inhalation proved successful, and in less than another the leg was amputated by Mr. Adams, the patient during the time giving sly winks and facetious nods to those surrounding him. During the intervals of the inhalation, his observations were of the most facetious character, forcing from by-standers involuntary laughter, and converting that which to the poor fellow was a most tragical event into a scene little short of a farce. Upon removing the ether, he called out, "Hold hard there a bit, let's have another go at the grog," which he drew in the greatest avidity. Not for one moment during the operation did he exhibit the slightest symptoms of pain, but, on the contrary, his countenance was expressive of the greatest hilarity; and at the conclusion of the operation, after the effects of the ether had passed off, he could scarcely believe that his leg had been so painlessly removed. His ideas, whilst under the influence of the vapour, were similar to those of a person enjoying a pleasant dream; he had fancied himself walking in the streets of Cork with his sweetheart, and, to use his own expressions, "enjoying most pleasurable sensations." He slept well during the following night, and is in every respect progressing favourably.

Another Irishman was operated on successfully in the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh. He was a middle aged man, a "navy"—who had sustained compound fracture of the leg nine weeks before. The fracture had not united, in consequence of the appearance of a dead piece of bone; and it became necessary to remove this by a painful operation. The patient was seated on a table, and the inhalation was applied by means of a very

beautiful yet simple apparatus, made by Squire of London. At first, little effect was produced; but after some minutes, the patient fell backwards, as if in a swoon. The operator was then about to proceed; but the man immediately objected—saying, "that he trusted nothing would be done till he was asleep." For full twenty minutes more, the inhalation went on; the man confused and talkative, but wide awake, and occasionally expressing very emphatically his conviction that "it would not do." At length, however, while in this wakened state the operation was begun. Incisions were made on the skin; and flaps were dissected off so as to expose the bone beneath. A portion of this was sawn and clipped through, and then the bone was removed. Only during the clipping of the bone with strong straining pliers did any sign of feeling escape from the patient, who was busy inhaling all the while, and now and then protesting that "it would not do." The operation occupied about ten minutes, and from the highly sensitive nature of the parts implicated, must have been attended with excruciation suffering in ordinary circumstances. After it was over, the Professor said to the patient, "I suppose you won't let me operate to-day." "Certainly not," said the patient: "it won't do, I must be asleep." The thing has not succeeded with me, and I am sure it can't succeed with any one else, for I did everything I could to get asleep for my own sake, and I'd do anything to please you." "You won't let me make a cut into the leg?" "No, I must be asleep; we can try it another time." This plain proof of his utter unconsciousness of the operation having been performed was acknowledged by the spectators in a hearty round of applause. The patient then, on seeing the wound, burst into an immoderate fit of laughter, saying, "No doubt there's blood, or something very like it; but I haven't felt a single thing done to my leg; that bates the globe;" and on being asked decidedly as to his having "felt anything," he repeatedly answered, "Not a ha'porth." He got into amazing spirits, and refused to leave the table until he had told "all about the toldrums of the business." And then, with the manner of a tipsy man, and very happy, he kept surgeons and students in a roar of laughter for some minutes with a narrative of his condition during the inhalation, which, Irish-like, seemed to have been a strange medley of imaginary fights and "killings" going on around him, but wholly irrespective of his own leg and the operation. On being carried out, he declared triumphantly, "this is the very best thing that has ever happened in the three kingdoms." The Professor stated that he considered this case quite conclusive as to the powers of the ether, because there was no more painful operation in all surgery, and because the patient, having been avowedly a hard and habitual drinker of spirits, was one of those persons who are least susceptible of the ether's influence. On the following day, he was doing well, having experienced very little pain after the effect of the ether had ceased.

In a third case, under the same operator, the patient, who was a young man had an extensive incision made on the thigh on account of sinus, the wound being afterwards searched with the finger. After the operation had taken place he was asked: "Shall we make the cut now?" He answered, "Oh yes, I dare say you may," "Did you feel anything done to the leg a little ago?" He answered "nothing." On being then shown the wound he was surprised and said, "Well, I had a kind of a dream as if something was done to my leg—just a dream like." He was then asked as to his present sensations. "Just as if about half drunk." "You have been tipsy then before?" "Yes, twice." "But never so comfortably drunk as now?" "Never so lightsome."

Another case, which occurred in Westminster Hospital, was that of a woman of middle age, suffering under condylomatous growths from the labia. After an inhalation of about four minutes, the patient was pronounced in a state fit for the operation. The morbid growths were then dexterously removed, without any expression of pain on the part of the patient, and without any signs of suffering apparent on her countenance. The only indication of the nervous system being awake to the operation was the spasmodic action of the lower limbs, which took place at the moment of excision; but it was quite obvious that this was an excito-motory phenomenon, and had no connection with sensation. On the completion of the operation, some wine and water was given to the patient, who seemed awakening from a dream, and appeared for some time uncer-

ain of her own identity, and of the reality of the new world which was opening gradually to her senses. Her manner was that of a delirious person communing with herself, and exhibited a strong manifestation of Dr Wigan's theory of the duality of the mind. After sundry ejaculations of wonder and surprise, she turned her head on her pillow, and recognised one of the physicians as a "real man," and discovered to her infinite delight, that she was still a denizen of earth, although her next exclamation, that she thought herself in a "beautiful heaven," exhibited little gratitude for her temporary transition to a celestial abode. Upon being told that she was to submit to an operation, she said she knew it, and was ready; and when informed that the operation was over, seemed unable to believe it. A little hysterical crying, the combined result of apprehension, wonder, and delight, followed, and she was taken back to her bed.

Another, in the same hospital, was a case of amaurosis and ptosis (dropping of the eyelid). The former affection yielded to medical treatment under Dr. Brett, and, though sight was restored, the dropping of the lid, or palsy of the muscle which raised the lid, remained, for which Dr. Brett proposed removing a large portion of the skin, with some fibres of the subjacent orbicular muscle. The patient remained in a state of utter insensibility during the incision of the skin, and the application of three ligatures to unite the divided edge. On recovering, she said she had felt nothing, and was not aware that the operation had been performed. On presenting to her a mirror, she perceived that the lid was now open, like that of the other eye.

A sixth case was the excision of cancerous breast, skillfully executed by Mr. Charles Guthrie. During the whole time the patient exhibited no symptoms of pain. Her eyes remained open, and as the ether was now and then applied to her mouth, she called out sharply—"Take that away; take that away!" In the midst of the operation she was asked if she felt any pain, when, to the utter astonishment of all present, she pointed to a window partially lowered opposite to where she was seated, and said, "I feel that window." The sash was immediately raised, and the poor creature appeared satisfied. The operation lasted five or six minutes, and at its close the patient fainted for a few moments, but soon recovered, and on learning that the operation was over, said emphatically several times, "I am grateful to you, gentleman, I am very grateful." Several of the spectators, incredulous of what they had observed, pressed towards her, and inquired whether she had not suffered very much during the operation. She replied alike to all that she had been quite unconscious of what had been going on. The poor creature was sufficiently recovered in five minutes to walk out of the theatre almost without assistance.

A seventh case was that of a boy at Sheffield, nine years old, whose thigh it was necessary to amputate, on account of an incurable disease of knee-joint. He was carried into the room, crying bitterly, and begging that his knee might not be taken off. Insensibility having been produced, the limb was removed in two or three seconds, less than a minute. About a minute and a half more was occupied in taking up the arteries. The patient showed not the slightest degree of consciousness while the limb was being removed, but when the arteries were being taken up, he awoke. Being in a sitting position, he at once saw that his leg was removed, and exclaimed, "Oh! I'm thankful! I'm thankful! I'm thankful!" He was then asked if he had felt any pain? and he replied, "None at all." "What! none?" "No, not a bit." He was carried away exulting.

In short, the cases in which ether has been successfully administered, are already so numerous, as to defy computation. Not only in London and Edinburgh, but in Glasgow, Dublin, Bristol, Exeter, Sheffield, Aberdeen, and many other places, instances of cures, that would have been termed miraculous in a darker age, have occurred. Amputations of the limbs, cutting for the stone, the most delicate and difficult operations on the eyes, have been performed repeatedly without giving the slightest pain to the patients, and with the best effects afterwards. And a few days ago, Professor Simpson, of Edinburgh, stated to his class, that he had practised with entire success the inhalation of sulphuric ether in a case of the most difficult form of labour, and where otherwise the sufferings of the patient would undoubtedly have been extreme. The mother was lame and deformed. Whilst breathing the ether, the labour pains or throes continued, and yet the mother (to speak paradoxically)

felt no pains. This is, we believe, the first instance in which this new and extraordinary agent has been employed in the practice of midwifery. It has also been used in London on a sheep and horse with complete success. No restraint whatever was resorted to, to keep the animals in the required position. In almost every case, great alleviation of suffering, if not total relief from it, has ensued from the use of the ether. If no detrimental effects should be found to follow from the inhalation (and in no case do they seem to have done so as yet), this discovery will prove one of the greatest boons ever bestowed upon man. Though mesmerism is by some declared to be equally efficacious in such cases, the ether will undoubtedly carry the day with all practical people.—*Border Watch.*

THE REVELATIONS OF ASTRONOMY.

(Concluded from North British Review.)

It is impossible to bring to a close a survey of the solar and sidereal systems, without forming some notion, however inadequate, of the structure and uses of such vast collections of matter,—such assemblages of gigantic globes occupying every corner of universal space. We see these bodies shining with the brightness of our sun, and with light of the same composition and character;—we recognise the immensity of their size; we perceive them all in motion, and we cannot therefore doubt that they are portions of systems, if not perfectly similar, at least, in general analogous with our own. But what, asks the anxious inquirer, is the structure and the object of our own? Let us view it from a distance, disentangled from the clouds of prejudice and error in which we are involved, and forgetting that we are earth-born, let us take a position in midway space, and consider the deductions which our knowledge will entitle us to draw. Every planet of our system has its year and its day, and its oblate form; while many of them have their moons to enlighten them, and exhibit on their surface the indications of past and of present change. Each of them is heated and lighted by the sun, and constituting, as they do, a group of similar objects, we cannot but conclude, that however various be their sizes, their motions, and their appendages, they must yet have the same general constitution, and perform the same functions. Hence we are compelled to believe that the primary planets, at least, are bodies like the earth, composed of land and sea, and are the theatres of animal and intellectual life. The variety which characterizes the works of creation, even when their nature and functions are the same,—the very variety in the general aspect of the planets leads us to believe that an analogous variety will exist in the different worlds of our system, and that the beings which form the irrational and intellectual races may be endowed with forms, and organs, and faculties, very different from our own. But whatever this difference may be, we can scarcely doubt that those glorious combinations of matter which form the solar system were intended for the support of animal and vegetable life.

If we now transfer ourselves from our own planetary home to a commanding position among the sidereal abodes, the same analogies which have guided us must guide us still. If we do not desecrate systems of primary and secondary planets, we discover self-luminous bodies like our sun in binary and ternary combination with other bodies, whose nature and character we are not capable of ascertaining. If we cannot measure their day and their year, we see periodical motions which begin and complete their round, and we see recurrent changes which indicate phenomena similar to those with which we have been familiar: and if God has fitted up for living occupants the huge globes of our own portion of his universe, we are entitled to ascribe the functions of suns and planets to all the similar globes with which he has adorned the sidereal expanse.

In order to learn, then, what is the constitution, and what has been or may be the probable history of the various worlds in our firmament, we must study the constitution and the physical history of our own, and hold, as it were, its mirror up to universal nature. The men of limited reason who believe that the Earth was created and launched into its ethereal course when man was summoned to its occupation, must have either denied altogether the existence of our solar system, or have regarded all its planets as coeval with their own, and as but the ministers to its convenience. Science, however, has now corrected this error, and liberated the pious mind from its en-
dour-

rassments. The Palæontologist—the student of ancient life, has demonstrated by evidence not to be disputed, that the Earth had been inhabited by animals and adorned with plants during immeasurable cycles of time antecedent to the creation of man,—that when the volcano, the earthquake, and the flood had destroyed and buried them, nobler forms of life were created to undergo the same fiery ordeal; and that, by a series of successive creations and catastrophes, the Earth was prepared for the residence of man, and the rich materials in its bosom elaborated for his use, and thrown within his grasp. In the age of our own globe, then, we see the age of its brother planets, and in the antiquity of our own system we see the antiquity of the other systems of the universe. In our catastrophes, too, we recognise theirs, and in our advancing knowledge and progressive civilization, we witness the development of the universal mind,—the march of the immortal spirit to its final destiny of glory or of shame.

The Being who created the earliest forms of life that possessed our Earth, was not likely to limit to so insignificant a planet such a display of his wisdom and power, and the same high purpose which prompted its successive changes as steps in the march of terrestrial organization, must have operated in the preparation of the planetary worlds. To believe that the earth was the only place where organic life was given and taken away—the only field where great physical revolutions were in play, would be to detract from the wisdom and beneficence of the Creator. To the laws of nature we dare not assign either limitation or locality. Whenever there is matter we may predict its laws and its elements, and wherever are its elements, we may anticipate the existence of beings that are to use them.—Wherever light shines, there must be an eye to welcome it;—wherever air expands, there must be beings to breathe it,—wherever heat vivifies, there must be life to be revived. The God of nature neither works in corners, nor limits his benevolence. Everywhere is matter—everywhere is light, and everywhere there must be life—life animal to enjoy his bounty—life intellectual to expound his wisdom—and life moral to love and to fear his name.

GIVE THE LABOURER HIS HIRE.

(From the N. Y. Advocate and Guardian.)

"The wages of him that is id shall not abide with thee all night until morning."—Lev. xix. 13.

"At his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it; lest he cry against thee unto the Lord, and it be sin unto thee."—Deut. xxiv. 15.

How much suffering does the neglect of this simple and manifestly just direction, occasion to the poor—and that too often more from *thoughtlessness*, than *necessity* on the part of their employers.

Perhaps in order to make immediate payment, a bill must be changed, or some other trifling inconvenience submitted to, or a desired purchase must be for the time deferred—to avoid which, the poor woman who has toiled all day at washing or house cleaning, is requested to call to-morrow or next week. The seamstress or dress-maker, too, who carries home a part of her work when finished, hoping she will be offered pay for it, is often doomed to soul sickening disappointment, and sometimes driven to desperation, by being told, when all her work is finished, the bill will be settled—nor dare she complain, lest she offend her employers and lose their work.

And men of families, who at best can earn but a scanty support for their loved ones—how are their hearts tortured with anxiety, as they must return to them Saturday night after Saturday night, with only a fraction of what is due to them. I have frequently visited a family thus circumstanced—a worthy American family; the wife is extremely feeble, and often entirely prostrated by disease; and three little children are dependent on them. Not long since, I called in the middle of the week, and she told me, that with the best economy they had already expended all the last week's earnings, and knew not how to turn themselves till Saturday night. The woman was very sick, and the interim seemed an age to wait. Their wants were partially supplied, and on Monday following, I inquired of their little girl, "Did your father get his money on Saturday night?" "No, ma'am." What a volume of misery did this intelligence unfold to me!—This woman had frequently brought

on severe relapses by plying her needle as soon as she could sit up in bed, in order to add to their small income. She will evidently soon exchange her sufferings for the heavenly rest.

Another respectable American woman in my neighbourhood, who with sickness in her family, and struggling with the deepest poverty, had expended her last penny, lived in daily hope that an individual who had kindly furnished her work, (and whose residence she did not know,) would call for it, and of course pay her; but no, while she was absent, other work not asked for, was left, but no pay for the pieces finished.

A kind hearted visitor among the beneficiaries of the Alms House, informed me that a few days since a woman called at the office for assistance. It was late on Saturday afternoon—and as it is a rule not to relieve until a visitor has personally investigated the wants of the applicant, she was told they could not attend to her before Monday. The woman's dejected and grief worn appearance attracted the attention of the visitor—and after she left, he said, "I believe we ought to attend to that case to-day; the woman is evidently suffering, and she may starve before Monday." Accordingly he found his way to her home—a deep basement, with a four-light sash, and destitute of every thing like comfort. She was an American, and recently left a widow, with two children, one of four years, and a babe of seven months—utterly destitute. Notwithstanding the babe was sick, she had been driven by the pinchings of hunger and the wants of her little ones, to leave the babe in charge of the elder one that morning, and go and scrub several hours for a lady in Broadway, who when her work was done, told her to come on Monday for her money. What could she do? There was no resource left but to apply to the Alms House. Thither she went, but was again put off, and starvation stared her in the face. Who can describe the anguish of that mother as she returned empty-handed to her little ones, or her gratitude for the unexpected relief afforded by the visitor?

FRIENDSHIP.

That friendship were but friendship's name,
Which only dwells in roseate bower,
But flies with loss of health and fame,
And shuns the suffering, lingering hour.

But that which sits by misery's side,
And fondly aids the drooping head;
Which bids the bursting heart confide,
And pity's tear unseen has shed.

Which o'er the sufferer's couch will bend,
And sympathetic nope impart—
This, this is friendship's hallowed end,
The noblest impulse of the heart.

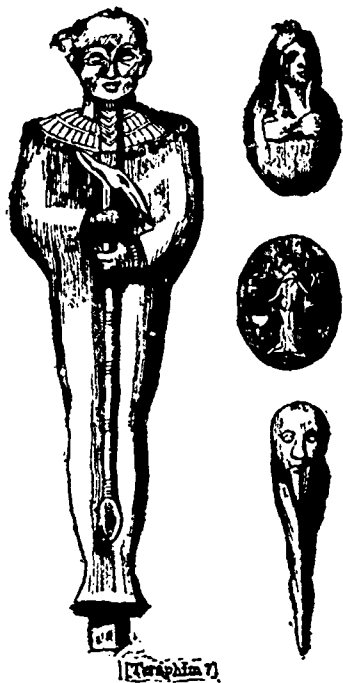
APPLES OF GOLD

"For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power."—
1 Thess. i. 5.

By the gospel, the Son of God and divine truths are revealed to us; and by the Spirit they are revealed in us. External revelation by the word, and internal by the Spirit, are both necessary to salvation. Though Paul was separated from his mother's womb to be called by the grace of God, yet he had not an inward revelation of Jesus Christ to his heart, till he heard the external word of Christ with his ear, saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Acts ix. 4. Hence learn to prize both the outward testimony of the word, and the inward testimony of the Spirit. The gospel is a revelation of Jesus Christ, without which we could never have known that our sins are atoned for by the blood, our persons justified by the righteousness, and our souls everlastingly saved by the work of Christ; but is this knowledge all that is necessary to salvation? No! persons may attain a notion of these things in the head, and understand somewhat of them, and yet the heart be without precious faith in Christ, destitute of the love of Christ, and of any saving hope in him. Professor, look well to it; many have said, Lord, Lord, and have heard Christ preach in their streets, who little expected to meet with this rebuff from him, "I know not whence ye are; depart, ye workers of iniquity!" Many heard the gospel preached in Thessalonica; but they alone were blessed to whom it came "with power, and in the Holy Ghost, and with much assurance."

The gospel is like sun and show'r,
'Tis once the Spirit seals the word;
It comes with truth, and comes with pow'r,
And will both light and life afford.

SCRIPTURE ILLUSTRATIONS.



"And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's."—Gen. xxx. 19.

Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's; or, "the teraphim of her father." Teraphim are frequently mentioned in the Old Testament. They seem to have been images—sometimes very small and sometimes large—apparently in the human figure, or at least with a human head; and the Jewish writers say that they were placed in niches, with lamps burning before them. From the passages of Scripture in which they are mentioned, it would seem that they were not idols in the worst sense of the word, no primary worship being rendered to them. They were certainly used by persons who had professed the worship of the true God; but as they proved a snare to take away the heart from Him, and to divide or supersede that exclusive confidence and trust which He required, we find them denounced by the prophets; and they were doubtless included in the general interdiction of images by the law of Moses. No doubt they often became objects of positively idolatrous homage; but in their general use, before and after the deliverance of the law, they seem to have been popularly considered as not being incompatible with the allegiance due to Jehovah; and there are instances in which we find teraphim connected, in some way or other, with the family and public worship rendered to Him. So far as this matter can be understood, it seems to us that these images were considered to fix a protecting and guiding presence to the places in which they were set—protecting, perhaps, as an Oriental talisman is considered to protect; and guiding as an oracle, which in some way or other was considered to indicate the course that ought to be pursued on occasion of doubt and difficulty. Thus the Danites desired the Levite, who had charge of Micah's teraphim, to ask counsel for them, and he gave them a response as from the Lord (Judges xviii. 5, 6). The prophets also mention them as oracles. Ezekiel (chap. xxi. 21) describes the king of Babylon as using divination—consulting with teraphim; and Zechariah (chap. x. 1) tells the Jews that their teraphim "have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie." Our translation sometimes retains the original word, and at other times renders it "images" or "idols." The seventy have generally rendered the word by "oracles" (ὀράκλα and ἀποφθγγίμειροι); but in 1 Sam. xix. 13, 16, they have κενόγραμμα, as if they thought that the teraphim there meant images placed as sepulchral monuments. Some however render this Greek word by "vain figures." Various answers have been given to the question, "Why Rachel stole her father's teraphim?" We give a few, without pretending to decide so doubtful a question. That the images were of precious metal, and Rachel stole them to compensate for the loss of dowry sustained through Laban's bargain with Jacob. That she thought that, by taking the oracles, she should deprive Laban

of the means of discovering the flight of her husband. That she expected by this act to bring prosperity from the household of her father to that of her husband. Some conclude, that she hoped to cure her father of his idolatrous propensities by depriving him of the instruments; while many, on the other hand, imagine that Rachel and her sister were infected by the same superstitions as their father, and wished to continue the practice of them in the land of Canaan.—*Pictorial Bible.*

"A shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians."

That our early knowledge was derived from the East is admitted on all hands. We know that the Greeks received their philosophy from Egypt—the Romans from them—and we from the Romans.

Whether learning came from India to Egypt, or from Egypt to India, is now a question that it is impossible for us to solve. One thing, however, is certain, that the two peoples (the Hindoos and Egyptians) were the same in religion, laws, and literature.

The zodiac of the Hindoos is exactly the same as that carved on Egyptian monuments, even to the hump on the back of the bull. The worship, or, at all events, the superstitious reverence for animals, as snakes and monkeys, for instance, which we are told existed in ancient Egypt, still exists in modern Hindostan. The veneration for the cow is still maintained in India, and the text I have placed at the head of this article is still understood in the East, as the sheep is there considered an unclean animal, and the shepherd who takes care of them a *vitandum* to all high caste gentlemen.

The Ark, we are told, rested on Mount Ararat in Armenia. Perhaps we are not venturing too bold a conjecture, when we suppose that the original seat of knowledge should have been near the spot where the human race began to spread itself, and where man had a more unrestrained and uninterrupted communion with his Maker. At all events, it is elevating to think so; and if we are wrong, there is no great harm in the belief.

The identity of the Hindoo and Egyptian superstitions, is farther proved by "a modern instance." When Sir David Baird and Sir Samuel Achmuty led a division of the Bengal army across the Isthmus of Suez, to join Sir Ralph Abercrombie in the Egyptian desert, they found, peeping out of the sand, a *tri-saul*. That is, a brass ornament, much like a *fleur-de-lis*, which represents the Hindoo triad, Brahmah, Khrishnu, and Shevah, the creating, sustaining, and destroying powers. The Sepoys shovelled away the land, found a pagoda, cleared it out, and performed pujah (worship) in it; and pointed out to their officers, that the sculptures on the walls represented precisely the same deities which ornamented the walls of their temples in Hindostan.

W. D.

A STRIKING DIFFERENCE.

(From the Kingston Chronicle.)

In the States opposite to us, and within a few miles of us, land is dearer, the taxes are higher, and labour is higher; whilst the land certainly is not better nor is the difference in the length of their winter and ours worth mentioning; still they undersell us; why is this, and how is it to be accounted for? We will take as an example, the article of Sheep. We stated in our last number, that upwards of seven thousand sheep were last year slaughtered at Cape Vincent and brought to Canada; and we believe a greater number will be supplied this winter. Now we have enquired of the Clerk of the Peace what number of sheep are returned in the tax papers, as the sheep stock of the farmers of the Midland District, who has obligingly informed us, it was 36,577.

Now, what we desire to impress upon Canadian farmers is, that the sole reason why an American farmer can afford to sell sheep cheaper than a Canadian farmer can, is because he breeds double, treble, or perhaps four times the number. A Canadian farmer thinks a flock of 27 sheep a sufficient number; an American farmer keeps 100; and we put it to every farmer in Canada whether he could not keep 100 sheep from April to the time the frost sets in, and at about the same expence as he could 20. If he keeps 100 and kills 50, he would get on an average 10s. each for the carcase and four shillings for the skin and wool, that is, if he keeps a good sort of sheep, and manages them well. 50 sheep at 14s. each is £35, whereas a Canadian farmer perhaps sells 10 sheep in a year, for which he gets £7.

And this will apply to pretty nearly every other kind of farm produce. And Canadian farmers may be assured, that herein consists the great secret, why Yankee farmers can undersell those of Canada.

Let there be an end to the nonsensical cry of protection from the Yankee farmer, and let the cry be a fair competition of skill, enterprise, and industry, as to who can raise the largest amount of produce, and at the least possible expence; and Canadian farmers will soon prove that they are able to compete with Americans.

EARLY LESSON OF OBEDIENCE.

A father of my acquaintance relates the following:

"I placed my little boy, at eight months old, upon my knee, took his rattle from him, and laid it on the table directly before him, and within his reach. When he placed out his hand to take it, I drew back his hand, and spoke sharply to him. He looked up in my face, half frightened, half grieved, gave a deep sigh, and again reached out his hand for the rattle. I spoke sternly again, and again drew back his hand. He burst into crying with grief and anger; and, after a violent struggle of ten minutes, ceased crying, and again reached after the rattle. I then let him take hold of it, but held his arm extended, and continued to speak sternly, and snapped his fingers lightly with my pen, till he let go the rattle. He cried long and bitterly before he let it drop; and several times, at short intervals, took it up again. But I bore with inflexible though gentle authority upon him, till he perfectly understood my intent, and submitted; and then after a few moments' diversion of his thoughts to quiet his sobbing, he turned, with the tear standing in his eye, and fell to patting and rubbing his hand on the table, without touching the rattle, though it lay all the time within his reach. After a few moments, I held the rattle before him. He directed in my face a fixed look of solemn enquiry, which I met with an inviting smile, still holding the toy before him, till he took it and turned to his play. The next day I took him again upon my knee, and in a mild but firm tone, bade him lay it on the table. He looked deeply serious for a moment, sighed, and obeyed.

"My boy is now eight years old; and I do not remember to have seen him since that time shed a tear in any conflict of his feelings against his parent's will."—*New York Evangelist*.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF THE MONTREAL MAGDELENE ASYLUM.

A Report of this important Charity has just been published, from which we learn that it has been in operation about three years; that there are now 29 inmates; that a considerable number have not only been reformed through its instrumentality, but, it is believed, converted to Christ. We consider no apology necessary for laying before our readers the following extracts, and trust the aid requisite for the maintenance of the Institution may be extended to it.

Among several interesting instances of good accomplished, we select the following:—

About four months ago, a cab drove up to the door, and a young girl stepped out, well dressed, painted, &c. &c., and got her portmanteau carried in, stating she wished to be received as an inmate of the asylum. Mrs. Redman, who had been grievously tried with several cases of imposition about that time, besought her not to come in at all, unless she were sincerely desirous of quitting her evil courses, and of remaining permanently in the asylum. She replied that she was perfectly sincere in wishing to quit her present course of life for ever. When the paint was washed off, it became apparent that she was very ill, and she has been an invalid, chiefly confined to bed, ever since. Reading the Scriptures and prayer have been blessed to her conversion, and for eight weeks she has been relying on the atoning blood of Christ. Some circumstances related of this young person—for she is not yet twenty—are deeply affecting. She had brought plenty of good clothes into the house, but exchanged the articles of night dress which she had to wear, for others very much inferior, belonging to the house or to other inmates, first ascertaining that they had been honestly come by. She then, when all dressed in clothes that had not been obtained by iniquity, sent for Mrs. Redman, and clasping her attenuated and trembling arms round her neck, said she thought she was almost in heaven

now, having put off the garments earned by the wages of sin. She said at another time, when asked respecting her spiritual state, that she longed as earnestly for heaven as she used to do for a ball when she had been invited to one. She told Mrs. R., at another time, "I may be gone before you come back again, but don't be uneasy; I see God, with his arms of love, ready to receive me, and I bless him that I was brought here. I have only one other request," added she, "and that is, that when I am dead, none of my own clothes may be put on my body; dress me in any rags you like, but none of those that I brought." This interesting girl still lives, but in the hope of very soon exchanging worlds.

CAUSES OF FALLING INTO VICE.

These are very various; two of the most prominent may be mentioned.

1st, Young female emigrants and other strangers are allured to brothels under the pretence of being engaged by a respectable female, for respectable service, and when once there, are plied with intoxicating drinks till their ruin is accomplished.

2d, Female servants out of place sometimes unknowingly take up their abode in houses, or with other female servants, who seduce them into the company of designing and wicked men, who, as usual, ply them with intoxicating drinks until they accomplish their hellish purpose, and then, after keeping them for a while, abandon them upon the town.

TEMPERANCE.

As all the inmates had either been led astray through indulgence in strong drink, which was, in many instances, used to decoy them at first, or had betaken themselves to drinking after falling into vice, as the means of silencing conscience and stupefying their sense of degradation, it was felt to be of peculiar importance to overcome the craving for liquor which had been excited in their systems. This rendered it imperative to conduct the whole establishment on strict total abstinence principles, and demanded the utmost caution as to the places that any who were hoped to be reformed should accept. For, to send them into families where intoxicating drinks were used, however moderately, would be to expose them to great temptations, if not to almost certain destruction. Whether Christians should keep houses in such a manner as that the reformed cannot serve in them with safety, is another matter; but certain it is, that in some instances connected with this institution, where there was every hope of reformation having been effected, individuals have fallen back into lower depths than ever, merely from having, in an unguarded moment, tasted intoxicating drink—a taste which has awakened and whetted the dormant appetite to irresistible violence.

Indeed, whether in or out of the institution, the assaults of Satan which the poor penitents endure in the shape of various temptations are truly awful. When under the influence of these assaults, the character and even the features are often so completely changed, as to render it difficult to recognize in them the same individuals who had a short time before been seen calm and cheerful. Many are oftentimes also affected with a malady in the head, occasioning pain, giddiness, and sometimes partial derangement, the result, as the Doctors state, of their past excesses; and nearly all have sadly broken constitutions.

APPEAL.

In conclusion, the Committee would earnestly appeal to the Christian community of Montreal, whether these twenty-nine penitent females, who have fled to this city of refuge from the destroyer, who was at their very heels, shall be turned out again, to fall, humanly speaking, certain and speedy victims of lust, intemperance, disease, and want? The Committee would also respectfully ask, if the duty of seeking to save the lost of the gentler sex be recognized at all, how it can be performed at less sacrifice of time and means, than by keeping one open door for such as may wish to abandon vicious courses? There are hundreds of open doors to lead them to vice and ruin, temporal and eternal, shall there not be one to lead them to virtue and the knowledge of a Saviour? It is well known that persons of the class in question have no resource, however earnestly they may desire to reform, unless there be such an asylum. No one will harbour them—no one will employ them; it is with them only a question of subsisting on the wages of iniquity, or houseless starvation. Shall the many wealthy Christians and flourishing Churches of Montreal refuse this poor boon to their erring and miserable sisters, of the same human family? With these feelings and

explanations, this appeal is made as a last resort, and unless it be responded to, the house must be closed through sheer inability to carry it on.

It is calculated that £200 will be required for the annual support of the establishment with its present number of inmates, exclusive of the proceeds of their labour; which sum with the debt makes £350 that should now be raised, by a special subscription.

Donations may be left with any member of the committee, with Mr. R. D. Wadsworth, No. 4, Exchange Court, or with any of the undersigned—

J. R. ORR,
JOHN LEEMING,

JOHN HOLLAND,
JOHN DOUGALL.
For the Committee.

SELECTIONS.

IMMIGRATION AND DISEASE.—The population of the United Kingdom, which was about 28,487,000 in the year 1846, probably increases at the rate of 800 daily. The daily births exceed the deaths by 1056; and the surplus of 256 is the average number who leave the United Kingdom. The emigrants from England are constantly replaced by nearly an equal number of the natives of Ireland and Scotland, who, it is estimated, amounted to upwards of 27,000 a year, in the ten years, 1831-41. The sad condition, and the habits, of these poor Irish immigrants, have, no doubt, contributed to deteriorate the health of Liverpool, Glasgow and Bristol—the ports through which they enter—as well as to raise the mortality of Manchester and other inland towns. They may also introduce fevers and other diseases into England. As the different families of men are of one kind and of one blood, they have diseases in common. Like living things, epidemics do not cease with the circumstances in which they are produced; they wander to other places, and descend to remoter times. The plagues of the eastern empire, and the “black death,” depopulated the western world; the Egyptian ophthalmia blinded thousands in Europe; the *febris castrensis*—a typhus called *fièvre meningite catterhale de congelation*, by Larrey—which broke out in the French army after their disastrous retreat from Moscow, became contagious, and committed terrible ravages among the peaceful citizens of Poland, Prussia, Saxony, Germany, and France; the cholera epidemic, generated in the miserable population of Asia, traversed England from Sunderland to London and the Land’s End. If all nations, however remote, are liable to suffer from each other’s maladies, and have therefore a direct interest in each other’s well-being, the principle holds with ten-fold force of the provinces of the same kingdom, and the inhabitants of the same cities. The mortality of Manchester, Salford, and Chorlton, which is, under ordinary circumstances, nearly double the mortality of the healthiest parts of the kingdom, rose from 2411, in the three months, July, August, September, 1845, to 4248, in the same months of 1846, before the tide of Irish destitution had set on Lancashire. The increase of mortality commenced at the same time, and has continued since in Birmingham, Oxford, Bedford, and in other towns, large and small, where the Irish population is inconsiderable.—*Sheffield Independent*.

THE LONDON POST-OFFICE AND THE SABBATH.—No letters are delivered in London or sent from London, on the Lord’s-day. The mail bags arrive on Saturday night, and they are all locked up till Monday morning. Think how many cases of necessity and mercy must be disregarded by this arrangement in London—the seat of Government—the commercial metropolis of the world—the residence of about 2,000,000 of people. How many letters, bearing tidings of the illness or death of friends at a distance, must be locked up in the London Post-Office on the Sabbath! But the people of London do not complain of this. They are content to do without their letters for the much higher benefit resulting from the general cessation of correspondence on that day. And when an attempt was made in 1839 to open the Post-Office, 54 leading bankers, 1600 solicitors, upwards of 1000 merchants, 100 members of Stock Exchange, and the Court of Common Council, sent memorials to the Treasury, deprecating the opening of the Post-Office on Sabbath. They were convinced, as they are still convinced, that the plea of necessity for delivering and despatching letters on Sabbath is counteracted by a greater necessity for keeping the Post-Office closed. Of two evils (if you regard them as such) they chose the least. They yield to the stronger necessity. “Better,” say they, “that no letters be delivered at all, however pressing the necessity in the case of individuals may be, than that—as the only other alternative—all letters be delivered on Sabbath, and that day cease, to a great extent, to be a day of rest.” Now, all that we contend for is, that you will apply this principle to the running of Sabbath trains. Better is it that no trains be run on Sabbath, than that, with the view of providing for cases of necessity and mercy among others, you run trains, regularly open to all, and thus open the door for almost unlimited Sabbath desecration. Yield to the more potent necessity. If you do, then all railways will be closed on the Lord’s-day. The claims of necessity and mercy imperatively require this. Think first of the number of men who must be employed on the railways on Sabbath, if you open them for passenger trains. Not less than 100 on the Edinburgh and Glasgow line. The cases of urgent necessity are few

in number; and to meet them, you compel 100 men to labour on the Sabbath. You deprive them, in part at least, of that rest which God allows them. You subject them to degradation—you demoralize them—you compel those of them who are most efficient and conscientious either to resign their situations, or to do what they conceive to be sinning against their own souls—to obey the orders of men while they break the command of God. What right have you to do this? Some speak of coercion—of violating liberty of conscience by shutting the railway on the Sabbath. But on which side is the coercion? We feel no more coercion exercised on us by the want of railway trains to Glasgow on Sabbath, than by the want of steamers to Campbelltown, or a coach to Ochiltree and Cumnock on that day.—*Speech of Rev. Mr. Stevenson at a public meeting at Ayr.*

FRANKLIN’S MODE OF LENDING MONEY.—“I send you, herewith, a bill of ten louis d’ors. I do not pretend to give much; I only lend it to you. When you return to your country, you cannot fail of getting into some business that will, in time, enable you to pay all your debts. In that case, when you meet another honest man in similar distress, you will pay me by lending this money to him, enjoining him to discharge the debt by a like operation when he shall be able, and shall meet with such another opportunity. I hope it may thus pass through many hands before it meets with a knave to stop its progress. This is a trick of mine to do a great deal of good with a little money. I am not rich enough to afford much in good works, and am obliged to be cunning, and make the most of a little.”

LONG SERMONS.—Dr. Murray made a rule to avoid prolixity in his sermons. Every thing he did was upon reflection and principle, rather than from impulse; and as his object was “by any means to win souls,” he considered that infirmities of age, restlessness in childhood, and languor from indisposition, limited the power of attention in many, while even to the most devout of his people ample time was desirable at home, to digest what they had heard by meditation and prayer. Many unskilful attendants on the sick have imagined that, if by administering a small dose of medicine they diminished the evil, an unlimited application would produce instant recovery; but, as Baxter says, “it is safer to feed your flock like chickens, than to cram them like turkeys.” Dr. Murray was never heard to boast of having found it impossible to stop, because on all occasions he avoided vain repetitions.

LAKE SUPERIOR.—This immense inland ocean is four hundred and ninety miles in length, and is seventeen hundred in circumference, being the largest body of fresh water on the globe. It contains many islands, one of them, Isle Royale, is one hundred miles in length, and forty in breadth. Upwards of thirty rivers empty themselves into it, and one curious fact in relation to it is well ascertained, that the quantity of water discharged by the Sault St. Marie, is not one-tenth of what it receives from its tributary streams. Evaporation must, therefore, be the principal agent in keeping the lake down to its usual level.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF ADIPOCERE.—By the courtesy of Mr. Frederick Friend, No. 48 Ludlow street, the editors of the “True Sun” have had an opportunity of examining the most extraordinary case of adipocere, (or conversion of the bodies of the dead into a solid, uncorrupted substance) on record. It was the case of the late Mrs. Friend, who was about the middle of February last disinterred at the old burying ground, at the corner of Broadway and Twelfth streets.—Mrs. Friend, it seems, died in February, 1830, very suddenly, having retired to rest almost in her usual health, and was lifeless before three o’clock the next morning. She was a hale, hearty old lady, 68 years of age, almost unacquainted with disease. It becoming necessary to remove the bodies of those buried in the ground described, the coffin of Mrs. F. was taken up with the rest, and was found to exhibit no indication whatever of decay—being as solid as when first placed in the earth. The lid being accidentally displaced, an astonishing spectacle is described as having presented itself.—The face and neck of Mrs. Friend exhibited all the fullness which it possessed in life, and, indeed, the cheeks were somewhat larger, and with the exception of the absence of the eyes, there was not the slightest appearance of decay. The surface, however, was covered with a thick, filmy white mould, and upon removing it, the skin presented the fairest, purest surface, ever seen on alabaster! The flesh was as solid and as hard as the purest sperm, and perfectly free from disagreeable odour! On further examination, the whole person was found to be in the same wonderful state of preservation; body and limbs presented the same hard, undecayed appearance. Of 200 dead bodies interred in this burial ground, this is the only one that has not returned to dust.—The cap on her head, and the ribbons, had preserved their form and colour. We are told further that, a few days after the disinterment, the relatives of the deceased made preparations to bury the body again, at Harlem. But, fearing that there might be danger of its removal for scientific or other purposes, they had it taken up and conveyed back to the house, and with the original coffin enclosed in a mahogany case, with a lid entirely of glass, there it now lies, the subject of great interest to numbers who visit it daily. This is, certainly, one of the most striking cases of the phenomenon called “Adipocere,” we have ever heard of.

WANT OF EMPLOYMENT.—The Jews have a proverb, “that he who breeds not up his son to some occupation, makes him a thief”—and the Arabians say, “that an idle person is the devil’s play-fellow.”

NEWS.

A frightful accident, attended with loss of life, occurred near Royaltown, about 60 miles beyond Burlington, shortly after one o'clock on Tuesday morning last. One of the stages conveying passengers from Boston to Montreal, when passing through Sharon, was thrown off the road at a sudden turning and precipitated down an embankment more than thirty feet in height. A second stage, which was not far behind, shortly came up, and the passengers hastened to the assistance of the sufferers. A young lady supposed to be Miss Hunter of Middlebury, Capt. Leary who had come out by the last mail packet, and was on his way to take charge of the new steamer, John Mann, at Quebec, and the driver of the vehicle, were killed on the spot. Two gentlemen of this city, Mr. F. H. Heward, and Mr. A. McFarlane, were both injured—the latter seriously. A lady of Quebec, named Henderson, and a gentleman from the United States, were also severely injured.—*Transcript.*

The *Montreal Times* has been discontinued. The last number appeared on Monday.

The London (C. W.) *Times Extra*, of March 19th, records one of the strangest and most tragical events that ever occurred in the history of Canada. It appears that a young man named Daniel Larkin, who had lived some years in the service of Mr. J. W. Handy, had a slight altercation with an elderly woman named Mrs. Burn, on account of her having reproved him for using improper language to a young woman, he immediately brought a double barreled gun and threatened to shoot her, some persons wrenched it from him, and nothing further was thought about the matter. Shortly afterwards Mrs. Burn quitted the house, and was met by Larkin, who asked her if she was ready to stand her trial. He then shot her through the heart, and carrying the body to a smoke house and laying it on its back, discharged the gun at his own breast, and fell dead immediately. An inquest has been held on the bodies, and a verdict given of "Wilful murder committed by Daniel Larkin, on the body of Mrs. Burn," and on the body of Larkin—"Died by his own hand under the instigation of the Devil." Larkin had been in the habit of drinking spirits for a length of time past.

LAKE ERIE FROZEN OVER.—Lake Erie was completely frozen over last week. A man last week travelled with a horse and sleigh over the ice from Buffalo to Cleveland, a distance of 200 miles.

ROBBERY OF DIAMONDS.—On Wednesday week, Robert Kerr, captain of the Larque Levenside, of Greenock, was brought up to the Mansion House Police Office, on the charge of having stolen two parcels of diamonds of the value of £3,300, which were entrusted to him to convey to the port of London from Bahia. The prisoner had left his vessel and come ashore in a boat with the diamonds, and as soon as the persons to whom they were consigned learned that the captain had disappeared with them, a warrant was put into the hands of John and Daniel Forrester, who, after having traced him from place to place with extraordinary skill and activity, at last pounced upon him in France, and hurried him away to London with great expedition, having found upon him about £300, some of which was in Bank of England notes, which had been paid in the Commercial Bank for a cheque, drawn for the amount of a portion of the diamonds. The prisoner, it was stated in the justice room, was plundered of almost all the money he possessed himself of by the robbery, before he quitted the town, with the exception of that which John Forrester took from him, and forty guineas, the price which he gave for a gold watch upon selling the diamonds. The prisoner was remanded till the 20th instant.

THE LARGE BELL FOR MONTREAL.—The casting of this, the largest bell ever made in the country, was successfully completed on Saturday last, at the foundry of Messrs. Mears, in Whitechapel, London. The quantity of metal fused was about twenty-five tons. The founders, it is stated, intend to give the public an opportunity of inspecting the work when perfectly finished, previous to its shipment for Canada.—*London Times.*

A desolating famine, such as one may read of in history, but with the actual horrors of which the present generation were unacquainted, is now raging in several counties in Ireland, whilst extreme destitution prevails all through the country. Fever and dysentery, produced by the want of food, are increasing in all directions, and the extent of mortality is daily becoming more alarming. The deaths in the union work-houses alone amounted to nearly 1500 in the last week of January! Out of those establishments no record of mortality is kept. The coroners are totally unable to hold inquests on the numbers who die daily of starvation and cold. In fine, as a letter from Leitrim expresses it, "the peasantry are fading away from the face of the earth." The Government are acting with the utmost energy and liberality to alleviate this dreadful calamity. The Lord-Lieutenant is advancing a sum equal to the full amount contributed to each Relief Committee, with liberty to supply food gratis to the destitute, where the work-houses are crowded; and this is the case everywhere with the single exception of Castlebar.

FEMALE SERVANTS' HOME SOCIETY.—On Tuesday afternoon a public meeting in aid of the funds of the above society, was held at the Hanover-square Rooms, Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., in the chair. From the report it appeared that the number of females received into the institution, and boarded and lodged at their own expense, during the past year, was 442. Since the establishment of the institution twelve years ago, 2423 females had been admitted, and thus preserved from the snares into which such persons frequently fall. Unfortunately the income of the society was not sufficient to meet its wants, and the present meeting was held in order to raise a sum to pay off a debt of £500.

COST OF LIGHT TO RICH AND POOR.—"According to the present mode of assessment, each set of rooms having four windows (being a portion of a large house, having forty windows), is liable to 7½d per week window duty; while a similar set of rooms or chambers, in the same sized house, situate in the Albany in Piccadilly, or in the Inns of Court, or in either of the Universities, is liable to a tax of only 1½d per set; this arises from a special exemption in the Act, operating to the foregoing extent in favour of the buildings for the wealthier classes."—*Second Report of the Metropolitan Association for Improving the Dwellings of the Industrious Classes.*

LORD PALMERSTON AND 5000 NEGROES.—We are assured that Lord Palmerston is on the point of raising with Spain a difficulty which was, in 1840, on his part, the object of a serious claim. This difficulty consists in the de-

mand of the freedom of 5000 negroes, who he pretends are the subjects of England, and who are detained in slavery in the Island of Cuba.—*Courrier Francais.*

THE CHARTIST LAND SCHEME.—The estates of W. B. Cliffe, Esq., which have been so frequently advertised for sale, were brought to the hammer and sold in lots by Mr. Davies, on Wednesday, at the Belle Vue Hotel, Great Malvern. The freehold and copyhold estates, amounting to 500 acres were purchased by Mr. Feargus O'Connor, for £20,000. We hear that Mr. O'Connor has offered £3000 for the Brook estate, Leigh.

THE NAVIGATION LAWS.—Mr. Ricardo has obtained a parliamentary committee to investigate the merits and demerits of the Navigation Laws, originally framed in 1651, but more substantially incorporated into our maritime legislation in the 12th of Charles the second. From that date to 1822, they were enforced in all their pristine integrity, when their usefulness was impeached by Mr. Wallace, then President of the Board of Trade; and in 1824, their stringency was relaxed by the Reciprocity Act of Mr. Huskisson, which permitted foreign ships to enter our ports on the same terms on which British vessels were allowed admittance into foreign harbours. In 1843, these laws were still further modified by Sir Robert Peel, and now their total repeal is contemplated; for though the ostensible object of Mr. Ricardo is merely to inquire into their operation, it is very evident from the whole tenor of his speech that he meditates their entire abolition. Lord John Russell and Sir Robert voted for Mr. Ricardo's motion, though both are perfectly free to adopt or reject, in whole or in part, whatever the committee may recommend.

TEMPERANCE AMONG THE LAW-MAKERS.—The Governor, Lieut. Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives of Mass. are totalers. One hundred and fourteen members of the Legislature gave to the Legislative Temperance Society during this session. Many of them were members before. It is interesting to see those in high places thus honoring themselves and their constituents by engaging in this great enterprise.

NATIVE COPPER.—A boulder of copper from Lake Superior, weighing 2110 pounds, has just been smelted at the cupola furnace of Holly & Delamater, 260 West street, and produced 2212 pounds of pure copper, or over 90 per cent. It was mined at the location of the Baltimore Company Ontonogon River.

LICENSE IN WISCONSIN.—The Legislature have submitted to the people the question of licensing the sale of ardent spirits.

LICENSE QUESTION IN PENNSYLVANIA.—A vote on the question of license or no license, in Warren county, was taken on the 9th ultimo, and so far as heard from, the townships, with one exception (Pinegrove), have voted for no license by large majorities.

THE LICENSE LAW IN MASSACHUSETTS.—Chief Justice Wells stated in the municipal court last week, that in sentencing for violations of the license law, the court would hereafter require the convicted party to give bonds for his future good behaviour during one year, and that in case of a violation of the license law, within that time, the laws would be rigidly enforced, both upon the guilty party and upon the bail.

NATIVE AND FOREIGN PAUPERS.—It is estimated now, that nine-tenths of the paupers, supported by the corporation of New York, are foreigners, and only one-tenth Americans. It is also estimated that the alms house expenses for the year 1847 will be about \$300,000; so that the city of New York has to spend annually \$270,000 for the support of the offscouring of Europe.

The Turkish sultan has ordered the abolition of slave markets. This is the first step in that change which, in its results, will be the most important that has ever taken place in the administration of the Ottoman empire.

The king of Sweden has appointed a commission of inquiry on the best means for reducing the rates of postage, and of multiplying the mails, not only within Sweden and Norway, but also between the two countries and the rest of Europe.

A discovery is stated to have been made, by which marble may be cast in moulds of any size, the marble being equal in quality to the purest Carrara marble. Several figures have already been cast of the size of life, at a cost of one dollar a foot.

A letter from Alexandria, of the 19th ultimo, states, that the cholera has reappeared in the whole of the Hedjas, as far as Aden, and with such intensity, that 13,000 persons had died in a few days at Mecca and its environs.

PRODUCE PRICES CURRENT—MONTREAL, March 29, 1847.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
ASHES, Pots, per cwt	27	6	a	28	0	BEEF, Prime Mess,			
Pearls,	27	0	a	27	6	per brl. 200lbs.	0	0	0
FLOUR, Canada Su-						Prime,	50	0	0
perfine, per brl.						Prime Mess, per			
196 lbs.	35	0	a	36	0	tierce, 304lbs.	00	0	0
Do. Fine,	33	6	a	34	0	PORK, Mess, per brl.			
Do. Sour,	none					200lbs.	90	0	95
Do. Middlings, ..	none					Prime Mess,	70	0	75
Indian Meal, 168lb.	none					Prime,	60	0	65
Oatmeal, brl. 22½lb.	34	0	a	00	0	Cargo,	00	0	00
GRAIN, Wheat U.C.						BUTTER, per lb. ...	0	7	a
Best, 60lbs. ...	7	0	a	7	3	CHEESE, full milk,			
Do. L.C. per min.	6	6	a	6	9	100 lbs.	40	0	50
BARLEY, Minot, ...	3	3	a	3	6	LARD, per lb., best	0	0	a
OATS, " ...	2	4	a	2	5	TALLOW, per lb.,			
PEASE,	5	9	a	0	0	rough	0	4½	a

THOS. M. TAYLOR, Broker.

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