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THE  
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Vol. I.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1847.

No. 19

SPECIMENS OF ENGLISH POETS.

PHILIPS.

(Phillips was cotemporary with Dryden, and a writer of no small ability, as the following melancholy burlesque will show.)

THE SPLENDID SHILLING.

Happy the man, who void of cares and strife,  
 In silken or in leathern purse retains  
 A Splendid Shilling: he nor hears with pain  
 New oysters cry'd, nor sighs for cheerful ale.  
 But I, whom griping penury surrounds,  
 And hunger, sure attendant upon want,  
 With scanty offals, and small acid tiff,  
 (Wretched repast!) my meagre corpse sustain;  
 Then solitary walk, or dose at home  
 In garret vile, and with a warming puff  
 Regale chill'd fingers; or from tube as black  
 As winter-chimney, or well polish'd jet,  
 Exhale mundungus, ill perfuming scent:  
 Not blacker tube, nor of a shorter size,  
 Smokes Cambro-Briton (vers'd in pedigree,  
 Sprung from Cadwallador and Arthur, kings  
 Full famous in romantic tale) when he  
 O'er many a craggy hill and barren cliff,  
 Upon a cargo of fam'd Cestrian cheese,  
 High overshadowing rides, with a design  
 To vend his wares at th' Arvonian mart.

Thus while my joyless minutes tedious flow,  
 With looks demure, and silent pace, a dun,  
 Horrible monster, hated by gods and men!  
 To my aerial citadel ascends.  
 With vocal heel thrice thundering at my gate,  
 With hideous accent thrice he calls; I know  
 The voice ill-boding, and the solemn sound.  
 What should I do? or whither turn? Amaz'd,  
 Confounded, to the dark recess I fly  
 Of wood-hole; straight my bristling hairs erect  
 Through sudden fear; a chilly sweat bedews  
 My shuddering limbs, and (wonderful to tell!)  
 My tongue forgets her faculty of speech;  
 So horrible he seems! His faded brow  
 Entrench'd with many a frown, and conic beard,  
 And spreading band, admir'd by modern saints,  
 Disastrous acts forbode; in his right hand  
 Long scrolls of paper solemnly he waves,  
 With characters and figures dire inscrib'd,  
 Grievous to mortal eyes; (ye gods, avert  
 Such plagues from righteous men!) Behind him stalks  
 Another monster not unlike himself,  
 Sullen of aspect, by the vulgar call'd  
 A catchpole, whose polluted hands the gods  
 With force incredible, and magic charms,  
 First have endued: if he his ample palm  
 Should haply on ill-fated shoulder lay  
 Of debtor, strait his body, to the touch  
 Obsequious (as whilom knights were wont)  
 To some enchanted castle is conveyed,  
 Where gates impregnable, and coercive chains,  
 In durance strict detain him, till, in form  
 Of money, Pallas sets the captive free.  
 Beware, ye debtors! when ye walk, beware,  
 Be circumspect; oft with insidious ken  
 The catiff eyes your steps aloof, and oft  
 Lies perdué in a nook of gloomy cave,  
 Prompt to inchant some inadvertant wretch  
 With his unballow'd touch.

So pass my days. But, when nocturnal shades

This world envelop, and th' inclement air  
 Persuades men to repel benumbing frosts  
 With pleasant wines, and crackling blaze of wood;  
 Me, lonely sitting, nor the glimmering light  
 Of make-weight candle, nor the joyous talk  
 Of loving friend, delights; distress'd, forlorn,  
 Amidst the horrors of the tedious night,  
 Darkling I sigh, and feed with dismal thoughts  
 My anxious mind; or sometimes mournful verse  
 Indite, and sing of groves and myrtle shades,  
 Or desperate lady near a purling stream,  
 Or lover pendent on a willow-tree.  
 Meanwhile I labour with eternal drought,  
 And restless wish, and rave; my parched throat  
 Finds no relief, nor heavy eyes repose:  
 But if a slumber haply does invade  
 My weary limbs, my fancy, still awake,  
 Thoughtful of drink, and eager, in a dream,  
 Tripples imaginary pots of ale,  
 In vain; awake I find the settled thirst  
 Still gnawing, and the pleasant phantom cure.

Thus do I live, from pleasure quite debarr'd,  
 Nor taste the fruits that the sun's genial rays  
 Mature, John-apple, nor the downy peach,  
 Nor walnut in rough-furrow'd coat secure,  
 Nor medlar fruit delicious in decay;  
 Afflictions great! yet greater still remain:  
 My galligaskins, that have long withstood  
 The winter's fury, and encroaching frosts  
 By time subdued (what will not time subdue?)  
 An horrid chasm disclose with orifice  
 Wide, discontinuous; at which the winds  
 Eurus and Auster, and the dreadful force  
 Of Boreas, that congeals the Cronian waves,  
 Tumultuous enter with dire chilling blasts,  
 Portending agues. Thus a well-fraught ship,  
 Long sail'd secure, or through th' Ægean deep,  
 Or the Ionian, till cruising near  
 The Lilybean shore, with hideous crush  
 On Scylla, or Charybdis, (dangerous rocks!)  
 She strikes rebounding; whence the shatter'd oak,  
 So fierce a shock unable to withstand,  
 Admits the sea; in at the gasping side  
 The crowding waves gush with impetuous rage  
 Implacable, till, delug'd by the foam,  
 The ship sinks foundering in the vast abyss.

[The above is an exceedingly graphic delineation of what has usually been called the miseries of a Poet's life, but what, in reality, was the miseries of the drunkard. Indeed the oft expressed wonder at the destitution of such poets, as Congreve, Wycherly, Dryden, &c., would cease, if we reflect that they, generally speaking, devoted all their powers, physical and mental, to the service of Satan, and received, as they might expect, his wages in return.—Ed.]

TAHITI AND QUEEN POMARE.

(From the Edinburgh Witness.)

It is now about eighty years since Tahiti, long buried in darkness, started into light. Much better known than it was once, it is as remote and diminutive as ever, and yet it has been able to fix upon itself the attention of the civilized world.

We have alluded to the interest which the discovery awakened at home,—the efforts made to send thither the gospel,—the sixteen years of untiring but fruitless labour on the part of the missionaries, and the signal success with which their perseverance was crowned at last. The ravages of war, and lust, and infanticide, which threatened to depopulate the island,

were instantly stayed; the fruits of "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance," in a measure such as had not been seen since apostolic times, began to appear among these simple Tahitians. But certain Roman Catholic priests effected an entrance; and, refusing to depart peaceably, were forcibly expelled by the authorities; and then came the war-ship across the Pacific, to intimate the high displeasure of France at what these simple islanders had done.

Safely at anchor in the bay of Papute, his guns pointed, Captain Du Petit Thouars informed the inhabitants of Tahiti that Franco had been insulted,—that he was here to demand reparation,—and that unless a fine of two thousand dollars was instantly paid, he would blow down every building in their island with his cannon. The Queen replied to this menace, intimating that she wished all honour, glory, and happiness to the French King,—that she was mistress of but this little isle,—nevertheless, being not less independent as its Sovereign than Captain Du Petit Thouars' master was as monarch of France, she was disposed to stand upon her rights. This answer had nothing but its truth and justice to recommend it, and was not likely to be regarded as very formidable by a man who had France and his guns to back him. Two thousand dollars!—a small sum, when we take into account that it was to buy off the displeasure of mighty France, yet the public revenues of Tahiti could not furnish the amount, though the Queen had been willing to submit to the indignity of paying it. The guns in the bay stood threatening the dwellings on shore; and in this extremity the missionaries and the British merchants collected a sum equal to the demand of the French commander, which, being handed to Captain Du Petit Thouars, he weighed anchor and bore away in triumph, carrying to France the two thousand dollars which the terror of his threats had extorted from the defenceless islanders.

Du Petit Thouars was gone, but the sense of the indignities he had inflicted rankled in the breasts of the Queen and her council, and they now passed a law that no one connected with the Romish Church, under the authority of the French Government, should be allowed to settle permanently in the island. Well, a short time elapses, and another French ship of war makes its appearance on the coast. Has Franco been again insulted? Cannot this little State, so far removed from the shores of Europe, take a single step, or pass any law whatever, for the regulation of its affairs, but it must needs give umbrage to France? Here, again, is the representative of the "great nation" complaining of new injuries, and demanding the repeal of the law which forbade the permanent residence of Frenchmen, members of the Romish communion, on the island. The demand is enforced by the old arguments, and Tahiti and her Queen are obliged to submit: the law is repealed, and the *Artimese* departs.

Tahiti had humbled herself before her powerful enemy, but this can procure her no exemption from continued aggressions. In truth, her troubles are only commencing. France feels the necessity of having something like a title to show for taking into her own hands the laws, the religion, and the government of Tahiti, as she now meditates doing. Captain Du Petit Thouars is again despatched; but this time he carries with him an instrument much less formidable in appearance, but far more dangerous in reality, than the guns which on former visits he had pointed against the island. This is a document, drawn and ready for the signature of the Queen and her chiefs, setting forth that Pomare feels herself incapable of governing her kingdom, and earnestly solicits that the "shadow of France" may be thrown over her. But such a scheme must be warily gone about. And so it was. The chiefs were invited to dine on board the vessel in the bay. They were plied with liquor, and then the document was produced. The astonished chiefs refused to sign a paper which virtually amounted to the dethronement of their sovereign. They were told that they had been guilty of offering repeated insults to France, and that these would be fearfully avenged, unless the document was instantly signed. They again faltered forth excuses and denials, but were immediately surrounded with an armed force. Thus overpowered, they took the pen, and, with trembling hands, affixed their names.

Pomare was absent from Tahiti when this scene was enacted. She had left her palace, and retired to the neighbouring isle of Imeo, expecting shortly to give birth to her fourth child.

On the following morning a messenger was despatched with the fatal document. His first request for an interview was refused; but, growing more imperious and insolent, he was at length admitted. The only alternative presented to Pomare was, that she should sign the document, or have her island desolated by the cannon of the French. She saw there the names of her chiefs, but she knew not that their signatures had been affixed in the midst of French threats and bayonets. What was the poor Queen to do? She had no army; for ever since she embraced Christianity she had governed without soldiers. There was no British ship in the bay to which she might appeal for protection; her chiefs had yielded to the demands of France; and could she, a woman, abandoned, as it seemed, by the whole world, stand out alone? The messenger waited in the chamber, and during the intervals of her sufferings,—for it was now the hour of "nature's sorrow,"—plied her with entreaties to sign, and ruffianly threats of violence if she refused. Unhappy Pomare! She had embraced the gospel. This was the head and front of her offending; and now she must atone with the loss of her dominions. She took the document,—affixed her name,—returned it to the messenger,—and then, bursting into a flood of tears, and embracing her eldest son, a child of six years, she exclaimed, "My child, I have signed away thy birth-right."

Such is the simple story of the wrongs of this woman. The actors in these tragedies little imagined that what they perpetrated in the solitudes of the Pacific, would be told upon the house-tops of Europe. But what does France say to this tale of wrong? France,—the land of chivalry,—what says she to triumphs won by force and fraud over defenceless womanhood and unarmed islanders?

Over Tahiti was now thrown, as the French delighted to term it, the "shadow of their country." But that shadow seemed to blight the little isle. Peace and happiness could not live beneath it. The erection of the "Protectorate" was followed by a series of humiliations and sufferings inflicted on both the Queen and her people. Her flag was torn down, and the tricolour mounted upon her palace. The island was filled with French troops. Pomare was driven to seek refuge in the house of the British Consul; while her "protectors" occupied her palace, and issued their decrees in the name of the French monarch. Finding herself in jeopardy even in the British Consulate, she was glad to escape, with her husband and children, on board an English schooner, and take up her abode in a neighbouring island,—Raiatea. Immediately on her departure, Tahiti was plunged into all the horrors of war. The natives refused to disown their Queen and recognise the French Protectorate as supreme; and the attempt was accordingly made to compel them by force of arms. The war broke out; and the inhabitants, forsaking their villages on the plain, where they deemed themselves inadequate to contend with the superior numbers of the French, betook themselves to the fastnesses of their hills. Thither they were followed by the enemy, whom they now encountered, and routed with considerable loss. To avenge their defeat, on their way back to their encampment on the beach, the French set fire to the churches, felled the bread-fruit trees and cocoas, pillaged the villages, and did every thing, in short, which their means enabled them to do to convert this fruitful and beautiful island into a desert. But we cannot farther detail the ravages which have followed French aggression in Tahiti. An important question yet remains,—in what way can Christians in Britain aid their aggrieved and outraged brethren in Polynesia?

## THE REVELATIONS OF ASTRONOMY.

(Continued from *North British Review*.)

Hitherto we have been surveying worlds at a respectful distance from each other, and having days and nights, and seasons and aspects, of the same character, but we now arrive at a region in space where some great catastrophe has, doubtless, taken place. Beyond the orbit of Mars, and at the distance of 263 millions of miles from the sun, the celebrated M. Piazzi of Palermo discovered, on the 1st of January, 1801, a small planet, Ceres, which revolved round the sun in 1681 days, and its diameter, according to W. Herschel, is only 163 miles, while Schroeter makes it 1624. Dr. Olbers discovered another small planet, Pallas, on the 21st March, 1802, with a diameter of only

80 miles according to Herschel, or 2100 according to Schroeter, a period of 1703 days, and a distance from the sun of 205 millions of miles. On the 2d September, 1804, M. Harding of Lillenthal, discovered a third new planet, namely, Juno, with a diameter, according to him, of 1425 miles, a period of 1592 days, and 252 millions of miles from the sun. These strange and unexpected discoveries led Dr. Olbers to believe that the three planets were fragments of a larger one which had burst, and pursuing this idea, he discovered, on the 29th March, 1807, a fourth, namely, Vesta, 250 miles in diameter, 225 millions of miles from the sun, and revolving round him in 1155 days. From this time, it was always considered probable that other fragments would be found, and that meteoric stones were some of the lesser pieces that had been projected from the shivered planet. Many meteoric stones have fallen since that time, but, with the exception of a remark by M. Cacciatori in a letter to Captain Smith in September, 1835, that he had followed a small planet (which he suspected to be beyond Uranus), for three nights, and afterwards lost it, no hint of another planetary fragment had been given by astronomers. On the 8th December, 1845, however, M. Hencke of Driessen in Prussia, discovered a fifth small planet, viz., Astræa, belonging to the interesting group under our notice. It is situated at nearly the same distance from the sun as Juno, and has a period of about 1500 days.

From this quintuple cluster of small planets, which have, doubtless, originally formed one, and which have established, as we shall afterwards see, a law of planetary distances, we pass to still more remarkable bodies of our system. The next planet in order is Jupiter, a body of huge magnitude which revolves round the sun in 4332 days 14 hours, or about twelve years, at a distance of 485 millions of miles. His diameter is no less than 90,000 miles, a globe that would occupy nearly one half of the moon's orbit. This magnificent planet revolves round his axis in 9 hours, 56 minutes, and his equatorial diameter being to the Polar one as 14 to 13, it will exceed it by nearly 6000 miles. The disc of Jupiter differs from that of all the other planets in being crossed with a number of bands or belts of different degrees of shade, varying at different times. Dark and bright spots have also been seen on his disc, phenomena which indicate the existence of an atmosphere, and an equatorial arrangement of clouds, as if it were effected by an agency analogous to that of our trade winds. But the most remarkable feature in this planet is its possession of four moons or satellites, which, reckoning from the planet, are 2508, 2068, 3377, and 2800 miles in diameter, and revolve round their primary in 42, 85, 171, and 400 hours respectively. These satellites pass over the disc of Jupiter, and are eclipsed in his shadow, or behind his body. On the 2d of November, 1681, old style, Molyneux saw Jupiter without any of his attendants—"a conjunction," as Captain Smith observes, "which will require more than three thousand billions of years to occur again." Captain Smith has given us the following very distinct account of a phenomenon which has recently very much perplexed astronomers:—"On the 26th of June, 1828, I was watching the second satellite of Jupiter, as it gradually approached to transit its disc. It appeared in contact at about half-past ten, and for some minutes remained on the edge of the limb, until it finally disappeared in the body of the planet. At least 12 or 13 minutes must have elapsed, when I perceived the same satellite outside the disc, where it remained distinctly visible at least four minutes." Mr. Maclean, 12 miles distant from Captain Smith, and Dr. Pearson, 35 miles distant, saw the same phenomenon on the same evening.

The next step in our progress from the sun presents us with the planet Saturn, a world as far surpassing Jupiter in the novelty of its features, as Jupiter did the other planets. Its mean distance from the sun, is about 890 millions of miles; the length of its year, or period of revolution, 29 years and 155 days, and the time of its diurnal rotation 10 hours, 26 minutes. Its diameter is 76,000 miles; but his most remarkable feature is, that he is suspended in the middle of a broad luminous ring, the outer diameter of which is 176,418 miles, and its inner diameter 117,339 miles. This ring consists of two rings separated by an interval of 1791 miles, the inner diameter of the outer ring being 155,272 miles, and the outer diameter of the inner ring 151,690 miles. The distance of the ring from the body of the planet is 19,090 miles; but what is very remarkable,

the planet is not in the exact centre of the ring, but is nearer the west side of it, the left vacancy being 11,073", and the right one 11,288". The outer ring has been observed by several astronomers to be divided into two rings. Other observers, however, have been unable to see this second division in the ring, and we must, therefore, wait for Lord Rosse's observations before we can regard that division as an ascertained fact. Saturn has the form of an oblate spheroid, the equatorial being to the polar diameter as 12 to 11. The surface of his disc is diversified with belts parallel to the equator. Sir W. Herschel observed five, one of which was bright, uniform, and broad, and close to it was a dark belt divided by two narrow white streaks, so that he saw three dark belts and two bright ones, occupying a wider space than the belts of Jupiter. In addition to these splendid rings, which must furnish the planet with a blaze of light, he is illuminated by no fewer than seven satellites, placed at the distance of 120,000, 150,000, 190,000, 243,000, 340,000, 788,000, and 2,297,000 miles, and revolving in 23 hours—1 day, 9 hours—1 day, 21 hours—2 days, 18 hours—4 days, 12 hours—15 days, 23 hours—and 79 days, eight hours. The two innermost were discovered by Sir W. Herschel, the sixth by Huygens, and all the rest by Cassini. Captain Smith states, that he believes that "all the seven satellites were visible in Sir James South's great refractor in February, 1830."

Till the year 1781, Saturn was considered the remotest planet of our system; but Sir W. Herschel, on the 13th March of that year, discovered a new planet, now called Uranus, situated far beyond the region of Saturn. It revolves round the sun in 84 years, at the distance of 1800 millions of miles. Sir W. Herschel discovered six satellites, which revolve round the planet in 5 days, 21 hours, 8 days, 17 hours, 10 days, 23 hours, 13 days, 11 hours, 38 days, 2 hours, and 107 days, 17 hours, at the distances of 13,120 miles, 17,022, 19,345, 22,752, 45,507, 91,008 miles respectively.

#### THE PEN OF IRON.

When Bishop Latimer was on his trial, he at first answered carelessly. But presently he heard the pen going behind the tapestry, which was taking down his words.—Then he was careful what he said. There is an All-recording pen behind the curtain of the skies, taking down our words and acts for judgment.

It is a pen of iron. "The Sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and the point of a diamond." It graves deep its records on the imperishable tablets of eternity—a record of every thought, word and act.—How ought we to live, since we can almost hear the all-recording pen going every hour, since we know that every day we are filling a page in the books that shall be opened at the judgment, and the record is imperishable as eternity.

A rich landlord in England once performed an act of tyrannical injustice to a widowed tenant. The widow's son, who saw it, became a painter, and years after succeeded in placing a painting of that scene where their oppressor saw it. As his eye fell on the picture, the rich man turned pale and trembled, and offered any sum to purchase it, that he might put it out of sight. If every scene of wickedness through which a man passes, should be painted, and the paintings hung up about him, so that he would always see the portrait of himself with the evil passions expressed on his countenance, and himself in the very act of wickedness, he would be wretched. Such a picture-gallery there is; and in eternity the sinner will dwell in it; for every feature and lineament of the soul, in every feeling and act of wickedness, is portrayed imperishably, and will be exhibited to the gaze of the universe forever.

By the discoveries of modern science, the rays of the sun are made to form the exact portrait of him on whom they shine. We are all living in the sun-light of eternity, which is transferring to plates more enduring than brass the exact portrait of the soul in every successive act with all its attendant circumstances.

Interesting to the antiquarian, is the moment when he drags out from the sands of Egypt some obolisk, on which the 'pen of iron, and the point of a diamond' have graven the portraits, the attitudes, the dresses, and the pursuits of men, who lived and died 3000 years ago. But none can utter the interest of that moment when from the silence of eternity shall be brought out tablets thick-set with the sculptured history of a sinful soul,

and men and angels, with the sinner himself, shall gaze appalled on the faithful portraiture of a life of sin. Remember, then, oh, transgressor, you must meet the record of your sin in eternity.—*N. E. Puritan.*

### THE NET OF THE SPIDER.

That any creature could be found to fabricate a net not less ingenious than that of the fisherman, for the capture of its prey; that it should fix it in the right place, and then patiently await the result, is a proceeding so strange, that if we did not see it done daily by the common house-spider and garden-spider, it would seem wonderful; but how much is our wonder increased when we think of the complex fabric of each single thread, and then of the mathematical precision and rapidity with which in certain cases, the net itself is constructed; and to add to all this, as an example of the wonders which the most common things exhibit when carefully examined, the net of the garden-spider consists of two distinct kinds of silk. The threads forming the concentric circles are composed of a silk much more elastic than that of the rays: and are studded over with minute globules of a viscid gum, sufficiently adhesive to retain any unwary fly which comes in contact with it.—A net of average dimensions is estimated, by Mr. Blackwall, to contain 37,360 of these globules, and a large net, of fourteen or fifteen inches in diameter 120,000; and yet such a net will be completed by one species (*eperia apoclisia*) in about forty minutes, on an average, if no interruption occur. In ordinary circumstances, the threads lose their viscosity by exposure to the air, and require to have it renewed every twenty-four hours. Any observer, by scattering a little fine dust over the webs, may satisfy himself that it is retained only on the circles where the minute globules are placed, and not upon the radii. If the globules are removed, both lines are unadhesive; but in other respects they are different, the circular lines being transparent and highly elastic, while the radial lines are opaque, and possess only a moderate degree of elasticity. The astronomer finds the opaque silk of the radial lines and of the egg-bag a convenient substitute for platini wires in the telescopes attached to his instruments; but the silk of the circular lines being transparent, is, from that circumstance, unsuitable for this purpose. Mr. Patterson states, in a foot note, that this curious fact has been communicated to him by the Rev. Dr. Robinson, of the Armagh observatory. The silk there employed is procured from the egg-bags of the common garden-spider, (*eperia diadema*.) The nets of some spiders are constructed under water, the secretion being insoluble, and are spread out for the capture of aquatic insects.—*Patterson's Introduction to Zoology.*

### THE NATIONAL ERA.

It is evident that the discussion of the Mexican war, with the questions of Executive power, territorial acquisition, and slavery-extension, growing out of it, is to be the principal business of this session. Neither party can boast of harmony upon the subject.

The Democrats are in favour of conquering peace, but the Northern and Western sections do not seem disposed to tax tea and coffee for the grand object, while the Southern Democracy will not consent to raise the present tariff.

Again, while all are in favour of prosecuting the war, some would invest the President with all requisite powers; others, distrustful of Executive usurpation, would depend more upon the States.

Finally, all agree in seeking the acquisition of territory; but the Southern Democracy would devote the new territory to slavery, while their Northern and Western brethren seem bent on consecrating it to liberty.

The Whigs are equally discordant in their views. All denounce the war, but, while a few conform their votes to their opinions, the rest, bound by their most inconsistent support of the bill which declared the war existed by the act of Mexico, still vote for what they execrate. Their position, however, is becoming more and more uncomfortable. It is as if a man should all the while be giving the lie to his own statements. Their opponents, as well as some of their friends, charge home upon them their inconsistency, and, so palpable, barefaced is it, that it is impossible to defend it. The few who denounced the war from the beginning, and voted as they spoke, command more respect than their brethren, and are destined to exert more influence,

But this is not the sole cause of disunion. The same difference of opinion in relation to the destiny of the conquered territory which distracts "the Democracy," divides the Northern and Southern Whigs; and, for this reason, specially, the former shrink from having the question tested. They would prefer peace, and an abandonment of New Mexico and California, not so much because opposed to territorial extension, as because they dread the agitation of the question, What shall be the nature of the institutions tolerated in those countries? They are opposed to the extension of slavery, and know that they must be true to their principles when the question shall come up. But fidelity to their principles may cost them a party. The agitation they so much dread may result in irreparable divisions among themselves. The fact is, new party organizations will probably spring out of this Mexican war; old politicians may find themselves suddenly unhorsed; slavery, which set in motion the causes which led to this war, may be shut in forever, by the decision of Congress—a decision that would not have been made but for the war. We anticipate important and most decisive events.—*Era.*

### EVIL INFLUENCES OF TOBACCO.

The following is an extract from a London letter, published in the Christian Reflector:

I will tell you, as one item in this connection, that you may save yourself the trouble of applying for lodgings at No.—Woburn Place, as before fixing ourselves very pleasantly elsewhere, we did; for when approximating to terms, one or two insuperable difficulties presented themselves. One was, that the very lady-like, good-humoured hostess could not let her apartments for less time than six months; and the other learning that we were Americans—we must excuse her—she "begged pardon"—but she could not let her apartments again to Americans. She had last year let them to Gen. —, of Philadelphia, and he had so spoiled her curtains, carpets and furniture with tobacco, that she was obliged to expend much more than all her profits for new curtains, cleaning and repairs.

She liked the general, the only American she had ever met, very much; he was an exceedingly agreeable, very gentlemanly man, and she did not doubt she would also like us, except in the one particular. Nor would she by any means wish to use any unkind terms of the American habit of chewing tobacco. Different nations have and would have different customs, and it was not for her to say which were best.—But she must, she was obliged to protect her carpets and curtains—they were now new; she hoped, therefore, we would excuse her! And feeling much sympathy for the good woman, and respect too, for she, at least, relied not wholly upon Dickens, Marryatt and Trollope for her knowledge of Americans; she had lodged a living one—I thought it but kind to relieve her as speedily as possible from any fears she might be indulging, lest I might eject a quantity of tobacco juice, though never using the weed, upon her parlor carpets or curtains, so spared her from listening to any long defence of my countrymen, and bade her adieu.

### APPLES OF GOLD.

"He hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure; for this is all my salvation, and all my desire." 2 Sam. xxiii. 5. "I have made a covenant with my chosen." Psalm lxxix. 3.

This was David's plea and confidence, when, with eternity full before him, he was just going to make his appearance before an infinitely pure God. This must be our plea also, if ever we would obtain the approbation of our Judge. After a life of the most eminent holiness, the best of men will have reason to cry out, "Enter not into judgment with thy servant, O Lord!" It is true, indeed, the believer will discover some evidences of grace, just to show the child of God, and no more; but all so imperfect, that he dares not ground his expectations on them. Here the covenant of grace steps into his relief, wherein he sees ample provision made for the security of his eternal interest; for the covenant is made with Christ and his seed. It is an everlasting covenant, not only made before time, but extending its beneficial effects through the ages of eternity. It is ordered in all things, therefore nothing can be wanting in it, either to promote the glory of God, or the salvation of believers. It is sure also: depending on no conditions, requiring nothing but what it gives, conferring its blessings freely, and making them sure to all the seed, being established upon better promises. Happy souls, who are interested in this well-ordered covenant! May it be all my salvation, and all my desire!

## SCRIPTURE ILLUSTRATION.



Khizam or Nose Jewels of Modern Egypt.

"A golden earring of half a shekel weight. -Genesis, xxiv. 22.

Our generally excellent translation sometimes indicates the painful difficulties in which the translators were occasionally involved, in consequence of the ignorance of eastern countries which then generally prevailed, and which often left them in great doubt about the true renderings. Here we have "a golden earring," that is, an odd earring. This being felt as somewhat of an absurdity, the marginal rendering is, "a jewel for the face;" but again, in verse 47, it is, "I put the earring upon her face," which is rather a curious disposition of an earring. The thing really intended seems to be a ring or jewel for the nose; but our translators having no knowledge of such an ornament, which seemed to them to imply an absurdity, have carefully avoided the true idea everywhere except in Isaiah iii. 21, the translator of which portion had probably gained some information, not possessed by the others, of this peculiarity of oriental ornament. Yet all their care could not preclude an occasional illusion to it, as where Prov. xi. 22, could not but be rendered "a jewel in a swine's snout." The extensive use of nose-ornaments among the Arabian and other females of the East having now become known, modern translators render the present text "nose-ring," as is done in the Arabic and Persian versions. Such rings are generally of silver or gold, but sometimes of coral, mother-of-pearl, or even horn, according to the taste or means of the wearer. Chardin, who was professionally a jeweller, must have been conversant with this subject; and he says that the better sort of rings are set with a ruby between two pearls; we do not recollect, however, to have seen rubies in them; but the turquoise is common. This curious ornament varies considerably in size and thickness but it is always circular, and is worn, not from the middle cartilage of the nose, but from the external cartilage of the left nostril, which is pierced for the purpose. We have also seen an ornament for the nose worn by the Koordish and Bedouin females, which has escaped the notice of illustrators of Scripture, but which we should prefer to consider as the "nose-jewel," when a ring is not expressly mentioned. It is a thin circular plate of gold, frequently a coin, about the size of half a crown piece, and in appearance not unlike the large fancy buttons which decorated the coats of a past generation. A turquoise is often set in the centre over the pin by which it is attached to the side of the nose, where its appearance is sufficiently striking, and it always seemed to us much less pleasing than even the nose-ring.—*Pictorial Bible.*

## WAR.

I hope the reading of this article will not frighten any of your readers so much as to prevent their giving some attention to the remarks I wish to make upon it. There is, however, fearful import in this little word. The English language does not probably contain one so expressive of evil. But the word has lost much of its power and significance by the frequency of its use among the unreflecting. Could a minimum of the horrors attendant on war arise to the mind's eye on

pronouncing this little word, there would be more caution used in its utterance. War is a gigantic evil; and as, like duelling, it is a relic of a barbarous age, it is more than barbarous to continue its use in this civilized age. God's law and man's reason are alike in conflict with it; and upon God's people will rest the grievous sin of its continuance, if they do not make themselves heard in time of peril. It does appear to me that the Christian world is not sufficiently alive to the evils of this most deadly foe to the human race. God's people are too much with the people of the world in this matter. It is time that they should awake—shake off the slumber of ages, and come to the rescue of all they hold most dear—the teachings of their Divine Master. Christ's teachings are those of love, not hate—peace, not war. What were the views of the primitive Christians in this matter? They would not take up arms against their fellow-man, because they knew it was against the express commands of God to imbue their hands in their neighbour's blood; and they acted consistently with their belief. Do Christians act consistently in their belief, at the present day, as it regards this great crime? When Julian was bestowing upon his troops a largess, with a view to some approaching battle, his bounty was refused by Martin, a soldier previously converted to Christianity. "Hitherto," said he, "I have fought for thee; permit me now to fight for my God. I am the soldier of Christ; for me, the combat is unlawful." Would war exist at the present day, among what are termed civilized nations, if each professing Christian did but his duty to his God and to his fellow-man? This is a solemn question, and it requires a serious answer at the foot-stool of Christ—there it will be answered in sincerity; and when it is answered, let not that answer be gainsayed when coming forth into the world.

Pax.

## CANADA, AND ITS LITERARY PROSPECTS.

The amount of the School Lands' Fund investment, in 1844, was upwards of £24,000, and the balance in hand, of the revenues arising from the Jesuits' Estates, nearly £30,000. (The annual income arising from the Jesuits' Estates, exceeds Four Thousand Pounds.) It is to be hoped that during the next Session of the Provincial Parliament, measures will be taken for the prompt application of these splendid means to the purposes for which they are intended.

The elementary schools are the most numerous, and the chief, if not the only source whence education is obtained by the lower and middling classes. With proper care these institutions might be rendered truly valuable to the community, but owing to the parsimony of government and the miserable provision made for the payment of Teachers, they are at present very unsatisfactory and ineffective. The Superintendent of Education for Canada East, in his report for 1844 says:—"I have remarked under the existing law, a great disposition to pay the teachers very poorly. Yet it cannot be expected that a well qualified man would embrace a profession, certainly one of the most honourable, but also one of the most laborious, if he be not convinced that in thus devoting his life to the intellectual emancipation of the rising generation, he will ensure to himself and his family an honest livelihood."

To this may be added, that the teacher of youth is not only entitled to an honest livelihood, but to a respectable one also. And in a social point of view, he is entitled to as much respect as the divine, the advocate, or the medical practitioner, although the conventionalities of society in Canada place him lower, and he has not an equal chance of accumulating a competency to sustain him when he is incapacitated by infirmity, for the discharge of his duty.

The Schoolmaster should be well rewarded for his labours when actively engaged, and ought to receive a proper provision for his comfort and support in old age.

The non-employment, therefore, of well qualified teachers in the elementary schools, arising from want of sufficient inducement to educated men to embrace the profession of teacher, still remains as one great hinderance to the progress of literature in this Province.

It is by Agriculture and Education that the progress and prosperity of this colony will be best promoted. Agriculture will unfold its ample stores, and Education will enable it to turn them to best account. In the midst of a fertile country, an ignorant and uneducated people may starve, whilst the blessings of existence are within their grasp.

The District Grammar Schools occupy the next rank in the Institu-



tions for public education. And here, with some few exceptions, the preceding observations may be safely applied. Though intended to impart instruction in the higher departments of learning, they have become in some cases little better than elementary schools.

A want of care in choosing and appointing masters has been evinced, and successful candidates have in many cases been political nominees, or have been appointed by personal influence without any, or at best with but very little inquiry as to their moral and intellectual qualifications. Two remarkable instances might be named of improper appointments, in one case the master is frequently an hour later than the time prescribed, and is addicted to dram drinking; in the other a young man, without any previous experience or proper education for the profession, but with the then unknown recommendation of having been sent from home on account of his unsteady habits, was elected by means of a testimonial signed by parties to whom he was all but an utter stranger.

To the well qualified and faithful teacher who diligently attends to the duties of his laborious profession, the foregoing strictures do not apply. The intention is to point out an evil, that a remedy may be suggested and applied. For if all the District Grammar Schools were well conducted, they would give a healthy tone to instruction, which would soon raise education from its present depressed state.

Upper Canada College, the Institutions at Cobourg, Kingston, Lenoxville and the High Schools of Quebec and Montreal, occupy prominent places in public instruction. The two last Institutions, commenced by the spirited enterprise of private individuals, seem destined to give a mighty impulse to the cause of learning, and to reflect back the gratitude of posterity upon the philanthropic exertions of their founders in the cause of education.

Till recently no public assistance whatever was received by either of the two last named public schools, but lately by the munificence of the Trustees of the Royal Institution for the advancement of Learning, an annual grant of about three hundred pounds currency, has been made to each. But the pecuniary provision is far from being adequate to their wants, and the beneficial results arising from both, must, in a measure, be circumscribed till some personal endowment is made. The Jesuits' Estates present the most available sources, and when it is considered that in the latter case an outlay of nearly £6,000 has been made in erecting a commodious School House which is an ornament to the city of Montreal, that an annual expenditure of upwards of £1600 is incurred in paying the salaries of masters, who are all men of distinguished attainments as teachers, and that the number of pupils, averaging from 220 to 230 in attendance, may be greatly increased, it is to be hoped that the Legislature will take speedy measures for placing these Institutions upon a permanent footing, since the prosperity of this colony is so intimately connected with, and depends upon the spread of learning and intelligence among the community.

#### CHRISTIAN UNION.

**UNITY—BASED ON THE SIMPLICITY OF THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST.**—A time will come when "God's own truth, expressed in God's own language, will form the universal creed of intelligent, and harmonized, and happy Christendom. When men's faith and their affections will come into more direct contact with heaven's original revelation, and the spirit of good will to man, which prompted heaven's message, will be felt in all its freshness and power, when the uproar of controversy is stilled, and its harsh and jarring discords have died away into everlasting silence."—*Chalmers*.

**FORBEARING IN LOVE THE BOND OF UNITY.**—"If there be one practical precept, which we could wish to be printed in starry characters on the dark face of our mighty sky, written in sunbeams on the tablet of the earth, and uttered both night and day in voices from the heavens, that the attention of men might be irresistibly turned to it, and their hearts unavoidably impressed by it—this is the ONE—FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE. This one short precept, universally obeyed, would set all right, and reduce all to order. It would not at once reconcile all minds, but it would harmonize all hearts. It would not amalgamate all churches into an external uniformity, but it would combine them all in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace. It might not hush the voice of controversy, but it would take from it the harsh dissonance of human passion, and cause it to speak in the mellifluous tones of divine charity."—*J. A. James*.

**A SECTARIAN SPIRIT AT VARIANCE WITH THIS DIVINE UNITY.**—"The partitions we erect and uphold may long define and fence up our denomination, but they shall very shortly be of no effect to ourselves individually. The highest of them do not reach those third heavens, where, far above their altitude, we shall meet and rejoice with Christians from whom they discovered us. Can we realise this early, this elevated superiority, to all these shibboleths, and yet hold them in idolatrous respect? If we are Christians, our treasure is already in heaven, and our hearts are there also. Can it be, then, that this hour we hold anticipating fellowship with a church formed out of all churches, and dearer exquisite delight from its comprehensiveness of membership, and next hour deny the distinctions we had just forgotten, and in the absence of which we saw a presage of glory?"—*King*.

#### SELECTIONS.

**NEW CLANS IN THE HIGHLANDS.**—Owing to the rapid conversion of the greater portion of the Scottish Highlands into pastures, a remarkable change is taking place among the inhabitants of those regions, consisting in the introduction of an entirely new description of clans, which threaten altogether to supersede the aborigines. Of these we mention the Clan-Lamb and the Clan-Wether, which, with the Clan-Ewe, occupy considerable tracts of country, whence they have quite expelled the original inhabitants. The Clan-Leicestershire is daily extending itself among the hills, and the Clan-Southdown is fast replacing the mountaineers of the North. The Mac-Gregors and Mac-Alpines are quickly disappearing before the Merinos and Mac-Rams, and the craigs that once echoed to the strains of the bagpipe resound now only to the tinkling of the sheep-bell. The chiefs of these new clans are great dukes and noblemen, whose influence enables them to hold their own; or rather what, properly speaking, is not their own, being, in fact, the birthright of the Gael. The worst of the matter is, that these flocks of intruders eat up everything on the face of the country, and poor Donald, ousted from home, wanders on the hill-side with nothing to live upon.—*Punch*.

**A HARD CASE.**—The late Mr. Ashton, the millionaire manufacturer, has been heard to complain of his lot, because his bankers refused any longer to allow him 2½ per cent. interest for his deposits, and he did not know what to do with his money.—*Gateshead Observer*.

We may have many friends in life, but we can only have one mother; a discovery which I never made until it was too late.—*Gray*.

Multiply the word "Murder" by ten thousand, and the product is War.—*Arithmetic of Peace*.

**RAISING AND REMOVING HOUSES.**—One need not walk through many streets in New York without witnessing in one of them a removal or lifting up of a house; this is almost peculiar to American mechanics, and I was never tired of looking at it. The practice has contributed very much to the straightness and uniformity of the streets, and so perfectly at home are they at it, that if an advertisement were put in the *Sun*, the *Herald*, or the *Tribune*, to remove the London Mansion-house to Hampstead Heath, there would be several offers for the job. As for the north side of Middle-row, they would think nothing of removing it bodily at once to the Model Prison at Clerkenwell, without any of the young misses of the family being in the slightest degree interrupted in their usual avocations. As for the everlasting and dangerous nuisance of Holborn Hill which I have been looking at more in sorrow than in anger for these forty years, in New York it would be levelled in a week. A worthy tradesman in the city of Brooklyn, opposite New York, wanted to convert his two parlour windows into a shop-front; "No, no," said the builder, "don't throw away your parlour, I will lift the house up, and build you a much better, loftier, and more spacious shop where the parlour now stands." The screws and timbers were accordingly brought, and I saw the two-storey brick house go up slowly and imperceptibly, whilst the daughters were looking out of the window, as if nothing was going on more than usual. I watched the alteration every time I crossed the ferry to Brooklyn, and in the course of two or three weeks the tradesman was occupying his new and handsome store, as the shops are called.—*Rambles in the United States, by Rubio*.

**MAKING CALLS ON THE LORD'S DAY.**—Another clearly forbidden form of Sabbath-recreation is the practice of making or receiving idle, unnecessary, or fashionable calls. We especially warn you against making them: we have known several instances where families, just on the point of asking their way to Zion, with their faces thitherward, have had their early resolves thwarted, their Sabbath arrangements broken in upon, the first breathings of the spiritual life extinguished, and the green shoot of hope and promise, whose growth the wife or the child had encouraged with many a prayer, and watered with many a tear, driven back into the earth again by ill-timed visits from some Sabbath trifiers, who would not enter into the house of God themselves; and those who would have entered they hindered. Your doors should be open to none on this day but to those who are connected with you, either by the ties of kindred or by the ties of grace; and to them only under such limitations as should secure to you the uninterrupted freeness of spiritual communion, whether in the closet, to be alone with God, or in the sanctuary, where your voices are to mingle with those of the great congregation.—*Rev. D. Moore*.

**NOBLE SENTIMENT.**—When Sir Walter Scott was urged not to prop the falling credit of an acquaintance, he replied—"The man was my friend when friends were few: and I will be his, now that his enemies are many."

**CHARCOAL.**—A great many valuable purposes are served by charcoal, besides warming our persons and cooking our victuals. We see it stated that meat can be entirely freed of its disagreeable taste, if when boiling, a piece of charred, or burnt stick be kept in the pot. A piece of charcoal is as good. And what is, perhaps, still more gratifying to a certain class of drinkers, it is said that temperance cider may be made with that article, in the following manner:—Take a pint of pulverized charcoal and put it in a bag, then put it into a barrel of new cider, and the cider will never ferment, will never contain any intoxicating quality, and is more palatable the longer it is kept. If this is really so, we know of some who might as well put charcoal in their barrels! Don't forget it, dear friends, don't.—*Olive Branch*.

**CURIOUS CUSTOM.**—Willis says, in one of his letters from Germany:—"It was here (in the Church of St. Nicholas), by the way, that I first became aware of a very sensible German custom—that of concentrating the coughing and nose blowing during service time. The clergyman stops at different periods of his discourse, steps back from his pulpit stand, and blows his nose—the entire congregation imitating his example, and disturbing the service with the operation at no other time."

**AN INDIAN LADY.**—Some twenty years ago, we were travelling in Canada, and fell in with a small party returning from the Hudson's Bay territory, now known as Oregon. One of this party, Mr. H., of Vermont, had been absent twenty-eight years from civilized life, and during his residence in the territory had married a native woman, by whom he had several children, all of whom were with him. When they had arrived near the frontier of civilization, Mrs. H. objected to proceed further until her husband had ascertained that his relatives would receive her as his wife, and esteem her as such. No entreaties could dissuade her from her purpose. The desired assurance was, of course, obtained, and she cheerfully pursued her course to Vermont, and soon after became a member of the Presbyterian Church. So far as we know, she is an excellent wife, an affectionate mother, and a good neighbour.—*Com. Advertiser.*

**A NEW THOUGHT ABOUT EXPLOSIVE COTTON.**—We see by the *Démocratie Pacifique* of Paris, that the European governments are in no small repudiation about the discovery of the new explosive cotton. It puts a terrible power in the hands of the people, which can be manufactured very easily, and concealed in spite of police searches. The French Government wished to suppress it, but it found that it would have to suppress so many materials—all kinds of acids, cotton, hemp, paper, &c., that it would be impossible. Revolutions no doubt will be greatly facilitated by this invention, and it comes at a time when reform ideas agitate the masses more deeply than ever before. The fact is that the kings and rulers of the world will have to undertake the work of elevating peacefully the oppressed and miserable masses, or take consequences far more serious than have heretofore fallen upon them for the neglect of their duty.

**A PRETENDED GREATNESS OF ANCESTRY.**—Lord Thurlow had a just contempt for the vanity of new men pretending that they are of ancient blood; and some one attempting to flatter him by trying to make out that he was descended from Thurlow, Cromwell's private secretary, who was a Suffolk man, "Sir," said he, "there were two Thurlows in that part of the country, who flourished about the same time—Thurlow the secretary, and Thurlow the carrier; I am descended from the last."

**PAYING DEBTS BY LICENSES.**—A committee of the Common Council of Cleveland, Ohio, have hit upon an expedient to relieve that city of a present public debt, by licensing the sale of liquors, and thereby manufacturing private debtors by wholesale. They propose a plan which they say will check entirely the illegal sale of liquors, and produce a revenue of \$3000 a year to the city. The plan is to license all persons who shall be found on examination to be properly qualified, for from thirty to one hundred dollars a year, in proportion to the business done, and apply the proceeds to the liquidation of the city debt. The idea seems to be, so to increase the facilities for making drunkards legally, that there will be no inducement to make them illegally. The city is to be enriched by impoverishing the people. The public interest is to be promoted at the expense of the public morals. Such must be the result of a license law established for the sole purpose of raising a revenue.

**EXPORTATION OF PAUPERS.**—By recent publications in the *New York Courier des Etats Unis*, it is rendered indubitable that a general system of exporting to this country their criminals, paupers, and vagrants, but especially those unable to earn a subsistence, has been entered upon by the cities and villages of Germany, and that the cargoes of human wretchedness and destitution which have recently been landed on our shores are a part of the fruits of this nefarious and cowardly business. The evidence, we presume, says the *Tribune*, will soon be laid in due form before Congress and our Legislature among others; and we cannot doubt that efficient measures will thereupon be taken to put a stop to the imposition and deter those subsidised to favour it on this side of the water, from a farther prosecution of the fraud.

**MOB LAW IN ILLINOIS.—A WOMAN KILLED.**—The civil war in Massac and surrounding counties in Illinois, continues to rage. The brutal sacking of the Mormans is reacting fearfully in that State. Eighty "Moderators" recently took several of the "Regulators" prisoners, and confined them in jail. Some days afterwards the "Regulators" raised a large force and released their friends. They arrested a man named Matthias. His wife sought like a tigress to rescue him. She seized a gun, and in attempting to wrest it from the hands of a man, it went off and lodged the contents in her thigh. Reckless of the wound, she rushed upon her opponent to disarm him, when he struck her on the head with his gun. She fell, and died soon afterwards. Where are the men of Illinois? Or is there none worthy of the name in that mob-governed State?—*Rochester Republican.*

**A SAD MISTAKE.**—V. B. Howard, a worthy clerk in the Post Office at Dayton, Ohio, was last spring charged with purloining \$200 from a letter which Messrs. Chambers & Harris, of that city, deposited in the office to be sent to Springfield, but which never came to hand. The charge against

Howard, almost drove him to despair. He immediately resigned and volunteered for Mexico, where, being of a feeble constitution, he fell a prey to disease and died on the march from Matamoras to Camargo. Last week the letter with the money was returned from the dead letter office at Washington, having been misdirected.

**THE TEMPERANCE VICTORY IN PITTSBURGH.**—Every Ward in Pittsburgh gave a majority against the sale of liquors! The total majority in the city was 1214. The heart-cheering result is thus announced in the *Pittsburgh Morning Telegraph*: *Victory! Victory! Victory! Temperance forever.*—It is hereby announced to the friends of Temperance, throughout the length and breadth of the land, that on Tuesday, January 5th, 1847, the detachment of the American Cold Water Army stationed in Pittsburgh, achieved a signal triumph over the manufacturers and venders of intoxicating liquors, in all the wards of the city, and totally routed their combined force—horse, foot, and dragons. This is glory enough for our day.—*Pittsburgh Paper.*

**EFFECTS OF A BAD NAME.**—The United States brig *Somers*, whose tragical end we have just announced, was, it will be remembered, the same vessel on board which young Spencer with two others were hung, several years since, for conspiracy and attempted mutiny. Since that time she has been called the "floating gallows." Her history has indeed been an eventful one. The appalling suddenness of her loss has thrown an air of wild romance around her career, which will doubtless attract the attention of some of our able novelists. It is stated that there have been persons employed on board of her, who affirm that the ghosts of the three men hanged to her yard arm constantly haunted the ship, and particularly in storms, paralyzing the crew.—*Springfield Republican.*

**CANAL TRADE OF BUFFALO.**—The *Buffalo Commercial Advertiser* says:—"The increase of the business of the Canal Office here has been immense, and the aggregate value of property cleared and left exceeds that of last year in the sum of \$12,000,000." The total value of the freight which left Buffalo by canal, is \$15,014,360. Of that which arrived there by canal, \$23,199,665. Aggregate, \$38,214,025. The business of Buffalo exceeds that of several of our large seaports.

**SUPPRESSION OF GAMBLING.**—The Legislature of Pennsylvania have just decided upon a measure, which, if carried out in its spirit, will contribute something to buttress up the public morals. The act proposes to fine every keeper of a gaming house, or tenement used for that purpose, whether he is engaged in it or not—a measure that will need the attention of landlords—and to afford every keeper of a gaming table the privilege of reflecting upon his ways in the solitary cells of the Eastern Penitentiary. The law is sufficiently stringent, and if those charged with the execution of it are at all faithful the good intent of the law-makers will be fully realized.—*N. Y. Evangelist.*

**PROTESTANT MISSIONS.**—From the reports of various Missionary Institutions, for the year 1846, we learn that the whole number of ordained Missionaries, so far as reported, is eleven hundred and forty-seven; of whom sixty-three are laboring among the Indian Tribes, one hundred and eighty-six in Africa, thirty-eight in Western Asia, three hundred and forty in India and Ceylon, thirty-two in Burmah and Siam, thirty-three in China, one hundred and seventeen in the Pacific Islands, three hundred and five in the West Indies, and forty-three among the Jews. They are aided by twenty-one hundred and forty native assistants, and have under their care one hundred and eighty-four thousand, two hundred and sixty-eight communicants.

The European population of Algeria, which in 1831 only amounted to 3228, was in 1844 75,351; and the public revenue, which in 1831 amounted to 1,048,479 francs, amounted in 1844 to 17,695,996 francs.

The Turkish Government has had several varieties of cotton seeds, and men competent to superintend their culture, recently brought from America, for the purpose of trying the experiment of cultivating the American varieties of cotton in the different provinces of the empire, in which every kind of climate exists.

**STRANGE PHENOMENON IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.**—On the night of the 4th ultimo, the master of a merchant vessel, when near Girgenté and Sciacca, saw, at a distance, a great light, which he at first supposed to be a vessel on fire. With the intention of giving assistance, he sailed towards the spot; and, to his great surprise, saw issuing from the sea an immense flame, with a large quantity of smoke, in the midst of which were globes of fire, which fell at a great distance, and with considerable noise. The flames appeared to be a male in circumference. They may have had some connection with the earthquakes which were felt about the same time on the coast of Italy.

**REVIVAL OF THE BOOKSELLING TRADE.**—At the annual sale of Mr. Murray, at the Albion Hotel, last week, the number of books disposed of wholesale greatly exceeded any demand made for the last seven years. We understand that Messrs. Longman had an equally active demand on a recent occasion. These are symptoms of a returning prosperity to that channel of intelligence which has too long been in a declining state.—*London Observer.*

**TUNNELLING THE ALPS.**—The *Moniteur Belge* announces, that experiments have been made within the last few days, in order to test the efficacy of a machine just invented for the purpose of effecting a new and speedy method of boring tunnels. It is proposed to apply this machine to the construction of the great tunnel about to be commenced for one of the Italian lines. The machine was placed in front of the web, and effected a bore to the depth of 13 centimetres in 35 minutes. At this rate the new invention will complete upwards of five metres of bore per day, and the proposed tunnel through Mount Cenis will be finished in the space of three years. The experiments have been repeated twice before several of the first engineers of France, and with the most complete success.

**A WEARY JOURNEY.**—The Copper Harbor Mail leaves Green Bay once a month, and is carried the whole distance by a man, on foot. For some two hundred and fifty miles of the route there is not a habitation, except perhaps a few Indian wigwams, and the mail carrier, in addition to the mail, carries two weeks' food, besides an axe, two blankets, and cooking and eating utensils. There is no road or trail, and on his first trip the carrier takes an Indian guide, and "blazes" the way so that he can keep the track on the other trips. The distance is over three hundred miles, and the Green Bay Advertiser states that it takes two weeks to go through.



## NEWS.

An inquest was held yesterday on the body of Joseph Pomerville, aged seventeen, who met his death under the following circumstances.—Deceased was in the employ of Mr. Guilbault, florist, and on Wednesday night was, as usual, attending to the flues, &c., in the conservatory, in which he was assisted by another man. Instead of returning to sleep in an adjoining apartment, as was customary, they intentionally lay down on a buffalo robe, and fell asleep in the conservatory. On being called at the usual hour in the morning, no answer was returned; and, on the door being forced open, they were both found extended on the floor, the younger one quite dead, and the other in a state of insensibility. After some time the latter partially recovered, but he is still in a very low, weak state. Mr. Guilbault stated, in evidence, that he had frequently forbidden any one to sleep in the conservatory. The atmosphere had been unusually damp on Wednesday, and the flues being heated to a great degree than usual, a larger quantity of carbonic acid gas than usual was generated. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, by suffocation, from the effects of carbonic acid gas.—*Montreal Gazette.*

We have just learned that His Excellency the Governor General has consented to become the Patron of the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society. This is a good beginning. The Bible is an excellent book for Governors, as well as for the people governed. The Israelitish king was directed to read in the book of the law of God "all the days of his life."—*Montreal Register.*

PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF LORD ELGIN.—"As some of our readers at a distance may have some curiosity to hear a little of the personal appearance of a nobleman who now occupies so high a position in the Province, and one so important to its best interests, we shall endeavour to gratify them, as far as possible without touching on the lawful domain of the *pe. ay-a-linners*. His Lordship is rather below the middle height, inclining to stoutness, and, but for the infallible authority of the peerage, we should pronounce him some years in advance of his real age. The upper part of his head is nearly bald, his hair and whiskers originally dark, but now gray. His complexion is rather dark, the features small and delicate, eyes dark and animated, the mouth rather compressed, and of the character called chiselled, indicating, if there be any truth in physiognomy, much firmness and decision of character. The expression is, on the whole, benevolent and intellectual, and his manner easy, unaffected and self-possessed. His style of speaking indicates considerable rhetorical powers."—*Transcript.*

The Wesleyan body of Montreal, have recently opened the third large and handsome place of worship in this city, viz., the Chapel in Griffintown, a building which is an ornament to the city. The opening services were attended by crowded audiences, and much interest appears to be felt in this great effort at church extension.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held on Monday last, on the body of Robert Friars, who died rather suddenly on Saturday evening, away from his dwelling. The Jury found that his death was occasioned by intemperate drinking and the consequent mania which followed excessive indulgence. This is another melancholy example of the effects of using alcoholic drinks. The deceased, when not labouring under the effects of the intoxicating draught, was kind and obliging. He has left an industrious wife behind him to lament his premature and unfortunate end.—*Brookville Recorder.*

CANADA WEST.—It has been already mentioned that the Royal Assent has been given to the bill for erecting a suspension bridge over the Niagara river; and the Toronto Colonist states that books for subscriptions to the stock will soon be opened, and gives the following particulars:—"The work will be on a stupendous scale—800 feet long, and 200 feet above the river—and will, no doubt, be the means of drawing an immense increase of visitors to this most attractive spot; combining, on the completion of the bridge, the noblest work of nature and art. The commissioners are ex-Consul Buchanan, Thomas C. Street, Esq., James Cummings, Esq., M. P. P., W. H. Merritt, Esq., M. P. P.—*Colonist.*

IRELAND.—Outrages are manifestly on the increase, so much so that the resident genery are preparing to memorialise Government for an augmentation of the constabulary. Several most audacious and violent attacks have been made on the houses of respectable and inoffensive farmers, by armed parties consisting of from 50 to 100 persons, for the purpose of procuring fire arms. A large landed proprietor in the county Galway, has been barbarously murdered. The overseer under the Board of Works at Castle Castle was fired at the week before last, and nearly killed. Several horrid murders, in other parts, are recorded in the Dublin papers. The whole country is in a most disorganised and threatening state.

A pension of £100 a-year has been offered by the Crown to Father Matthew, as a public benefactor. Father Matthew daily serves the poor of Cork with excellent soup and bread at his house. He was obliged to decline pressing invitations of the committee of the "Liverpool New Temperance Hall" to open the building last week.

A meeting has been held at Belfast, for the purpose of urging upon the Government the expediency of prohibiting the use of grain in distilleries and breweries.

OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH.—A large meeting of the Society for Promoting the Due Observance of the Lord's-day, was held in the Town Hall, Reading, on Monday evening, the Rev. C. J. Goodhart in the chair. The Rev. Mr. Field, chaplain of the county gaol, attributed a vast majority of the crimes of the prisoners confined in that gaol, to the desecration of the Sabbath. He urged the constituents of Reading to appeal to their representative (Mr. Russell), as the chairman of the Great Western Railway, to use his influence to put a stop to travelling on that line on the Lord's-day. The Rev. F. French alluded to the cessation of railway travelling in Scotland on the Sabbath, as an example to be followed by the railways in England. The Rev. John Baylee, the clerical secretary of the Society, instanced railway labour, railway travelling, steam-boat travelling, the working of iron furnaces, and the opening of the post offices and public-houses on the Sabbath, as among the many evils which tended to the desecration of that day, and hoped a branch society would be established in Reading for promoting the objects of the Lord's-day Society.—*Berks and Bucks Gazette.*

In the Scindo army 443 of our young countrymen, in 3 regiments only, appear to have perished of cholera in a few days.

Three great longitudinal lines of railway are now partly opened, and in course of construction, between the coasts of the Atlantic ocean or the North Sea, and that of the Mediterranean.

The Turkish Government is preparing a code of commercial laws, which is to be mainly founded upon the provisions of the French code.

TRAILBLE EXPLOSION ON A RAILROAD—SEVEN MEN KILLED.—A fatal accident occurred on Thursday evening, 14th inst., on the Reading Railroad, near Mill Creek, by which seven men were killed. The fatal catastrophe was caused by the explosion of the boiler of a locomotive attached to a train of burden cars, on the way from Richmond to the coal mines. It occurred about eight o'clock, just as a part of the train had passed the railroad bridge at Mill Creek, and is attributed to neglect on the part of the engineer, in not keeping up a proper supply of water, and the sudden introduction of the water into the boiler, when, as it is supposed, the flues were intensely heated. The locomotive was a large one, and is a complete wreck, the explosion taking effect upward and outward, and throwing portions of it to a great distance. Two pieces were found some 200 yards distant, imbedded in the earth. From all accounts, the force of the explosion must have been beyond all precedent. The men on the train were torn piecemeal, and blown hundreds of yards off. A portion of one poor fellow was found on an island near the opposite side of the river, a considerable distance from the scene of the disaster. Upon a willow tree near by, shreds and pieces of clothing were discovered. Legs and arms and bodies were strewn around, rendering it a matter of some difficulty, if not of utter impossibility, to collect and identify the fragments of particular individuals. Thirteen arms and seven shattered bodies have been found. Altogether it was a most shocking and heart-rending catastrophe, such as we hope never to be called on to record again.—*American Paper.*

GOOD EXAMPLE.—The members of Philips, Mc., have not only pledged themselves against drinking any intoxicating beverage, but also not to be instrumental in any way in bringing ardent spirits into the place for the use of others.

NEW PROFESSORSHIP.—Among the latest acts which have been performed by any Board of Trustees, is the establishment of a chair in the University of Alabama, to be devoted to Geology and Agricultural Chemistry.

ABOLITION OF THE NAME OF POLAND.—From the 9th of January next, the New-year's day of the Russians, the ancient kingdom of Poland will take the name of New Russia. It will be divided into two Governments—that of Warsaw and that of Lublin. Prince Paskewick, the present Governor of the kingdom of Poland, will be replaced by Prince Corczakoff; the Russian language must be used in all the courts of law; the customs will be suppressed; Russian products will enter Poland free of duty, Polish products will be taxed.

TURKEY.—Bedherhan Bey is continuing his ravages; a tribe of pastoral Nestorians, called the Khozani, had been his last victims. In a few days the whole country was laid waste with fire and sword. Sixty-seven villages were pillaged and then burnt. At a place called Khabour, he murdered 800 persons in cool blood. The most horrible cruelties were every where perpetrated by those monsters. Mar Johannah, the second patriarch, was impaled alive. Several Nestorians, particularly the priests, had oil poured over their bodies, and were then roasted before a slow fire, amidst the jeers and savage yells of their tormentors.

## PRODUCE PRICES CURRENT—MONTREAL, Feb. 8, 1847.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.	
ASHES, Pots, per cwt	24	6	a	25	0	BEEF, Primo Mess,				
Pearls, .....	21	6	a	25	0	per brl. 200lbs.	50	0	a	0
FLOUR, Canada Su-						Prime, .....	45	0	a	00
perfine, per bil.						Prime Mess, per				
196 lbs. ....	33	9	a	35	0	tierce, 304lbs.	00	0	a	00
Do. Fine, .....	32	0	a	33	0	PORK, Mess, per brl.				
Do. Sour, .....						200lbs .....	75	0	a	80
Do. Middlings, .						Prime Mess, .....	40	0	a	45
Indian Meal, 16lb.						Prime, .....	55	0	a	00
Oatmeal, brl. 22lb.					Nominal.	Cargo, .....	00	0	a	00
GRAIN, Wheat U.C.						BUTTER, per lb. ...	0	7	a	0
Best, 60lbs. ...	6	6	a	7	0	CHEESE, full milk,				
Do. L.C. per min.					Nominal.	100 lbs. ....	40	0	a	50
BARLEY, Minot, ...					do.	LARD, per lb. ....	0	5	a	0
OATS, " .....					do.	TALLOW, per lb. ...	0	6	a	0
PEASE, .....					do.					

THOS. M. TAYLOR,  
Broker.

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