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# THE PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE, AND WEEKLY JOURNAL.

Vol. I.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1846.

No. 13

## SPECIMENS OF OLD ENGLISH POETS.

No. IV.—MILTON.

[The argument between temperance and intemperance, or luxury, has frequently been carried on with much ability, but never, we suppose, in such musical numbers as the poem entitled *Comus* presents. The following is the passage where it occurs.]

*Comus.* O foolishness of men! that lend their ears  
To those budge doctors of the Stoic fur,  
And fetch their precepts from the Cynic tub,  
Praising the lean and sallow abstinence.  
Wherefore did nature pour her bounties forth  
With such a full and unwithdrawing hand,  
Covering the earth with odours, fruits, and flocks,  
Thronging the seas with spawn innumerable,  
But all to please and sate the curious taste?  
And set to work millions of spinning worms,  
That in their green shops weave the smooth-hair'd silk,  
To deck her sons, and that no corner might  
Be vacant of her plenty, in her own loins  
She hutch'd th' all worship'd ore, and precious gems  
To store her children with: if all the world  
Should in a pet of tem'rance feed on pulse,  
Drink the clear stream, and nothing wear but frieze,  
Th' All-giver would be unthank'd, would be unprais'd;  
Not half His riches known, and yet despis'd,  
And we should serve Him as a grudging master,  
As a penurious niggard of His wealth,  
And live like Nature's bastards, not her sons,  
Who would be quite surcharg'd with her own weight,  
And strangled with her waste fertility.  
Th' earth cumber'd, and the wing'd air darkt with plumes,  
The herds would over-multitude their lords;  
The sea o'erfraught would swell; and th' unsought diamonds  
Would so imblaze the forehead of the deep,  
And so bestud with stars, that they below  
Would grow inur'd to light, and come at last  
To gaze upon the sun with shameless brows.

*Lady.* I had not thought to have unlock'd my lip  
In this unhallow'd air, but that this juggler  
Would think to charm my judgment, as mine eyes,  
Obtruding false rules, prankt in reason's garb.  
I hate, when vice can bolt her arguments,  
And virtue has no tongue to check her pride.  
Impostor, do not charge most innocent nature,  
As if she would her children should be riotous  
With her abundance; she, good cateress,  
Means her provision only to the good,  
That live according to her sober laws,  
And holy dictate of spare temperance:  
If every just man that now pines with want,  
Had but a moderate and besecming share  
Of that which lewdly-pamper'd luxury  
Now heaps upon some few with vast excess,  
Nature's full blessings would be well dispens'd  
In unsuperfluous even proportion,  
And she no whit encumber'd with her store;  
And then the Giver would be better thank'd,  
His praise due paid; for swinish gluttony  
Ne'er looks to Heav'n amidst his gorgeous feast,  
But with besotted base ingratitude  
Crams, and blasphemes his feeder. Shall I go on?  
Or have I said enough? To him that dares  
Arm his profane tongue with contemptuous words,  
Against the sun-clad pow'r of chastity,  
Fain would I something say, yet to what end?  
Thou hast not ear nor soul to apprehend

The sublime notion, and high mystery,  
That must be utter'd to unfold the sage  
And serious doctrine of virginity,  
And thou art worthy that thou shouldst not know  
More happiness than this thy present lot.

## THE MICROSCOPE—ANIMALCULES.

*Extracted from an article in the Foreign Quarterly and Westminster Review.*

The vast number of animalcules with which the microscope has made us acquainted, were first detected in water in which vegetable matters, such as hay, grass, etc., had been allowed to macerate; and as they were almost invariably found in such infusions, it was considered by early investigators that they were peculiar to them; hence the general term *infusoria* was given to them; and although it is now known that these vegetable infusions have no relation to the origin of such creatures, except in so far as they provide a proper medium for the development of their ova, every where present; yet, for the sake of convenience, the general term *infusoria* is still retained by naturalists. Perhaps the best general idea of the appearance of some of these animalcules to an observer, for the first time, will be given by the following extract from Dr. Mantell's work:—

From some water containing aquatic plants, collected from a pond on Clapham Common, I select a small twig, to which are attached a few delicate flakes, apparently of slime or jelly; some minute fibres standing erect here and there on the twig are also dimly visible to the naked eye. This twig, with a drop or two of water, we will put between two thin plates of glass, and place under the field of view of a microscope, having lenses that magnify the image of an object two hundred times in linear dimensions. Upon looking through the instrument we find the fluid swarming with animals of various shapes and magnitudes. Some are darting through the water with great rapidity, while others are pursuing and devouring creatures more infinitesimal than themselves. Many are attached to the twig by long delicate threads (the *vorticellæ*); several have their bodies enclosed in a transparent tube, from one end of which the animal partly protrudes, and then recedes (the *flosculariæ*); while numbers are covered by an elegant shell or case (the *brachionus*). The minutest kinds (the *monads*), many of which are so small that millions might be contained in a single drop of water, appear like mere animated globules, free, single, and of various colors, sporting about in every direction. Numerous species resemble pearly or opaline cups or vases, fringed round the margin with delicate fibres, that are in constant oscillation (the *vorticellæ*). Some of these are attached by spiral tendrils; others are united by a slender stem to one common trunk, appearing like a bunch of harebells (the *carchesium*); others are of a globular form, and grouped together in a definite pattern on a tabular or spherical membranous case for a certain period of their existence, and ultimately become detached and locomotive (the *gonium* and *volvox*); while many are permanently clustered together, and die if separated from the parent mass. No organs of progressive motion, similar to those of beasts, birds, or fishes, are observable in these beings; yet they traverse the water with rapidity, without the aid of limbs or fins; and though many species are destitute of eyes, yet all possess an accurate perception of the presence of other bodies, and pursue and capture their prey with unerring purpose.—Thoughts on Animalcules, pp. 9, 10.

Much as has been done in this department of science, our knowledge of the infusory beings is still limited; but there is every reason to believe that they do not take their station among the links of the animal chain according to their dimensions, but from their structure. The simplest and smallest is as much an animal as the proudest examples of nature's works;

and it is equally the object of the CREATOR'S care and contrivance. To Ehrenberg are we indebted for a classification of the infusoria, which has been followed and adopted by all subsequent philosophers. He divides them into two classes; first, the polygastria, and secondly, the rotatoria.

We come next to consider one of the most important results of the improvement of the microscope, namely, the ultimate structure of all organised bodies. We have already shown that the simplest form of monad consists but of a single cell, that many others of the same family are but a collection of individual monads, either attached to a common base or contained in a globular integument. The vibrio, or trembling animalcule, again, for example, is a series of many individuals united together in a flexible chain, from imperfect spontaneous transverse division; and the same remark holds good with regard to the lowest forms of vegetable life. In the larger fuci, or sea weeds, the whole fabric consists of cells, and the fresh water confervæ are merely jointed films composed of cells; common mould or mustiness is a cluster of plants formed of cells only, and in the yeast fungus and red snow the entire plant consists of one isolated cell; and when we carry our observations still further, we find that the most complicated organs both in the animal and the vegetable are made up but of an aggregation of simple cells. These elementary cells have now been detected in almost all the solids and fluids both of vegetable and animal bodies; in the sap and succus proprius of vegetables, and in the blood, chyle, milk, and other fluids of animals; in the fecula, albumen, parenchyma of the leaves, cells of the flowers, etc., of plants, and in the cellular membrane, muscle, brain, nerve, glands, etc., of animals. As far as our present powers of observation go, there is no apparent difference in the formation of these cells, although it cannot but be believed that they must be endowed with specific properties. Thus, for example, one set of cells secretes bile, another fat, another the nervous matter; but how these special products are formed by cells apparently of similar organisation from the same nutrient fluids, we know not: many theories have been advanced. Thus, Dr. Willis has suggested whether this difference may not result from the different modes in which the elementary globules are disposed, and he adds, "it is not improbable that the difference of function they exhibit may yet be found in harmony with, and perhaps depending on, peculiarity of arrangements in their constituent molecules."\* In the work of Dr. Mantell before us, another theory is thus hinted at:—

Whether the special endowment belonging to the system of cells of a particular organ depends on the intimate structure of the walls or tissue of such cells; and this structure is so attenuated and infinitesimal as to elude observation: or whether it results from the transmission of some peculiar modification of that mysterious vital force we term nervous influence, are questions to which, in the present state of our knowledge, no satisfactory reply can be given—Thoughts on Animalcules, p. 98.

But although the researches of microscopists have taught us that cells are the extreme limit of animal organisation; that the lowest and highest forms of animal life are but an aggregation of cells, each endowed with specific properties, capable only of performing particular functions; we must carefully guard against the idea that there is, therefore, any identity between these various cells of various animals: any identity, in fact, between the primary cells of the simplest animals or vegetables, much less between those of more complicated organisation. It is to such hasty generalization, to deductions thus made either from a misrepresentation or misconception of facts, that we owe so many of the absurd and fallacious theories of the present day. Perhaps one of the best examples of the errors into which such hasty generalizations inevitably leads, is to be found in a work which has, from its ingenuity and eloquence, gained great popularity; we allude to the Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation. All animals and plants, as we have said, are to be regarded as definite aggregations of cells, endowed with specific properties in the different types, and subjected to a never varying law of development. And yet, overlooking this latter fact, the author has erected a theory of creation which may, perhaps, be best stated in his own words. We quote them as they occur in the fourth edition of the work:—

"The idea, then, which I form of the progress of organic life upon our earth, and the hypothesis is applicable to all similar theatres of vital being, is, that the simplest and most primitive type under a law to which that of like production is subordinate, gave birth to the type next above it; that this again produced the next higher, and so on to the very highest; the stages of advance being in all cases very small, namely, from one species only to another; so that the phenomenon has always been of a simple and modest character."

Or, in other words, the monad was first created; it gave birth to the next species in the link, and so on, until from the monkey sprang man!!

\* Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology, vol i, art. Animal.

To the unphilosophical reader this doctrine may appear, at a first glance, to bear upon it the impress of truth; but allowing for a moment that such were the case, how is it, it may be asked, that these cells have lost such a remarkable endowment? How is it that the more ambitious monkey do not still convert themselves into or give birth to men? And again, this progressive development, at all events in our present state of knowledge, is directly in contradiction to facts; the stages of advance could not, in all cases, be very small; the difference in the organisation of reptiles and birds, and again, of birds and mammals, is great; and, as far as we know, there is no intermediate class of organized beings to diminish the wide gulf which separates them. Here, therefore, the development could not have been gradual—the stage of advance could not have been very small.

Dr. Mantell was one of the very first philosophers who showed the fallacy of this plausible theory. In the work now before us, he has again adverted to it, and, in our opinion, has clearly exposed the error which pervades it. With an extract, therefore, from his remarks, we will close this part of our subject:—

Although it is now a received physiological axiom, that cells are the elementary basis, the ultimate limit, of all animal and vegetable structures; and that the varied functions, in which organic life essentially consists, are performed by the agency of cells, which are not distinguishable from each other by any well-marked characters; there is not any ground for assuming any identity between the primary cells, even of the simplest species of animals or vegetables, much less between those of more complicated organisation. The single cell which embodies vitality in the monad, or the yeast fungus, is governed by the same immutable organic laws which preside over the complicated machinery of man, and the other vertebrata; and the single cell which is the embryotic condition of the mammal has no more relation to the single cell which is the permanent condition of the monad than has the perfect animal into which the mammalian cell becomes when ultimately developed. The cell that forms the germ of each species of organism is endowed with special properties, which can result in nothing but the fabrication of that particular species. The serious error which pervades the theory advanced in the work entitled the Vestiges of the Natural History of the Creation, has arisen from its author having, in many instances, assumed analogy to be a proof of identity. There is an analogy between the human embryo and the monad of the volvox, in that each consists of simple cells; but there is no more identity between the human and the polygastrian cells, than between the perfect man and the mature animalcule.—Thoughts on Animalcules, p. 24.

But there is another point connected with this part of our subject, which we must not pass over in silence. We have already had occasion to observe that the physician had been indebted to the microscope for many improvements in the treatment of disease. All sciences, indeed have a natural dependence one on another, and any great discovery in one must sooner or later produce a corresponding change in others. The discovery of the fact, that cells were the ultimate limit to which all animal organisation can be traced; that it is by the agency of cells that all the vital functions are produced; that by them the bile, theucus, and all the other important fluids are secreted; naturally leads to the idea, that in many, perhaps in all instances, the origin of disease may depend upon some derangement of these microscopic elements of organisation; and that the maintenance of health may depend entirely upon the integrity of a cell or a cluster of cells. On this point Dr. Mantell justly remarks:—

Hence, we can understand how mental emotions, by disturbing or weakening the vital influence transmitted by the nerves to the cells of any particular organ, may impair the structure and vitiate the secretions, and ultimately induce extensive local disease, long after the cause of the physical derangement has passed away, and is forgotten. Of the truth of this remark, pulmonary consumption, alas! affords every day the most unequivocal and melancholy proofs. But the tree of knowledge yields good as well as evil fruit; and if recent microscopical discoveries are calculated to alarm the timid, by showing what slight causes may lay the foundation of fatal diseases; on the other hand, they encourage the cheering hope, that, by patience and perseverance, we may, at length, learn how to detect the first stage of disordered action, and correct the functional derangement ere the structure of the organ is seriously impaired.

And it is only by such patient and continued observations, it is only by taking advantage of the light thus thrown upon their path by the discoveries in other branches of science, that physicians can hope to raise medicine from an empirical art, which even to this day it, in a great measure, is, to the rank of a true science.

## THE CLIMATE OF AMERICA.

However deeply prejudiced an Englishman may be in favor of his own country, yet I think it is impossible for him to cross the Atlantic without admiring that in both the northern and southern hemispheres of the new world Nature has not only outlined her works on a larger scale, but has painted the whole picture with brighter and more costly colors than she used in delineating and in beautifying the old world. The heavens of America appear infinitely higher—the sky is bluer—the clouds are whiter—the air is fresher—the cold is intenser—the moon looks larger—the stars are brighter—the thunder is louder—the lightning is vivid—the wind is stronger—the rain is heavier—the mountains are higher—the rivers larger—the forests bigger—the plains broader; in short, the gigantic and beautiful features of the new world seem to correspond very wonderfully with the increased locomotive powers and other brilliant discoveries which have lately been developed to mankind.

The difference of climate in winter between the old and new world amounts, it has been estimated, to about thirteen degrees of latitude. Accordingly, the region of North America which basks under the same sun or latitude as Florence, is visited in winter with cold equal to those of St. Petersburg or of Moscow; and thus, while the inhabitant of the Mediterranean is wearing cotton or other light clothing, the inhabitant of the very same latitude in the new world is to be found either huddled close to a stove hot enough to burn his eyes out, or muffled up in furs, with all sorts of contrivances to preserve the very nose on his face, and the ears on his head, from being frozen.

This extra allowance of cold is the effect of various causes—one of which I will endeavor shortly to describe. It is well known that so far as temperature is concerned, 300 feet of altitude are about equal to a degree of latitude; accordingly, that by ascending a steep mountain—the Himalayas for instance—one may obtain, with scarcely any alteration of latitude, and in a few hours, the same change of temperature which would require a long journey over the surface of the earth to reach; and thus it appears that in the hottest regions of the globe there exist impending stratifications of cold proportionate in intensity to their respective altitudes. Now, as soon as moisture or vapor enters these regions, in southern countries it is condensed into rain, and in the winter of northern ones it is frozen into snow, which, from its specific gravity, continues its feathery descent until it is deposited upon the surface of the ground, an emblem of the cold region from which it has proceeded. But from the mere showing of the case, it is evident that this snow is as much a stranger in the land on which it is reposing, as a Laplander is who lands at Lisbon, or as in England a pauper is who enters a parish in which he is not entitled to settlement; and, therefore, just as the parish officers, under the authority of the law, vigorously proceed to eject the pauper, so does Nature proceed to eject the cold that has taken temporary possession of land to which it does not owe its birth; and the process of ejection is as follows:—The superincumbent atmosphere, warmed by the sun, melts the surface of the snow; and as soon as the former has taken to itself a portion of the cold, the wind bringing with it a new atmosphere, repeats the operation; and thus on, until the mass of snow is either effectually ejected, or materially diminished.

But while the combined action of sun and wind are producing this simple effect in the old world, there exists in the northern regions of the new world a physical obstruction to the operation. I allude to the interminable forest, through the boughs and branches of which the descending snow falls, until reaching the ground it remains hidden from the sun and protected from the wind; and thus every day's snow adds to the accumulation, until the whole region is converted into an almost boundless ice-house, from which there slowly but continuously arises like a mist from the ground, a stratum of cold air, which the north-west prevailing wind wafts over the south, and which freezes every thing in its way. The effect of air passing over ice is curiously exemplified on the Atlantic, where, at certain periods of the year, all of a sudden, and often during the night, there suddenly comes over every passenger a cold mysterious chill, like the hand of death itself, caused by the vicinity of a floating iceberg. In South America I remember a trifling instance of the same effect. I was walking in the main street of San Jago in the middle of the summer, and, like every human or living being in the city, was exhausted by extreme heat,

when I suddenly felt as if some one was breathing upon my face with frozen lungs. I stopped, and turning round, perceived at a little distance a line of mules laden with snow, which they had just brought down from the Andes. And if this insignificant cargo—if the presence of a solitary little iceberg in the ocean can produce the sensation I have described, it surely need hardly be observed how great must be the freezing effects on the continent of North America, of the north-west wind blowing over an uncovered ice-house, composed of masses of accumulated snow several feet in thickness, and many hundreds of miles both in length and breadth.

Now it is curious to reflect that—while every backwoodsman in America is occupying himself, as he thinks, solely for his own interest, in clearing his location—every tree which, falling under his axe, admits a patch of sunshine to the earth, in an infinitesimal degree softens and ameliorates the climate of the vast continent around him; and yet, as the portion of cleared land in North America, compared with that which remains uncleared, has been said scarcely to exceed that which the seams of a coat bear to the whole garment, it is evident, that although the assiduity of the Anglo-Saxon race has no doubt affected the climate of North America, the axe is too weak an instrument to produce any important change.

But one of the most wonderful characteristics of Nature is the manner in which she often unobservedly produces great effects from causes so minute as to be almost invisible; and accordingly while the human race—so far as an alteration of climate is concerned—are laboring almost in vain in the regions in question, swarms of little flies, strange as it may sound, are, and for many years have been, most materially altering the climate of the great continent of North America.

The manner in which they unconsciously perform this important duty is as follows:—They sting, bite, and torment the wild animals to such a degree, that, especially in summer, the poor creatures, like those in Abyssinia, described by Bruce, become almost in a state of distraction, and to get rid of their assailants, wherever the forest happened to be on fire, they rushed to the smoke, instinctively knowing quite well that the flies would be unable to follow them there. The wily Indian observing these movements, shrewdly perceived that by setting fire to the forest the flies would drive to him his game, instead of his being obliged to trail in search of it; and the experiment having proved eminently successful, the Indians for many years have been, and still are, in the habit of burning tracts of wood so immense, that from very high and scientific authority I have been informed, that the amount of land thus burned under the influence of the flies has exceeded many millions of acres, and that it has been, and still is, materially changing the climate of North America.

The operation of this destructive practice is thus farther alluded to:—

Although the game, to avoid the stings of their tiny assailants, come from distant regions to the smoke, and therein fall from the arrows and rifles of their human foes, yet this burning of the forest destroys the rabbits and small game, as well as the young of the larger game; and therefore, just as brandy and whisky for a short time raise the spirits of the drunkard, but eventually leave him pale, melancholy, and dejected, so does this vicious, improvident mode of poaching game for a short time fatten, but eventually afflict with famine all those who have engaged in it; and thus, for instance, the Beaver Indians, who forty years ago were a powerful and numerous tribe, are now reduced to less than one hundred men, who can scarcely find wild animals enough to keep themselves alive. In short, the Red population is diminishing in the same ratio as the destruction of the moose and wood buffalo on which their forefathers had subsisted; and as every traveller, as well as trader, in those various regions, confirms these statements, how wonderful is the dispensation of the Almighty, under which, by the simple agency of little flies, not only is the American Continent gradually undergoing a process which, with other causes, will assimilate its climate to that of Europe, but that the Indians themselves are clearing and preparing their own country for the reception of another race who will hereafter gaze at the remains of the elk, the bear, and the beaver with the same feelings of astonishment with which similar vestiges are discovered in Europe—the monuments of a state of existence that has passed away.—*The Emigrant, by Sir F. B. Head.*

AN ANCIENT ENGLISH VILLAGE.

If we still go into really old fashioned districts—into those which the modern changes have not yet reached, where there are no manufacturers—into the obscure and totally agricultural nooks—we see evidence of a most ancient order of things. The cottages, the farm-house, the very halls are old; the trees are old; every thing is old. There is nothing that indicates change or progress. There is nothing even in furniture, that may not have been there at least five hundred years; there is much to induce you to believe that eight hundred years ago it existed. In common labourers' cottages, before the late rage for old English furniture, which led London brokers to scour the whole empire, penetrate into every nook, and bring up all the old cabinets, hall tables, old carved chairs, carved presses and wardrobes, and retail them for five hundred per cent., besides importing great quantities of similar articles from Holland, Belgium, and Germany, I have myself seen old, heavy, ample arm-chairs, with pointed backs, in which one might imagine an Alfred or an Edward the Confessor sitting, with the date in great letters on their backs, of 1000 or 1400. There are plenty of houses so ancient, that in the roots and woodworks, the ends of the great wooden pegs with which their framings is pinned together, are not cut off. But without, how old is everything! The trees are dead at top, and hollow at heart; there are ancient elms and oaks standing, whose shadow is said to have covered their acre of ground, but which have now neither head nor heart; huge hollow shells, so capacious, that whole troops of children play in them and call them their churches; and whole flocks of sheep or herds of cattle seek shelter from the summer sun in them. These old villages, too, are lost, as it were, in a wilderness of ancient orchards, where the trees produce apples and pears totally unlike any now grown in modern plantings. The villages are surrounded by a maze of little crofts, whose edges have evidently never been set out in any general enclosure, for they do not run in regular square and straight lines, but form all imaginable figures, and, with the true line of beauty, go waving and sweeping about in all directions. They are manifestly the effect of gradual and fitful enclosure from the forest in far-off times, many of them long before the Conquest, when this dense thicket and that grove of trees were run up to and included as part of the fencing. These old hedges have often a monstrous width, occupying nearly as much in their aggregate amount as the enclosed land itself.—They are often a complete wilderness of stony mounds, bushes, and rank vegetation.—The hawthorns of which they are composed are no longer bushes, but old and wide spread trees, with great gaps and spaces often between them, having ceased to be actual fences between the old pastures, and become only most picturesque shades for the cattle. In the old crofts still flourish the native daffodils, and the snow white and pink prim-roses, now extirpated by the gathering for gardens every where else.—*William Howitt, in Jerrold's Shilling Magazine.*

THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

To us, the apathy of the citizens of Montreal is unaccountable. A telegraph is now in course of construction from Toronto to New York, which, it is expected, will be ready for use in January next. The merchants of Toronto will then have the opportunity of receiving intelligence from England respecting the state of the markets, &c., at least 48 hours earlier than those of Montreal. On the other hand, by the outlay of a very moderate capital, (and in the States it is found to be a profitable investment,) Montreal might be put into direct communication with Halifax, in which case news from England would be communicated *within half an hour* from the arrival of the steamer. For instance: the Caledonia reached Halifax on the 18th inst., but the English Mail did not arrive at Montreal till the 23rd. Had the Telegraph been established, we should have received the news *five days sooner*. The advantages that would accrue from such an arrangement are so obvious that no comment is necessary.

It would afford us great pleasure to explain to our readers the operation of the Telegraph, but this cannot be done without the aid of diagrams. Let it suffice to state, that when the operator at one end of the line, say at Halifax, presses the key with his finger, the galvanic circuit is completed, and within a minute and a half the effect is perceived at Montreal, the other

end. A metal lever, armed with a point, makes an impression on a slip of paper. If the operator's finger be immediately taken off, the impression is a dot: but the paper being wound about a cylinder, which is set in motion by clock-work, if the finger be kept on the key, the point continues to indent the paper, and makes a dash thus,—. By the combination of dots and dashes an alphabet is formed; and the first letter of the Message, communicated by the operator at Halifax, would be impressed on the paper at Montreal, as before stated, in the course of a minute and a half. A skilful operator will transmit a message as fast as an ordinary writer can commit it to paper.

The following is the Alphabet invented by Professor Morse, and used in the States:—

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z	&	1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
0									

The Caledonia arrived at Halifax (we will suppose) at 10, A. M. Had the Telegraph been established, a merchant at Montreal might have received a communication at *half-past ten*. It might have been to the following effect:—

H a l i f a x O c t o  
 b e r 1 8 T e n a . m . T h  
 e S t e a m e r i s i n F  
 l o u r i s 3 s h i l l  
 i n g s p o r b a r r e  
 l d e a r e r

We sincerely hope that the public spirit of Montreal will be roused, and that two Telegraph Lines will be formed at an early period—one for the States, and one for Halifax.—*Montreal Register.*

APPLES OF GOLD.

“We must all appear before the judgment-seat of Christ.”—2 Cor. v. 10.

And are there scoffers, who madly walk after their own lusts, and question the coming of the Lord? The hour hastens, when infidelity shall doubt no more: “The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.” How will sinners fade away, and be afraid in their close places, when, visible to all, the Judge shall appear on his great white throne, and from his face the earth and the heaven flee away! Before him shall stand the whole race of men, small and great: and by the testimony of God and their own consciences it shall be fully proved, and openly declared, what they have been, and what they have done. Then sentence, most righteous, irrevocable and big with eternity, shall be pronounced. On the wicked, everlasting punishment: on the righteous, life eternal! Think, O think, what destruction is hanging over your heads, ye obstinate transgressors; for “behold, he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him; they also which pierced him, and all the wicked kindreds of the earth, shall wail because of him.” “Now, now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation;” now embrace him as your offered, your all-sufficient, Saviour; so shall you be for ever delivered from him as your angry Judge. If this you neglect, how shall you abide the day of his coming in flaming fire, to take vengeance on all them that know not God, and obey not the gospel? Lift up thy head, my soul, none else is judge but Christ! Will he, who bore my sins, plead against me in judgment? No; but he will put strength in me. I know in whom I have believed; and that he is able to keep that good thing, my soul, which I have committed to him against that day.

An awful day is drawing near,  
 When Christ will judge the quick and dead!  
 Ah, sinner! how wilt thou appear  
 With all thy sins upon thy head!  
 Now mercy seek, which may be found!  
 For yet you stand on praying ground.

—*Begatsky's Treasury.*

## CHAPTERS FOR THE YOUNG.—No. VII.



HINDOO SCHOOL-GIRL.

How favoured is the condition of the happy English girl as she walks to her Sunday school, on the morning of the Lord's day! With her hymn-book and Testament in a little bag hanging on her arm, she hastens on her way, with cheerful face, to meet her teacher. How dark and wretched is the state of the poor Hindoo child who knows no sabbath, whom no kind teacher meets, for whom no book, no school, is found! Long ages passed away, and no one cared for the happiness of Hindoo girls in this world; no one thought to prepare them for the world to come. A few years ago, however, a lady went across the sea, to be their teacher.

At that time, schools for girls were unknown in that part of India. When the lady arrived, she went one day to see the native boys that were under the care of the missionaries. It was a new sight to see a female enter the school, and the natives gathered around, looking at her with surprise. Among the crowd was a little girl: she peeped in at the door with an inquiring look; but an Hindoo, who assisted in the school, came out and drove her away. "Why do you drive away the child?" "Oh, she is always here: for three months past she has been daily begging to be admitted, that she may be taught as well as the boys." "Do you wish to learn to read?" said the kind lady. She replied, it was what she much wished. "Come then to-morrow, and I will teach you," added the lady.

The news soon spread that a lady had come all the way from England, to teach Hindoo girls to read. The school opened the next morning with thirteen scholars; and as the teacher looked at them pleasantly, their faces were lighted up with joy.

The mothers of the children stood without, peeping through the lattice-work, which in that country is used instead of windows. It was a new and strange sight to see their daughters taught in a book, and with one voice they cried, "Oh what a pearl of a woman is this!" and then cheerfully added, "Our children are yours: we give them up to you."

The brahmins, or priests, did not like this attempt to do good; they said that females neither would nor could learn: that they had no souls; and that they were no better than the beasts which perish: but though the brahmins frowned, the parents looked on with delight. One poor woman brought two little children a long distance, and waited all the school hours, that she might take them home again. A respectable man stood over his daughter during the whole of her lessons, wondering to find that his little girl could learn to read as well as the boys. Next, the children were set to sewing: once they were too idle to put a stitch into their torn clothes, but soon they gladly learned to mend and make, that they might appear clean and tidy in their school.

Since that happy day, thousands of Hindoo girls have been taught in the missionary schools, and thousands more are now under instruction. They learn out of the same books as English children, only put into the Hindoo tongue. They read the Dairyman's Daughter, the Young Cottager, and the Pilgrim's Progress, which have been put into their language for their use; and, above all, they have been taught to read the best of books—the Bible. That holy book has led many of them to the Saviour, for pardon through his precious blood: some have died rejoicing in him as their only hope; and, no doubt, their happy spirits are now with him in glory.

Who would not pray that this good work may prosper? Who that loves the Saviour would refuse to render it all the help in their power?

## SCRIPTURE ILLUSTRATION.

"Make thee an ark."—Gen. vi. 14.

There is much difference of opinion about the form of the ark. The common figures are given under the impression that it was intended to be adapted to progressive motion; whereas no other object was sought than to construct a vessel which should float for a given time upon the water. For this purpose it was not necessary to place the ark in a sort of boat, as in the common figures; and we may be content with the simple idea which the text gives, which is, that an enormous oblong box, or wooden house, divided into three stories, and apparently with a sloping roof. The most moderate statement of its dimensions makes the ark by far the largest of vessels ever made to float upon the water. As the measurements are given, the only doubt is as to which of the cubit measures used by the Hebrews is here intended. It seems that the standard of the original cubit was the length of a man's arm from the elbow to the end of the middle finger, or about eighteen inches. This was the common cubit; but there was also a sacred cubit, which some call a hand's breadth (three inches) larger than the common one; while others make the sacred cubit twice the length of the common. The probability is that there were two cubit measures beside the common; one being of twenty-one inches, and the other of three feet. Some writers add the geometrical cubit of nine feet. Shuckford says we must take the common or shortest cubit as that for the ark; and Dr. Hales, taking this advice, obtained the following result: "It must have been of the burden of 42,413 tons, (a first rate man-of-war is between 2200 and 2300 tons) and, consequently, the capacity or stowage of eighteen such ships, the largest in present use, and might carry 20,000 men, with provisions for six months, besides the weight of 1800 cannon and all military stores. It was then by much the largest ship ever built."

## THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

Ere the issue of our next number, another year will have elapsed, and that a most eventful one. The practical application in Britain of the doctrine of Free Trade in food—the meeting of a World's Evangelical Alliance—the war between the two greatest republics of the earth—the discovery of a new planet—the invention of a stronger and cheaper substitute for gunpowder—the travels of Mahomedan rulers in Christian countries—the installation of a liberal and reforming Pope. All these, and many other remarkable changes, will date from 1846, and render it famous in future history.

But it is not enough to look on the great changes in progress around us with wonder and admiration. Every individual acts, or ought to act some part in the general amelioration. And it behoves each of us, instead of indulging in the thoughtless revelry too often incident to the season, to examine what we have been doing.

There is a beautiful illustration of the principle to which we allude in an extract from the "Emigrant" in another column. Sir F. B. Head says that every settler in clearing his own little patch of forest land is thereby admitting the influence of the sun to the snows of winter, promoting their more rapid dissolution, and consequently ameliorating in some degree, however small, the climate of the country. So ought it to be with each denizen of this busy world. He should be active in his own sphere, whether public or private, by precept and example, to clear away the obstructions to the beams of the Sun of Righteousness, such as intemperance, worldliness, selfishness, &c., &c., in order that pure religion, which is the greatest possible good, may more directly reach the mass of unsanctified human minds around us, and that the whole constitution of society may be improved.

If the Magazine has in any degree subserved this great end, it has more than repaid us for any pains bestowed upon it, and our prayer is that it may be blessed to much greater usefulness during the year to come.

We wish all the readers of the Magazine a good New Year in every sense, and more especially in the highest and best.

GROWTH OF CINCINNATI.—During the present year, 1375 houses have been built, 816 of which were brick. Besides these, there are of public buildings erected two new Common Schoolhouses, the Eclectic Medical College, two Disciples' churches, Depot of the Little Miami Railroad Company, Jey's Synagogue, and a large Public School for German Catholics. A commencement has also been made of a Roman Catholic edifice.

## MASSACRE OF THE NESTORIANS.

(From the Correspondent of a London Morning Paper.)

Constantinople, Nov. 4.—The intelligence from Kurdistan is of the utmost importance.

Advices of the 15th of October have just reached us, stating that Bedr Khan Bey had attacked the Nestorian Christians of Bias, and had put to the sword some 200 of those whom he had taken prisoners. He then sent Mahmoud Khan (one of his satellites,) with the heads of his prisoners, as a token of defiance, to Tayar Pacha of Mossoul, who was advancing against him, with 12,000 men, and was encamped at Elkosh, about 36 miles from Mossoul. The emissary, fearing to approach the town, loaded ten mules with his horrid trophies, and drove them into the town with a letter couched in the language of the strongest abuse. On the 7th of October, Tayar Pacha marched against them, and unfortunately took as guides spies of Bedr Khan Bey, who conducted the Turkish army to the valley of Koshmerek, the heights being occupied by the Kurdish rebels. On the morning of the 8th, the Kurdes rushed down from the mountains, and falling on the Turkish army unexpectedly, threw them into the greatest disorder and confusion. Tayar Pacha, however, rallied his men, and a severe engagement took place, the consequences of which are not precisely known. It is said, however, that the Turkish army has been worsted, leaving 700 killed on the field of battle. It is likewise rumoured that 3000 prisoners have fallen into the hands of Bedr Khan.

The Nestorians, under the lead of a mountain bishop, Mar Johanna (who is supposed to be a Russian agent, having been at Tiflis,) fearing the consequences of the effects of this disaster, fled into the mountains of Djebel Tak. They were preparing to cross the frontier, to take refuge among the Persians of Ormiah, where the Nestorians already number 35 000, subject to Persia.

Constantinople, Nov. 7.—The intelligence from Kurdistan is important, but of a disastrous nature. In my last I spoke of the murder in cold blood of some two hundred Nestorian Christians by the Kurdes, and of the defeat of the Turkish army, under the command of Tayar Pacha. I now confirm this sad piece of news.

By advices received yesterday, we learn that Bedr Khan (Nurallah Bey remaining, it is said, neutral,) elated with the success his horde had met in the encounter with the Turkish army, gave vent to his vindictive spirit by acting in the most atrocious and blood-thirsty manner; he divided his followers into small, but strong and resolved, bands, giving them full power to act on their own account. These bands, dispersing, fell upon the Nestorian villages in the districts of Tiary, Tehoma, Diss, and Albagh, and murdered, in cold blood, men, women, children, and even infants at the breast; the Christians who offered any resistance being (according to the injunctions of their barbarous chiefs) put to the most cruel and refined modes of torture and death. None were suffered to escape, and even if they did, it was to be subsequently hunted down like wild beasts. When no living creature remained for these demons to glut their vengeance upon, they burnt and destroyed the very habitations of these unfortunate Christians. It is calculated that several thousands have already perished. About the middle of October their bishops united in council, and represented to the people that they were threatened with complete annihilation. They then enjoined upon their countrymen to cross the frontier, and throw themselves on the protection of the Persians, as no security for property or life remained for them in the Hakary districts.

This resolution was ultimately carried into effect. The Nestorians, to the number of several thousands, abandoned their native homes, and driving their flocks before them, fled to the adjoining mountains of Djebel Tak. Bedr Khan was, however, duly informed of this resolution of the Nestorians to emigrate, which would have entirely thwarted his purpose. He immediately advanced with some 5000 of his men against them, and as a result of this attack took some 300 prisoners, with the whole of their herds and flocks. Among the former were two bishops (and some say the celebrated Mar Johanna,) whom he caused to be impaled in the most horrid manner.

The districts of Tiary, Tehoma, Diss, and Albagh have been completely laid waste, the passage of these plundering hordes being marked by the traces of bloodshed, rapine, and murder. Thirty-seven Christian villages have been pillaged and burnt; such of the inhabitants as have escaped are wandering in the snow-clad and sterile mountains, in momentary fear of death by sword or famine.

The Turkish Government deeply sympathises with these unfortunate people, and what can be done for them doubtless will. The efforts of the Turkish Government, however well directed, will be rendered void by the approach of the long and dreary winter. The troops she sends, unaccustomed to a wild and mountainous mode of warfare, will find no scope for their energies in the snows of Central Kurdistan. Perhaps before anything is done, nearly all the remaining Nestorians will be safe in Persia.

The origin of these disasters date to some three years back. The Nestorians, to free themselves from the persecutions of Bedr Khan, sent a deputation to the Porte, demanding to be incorporated in the jurisdiction of the Government of Mossoul. This attempt (to the mind of Bedr Khan so audacious) brought down his vengeance on their heads, and he is said to have sworn "not to leave a single Christian alive in the whole of the Hakary province." He then

(1843) sent Mahmoud Khan, with several thousand Kurdes, who pillaged and massacred them, but nothing approaching the extent of the atrocities mentioned above. The foreign powers, it is true, came forward, but they acted after the evils had been done, and could only succeed in arresting Bedr Khan's farther revenge. But it has now again overflowed. It is to be sincerely hoped that the powers will again aid the Sublime Porte to deliver itself of this internal evil.

## THE PUNISHMENT DUE TO THE SEDUCER.

The Rev. Dr. Wisner, of Ithaca, has recently delivered an able discourse on the importance of keeping the heart, from which the following is an extract:—

The thief who robs us of twenty-five dollars worth of property is incarcerated in the cells of the penitentiary, while the murderer who lays in wait for the precious life, expiates his guilt on the scaffold; and shall the votaries of lewdness be permitted to rob their victims of what is more precious than all earthly treasure, and drag immortal beings down, down to death by the steps which take hold on hell, and yet be permitted to occupy a place in the social circle of civilized men? Look abroad, my hearers, upon the tens of thousands of our virtuous females who have been lechered and ruined by these men, contemplate the wretchedness which their seduction has brought upon the families out of which they have been taken, and think of the infanticide and other crimes into the commission of which they have been goaded by their degradation and despair, and then form an estimate of the guilt of those who have been the procurers of all this evil. Follow a single interesting girl of tender years from the arms of a widowed mother into the snare of the seducer, and from her happy home to the house of ill-fame, to the lazaretto, to the grave, and to the pit of eternal sorrow, multiply this case by hundreds and by thousands, and then, while you are weeping over this mighty mass of incomprehensible wretchedness and complicated guilt, tell me whether the libertine should be permitted to strut and vapor in your virtuous assemblies, and play off his tricks before your children? Shall he pass under the disguise of a man, while he is pursuing the business of a fiend, and has the heart of a fiend rankling in his bosom, or will you arise and tear off the mask and write his guilt and shame in blazing capitals upon his forehead?

This must be done. Fashion may no longer protect, nor false delicacy screen this sin and these men, from public animadversion; our youth must not learn the nature of this crime from its panders and procurers, but from their parents, and from the pulpit and a virtuous press. Our sons should be early taught to associate with the name or the thought of woman the obligations which are imposed by a mother's care and a sister's love. They should be constantly reminded that the weaker sex was committed by God to the tender care and kind protection of the man, and that every thing honorable is pledged for the safety of the sacred deposit. By thoroughly imbuing young men with these truths, they will be brought to regard the females with whom they associate as their sisters, in whose reputation and happiness they have a brother's interest, and to whom they are bound to extend a brother's protection. They will feel that they are the natural guardians of this fair though defenceless portion of community, and that a vengeance, awful as that which befel Cain, is the righteous due of the man who should avail himself of the confidence which they may repose in him to betray and destroy. It is impossible to contemplate the relation in which woman stands to man, and the means ordinarily resorted to by the latter for the destruction of the former, and to understand the length, the breadth, and the depth of the ruin thus sought and achieved, without feeling that there is no fouler fiend in hell, than the seducer of female innocence. Of him it may be truly said that "mischief is his aim, innocence his prey, and ruin his sport."

Our daughters too must be taught to regard this crime in young men as young men regard it in the other sex. They must no longer cast from them with scorn the ruined female and behold her seducer with a smile. They must be taught to consider the libertine as a conspirator against everything that they hold dear—as doing all he can to rob every virtuous woman of her character, her happiness, and her hope of heaven, and consign her to the gnawings of the undying worm here, and the unquenchable fire in the world to come.—*Advocate of Moral Reform.*

PATENT MEDICINES EXPOSED.—A law of the State of Maine requires that all patent medicines sold in that State shall have a label attached to each bottle, box, &c., describing the ingredients of which the contents are composed, and the proportion of each. This will make bad work with a large share of the popular nostrums.

## SELECTIONS.

**NEGRO SUFFRAGE IN NEW-YORK.**—The proposition submitted to the people of the State of New-York to admit coloured men to the right of suffrage on the same conditions as white men are admitted, has been decided by a vote of 74,379 in favour, and 207,426 against such admission—133,067 majority. It is gratifying to find that 74,379 citizens of the Empire State were in favour of placing the coloured man, so far as the right of suffrage is concerned, on a level with themselves, but while there are 207,426, who can deliberately deposit their votes against such a measure, it will be difficult to convince impartial men that there is not a vast amount of prejudice against colour at the North; for however different may have been the motives of those who voted in the negative, they must all have had their origin in this prejudice. Coloured men are not proscribed on account of their ignorance or depravity, no such tests being set up; and could the coloured men in the State of New-York but pass through some bleaching process, and some other slight transformations of their head, though their characters remained as at present, they might exercise the right of suffrage on the same conditions as other men. It is pitiable to see “a great and magnanimous” State, constituting a leading portion of a nation whose Declaration of Independence proclaims that “all men are born free and equal,” depriving men of the right of suffrage on account of the colour of their skin, the curl of their hair, and the conformation of their visage. Were we citizens of such a State, we should blush at its name. As it is, we have no occasion for blushing in this respect. Vermont, from the commencement of her existence as a State, has ever placed the white and the coloured man on the same footing; and we have cause of gratitude to the framers of our government that it is so. As a State we have no virtues to boast of, but in this matter we are permitted to hold up our heads and look our sister States in the face.—*Vt. Chronicle.*

**A RARE CASE.**—A clergyman in Pittsburg, feeling that his salary was more than sufficient, applied to his congregation to have it reduced. This they refused to do, and the clergyman annually contributes a large portion of his salary to benevolent purposes.

**IS GOD IN THIS HOUSE?**—In Greenland, when a stranger knocks at the door, he asks, “Is God in this house?” and if they answer, “Yes,” he enters. Reader, this little messenger knocks at your door with the Greenland salutation, *Is God in this house?* Were you, like Abraham, entertaining an angel unawares, what would be the report he would take back to heaven? Would he find an altar in your dwelling? Do you worship God with your children? Is there a church in your house? If not, then God is not in your house. A prayerless is a godless family. It is a family on which Jehovah frowns. He will pour out his fury on it some day. “O Lord, pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name.” A prayerless family and a heathen family are here counted the same.—*Tract by Rev. M. Hamilton.*

**“THE LONG RANGE” OF THE GOSPEL.**—“Warner’s Long Range” is a good deal spoken of now-a-days, as a wonderful invention for killing enemies. But let me tell that Warner, and all other geniuses of his cast, that such inventions are a humbug. Such tactics and tools are all too short-sighted and too short-bitted for the work proposed. Enemies are as immortal as any malignant spirits, and you might as well hope to shoot sin stone dead, as shoot an enemy. There is but one way given under heaven by which one can kill an enemy; and that is, by putting coals of fire on his head; that does the business for him at once. Lie in wait for him, and when you catch him in trouble, faint from hunger or thirst, or shivering with cold, spring upon him, like a good Samaritan, with your hands, eyes, tongue, and heart full of good gifts. Feed him, give him drink, and warm him with clothing, and words of kindness; and he is done for. You have killed an enemy and made a friend at one shot.—*Elihu Burrill.*

**AN AFFECTING ANECDOTE.**—A corporal of the rifle brigade, for robbing a Spaniard of some bread, was tried by a drum-head court-martial, and brought out immediately afterwards for punishment. When the brigade was formed, and the unhappy corporal, who, till then, bore an excellent character, was placed in the centre of the square, close to the triangle,—the general said, in a stern voice, “Strip, sir.” The corporal never uttered a word till actually tied up, when, turning his head round, as far as his humiliating position enabled him, he said in a firm and respectful voice, “General Crawford, spare me.” The General replied, “It cannot be; your crime is too great.” The unhappy man, who was sentenced to be reduced to the pay and rank of a private soldier, and to receive two hundred lashes, then added, “Oh, general! do you recollect when we were both taken prisoners in Buenos Ayres? We were confined with others in a sort of pound. You sat on my knapsack, fatigued and hungry. I shared my last biscuit with you—on that occasion you shook me by the hand, swearing never to forget my kindness—it is now in your power. You know that when I committed the act for which I am now made so humiliating a spectacle to my comrades, we had been on short rations for some time.” Not only the general, but the whole square, was affected by this address. The bugler, who stood behind the corporal, then, on a nod from the bugle-major, inflicted the first lash, which drew blood from as brave a fellow as ever carried a musket. The general started, and turning hastily round, said, “Who ordered that bugler to flog? Send him to drill! send him to drill! Take him down! take him down! I remember it well!” all the time pacing up and down the square, wiping his face

with his handkerchief, trying to hide emotions that were visible to the whole square. After recovering his noble feeling, the gallant general uttered, with a broken accent, “Why does a brave soldier like you commit these crimes?” Then beckoning to his orderly for his horse, he mounted and galloped off. In a few days the corporal was restored to his rank, and I saw him a year afterwards a respected serjeant. Had the poor fellow’s sentence been carried out, a valuable soldier would have been lost to the service, and a good man converted into a worthless one.—*Sharpe’s London Magazine.*

**THE TELESCOPE AND MICROSCOPE.**—While the telescope enables us to see a system in every star, the microscope unfolds to us a world in every atom. The one instructs us that this mighty globe, with the whole hurthen of its people and its countries, is but a grain of sand in the vast field of immensity—the other that every atom may harbour the tribes and families of a busy population. The one shows us the insignificance of the world we inhabit—the other redeems it from all its insignificance, for it tells us that in the leaves of every forest, in the flowers of every garden, in the waters of every rivulet, there are worlds teeming with life, and numberless as are the stars of the firmament. The one suggests to us that above and beyond all that is visible to man there may be regions of creation which sweep immeasurably along, and carry the impress of the Almighty’s hand to the remotest scenes of the universe—the other, that within and beneath all that minuteness which the aided eye of man is able to explore there may be a world of invisible beings; and that, could we draw aside the mysterious veil which shrouds it from our senses, we might behold a theatre of as many wonders as astronomy can unfold—a universe within the compass of a point so small as to elude all the powers of the microscope, but where the Almighty Ruler of all things finds room for the exercise of his attributes, where he can raise another mechanism of worlds, and fill and animate them all with evidences of his glory.—*Dr. Chalmers.*

**A ROYAL QUANDARY.**—On the first consignment of Seidlitz powders to the capital of Delhi, the monarch was deeply interested in the accounts of the refreshing beverage. A box was brought to the king in full court, and the interpreter explained to his Majesty how it was to be used. Into a goblet he put the contents of the twelve blue papers; and, having added water, the king drank it off. This was the alkali, and the royal countenance exhibited no sign of satisfaction. It was then explained, that in the combination of the two powders lay the luxury; and the twelve white powders were quickly dissolved in water, and as eagerly swallowed by his Majesty. With a shriek that will be remembered while Delhi is numbered with the kingdoms, the monarch rose, staggered, exploded; and, in his agonies, screamed, “Hold me down!” Then rushing from the throne, fell prostrate on the floor. There he lay during the long-continued effervescence of the compound, spurring like ten thousand pennyworths of imperial pop, and believing himself in the agonies of death; a melancholy and humiliating proof that kings are mortal.—*Life at the Water Cure.*

## NEWS.

The war is the topic of interest in the United States papers—that Republic having passed into a new phase of its existence, the consequences of which cannot now be foreseen.

In the first place, the assertion so frequently made that the constitution of the United States prevented them from engaging in any war but one of defence, is completely disproved. The Republic may evidently engage in wars of conquest with as much avidity and success as ancient Rome. In the second place, the consent of the people inhabiting them, which has been deemed an essential element to the government of all states and territories of the United States, is now found to be unnecessary. The northern parts of Mexico, California, &c., are now *de facto* territories of the United States, yet the consent of the inhabitants has not been asked, and probably never will be asked in any full and free manner. In the third place, the voice of the people, or the people’s representatives, has been deemed essential to all appointments connected with civil government, but this is found to be no longer necessary—Col. Kearney and Commodore Stockton are, we believe, respectively the Governors of Santa Fe and California, without any appointment from the inhabitants, or Congress.

These changes in the hitherto understood constitution of the United States, and which are evidently sustained by a great majority in Congress, are, we think, equivalent to a complete revolution, and though the effects may not become immediately visible, we doubt not that they will develop themselves too soon. There is a terrible saying in the Old Book—“all they who take the sword shall perish with the sword.”

The last accounts from Washington state that it is contemplated to create the office of Lieut.-General of the army, and put Col. Benton of Missouri into it, with plenipotentiary powers both as respects the com-



mand of the army and negotiations with Mexico. To make him in New Spain nearly what Oliver Cromwell was in England. The experiment appears to us a dangerous one.

The Whigs, both of the Clay and Webster stamp, have generally decided upon opposing the war in toto.

There is a report of the massacre of 150 Americans in California, but it is little credited.

There is little to notice in Canada.

The Montreal Board of Trade have reported in favor of a telegraphic line from Montreal to Toronto.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

**RAISING DEAD BONES.**—We regret to say that the sanctuaries of the dead have been disturbed in this neighbourhood. The body of a woman interred a few days ago, was suspected, from the appearance of the grave, to have been abstracted, and on examination it was found to have been carried off, in the scientific manner of regular body snatchers. The Trustees of the ground having examined into the circumstances, there seems every reason to believe that the men in charge of the ground have been unfaithful, and that it will be necessary to discharge them. We are glad to observe that it is intended to build a Watch-House, to protect the church-yard. In all medical schools of eminence, and Toronto is fast becoming one, subjects will be had, and the interests of the living require that they should be had. All our better feelings are enlisted in protecting the remains of our friends—science and humanity seem somewhat at variance in this matter. Perhaps the regulation introduced in the Mother country, to give the bodies of those who die without relatives or friends to be dissected, and afterwards decently interred, is the best remedy that has been devised.—*Toronto Banner.*

**THE MURDER AT MARKHAM.**—That notorious character, Turney, who is in the Jail of this city, for the murder of William McPhillips, at Markham, made a voluntary confession, a few days ago, of his being a participator in that murder, and gave the name of the individual who he affirms committed the horrible deed. Two of our active Police force were immediately despatched to arrest the person, and he was brought to Toronto on Wednesday last. He has been twice before some of our city magistrates, but declines to having had anything to do with the murder, or any knowledge of the party by whom it was committed. His Worship the Mayor has issued summonses for a number of witnesses from Markham, and a public examination of both parties will take place this day. The person who was lately arrested is a young man of respectable appearance, a waggon maker by trade, and so far circumstances appear to be in his favor.—*Patriot.*

**FATAL OCCURRENCE.**—We learn that a young man by the name of Brady about 18 years of age, residing in Wickham, had an unhappy affray with a man by the name of McDonald, of the same place, during the past week, in which the former was severely beaten. Brady left soon after to go to Drummondville for a warrant against M.D. About dusk of the same day he was found in the road in Drummondville woods, sitting in his sleigh, with his head hanging over its side, quite dead. Several bruises were found on his body, supposed to have been inflicted during the affray and to have caused his death. A warrant was found in his pocket.

**PARADES IN ENGLAND.**—Amongst the passengers brought by the Thames, which arrived at Southampton on Wednesday, is the ex President of Mexico, General Paredes. He embarked at Vera Cruz, and was brought thither under a strong escort from Mexico. The general appears in excellent spirits, and seems to bear his sentence of banishment from his ill-starred country with great composure. He is rather diminutive, and about fifty years of age.

**NEW TEMPERANCE FUND.**—At a meeting held in Glasgow lately, it was resolved by the Temperance League to raise £20,000, payable in five years, to sustain the temperance agitation.

**THE SABBATH QUESTION.**—Out of the sixty Scotch newspapers, nine are enumerated as having condemned "the wicked attempt to prevent the performance of works of necessity and mercy on the Christian Sabbath." Such is the combination of opinion and authority which is to force upon the people of Scotland a general system of wholesale Sabbath desecration.

**SUICIDE OF MR. ALSAGER.**—Mr. Thomas Massa Alsager, the Official Assignee, longer and better known as the "City Correspondent of the Times," died on Sunday week from the effect of wounds inflicted by his own hand. On the morning of the 6th instant, Mr. Alsager was found in his bed-room with a deep gash in his throat, and a long incision in the left arm. The wounds were not immediately fatal; but, on the contrary, for some days hopes were entertained of his recovery. On Wednesday last, he executed his will. On Friday, inflammation of the wound in the throat came on; and after forty-eight hours of great suffering, the patient died. His death has caused quite a sensation in the commercial and monetary circles. The deceased was a clever and intelligent man in the department in that leviathan journal over which he presided for so long a period. The fatal act was committed in a moment of excitement caused by the deceased's resignation having been accepted by the acting proprietors, through motives of a private nature.

**TAMPICO.**—A letter dated Tampico, Nov. 26th, says the steamer Neptune, recently lost on the bar at that place, had on board the despatches of Col. Gates to General Taylor, apprising him of the state of things at Tampico, with other information of importance to the General in his operations. The whole mail was lost. Speaking of the evacuation of the town, the letter says "that a report had reached the Mexicans that General Taylor was advancing with 10,000 men on the other side of the river. The appearance of the boats of the fleet confirmed these impressions, and the soldiers fled after destroying the ornaments and forts and throwing into the river some 6000 muskets, leaving the inhabitants, about 3000 in number, to take care of themselves."

**MURDER IN PLATTSBURG.**—A most revolting murder was committed in Plattsburgh, N. Y., on Monday evening last, by one John Levere, a Canadian, upon his own wife! He had taken her into his waggon for the purpose of visiting a friend some miles from the village, and when about three miles out he deliberately murdered her by smashing her head with an axe!

The Jury rendered a verdict of wilful murder against him, and he is now in jail to await his trial in January.

**THE LAND OF THE FREE.**—An extraordinary proposition has lately been made by the Governor of Virginia in his message at the opening of the Legislature of that State. He recommends the expulsion from the State of the free negroes, it is said amounting to about fifty thousand, after six or twelve months notice, and "that such population shall not thereafter be permitted to reside therein."

A "duel" took place, on the 15th of this month at Richmond in Virginia, between a newspaper Editor and the son of the Mayor of the City, arising out of a newspaper discussion; the parties fired thirteen shots at each other with revolvers, without any damage more than a ball through the fleshy part of the Editor's thigh. The parties only stood a few feet apart.

The remains of the Texas Navy were sold at public auction on Monday; and, like the independent sovereignty of the country, went for about nothing; leaving Texas with a heavy debt for the acquisition, and yielding but little to the coffers of the Union by the transfer of ownership.—*Galveston Civilian, 2nd inst.*

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.**—It is rumored that a bill authorising ten additional regiments to the regular army will be introduced to-morrow.

Monies Received on Account of Magazine.

Drummond, J. C. 10s.—Belleville, G. McA. 5s.—Chambly [per Mr. Gemmel], Mr. W. 2s 6d; T. M. 5s; Rev. J. B. 5s.—Cobourg, A. M. 17s 6d.—Clarenceville, B. S. 7s 6d.—Drummondville, C. W. W. P. 5s; J. P. 5s.—Eaton, E. A. 5s; J. O. 5s.—Garanoque, Rev. Mr. H. 2s 6d.—Hawkesbury, T. T., 3s 9d.; S. S., 3s 9d.—Hock's Corners, W. A. 5s.—Inverness, G. P. 5s.—Leeds, C. E. W. H. 10s.—Lachute, S. S. 5s.—Monticello, S. L. 5s.—Mariosa, J. D. 5s; R. F. W. 5s.—Manningville, R. M. 2s 6d.—North Lancaster, J. C. 5s.—Perth, J. C. 5s.—Port Sarina, A. Y. 2s 6d.—Quebec [per A. Gemmel] W. C. 5s; P. and W. 5s; J. J. 5s; C. W. 5s; W. D. D. 5s; W. G. R. 5s; C. R. O'C. 5s; A. S. 5s; T. B. 5s; D. K. 5s; F. D. 5s; J. B. G. 5s; T. M. 5s; J. M. M. 5s; Sgt. F. 93d, 7s 6d; J. L. L. 5s; R. J. 1s 3d; Sgt. M. 93d, 5s; D. R. 93d, 5s; Sgt. G. 93d, 5s, Corporal McP. 93d, 5s; Sergeant's Mess, 93d, 2s 6d.—Sorrel [per A. Gemmel], Rev. Mr. B. 2s 6d.—Stouffville, Rev. L. K. 5s.—St. Thomas, J. C. 10s.—Three Rivers [per A. Gemmel], J. B. 2s 6d; W. A. 2s 6d; C. L. 2s 6d; M. H. 2s 6d; Mr. S. 5s; Mr. W. 5s; H. P. H. 2s 6d.—Vankleek Hill, J. G. 5s.—Chippewa, J. W. F. 5s; Mr. P., 5s; G. M. M., 5s.

PRODUCE PRICES CURRENT—MONTREAL, Dec. 28, 1846.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
ASHES, Pots, per cwt	22	3	a	22	9	BEEF, Primo Mess,			
Pearls, .....	22	3	a	22	9	per brl. 200lbs.	47	6	a
FLOUR, Canada Superfine, per brl.						Prime, .....	42	6	a
196 lbs. ....			Nominal			Prime Mess, per tierce, 304l'	00	0	a
Do. Fine, .....			Do.			PORK, Mess, per brl. 200lbs. ....	72	6	a
Do. Soft, .....			none			Prime Mess, .....	55	0	a
Do. Middlings, ..			none			Primo, .....	50	0	a
Indian Meal, 168lb. 15	0	a	00	0		Cargo, .....	40	0	a
Oatmeal, brl. 224lb. 25	0	a	00	0		BUTTER, per lb. ...	0	7	a
GRAIN, Wheat U.C. Best, 60lbs. ...	5	0	a	5	3	CHEESE, full milk, 100 lbs. ....	40	0	a
Do. L.C. per mn. ...	0	0	a	0	0	LARD, per lb. ....	0	5	a
BARLEY, Minot, ...	3	0	a	3	3	TALLOW, per lb. ...	0	6	a
OATS, " " .....			none						
PEASE, .....	4	6	a	0	0				

THOS. M. TAYLOR, Broker.

PROSPECTUS TO SECOND VOLUME

OF THE

MONTREAL WITNESS

WEEKLY REVIEW & FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

The Second Volume will begin on the first Monday of January next, and be conducted substantially as heretofore, viz., in five departments.

1. Original articles and Communications.
2. Review.
3. Editorial Department.
4. Miscellany.
5. News.

The aim being to furnish a literary and religious newspaper for general circulation, party politics and sectarian discussions will be, as heretofore, excluded.

Each number will be embellished with a wood cut.

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