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For the National Era.

HERMAN;

OR

YOUNG KNIGHTHOOD.

BY E. FOXTON,

Author of "Prémices."

CHAPTER XV.—Continued.

"Certainly, I should like to hear what you would say; and so would he, if he were here; but oh, Herman, Herman, you are not going to answer respectfully! There is the very saucest possible twinkle in your eyes at this moment; and there is no use in your trying to draw your lips in, to hide under your *moustache!*" And both of them, looking in each other's faces, went back to boyhood and girlhood, and laughed heartily together for sheer happiness and affection. "Your very ringing old laugh!" continued Constance. "How like the dear old days it sounds! How unfortunately unromantic I used to think it! How glad it makes me to hear it now so full of health and happiness! You must have kept it put away for me all these years. If you had brought it out often, it would have changed and grown older and less mirthful with yourself."

"Yes; there must be some 'secret sympathy' between us. I could not often laugh while you were sighing."

"But you must not laugh now, either, at the first friend, who was able to give me any comfort, after I drove you away; or I shall sigh again."

"Don't; or I shall never even smile again; but neither shall I laugh or sneer at that poor patient female genius of his. The picture is drawn from life, evidently; but not, I think, quite *to* the life. Some of the outlines, however, are so true, that from them we can, I hope, correct the others. I should like to know that woman, Constance; though perhaps, as the *Anonymi* in the newspapers say, when they mean to be especially withering, 'I should not want such a woman as that for my wife,' even supposing—as they always forget to add—I could have her if I did, and though I can even conceive it to be possible that, being wedded to Apollo, she might not care to marry me. Helpmects do not grow on every bush, nor even upon every estimable and admirable bush. I never in my life saw but one woman whom I did wish to marry; [Constance's blush was as soft and bright as sunshine strained through a crimson curtain upon polished ivory; her long curled eye-lashes lay basking upon it; and she looked most demurely nun-like, most supreme by happy;] though I have seen many whom I liked, esteemed, and wished well, very heartily; and I fancy that this lady of masculine genius might be of the number. It seems to me that it is somewhat arrogant in us mighty men to claim as masculine, not feminine, everything true, noble, religious, and therefore, of course, worth claiming. If she has a lyre, she probably got it where we got ours—those of us who are lucky enough to have any, from the gods—such as they choose to give her. She has as generous a right to share with us being effeminate when they sound sweet, as we hers with being masculine when it sounds strong. If she thunders, we need not accuse her of having stolen our thunder. I, for one, will deny her the possession of a bad voice, even if she chooses to keep the latter to herself and Apollo; nay, I think that she must have one, and a great one, though calm, and

"Of course and sympathize;"

else how should she be let into the secret of those shrinking sorrows and struggles of her own sex, which she rises above in her individual life, yet makes her more able to speak respectfully for others the sympathy and compassion which for herself she does not need—strifes and sorrows which she describes so vividly and so eloquently, that they seem, to those too selfish to understand her self-forgetfulness, as if we only while the real sufferers remain sheltered and unexposed. She shows her real *retenue* and freedom from egotism by never caring to come forward in propria persona to explain herself. She minds her own business; and if other people will not mind theirs, I would rather that she should laugh than cry. Because, though a woman, she is human, and ambition belongs to—not exclusively male, but—essentially human. She is ambitious. Her sisters, not daring to be 'strong-minded' enough to look higher, are ambitious of fine houses, clothes, and equipages; she of fine poems, pictures, or statues. Their triumphs are over the real world; hers, for the rest of her sex. A few more women like her, in the study and the *studio*, and the world will find out and acknowledge that there is a kind of power and heavenly grace that is feminine, or neuter, or common to both sexes, and women, without being in the slightest degree unwomanly, may and do have noble brains, and put them to noble uses. I like her better for than her predecessor in review the 'writing machine,' which, as she says herself, she does not forget to be a woman. If her only hope was set on artistic success, she could hardly hear so cheerfully to be so often balked in her efforts. If she can be her intellectual pon-on-bonne sans, or good-humored, when her vacant time expires, it must be, I am pretty sure, to go away and perform the good offices of a good daughter, sister, friend, or neighbor. This she can say, if I this hope is lost, all is not lost. She must have a brave and great heart to bear such disappointments so courageously and never sicken with hope deferred. In order to do so, it would seem as if it should be a good heart, too, and lean on God's strong right hand in partnership with a strong head, early and duly stocked with ecclesiastical history, perhaps it is a sealed, and appears a heretical, heart to the bishop and his church. I ask your pardon. I am just as fond of forbidden fruit—

"Oh, no, I am not bigoted; and I fear he may be a little so. Go on. I like to hear about her. If there is such a woman, I wish I could know her."

"I wish you could; for without friendship she might be lonely in the midst of her struggles and her triumphs. She is most probably unmarried; for if she had a husband and children, they would interfere with her regular *tête-à-têtes* with Apollo. A woman must usually choose between art and wedlock. Either is enough to engross her, to the exclusion of the other. She has chosen art, and is more than content with it, and with her own independence, complaining when it frowns. I find no coldness, but rather a fine ardor, in her calm, grand perseverance. I do not see how the teasing god to whom she is so faithful can have the heart to keep her trying, so patiently and amiably, day after day, with the golden apples that she hungers and thirsts for, and sees but just beyond her reach, in his sunny hand. No wonder she brings him down with a jerk at last, otherwise and whenever she can catch hold of him; I wish I could help her.

"I don't quite believe in her absence of inward prompting; and as to that urging god, I don't know. If it sings her, he probably will not think it worth mentioning, but will work with Mr. Toots, 'Oh, it's of no consequence, thank you.' She is strong enough to bear it by herself, with the help of the wholesome food, sleep, and recreation, which, in her sense enough to take. She wants her readers to think not about her, but the heroes and heroines whom she talks to them about. She does not mean to have them prying into that heart of hers, at which she keeps herself jealously and well, so set it right towards God and her neighbor, and no oftener. She is not *introspective*. She sees many things without her in the world, in heaven, and in hell, which she thinks much better worth her attention and mine, than anything within her. I like her better than her predecessor, because, while self-forgetful, she is still self-governed. I think I should even like her looks better than those of that possessed victim of glory. They might, they would be, less demoniac, less maddened and maddening, but they would be truer, juster, sunnier; one would be not unlikely to find in them, here and there, amid all their imperfections, reflected glimpses of the greatest of all minds, the mind of God. If any of those books fell in my way, I would take them thankfully, and use them just as she desired, as magnifying glasses to look through at life, and help me to see it more clearly; I would not invert them, and use them to peer back impertinently at her through the wrong end. If I could, I would write reviews of them, such as should do good to that good heart of hers—as free from paltry flattery as she from vanity, and letting her individuality as utterly alone as she does—bestowing upon them hearty praise and no less honest criticism, such as should show her how for the future to polish away all of the blemishes, of which she would gladly be told, for the sake of getting rid of them."

"Oh, Herman," cried Constance, "let me thank you, for her! Herman—*Herman*—you deserve your name! A brother to all man and woman kind! How much better than a brother to me?"

"Yes; you thank me, and from your heart. You have been taught to disbelieve your own possession of genius; and yet you receive a tribute to its possession and worthy exercise by any of your sisters, as a tribute to you. Thus generous noble women think and feel! Nor do they think and feel so of genius only, but of learning also. It is true, as the Bishop said, that scholarship in women is not rewarded so abundantly as in men, by academical distinctions and Mutual Admiration Societies. I am afraid that it may be also true that there is a very general and very narrow prejudice against it; because good sense and good feeling are apt to be in the minority on any question newly presented to this prejudiced old world. But all those just and judicious persons whose opinion is really worth regarding, like a woman none the less for being liberally educated, provided she is none the less conscientious, practical, gentle, and genial; and such of your own sex, particularly, as you would choose for companions and friends, sweet friend, have quite a remarkable habit of glorying and delighting in the acquirements and achievements of other worthy specimens of womankind, quite as if they were their own. It is as much as a man's life is worth, among the former, to detract from the latter."

"I may study or write, then, sometimes, if I will choose you for my director?"

"On one or two conditions."

"What ones?"

"You are not to become a writing medium, nor to drown your bloom and spirits in printer's ink; and your learned labors are to be pursued at my elbow, so that I may have the honor of lending my aid to smooth away any possible difficulties, before they have had time to chronicle themselves in wrinkles."

"No, I will never be an author or a scholar. The conditions are too hard; and so is the work."

"What! Not ambitious, after all?"

"What! Do not you purpose to allow me a share henceforth in all your triumphs?"

"Certainly; all that I have."

"Then I shall want no others," murmured she. "But now I must tell you the rest of 'Ye Women's Tale.' The Bishop asked me, further, whether I had ever published anything. I had, at Uncle Henry's entreaty, a few times allowed him to have a few of my verses printed in a magazine."

"Have were they received?" inquired Bishop Deverevx.

"They were praised by some of our acquaintances; because Uncle Henry told who wrote them."

"But were they noticed by strangers, analyzed, criticised?

"Not at all."

"That which does not excite criticism is usually forgotten soon. I fear that your poetic fame is not for you; and literary flattery will not fill or satisfy your mind. You are inordinately proud, Miss Aspenwall, since you have given me leave to say so; but you are so—you have continuous inspiration you have not. A masculine nature you have not, and you cannot whip yourself up daily to long toil by the hope of the even well-earned praise of those who do not love you, and whom you do not love. To you, the world has nothing to offer.'

"Nothing!" exclaimed, and stopped. The word seemed to me to come out of my heart, sounding like an echo out of an empty tomb.

"Oh, yes,' said he, 'I forgot. There is one thing. You can wear the finest dresses and drive the finest horses in Baltimore.' I burst into tears. 'Daughter, daughter!' said he, 'Do not weep so.' The world has, indeed, nothing to offer; but I have something, or I could never have steeled myself to inflict upon you this cruel pain, this necessary, pain. I can—I will—help and comfort you out of this deluge of tears. You shall be my poor child, prayed, warmed, and sheltered, and taken into the ark. The world is cruel to you and such as you. Come out of it. Come into the only true church; and you shall be my child, my poor fine full nature, rest for your soul here—and hereafter, bliss unspeakable. Set your ambition on a heavenly diadem, and you shall wear it in the train of Mary; for heaven has a Queen; and her handmaids are the Queens of earth, for all servants, among whom is neither male nor female, bond nor free. Her canonized maidens like herself are called blessed by all after generations; and unless I deceive myself very greatly, you would be an ornament among them reserved for you. Hear what dignities she has conferred upon her faithful handmaids, even on earth and before the eyes of men, to confound their unforwearing arrogance! and then be broken faithful servants, and obey my improvisations, Herman; until the very walls around us seemed to vanish from my eyes, while in an eternal temple not made with hands, and in a pageant of awful grandeur and beauty, the holy saints, Therese, Genevieve, Catherine, and the rest, seemed to pass before us in procession, wearing crowns on their heads, and beckoning to me. I wished to follow them. I could not leave the world behind me.

"When he ceased, I told him how it had seemed to me. He answered that I had seen more than he was conscious of describing, but that it was a glimpse of the true reality; and that among my visions, I should find no other earthly life, into such realities I should be born whom my earthly life was over, if I would but walk in the footsteps of those saints here below, and come out of a world which had nothing but emptiness and vanity to offer me. 'Out of the world!' thought I. Oh,

"Anywhere, anywhere, out of the world!"

Many and many a time I had repeated that line to myself in those days; and his words appeared to me strangely like an answer to it.

"But I said nothing. He arose to go. 'Stay,' I said. 'My daughter,' he answered, tenderly, 'it pains me too much to look on, a useless spectator merely of pain which I am not sufficient to relieve—the pain of one whose suffering is sharper not because she is more wounded—has permitted the probe, but now repels the balm. What can the surgeon do, but depart to the succor of others, who have felt already and learned to welcome the touch of his healing hand? Do not weep so, my child. Be still!' when I would have cried out, and 'Be still!' when I would have struggled. Do you think many women lead such lives, Herman? Do you think one could lead a long life so? Oh, how merciful my God has been to me!

"I said something like that to the Bishop, one day; for, slow as I was in putting myself under his direction, he was very patient with me, and came often to see me, watching over me with a solicitude and sympathy which he could not conceal, though he never forced it upon me. He had often desired me to visit some of the convents; and now he asked Aunt Cora to take me to see the Orphan Asylum of St. Barbara. She was delighted with the suggestion; for she knew, perhaps, more than all the secular slights in the city, and was almost in despair of finding anything new in which she could hope to interest me.

"Beautiful, beautiful, Sister Corona came to meet us, with a lovely rosy child of eighteen months asleep upon her shoulder, with its dimpled hands clasped round her neck—such a living picture of Innocence reared by Holiness! She always reminded me of a fair female saint of mediæval saint, come by mistake out of the canvas. She welcomed us with a smile that was like a benediction, and took us to see the other little children at their play. 'Isn't it enough to do your heart good, my dear?' said she, seeing me smile at one of them.

"'Heart!' cried I, turning almost sharply upon her; 'I have no heart; or it is ossified.'

"'Oh, no, dear daughter,' said she, with a sort of chuckle, which sounded strange in her always had in her voice; 'Don't think so. It may have been paralyzed by some rude shock; but it will be sure to soften and grow warm again, if you do but press a little child to it often enough. I fear you have seldom come to me when it aches; and I will lend you my best and sweetest.'

"I was ashamed to look at Aunt Cora; for I had seldom taken much notice of my good-humored, noisy little cousins, and felt as in interruption. When we went home, I called them all about me upon this sofa and on my knee, told them stories, and felt better. I had received the first of many good lessons; and week by week, and sometimes day by day, which the sisters for more, and seldom failed to find what I sought, while my heart, and mind, and imagination, were all fired by what I saw and heard among them. Week at last, I thought, I had found a mode of life offered to a young and lonely woman, neither listless, aimless, useless, solitary, nor unguided. Among the sisterhood, I found ardor and enthusiasm; nor yet enthusiasm only, but enthusiasm under reason, power, obedience, action, and beneficent daring. Their order connected them with past ages and far countries. Their individual histories were sometimes full of romantic interest and adventure. They never knew what morning rose in the morning, where they were to sleep at night, nor where the sun was next to rise upon them. Where they were sent, they went at a moment's notice, without a word, sigh, or tear, rejoicing if they were considered worthy to suffer for Master's cause—even into plague-stricken cities; where to go was death, and there most joyfully, because through them lay the shortest road into His presence. They rushed upon the field of battle, tending the wounded and dying, and the hail-storm of shot, with hearts as strong and more fearless than those of their brethren who went there to wound and to slay; for to them to die was but gain. Hero was a sweet and angelic nurse, and I watch and call glorious, longed to share it?

"And will you might, my storm-queen!"

"But in order to do so, Herman, you perceive that it was necessary for me to become a Catholic, if I could. One might say, indeed, that I might have joined the sisterhood as a religious, and active a life, as a Protestant; and theoretically, I suppose I might; but practically, I don't think I should. I had yet to learn the very alphabet of self-sacrifice, obedience, and humility. I had lived, and been, and felt myself, I was indolent and inexperienced, and absolutely needed, before I attempted to work by myself, to serve an apprenticeship to some person or persons who had a right to set me to work, and to see that I did it well, and not that I did my work. Loft to myself, I should but have exerted myself for the poor or sick in a very ignorant and inefficient manner for a morning now and then, and then tired a week or a month. I should not have wielded the lancet with a practical hand, or have ventured to bind up in the immediate service of any clergyman; and *clergywomen* I did not know where to find out of the church of Rome. It is all very well for Miss Edgeworth's Lazy Lawrence to wish doing good, at her age; but, at mine, I could not; nor, long before I was as old as she, I knew that my bodily and mental powers would have rusted out in idleness and repining. I don't by any means say that they ought, you understand, but that they would. I know it is the theory, that if a nice young lady sits down through all her youth in a nice parlor, nicely dressed, and attends to her domestic duties, (whether she has any, or enough to occupy her, or not,) she will come out a little the slightest difference,) by and by some other duties will come to her; but, Herman, don't you think there is a little cant about that? Do you think that young women are quite the exceptions in human nature that they are taught to consider themselves? Do you *not* think that they, like other persons, need to make some preparation in their youth for what they are to do, and to do well, in their middle age and old age? Am I altogether *strong-minded* and wrong in thinking so?" pleaded she, timidly, looking into his face.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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For the National Era.

JASPER: A ROMANCE.

BY EDWARD SPENCER.

VII.

How Mrs. Fleming Played the Queen.

[CHAPTER SEVENTH CONCLUDED.]

"Woman's spite! You wear steel-mail;
A woman takes a house-wife from her breast,
And pluckes the delicate'st needle out
As 'twere a rose, and pricks you carefully,
'Neath mail, 'neath eyelids, in your nos mis,—say,
A beast would roar, as tortured,—but a man,
A human creature, must not, shall not flinch,
No, not for shame!"

And Mrs. Morninglory found a poison as sharp as the *woorali*, in which to dip her needles.

The other leader of the opposition, Mr. Clinquant, was a much more formidable opponent than even Mrs. Morninglory. The embodiment of selfishness, he was equally the embodiment of success. Tact, experience, pretension, and unscrupulousness, had seated him upon an undisputed pinnacle, where he managed to retain his position by the same means that had helped him into it. Society did not possess a more attractive, nor, let me add, a more dangerous member than Aulicus Clinquant, Esq. Under an assumption of fripery, *insouciance*, and that innocence of character said to be peculiar to the sons of genius, he concealed the far-seeing mind of a skeptical, practiced, secretive schemer. Ever working for himself and for his own emolument, he affected the simplicity of the wittol, the earnestness of the deep thinker, the levity of the *bel esprit*, as he listed, effectually making himself all things to all men. Even if any one managed to solve his character, and acquaint himself with the falseness that lay at the base, he could not easily refuse this singular man a kind of admiration. For Aulicus Clinquant had made himself, and solely by his own efforts had achieved, that success which gave him prominence. And it was a wonder to every one how a man of his antecedents should have been able so completely to assimilate himself with the society to which he had climbed up. Born ignobly, in the widest sense of the word, he had conquered difficulties that would have totally disheartened an ordinary man. He had begun as the errand-boy of a third-rate theatre—the nameless child of a wretched hallet-dancer, who had left him, and gone off reckless, to die in we care not to tell what lowest depth of degradation. It argued no little innate power in the man, that now, at the age of forty, he was a distinguished author, and an acknowledged leader of the fashionable world. Men, and women, dazzled at his eminence, forgot to inquire the means he had resorted to in arriving at it. He himself scarce dared look back at his past, though he was ready to make a virtue of it in his flippant way, in conversation. He had picked up, here and there, some little education, and, beginning upon this basis, had gotten into college, as the protegé of a religious institution, which had taken compassion on him, as was of no further use to him. His proclivities were artistic, and, by a dexterous use of that tact in which he was unrivalled, he had gone to Italy, to become a painter, under the auspices of gentlemen who patronized him upon the credit of having fostered one of the most deserving of geniuses. In Florence he ingratiated himself with the artist fraternity, and painted some miserable pictures, but here he began to see something of society, that stimulated upon which his plastic fingers most delighted to work. This was his field, and he was not long without accosts. Handsome, fluent, brilliant, he found no difficulty in obtaining an heiress. Returning home, he had written a book that made him famous at once, and got rid of his wife, whose money was all he wanted, and whose idolatry of him bored him. How? Didst never hear of those wonderful pills? Thou hast never hear of those worst of fiends, *strauss-engel, hauteufel?* Thencoforward his progress was ever onward. One of the most wonderful conversationists, one of the closest readers of character, he was also a skillful performer upon the organ of human passion, he had made but a single mistake, and had never once failed to help himself to the best. No man was more in request everywhere; and, unlike most popular fellows, he seemed to have no fear of those who sought him. Some, perhaps, were afraid of him, but more believed in him. At forty, he was one of the handsomest of men. Tall, well-formed, graceful, no one could gaze on the broad, high, but not overshadowing features, his flashing eye, so expressive, so capable of emotion, his quick mobile lip, his breezy rippling curls, his white, small head, without involuntarily envying him. And to hear him talk, whether he was in earnest or jesting, one could not help believe, here is a glorious man. Thank God! there are not many such glorious ones in this world of ours.

Not the least among those whom he had deceived was Mrs. Fleming. When he entered society as the self-made, self-made, and the author of a genuine earnest book that plead eloquently for noble principles, she had been pleased with him, and had received him as an honest deserving man. She had helped him to fame, as he meant she should do, and had given him credit for all that genuineness of character which he so well knew how to affect. She had patronized and encouraged him, and he had thought he needed such assistance, and he had long been one of those favored ones who were admitted into her select coterie. This was because she really and truly liked him for what he pretended to be, and was deceived in his traits. Slightly frivolous perhaps she thought him at times, but 'twas merely the oxuberance of an o'erflowing fancy. She was proud of him, for he seemed to her one of those rare examples in which the outward and the inward graces had shown itself adequate to conquer and obliterate the innate snobbery of the *parvenu*.

Why, then, did Aulicus Clinquant hate Mrs. Fleming, and why was she at the head of the opposition to her sovereignty? She herself could not have guessed; only the malice-wheted acuteness of Mrs. Morninglory had been able to solve his secret, and so far she held the reins on Jasper's neck, that he was sold to take he had ever made, as a man of the world, since he entered society, was in regard to Mrs. Fleming, and he hated her because of that mistake. Mrs. Fleming had received him, had received him as a gentleman, had made him a friend, and had

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1858.

JASPER.

Inducement to New Subscribers.

Owing to the unusual interest manifested by our readers in the story now in course of publication in the *Era*, entitled "JASPER," we have concluded, in order that all *new* subscribers may have the benefit of the story, to issue an "Extra" on the 1st of January, containing all the chapters published up to that time.

This Extra will be sent *free* to all *new* subscribers.

☞ A few of our new subscribers will receive this week a copy of our "Extra," containing the story entitled "Jasper," published in the *Era*, up to December 1st; those who do not receive it will be furnished, about the first of January, with a *double extra*, containing all the story up to that time. It appears we did not print a large enough edition of our first extra.

The Extra is issued at a heavy expense to us, but we know it will be fully appreciated by our subscribers.

Some person sends us a letter from Rayner-town, New York, enclosing $2 for the *Era*, but neglects to sign his name. Who is it?

THE UNITED STATES POSTAL ESTABLISHMENT.

For several years past, the revenue of the Post Office Department has fallen below the expenditures; and the excess of the latter has augmented with fearful rapidity during the late and present Administrations. Our readers may have learned, from the synopsis of the Postmaster General's report published in our last, that the revenue of the Department, during the fiscal year ending June 30, was $7,485,792.86.

During the same period, the expenditures amounted to $12,722,470.01. The expenditures therefore exceed the receipts $5,235,677.15. This difference is made up by annual appropriations from the Federal Treasury.

The estimates of the head of the Department for the next fiscal year present a still greater disparity between the receipts and expenditures. The latter, we are told, will run up to $14,776,520, while the revenue will amount to only $7,786,080—leaving a balance to be made up, by appropriations out of the Treasury, amounting to $6,990,440.

This enormous balance of expenditures over the receipts of the Post Office Department at once marks the progress which the country has made in wealth, and which the sham Democracy has made in profligate extravagance. Everything is now conducted on the grandest scale. Our national expenditures have risen from the ten millions under John Quincy Adams, to one hundred millions under Buchanan; and, as a matter of course, official jobbing, peculation, thieving, and fraud, is the order of the day. Millions are made at one fell swoop by land grants to railroads, by clandestine sales of highly-improved Government reservations, by contracts for supplying the army and navy, and by contracts for running four-horse mail coaches through the wilderneses of the Southwest, without passengers.

As the necessary result of this profligacy and corruption, our thieves and peculators are becoming princes in wealth, the standard of character and of morals is depreciating, and the people are saddled with a national debt and heavy taxes.

The Postmaster General recommends several expedients for reducing the expenses and augmenting the revenue of his Department. Some of them are good, while others are characterized by that Southern sectional favoritism which has become the settled policy of the "Democratic" party.

The following are the suggestions of Mr. Brown for remedying the embarrassments into which the postal system has fallen. He says:

"An act of Congress should be passed, explanatory of the act of March 3, 1845, which makes it the duty of the Postmaster General, in all future letting of contracts for the transportation of the mails, to let the same, in every case, to the lowest bidder tendering sufficient guarantees for faithful performance, without other reference to the mode of such transportation than may be necessary to provide for the due celerity, certainty, and security of such transportation. And to make the law more emphatic, it should provide that the Postmaster General shall not in any case whatever accept a bid for mail service having any reference to the conveyance of passengers or freight of any kind other than regular mail matter.

"The effect of such legislation would be to substitute stages with two horses on routes where four-horse coaches are now employed, while stages in their turn would give place to the haggy, and, indeed, oftentimes to horseback conveyance. In the few cases where four-horse vehicles would be necessary, on account of the large amount of mail matter, the difference between the cost of passenger coaches and the plainer and cheaper wagon, sufficient for conveying the mails, would be very considerable, and so, also, a proportionate saving would result in the case of stages, when changed to a plainer and cheaper conveyance of equal capacity."

We confess that we are at a loss to understand what explanation could make the law of March 3, 1845, more explicit as regards the duty of the Postmaster General, than the language quoted from it above by Mr. Brown. The passage cited expressly enjoins what he recommends; but it may be that some other clause gives color to the vicious practice which he condemns, but conforms to; and if such is the case, it is to be hoped that Congress will yield the explanation demanded. It is certainly a great abuse, and a great source of profitless expenditure on the part of the Department, to run four-horse coaches through sparsely-peopled regions, for the accommodation of an occasional passenger. The travelling public should foot their own bills, and not saddle them upon the people. Wherever the amount of travel will justify it, mail contractors will run coaches, in order to enhance their profits; and where travel is not sufficient to justify the running of coaches, the additional expense should not be put upon the Department.

These splendid lines of post coaches, which it is the custom to keep up at the expense of the Department, are one great cause of its pecuniary embarrassments. The effect of the system is to tax the people of the more settled portions of the country, not merely to send the mails through the South but to afford facilities of travel. The North furnishes the revenue of the Department; the South consumes it. Northern letters are taxed, in order that Southern travellers may be accommodated with four-horse coaches. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1857, the total expenses of the Department, exclusive of the foreign mail service, exceeded the total receipts by $2,890,000; and of this enormous sum, $2,700,000 went to make up for the Southern deficit. Every slaveholding State was in arrears, and levelled in mail and travelling facilities at the expense of New England, New York, Pennsylvania, &c.

We therefore cordially endorse this recommendation of the Postmaster General.

Mr. Brown next states that the expense of transporting the mails on railroads is greater than that by coaches, but he fails to recommend a remedy.

2. Mr. Brown recommends "the imposition of rates of postage approaching more nearly the value or cost of transportation and delivery of letters and printed matter," and says that "a move in this direction was made at the last session of Congress, by the introduction of a bill in the Senate, having for its chief objects the raising of the three-cents rate upon letters to five cents, and the abolition of the discount now allowed by law for the payment of newspaper and pamphlet postage quarterly or yearly in advance." This is only a "move" in the right "direction," and we are left to the inference that Mr. Brown's standard of the cost of transportation and delivery would be still higher.

We have already adverted to the fact that the free States, as a whole, pay their own postage, within a fraction; while the South costs the country millions in mail and travelling facilities. These facts show that there can be no general and uniform rate of postage suited to the necessities of the Post Office in different localities. The present rate of three cents is higher than necessary for New England, New York, and Pennsylvania, which yield a surplus of near seven hundred thousand dollars to the Department; it is too low for the other free States; and it is greatly too low for the South. The Northeastern States are now overtaxed, in order to extend mail facilities to the South and West, and yet there is a deficit of millions. Mr. Brown insists upon taxing the North to nearly double the present rate, in order to relieve his Department from embarrassment. We protest against this policy, as unjust. If it is deemed proper to keep up the mail facilities at their present standard, let it be done at the expense of the common treasury, and not by taxing one section directly for the benefit of another. And even on this plan, the Northeast, while paying its own postage, would be taxed indirectly to pay that of other sections; but it would have the advantage of taxing the sections benefitted themselves, at the same time. Mr. Brown's plan is a cool proposition to tax the North directly, and pay the money thus raised over to the South. He proposes to raise *three and a half millions of dollars* by this most unjust expedient, and there can be no doubt that three millions of it would come out of Northern pockets. The extortion of these three millions of taxes would depress commercial enterprise, check the diffusion of intelligence, and be a "step backward" in civilization.

The Postmaster General admits the facts assumed by us in this reasoning, and, indeed, it would be idle to deny facts which his own reports and those of his predecessors substantiate. He says:

"In a compact and dense population, the present rate might bear some reasonable proportion to the actual cost of transportation; but in a widely-extended country, like the United States, now reaching from one ocean to the other, and in a proportion of its thinly populated, three cents would seem to be altogether insufficient to meet the actual expense incurred by the Government in sending forward the letters."

The older States of the North and East are exactly in the condition of compactness and density which Mr. Brown admits to be compatible with a cheap rate of postage; and we are unable to see how he reconciles the admission with his recommendation of a higher rate. Three cents is more than sufficient for revenue in that section, but the people must be taxed, their business, social and literary intercourse, must be curtailed and injured, by a five or ten cent rate, in order that the South may have mail facilities, which she cannot afford at her own cost.

3. We also concur in the general views expressed by the Postmaster General in regard to transatlantic and other ocean postage. The Post Office should be chargeable no further, in keeping up lines of steamers to foreign countries, than the amount of postage they yield. If the interests of commerce require steam lines, they should be chargeable to the Treasury Department, and not to the Post Office Department.

But he thinks that the steam lines between our Southern ports, and those of Mexico and Brazil, need extra aid from the Department, and he is willing to see New England, New York, and Pennsylvania, pay five cents, or even a higher rate of letter postage, in order that postal facilities may be extended to the commerce of the South. He says:

"A regular line from some suitable port in the United States to Brazil, and the extension of the California line from Panama to the south Pacific coast, which, for commercial as well as for mail purposes it is so desirable should be established, and the line from New Orleans to Vera Cruz, it is apparent that the postages to be derived therefrom would defray but a trifling portion of the expense of the service. I regard it as highly important that the line to Vera Cruz be established, which, from the first of July to the first of November of this year, there was no mail upon this line, and temporary service is now performed for the postages only, in the hope that Congress will immediately authorize the making of a contract at a reasonable compensation. I respectfully recommend this, and that the same authority be granted respecting lines to Brazil and the south Pacific. The contract on the Charleston and Havana line will expire on the 30th of June next; and this, also, it is apparent, will require other aid than what could be derived from the postages to sustain it. The Vera Cruz and Havana lines, as well as the lines to California, should be classed as commercial, and, whether susceptible of being sustained from the postages or not, should not, in my judgment, be subject to that restriction."

It would have been much fairer to call upon the Federal Government for an appropriation to defray the expense of the steam mail facilities between people whose addiction to writing would not warrant any sanguine hopes of postal revenue. But the head of the Post Office Department is raising the necessary amount by a tax upon the correspondence of the commercial and business portion of the Union.

It is too late in the day to talk of raising the rates of postage. It cannot be done, as we have demonstrated, without gross injustice to the most populous section of the Union, and without throwing a serious obstruction in the way of the trade and intercourse of the people. The proposition is anti-Democratic, sectional, and partial, and could only originate with a party whose stronghold is Slavery.

The Southern sham Democracy at this moment threaten to dissolve the Union, rather than submit to higher duties on imported merchandise, on the assumption that such imports operate to the advantage of Northern manufacturers, at the expense of Southern planters. They cannot deny that the protection to domestic industry resulting from imposts is general in its character, and that Southerners who choose to engage in manufactures are equally protected and benefited with those of the North; and it cannot be pretended that the protective policy directly taxes one section more than another; or that the effect is to cause the South to pay more than her share of the public revenue. But the Postmaster General has no scruple in proposing to tax the North heavily and injuriously, for the benefit of the South. The North, as Mr. Brown's report shows, raises more than her share of the postal revenue, but her postal taxes must be doubled, in order to make up for Southern and Western deficiencies, and to pay for steam lines to Vera Cruz and Rio Janeiro.

A REMARKABLE BOOK.

Future Life; or Scenes in Another World. By George Wood, author of "Peter Schlemihl in America," "Modern Pilgrims," &c. New York: Derby & Jackson. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Washington, D. C.

The little child, who, when asked what she supposed her father was doing in heaven, replied, "O, I suppose he is playing with his blocks," was probably nearer the truth than the great mass of the Christian world. Our ideas of the future life are extremely vague, and the worst of it is, that any attempt to render them less so is met with suspicion, if not a rebuke, for the folly and presumption of attempting to pry into the hidden things of God. Heaven, indeed, we have been taught, is a place of perfect holiness and happiness, but a holiness so severe, and a happiness so unvarying and passive, that a living, hearty, active nature dreads going to heaven but little less than not going there. At least, that was our own juvenile experience. The change which death produces is supposed to be so entire, the revulsion so great, that the soul can hardly be said to preserve its identity. It bears about the same relation to the soul on earth that the good little children in books bear to the mischievous little scoundrels around us, that try our patience every hour of their precious lives. We confess we never could understand the reason or the reasonableness of this. Why the Bible should use the strongest figures to help our conception of Heaven, and yet be supposed to forbid all conjectures regarding it, has never been satisfactorily explained. It certainly seems to us that if people thought more of heaven, they would think less of earth. If the future had more influence over us, the present would have less.

Therefore we are glad this book has been written. It is an honest, bold effort to put men on the right track. Its central idea is that the future life is a spiritualization of this. All the faculties of the soul—love, hope, memory, joy, mirth—not only retain their pristine vigor, but are stimulated to new activity. There is a new impulse, but it is in the old direction. One of the greatest (perhaps the greatest) changes consists in the absence of sin. One of the characters describes this very happily. "The great unappreciated weight of sin, which, like our earth's atmosphere, once weighed me down, was now no more." The plan of the book is simple. Two friends, Peter Schlemihl and Mrs. Jay, meet in a world devoted to art and beauty. Its inhabitants are sinless beings, as, indeed, the inhabitants of all worlds, except our own, are represented to be. Here, painting, music, and eloquence, are carried to the highest perfection, and taught to new-comers from the earth. Yet the redeemed, notwithstanding their inferiority in beauty, grace, and knowledge, are looked upon with peculiar reverence as partakers of the Divine nature, "one with God, as Christ and God are one." "Nothing," he says, "had inspired him with such a sense of their angelic goodness, as their condescension to the poverty of his ideas. But here they regard us as the sons of God, and, as such, we are objects of their admiration and love. Our histories are more wonderful to them than was the story of Sinbad the Sailor to us in our childhood. Only our tales are real, and they often ask questions as to our intentions and motives of action in our lives on earth, which lie beyond all our capacities to answer. We are, indeed, infants in comparison, but, in their regard, we are, all of us, *Infantas* of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

Our Christians of the nineteenth century form a warm friendship with St. Perpetua, a martyr of the third, and with Faustinus and Calliste of the first. They entertain each other with accounts of their lives, and the peculiarities of their several times, just as we should suppose they would do, if men and women are the same persons in heaven that they are on earth. The old masters of harmony continue to exercise their genius in producing grander oratorios than ever roused an earthly audience to rapture. The golden-mouthed Chrysostom pours forth his burning words to an assembly, every one of which is *en rapport* to the speaker. Metaphysicians still delight to discuss subjectivities and objectivities. The little nun Angela is still "sober, steadfast, and demure," till the genial light melts away the gloom of the recluse. The West End aristocrat is slightly exclusive, the Fifth Avenue matron full of piquancy, and Peter himself somewhat given to jesting. This will probably shock those who, forgetting that God made man in His own image, fancy laughter to have been introduced since Eve ate the apple. Others may be disappointed at finding that we do not, by stepping into the other world, step at once into the arcana of all knowledge, but must *follow on* to know. Yet, does not the very structure of our minds prescribe this as the procedure? It is the prerogative of Omnipotence to see all at a glance. Finite natures must acquire gradually. Others still will hardly relish the prospect of their old habits of thought clinging to them after the mortal coil is shuffled off, but philosophy shows that it could hardly be otherwise, if we are to preserve our identity, if local change is not to produce organic change.

But the author does not insist on our accepting his heaven entire. If we do not like his world, he gives us the largest liberty to choose another. He is perfectly content to have pioneered the way, and pointed out to us the great variety of worlds which we can pre-empt, at our own pleasure.

The whole tone and atmosphere of the book are buoyant and joyous. Every page evinces, not only an eye and ear for beauty, but a large-hearted sympathy with life in all its developments. A liberal spirit pervades the work, yet it is not erratic. The writer, seizing the prominent points of the early and the later Christian ages, accepts the good and rejects the evil in both, with a discrimination as rare as it is judicious. Striking out boldly, attempting "things unattempted yet in prose," he does not hesitate to fortify himself with names so great that the world will hardly dare gainsay. Some of the descriptions are very felicitous. We have marked many more than we have room to transcribe, crowded as our columns are with political matter.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT.

The President communicated to the House of Representatives on Wednesday of last week, after the *Era* went to press, an interesting mass of diplomatic correspondence relating to Mexican and Central American affairs. The reader will find an abstract of the correspondence in another column. It will be seen that the British naval officers who were alleged to have made an almost forcible visit to the mail steamer Washington, at San Juan del Norte, deny that they had any hostile intent, and there seems to be a re-establishment of the *entente cordiale* between the two countries. In the mean time, it has been explained that the President understood beforehand and approved the negotiations which the British envoy has been conducting with the authorities of Central America, the object of which has been to avoid future entangling alliances, by an abandonment of the Mosquito protectorate to Nicaragua, and the Bay Islands to Honduras. Such is the explanation given by the *States*.

THE REVIEW.

The Stratford Gallery; or, the Shakspeare Sisterhood Comprising Forty-Five Ideal Portraits, described by Henrietta Lee Palmer. Illustrated with fine Engravings on Steel, from Designs by Eminent Hands. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1859. For sale by Franck Taylor, Penn. avenue, Washington, D. C.

It being proved beyond cavil that the world will have picture-books at Christmas, the only thing which remains to be done is to make the picture-books worth having—an end that has been grandly attained in the elegant work before us. Some of the illustrations are exquisite. Miranda is the very impersonation of airy, spiritual, child-like grace and purity, while "The Shrew" belies by implication the old saying, "pretty they that pretty do," (of the truth of which, by the way, we were always incredulous.) The dedication is piquant, the narrative clear and simple, the admiration discriminating as well as ardent. In a word, the volume is the most superb-looking gift-book we have seen for the holidays. It is an honor to the house that issues it.

Lays of the Holy Land, from Ancient and Modern Poets. With Illustrations from Original Photographs and Drawings. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers, 530 Broadway. 1859.

This volume, also, is a great improvement on the annuals of old days. The rich creamy tint and satin smoothness of the paper make it a luxury to both sight and touch. Poems on many different themes, yet all with their faces turned eastward, songs redolent with the fragrance of ages, yet still fresh and living, form a jewel not unworthy the setting.

The Proverbs of Solomon Illustrated by Historical Parallels from Drawings by John Gilbert, and Prefaced by Introductory Remarks by James Hamilton, D. D. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers, 530 Broadway. 1859.

An unusually readable and suggestive preface ushers us to the Wisdom of Solomon, which is presented in the same attractive dress as the preceding volume. One or two of the engravings have singular power. The arrangement of the proverbs into stanzas, whose length is decided by the context, is very pleasing. Perhaps no book of the Bible suffers less from being divided into verses; yet the division in the first part of this volume gives far greater facility and pleasure in reading, and sometimes in understanding. We should be glad to see it followed by a companion volume of the Psalms.

Cornell's Grammar School Geography. New York: D. Appleton & Co. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Washington, D. C.

This is a portion of a systematic course of school geographies, well known to the public. The chief difference between this and the intermediate geographies is, that the present work is fuller in both maps and descriptive matter. It contains some twenty-seven large maps, and a still larger number of small ones. Its method is excellent, its description clear, and its geographical and statistical tables are invaluable. It is finely adapted to such classes in our schools as require a comprehensive course.

The New American Cyclopedia: A Popular Dictionary of General Knowledge. Edited by George Ripley and Charles A. Dana. Vol IV. New York: D Appleton & Co'. For sale by Franck Taylor, Pa. avenue, Washington, D. C.

The publishers are prompt in the issue of this great work. It has already reached the fourth volume. Having noticed at some length its characteristic excellences, we need only say that, so far as we have examined, it maintains a reputation so justly acquired. Contemporary biography in the present volume is exceedingly interesting.

Night Caps. By the author of Aunt Fanny's Christmas Stories. Published and for sale as above.

A prettily-printed volume of entertaining stories for little folk, not at all exciting, but quite attractive.

Karl Kiegler; or the Fortunes of a Foundling. Boston: Phillips, Sampson, & Co. For sale by Blanchard & Mohun, Washington, D. C.

A Holiday story for young people. The narrative is simple, but engaging, the characters are neatly drawn, and a healthful and fine tone runs throughout the book.

The Eclectic Magazine for December.

This closing number of the Eclectic Magazine furnishes a very fine portrait of the late Rev. Dr. N. W. Taylor. It is indeed a speaking likeness, and will be at once recognised as such by many who have listened to him in the pulpit and lecture-room, and who cannot but feel that not often can they hope to look upon his like again. His masterly rejoinder to President Buchanan's reply to the Silliman letter (which no Administration paper ventured to attack, so crushing was its close argument and dialectical power) will be regarded years hence as one of the ablest pieces on the Kansas question, and showed that his intellectual ability remained, even when he lay prostrated on the bed of sickness. There is a manliness and high conscious dignity of truth about it, too, which politicians might do well to study, and such is the imprint of the countenance before us.

There is, likewise, the usual variety of matter; some of the selected articles are excellent, and are evidently from the pens of practiced writers. The number also contains an Index to the volume.

The Courtship of Miles Standish, and other Poems. By H. W. Longfellow. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 1858. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Washington, D. C.

The reader of the principal poem of this new volume will of necessity call to mind its beautiful predecessor, the sweet and tender "Tale of Acadie;" and, if it lacks the intensity of interest which pertains to that remarkable poem, he will charitably ascribe the deficiency to the subject rather than the accomplished artist. The Pilgrim life which it describes, was hard and prosaic in the main, although it had its points of contact with the higher elements of song and romance; and, in our view, Longfellow has fully sustained his reputation in so successfully giving malleability and poetic beauty to a legend which we have read an hundred times, without so much as dreaming of its possible conversion into a Puritan pastoral. Whatever may be said of the fitness of its peculiar versification, none can deny the art with which it is managed, and its delicate and well-nigh perfect finish. In this respect, Miles Standish approaches quite nearer to the Evangeline, or to any English translation we have seen of Goethe's Herman and Dorothea.

One of the finest passages of the poem is that which describes the departure of the Mayflower, homeward bound. The white sail rounding the point of the Gurnet, and meeting the winds of the broad ocean, the little group of pilgrims on the shore, with the good Elder, kneeling in prayer, and that grim, solitary figure of an Indian, watching from his woods the departing ship, and the diminished group of settlers behind, altogether leave a touching and impressive picture on the memory.

It would be unwise to complain that in a poem of this kind the writer has not closely followed the facts of history and the leading of tradition; but in the matter of costume, manners, habits of thought and language, we expect something like antiquarian exactness of reproduction. We must confess that the replies of the demure little Puritan Priscilla to the love-making of John Alden in his friend's behalf and his own, do not read to us very much like quotations from the "Records of the Colony of Plymouth." Now and then they remind us very strongly of some of Aurora Leigh's impossible speeches to her lover. They are Orphic utterances, worthy it may be of Emerson or Alcott, but ante-dated two hundred years in this Plymouth courtship.

We might also quarrel with an occasional prosaic hexameter, and with one or two figures not entirely apposite. But we are too grateful to the author, to dwell on such trifling blemishes. The poem is an honor to our literature. Henceforth the picture of stout Miles Standish will be found in the poetry of Longfellow, rather than in the quaint prose of Winthrop; and the scenery of Plymouth will be the classic ground of romance as well as patriotism.

Many of the short poems in this volume are among the author's best productions, and already familiar to the readers of Putnam's and the Atlantic Magazines. We need only refer to such pieces as "The Two Angels," "My Lost Youth," "Oliver Basselin," "Victor Galbraith," and "Soudolphon."

Like everything from the house of Ticknor & Fields, the book is faultless in typography.

The Whole Works of Robert Leighton, D D, Archbishop of Glasgow. To which is prefixed, a Life of the Author. By John Norman Pearson, M. A., of Trinity College, Cambridge. With a Table of Texts of Scripture and an Index of Subjects, compiled expressly for this Edition. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers. 1859. For sale by William Ballantyne, Washington, D. C.

It augurs well for our reading public, if the works of Archbishop Leighton find a ready sale. No one of all the dignitaries of the English church breathed a purer, nobler, and more catholic spirit. His writings reflect the calm and devoted feelings of one who daily knows his acceptance with God, and whose happiness lies in communion, by prayer and meditation, with his Saviour. It is this delightful exhibition of a heavenly temper, pervading thoughts rich with all the beauties of language, becoming often even poetical, that has made so many a devout Christian love Leighton, and to read him over and over again. Those who know what he is, need no one to commend this volume to their reception. They to whom his name is comparatively unknown, and who, it may be for the first time, now become acquainted with these long-accredited memorials of his heart, will find much to aid them in understanding the graver import of the apostolic writings, the Psalms, the Ten Commandments, and kindred topics in his Commentaries on Peter, Expositions, Meditations, Discourses, and Directions to a Holy Life, which form the contents of this large, well-printed volume. The few pages of the Life of Leighton prefixed give the record of the scenes through which he passed, and the persecutions he endured; his writings tell how he followed in spirit his Lord; and all are a rich legacy, which Christians of every name cherish as among their choicest means of spiritual progress.

The Life and Times of Sir Philip Sidney. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 1859. For sale by F. Philp, Washington, D. C.

Who has not heard of Sir Philip Sidney, whom Queen Elizabeth "claimed as 'her jewel,' and to whom what Sir Walter Scott says of brave De Argentine, in the words of Robert Bruce, might be applied—

> Of chivalry the flower and pride,
> The arm in battle bold,
> The courteous mien, the noble race,
> The stainless faith, the manly face."

England boasts of him as her *preux chevalier*, her Bayard, "*sans peur, sans reproche;*" and to be "the friend of Sir Philip Sidney" was an honor among men of fame. Poet and patron of literature beloved, he died in his youthful manhood, generous, self-denying, passing by his own necessity to minister relief to the poor dying soldier as he was borne from the field of battle, and with a Christian's faith yielding up his spirit, having uttered the words, "I would not change my joye for the empire of the worlde;" and "the nearer he saw death approach, the more his comfort seemed to increase." The author of this volume, in the preface referring to the various sources of authority, says, "I have endeavored to collect the scattered souvenirs of Sidney's life," and it is indeed a beautiful freshening in the mind of the man of worth, "a memorial of one whose name is a synonym for every manly virtue, and whose example surpassing the standard of the age which it adorned, remains still brilliant when centuries have passed away." It was fit that so beautiful a tribute to such a subject should be set forth in choice letter-press, that all might be in keeping. The volume we trust will find many readers, and, if so, admirers.

A Yacht Voyage. Letters from High Latitudes, being some Account of a Voyage in the Schooner Yacht "Foam" 85. O. M. To Iceland, Jan Mayen, and Spitzbergen, in 1856. By Lord Dufferin. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 1859. For sale by F. Philp, Washington, D. C.

The copious extracts given in some of the leading English Reviews prepared us to expect in this volume a work of no ordinary interest; and so we have found it. We are glad, too, that the enterprising publishers have given it so handsome a dress; for it deserves it, and we hope that many others will derive as much pleasure in its perusal as we have done. The scenes visited, in themselves, invest the voyage with strong attractions; and then there is such a heartiness of manner, combined with a mastery of style, often, in description, which renders it more than ordinarily beguiling. Once taken up, it is difficult to lay it down till finished. Lord Dufferin is not one of those who write for effect. The reader is convinced of the truthfulness of what he tells him, and can see, as if through his narrator's eyes, the wondrous sights, and with him go through the stirring adventures. There is incidentally also much information, scraps of historical knowledge, and legends, just such as a well-educated voyager like him might naturally blend in with his visits to places of interest, but nothing like what some of the made-up travels of the present day give us.

Lord Dufferin has also inserted two or three pieces of respectable poetry, and there is likewise an appendix relating to the voyage of a French ship, and the detailed thermometrical observations of the author in the Yacht. At the outset, as if for a drama, he furnishes a list of dramatis personæ, and the parts they sustain are quite amusing.

Story of Bethlehem. A book for the Young. By John R. Macduff, D. D., author of "Morning and Evening Watches," "Footsteps of St. Paul," &c. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers. 1859. For sale by William Ballantyne, Washington, D. C.

The numerous devotional works, smaller or larger, and more or less combining historic details and illustrations from the Bible, that have come from the pen of this author, and which have proved so generally acceptable to the Christian public, insure to this volume a ready welcome. Making allowances for the difference of the class of persons for whom it is more particularly intended—children and youth—it possesses the same characteristics with the former productions of his pen. Taking a single place, the village of Bethlehem, mentioned in the Scriptures, he gives ten distinct stories relating to as many incidents recorded in connection with that place. There is an advantage in this method, as it serves to fasten in the mind a more definite impression, where the single place is the scene of a succession of events, while an interest is thrown over it that tends to recall the associations so brought together for the memory. The scattered notices, which are spread over a period of a thousand years or more, are combined in graphic sketches, interwoven with instruction, and the youthful heart is trained to recognise God as at all times overruling human affairs. Five of the stories here are founded on the Old Testament, and five also on the New; and though perhaps, in some respects, not quite equal to his works for older persons, yet the author has on the whole been quite successful.

While It Was Morning. By Virginia F. Townsend. New York: Derby & Jackson. 1858. For sale by F. Philp, Washington, D. C.

We are somewhat puzzled as to this book. We do not recollect having ever heard of the name of the author given. Or is it a *nom de plume?* There is much in it that has reminded us of Martha Russell's New England Tale, which the readers of the *National Era* will remember, that we have at times almost been led to conclude the name to be fictitious. There are, however, now and then, grammatical inaccuracies, occasional inconsistencies, and want of probability in some of the steps to the development of the plot of the story, that appear rather to belong to a new or unpracticed writer. After the earlier pages, we find less forgetfulness or inequalities of the language, and it moves forward with a better skill. The characters are very well drawn, that of Aunt Ruth especially. They are not very numerous, and not more than half a dozen or so of them may be regarded as permanent ones. The working up of the details, with the exception of some improbabilities, is in general effective. The moral is good, and the story takes hold of the reader's sympathies, producing a strong interest, while the termination is such as to satisfy the wishes enlisted for the proper heroine, who is also the narrator. The author has happily avoided the faults most common to many writers of fiction in our country, and does not feel it necessary to indicate pathos or deep feeling by over-strained language. She also evinces considerable graphic and dramatic power in the management of the tale.

Thorndale: or, The Conflict of Opinions. By William Smith, author of "Rhetoric, a Drama," "A Discourse on Ethics," &c. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 1859. For sale by F. Philp, Washington, D. C.

We have never chanced to see the former productions of this author, and we hardly know how to characterize the present volume. There is much good writing in it, eloquent passages, many truths, and it would be easy to gather out of it laconies enough to fill a hundred pages, full of point and beauty. It is at the same time also often hazy; it wants unity, and it would take most readers to sit down and read it through, in course. To catch it up, and dip into a page here and there, seems to us best adapted to a favorable impression of contents. Whole pages may thus be followed out continuously, while again we are tempted also to skip forward without feeling any loss of connection. It is a book to lie on one's table, therefore, to be read as well a month or two hence as now. Our remarks above, however, do not apply so well to the latter part of the work as this—which bears the title of the Confession of Faith of an Eclectic and Utopian Philosopher, [i. e., Clarence,] A. D. 1859—discourses rather to be called a series of speculations on mental and moral philosophy—without any interwoven sketches of characters or descriptive of scenery. The grand defect of this part of the book is its Pantheism; for, after all, though the author says he cannot conceive intelligence without personality, and so can understand no other than a personal God, yet the drift of his views seem to us to be otherwise. It is, however, wrapped up in so much abstruse reasoning and terms not familiar to the common mind, that probably little injury can be the result of what we cannot but deem opinions at variance with the true philosophy. It is quite possible that another reading or examination might modify our judgment, as it is one of those books in which an author's drift may be mistaken.

Christmas Hours. By the Author of the "Homeward Path," "Beginning and Growth of the Christian Life; or, The Sunday School Teacher." Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 1859. For sale by F. Philp, Washington, D. C.

Beautiful for the mechanical execution and its contents. The eye-tempting, yet not too fine glossy page and the clear, accurately-printed letters, and greater is the charm of the simple, sublime truths which they bear to the heart. The sketches, "Christmas Eve, parts I and II, Christmas Day, Christmas Evening," are just what they should be—rich in Christian feeling, embodied with deep pathos, varied imagery, and leaving solemn impressions of life. We can heartily commend it as a Christmas gift, whose worth years of possession will not impair. The wood cut, its frontispiece, is a sweet picture of a rural moonlit scene.

The Edinburgh Review for October, 1858. New York: Reprinted by Leonard Scott & Co.

In this number we have a most interesting article, entitled "Report of the Trial of Madeline Smith, at Edinburgh, June, 1857"—of one of the *causes célèbres* of Great Britain. Another article is a review of *Birch's History of Ancient Pottery*. It is wonderful how the record of ancient civilization has been preserved by the fragile and perishable wares of the Potters of Etruria and Greece. They have helped the archæologist to many a clue to guide him through the labyrinths of ancient history. And while we have lost the paintings of Polygnotus, of Zeuxis, and Apelles, while the riches of Phidias and Praxiteles are few and fragmentary, the vases which you exist are regarded as undoubted works of artists, cotemporaries with these great men—of those who studied the frescoes of Polygnotus and the bas-reliefs of Phidias; the pictures of Zeuxis and Apelles, and the statues of Phidias, Praxiteles, and Lysippus.

There is also an article of great learning upon the integrity of Homer's Epics. It was Bentley, of England, who first suggested the doubt of the integrity of the text of Homer. He was followed by German scholarship, and Homer became a myth under their searching analysis. The Right Hon. Mr. Gladstone has recently brought out at Oxford a work in three volumes, entitled "Studies on Homer and the Homeric Age," which is here reviewed; and we are gratified that this eminent scholar, as well as statesman, goes for the integrity of the text. And his work is full of instruction as to the moral and ethical and religious teachings of Homer, as well as of the manners and customs of that most interesting period, the Homeric age of the world.

Blackwood's Magazine for November. New York: Reprinted by Leonard Scott & Co.

The leading article in this number is a review of that very remarkable book, "Buckle's History of Civilization," of which the readers of the *Era* have already had our opinion. Blackwood gives very high praise to the author, who is said "to possess *almost* every qualification for his great work, "A Philosophical History of England." There is another article, of great interest, on Edward Irving, the eminent minister of London, the cotemporary and countryman of Chalmers. He was intensely Scotch in his nature, and, as the Reviewer says, "his whole soul and eloquence breathe of his country—a heroic sublimation of the lyrical and choral genius of his native soil."

Harper's Magazine for December.

This number opens with "A Winter in the South," which is not only graphic in its illustrations, but in its text. "The Nigger's Bale" is equal to any of the pictures of "Uncle Tom." "The Old Filibuster" is a most attractive article of the ancient Buccaneers, as told in the true history of *Sieur Revanan De Lussan;* and we greatly prefer the chivalry and courage of these old freebooters to the modern ones under the control and management of Gen. Walker, aided and abetted by the chivalry of the South, (so-called,) and the unquestioned rascality of New York trading corporations. Thackeray's "Virginians" is continued in this number. This is, of all labors of his genius, the least likely to satisfy his readers on either side of the Atlantic.

The Beautiful Home and other Letters to Child. By the author of Ministering Children, &c. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers. For sale by William Ballantyne, Washington, D. C.

There is a peculiarity in the mode by which important truths are conveyed and impressed on the conscience and heart in this little book. In narrating occurrences in her walks, or some simple transaction of every-day life, she prepares the way for a turn and application of a principle of higher import. The story is easily and often beautifully told, and the transition natural. Sometimes the form adopted for the lessons taught is allegory, and sometimes too direct statement of truth. The style is plain, but few words comparatively are used that do not lie within the range of an intelligent child's understanding. The basis of the religious instruction is the Bible, and numerous passages are referred to, partly only by quotations in substance, and partly in the very words of the sacred volume. There is an air of deep and sincere interest for the young on every page.

THE USE MADE OF THE FEDERAL JAIL.

In 1850, Congress enacted one of those shams called a Compromise, and among its conditions was one for abolishing the slave trade in the District of Columbia. Southern gentlemen even acknowledged their disgust at the sight of gangs of slaves, coffled, and paraded through Pennsylvania Avenue, on their way to the Southern market; and they, in common with their conservative associates from the North, voted that the unseemly nuisance should be abated. It was not good policy, they argued, to tolerate in the National Capital such a practical illustration of "our domestic institutions," and thus impress on the minds of strangers and foreign representatives unfavorable ideas of our humanity and consistency as Republicans. We were never the partisans of the Compromise, but we did feel gratified at this small tribute to the conscience and character of the nation, and we were so confiding as to hope that it would beget a more humane and Christian spirit in the community. But our hopes soon vanished, and it became apparent that practically there was little if any cessation in the "traffic in human flesh."

The following advertisement, which appeared in the *Star* recently, we give merely by way of illustration, and not at all because the case is remarkable:

"*By A. Green, Auctioneer.*

"Administrator's sale.—I will, in pursuance of an order of the Orphan's Court for the District of Columbia, sell at public auction, on Friday, next, Nov. 19th, at twelve o'clock, M., in front of the Jail, to the highest bidder, for cash, viz:

"One negro woman and three children, one negro woman and two children, and three likely boys from fourteen to nineteen years of age.

ABSALOM A. HALL,
Administrator of Jacob Hall."

We neglected to attend the sale, but we have witnessed enough of such scenes to satisfy us that the exposure of two mothers and their offspring upon the auction block must have afforded rare fun to the traffickers in human flesh. The anguish of the heart-broken mother at the thought of separation from her little ones, the vague terrors of the children, and the enforced silence of the aggrieved but indignant father, was a spectacle to put fiends in a good humor.

But we quote the advertisement, in order to draw attention to the use which is made of the Washington Jail. This jail is built by the United States Government. The money which it cost came, for the most part, out of the pockets of the people of the North, who have abolished or excluded Slavery from their Territories, and who wish, as far as practicable, to wash their hands of it. But even if

CONGRESS—TUESDAY.

The Senate, after disposing of some minor important business, resumed the consideration of the Pacific railroad bill, Mr. Ward, of Texas, addressed the Senate, and was followed by Mr. Seward.

The House of Representatives were engaged upon the pension bill.

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

The South Carolina House of Representatives have, by a vote of 63 to 47, indefinitely postponed Mr. Spratt's slave-trade resolutions.

STEAM LINE TO RUSSIA.—It is stated that an arrangement has been made between the New York and Hamburg line of steamers, and one running between Lubec and St. Petersburgh, by which a direct steam transportation between New York and St. Petersburgh will be effected.

There is a rumor of a grand Mexican and Central American colonization scheme, under the auspices of Col. Henningsen. "Their proceedings are enveloped in mystery," says the story; which is the usual style of heralding the pompous plans of the Slavery propagandists.

MR. SUMNER.—We regret to learn that Mr. Sumner will not return to the United States until spring. His physician, Dr. Ed. Brown-Sequard, states, in a letter to Senator Wilson, that, after a consultation with other eminent members of the profession, he has felt bound to advise Mr. Sumner against returning home for the present. At the same time, he speaks confidently of the speedy recovery of the Massachusetts Senator.

The Washington correspondent of the Montgomery (Ala.) *Advertiser* says:

"I must not omit another item or two.

"Several of the Alabama delegation visited the President on Friday last, with other Southern members. The Vice President was also present. A free-and-easy conversation followed, upon the general topics of the day. Old Buck looked hale and hearty, and was not afraid candidly to express his views, and without reservation. And what think ye, Southern men, *James Buchanan had to say of Squatter Sovereignty?*

"He said, '*it is a doctrine infinitely worse than the Wilmot Proviso! I am of the South conceded this point, it sacrificed what it had been contending for these twenty years.*'

"I have tried to give the precise language; and this was uttered in the presence of Breckinridge. Was it not an opinion, just in consideration of his silly Douglas letter?"

MICHIGAN.—The votes for Governor and members of Congress in the several districts in Michigan, at the recent elections, were as follows:

Governor.—Moses Wisner, 65,202; C. E. Stuart, 56,067. Wisner's majority, 9,135.

Members of Congress.—First district—W. A. Howard, 13,043; George B. Cooper, 13,118. Cooper's majority, 75.

Second district—H. Waldron, 14,658; Consider A. Stacey, 10,137. Waldron's majority, 4,516.

Third district—F. W. Kellogg, 21,950; T. B. Church, 17,438. Kellogg's majority, 4,512.

Fourth district—D. W. C. Leach, 16,138; R. W. Davis, 14,915. Leach's majority, 1,223.

IOWA.—The official vote for members of Congress in Iowa is as follows:

First district—Curtis, Rep., 23,539; Trimble, Dem., 22,929. Curtis's majority, 610.

Second district—Vandever, Rep., 25,503; Leffingwell, Dem., 22,764. Vandever's majority, 2,739.

MR. SEWARD'S FATAL HERESY NOT ORIGINAL.—The following extract from a letter addressed by President Washington to Gen. Lafayette, in 1792, shows that Senator Seward cannot claim entire originality for the alarming doctrines he uttered in his Rochester speech:

"I agree with you cordially in your views in regard to Negro Slavery. I have long considered it a most serious evil, both socially and politically, and I should rejoice in any feasible scheme to rid our States of such a burden.

"The Congress of 1787 adopted an ordinance which prohibits the existence of involuntary servitude in our Western Territory for ever. I consider it a wise measure. It met with the approval and assent of nearly every member of the States more immediately interested in slave labor. The prevailing opinion in Virginia is against the spread of Slavery into the new Territories, and I trust we shall have a Confederacy of free States."

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS.—*Boston, Dec.* 13.—F. W. Lincoln, jun., the Citizens' candidate, was elected mayor of this city to-day, by 2,000 plurality. A majority of the Citizens' ticket for aldermen was also elected.

The entire Citizens' ticket in Worcester was elected.

In Lowell, James Cook (Rep.) was elected mayor by 300 plurality. All the candidates for aldermen, on the same ticket, were also elected.

In Newburyport, Albert Currier, Citizens' candidate, is elected mayor. His vote is 958, to 765 for Colby.

In Lynn, to-day, Edward Davis, the People's candidate, was elected mayor by 276 majority.

On the Presidential question, the *Journal* (editorial) says:

"The Democratic party is by no means deficient in names which are suggested in certain quarters for the Presidency. Among these we may mention Hunter, Wise, and Floyd, of Virginia; Cobb, of Georgia; Hammond, of Orr, of South Carolina; Pearce, of Maryland; Slidell, of Louisiana; Gwin, of California; Brown, of Tennessee; Breckinridge, of Kentucky; Bright, of Indiana; Douglas, of Illinois; Toucey, of Connecticut; Dobbing, of Massachusetts; and probably others whose names do not at this moment occur to us. We purposely leave out of the list President Buchanan and ex-President Pierce, neither of whom we are persuaded would for a moment consent to be a candidate, and we also omit the names of distinguished statesmen in New York, who, however eminent, can hardly be brought forward in the present state of parties here."

The Richmond *Enquirer* is out with a long article against Senator Hunter, of Va. It says:

"We have but one object to secure by the struggle; and that, a fair representation of the will of the Democratic party in Virginia at the Charleston Convention. So far as Gov. Wise is concerned, we shall ask for him nothing but what he is fully entitled to. If he is the choice of the people, the representation of that choice shall not be stifled by the intrigues of his enemies. And we regard the present use of Mr. Hunter's name, in connection with the nomination at Charleston, as constituting nothing more nor less than an intrigue."

As one of the editors of the *Enquirer* is a son of Gov. Wise, it is fair to presume that this frank avowal has that gentleman's consent. Rather early to bring out the candidates.

A Mobile paper says:

"We regret to notice the announcement of the death of Col. Albert Pike, of Arkansas. He was a distinguished lawyer, and a brave soldier. He commanded "C" company of the Arkansas cavalry in Mexico, and was a brave and determined soldier."

SENATOR HAMMOND A MUD-SILL.—The Montgomery (Ala.) *Advertiser* has the following:

"The slaveholders, as a body, rally around Buchanan, looking to the South for his successor. They urge him to accept the gage of battle tendered in the Freeport speech.

"Hammond's speech has produced only a temporary effect upon that class. They have discovered, since his moderate sentiments became known, that he is, after all, only a Connecticut schoolmaster, only quite too ready in emergencies to give up the 'rights of the South,' (that is, the wrongs of niggers.) The history of Hammond, it seems, is quite a common one. Forty or fifty years ago, his father emigrated to South Carolina from Westbersfield, Connecticut, taking with him a schoolmaster load of onions, a box of Noah Webster's spelling-books, and a boy of ambition and talent. The elder Hammond weed his onions, taught school for those who bought his spelling-books, bought niggers, and stocked a plantation. The younger Hammond soon learned to show his zeal for the South, and married the sister of Wade Hampton, the largest slaveholder in the State. Thus placed in the line of safe precedents, he became a member of Congress and Senator. This is the man who sneers at the laborers of the North, of whom his father was one, as 'white slaves' and 'mud-sills.'"

CENTRAL AMERICA—SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Thursday last, the President made a special communication to Congress, of diplomatic correspondence and information relative to the Central American difficulties. The following abstract presents the substance of the communication:

Among the documents communicated by the President on Central American affairs is a letter from Mr. Dallas, our Minister to the Court of St. James, to Mr. Cass, reporting the substance of a conversation he had with the Earl of Malmesbury—his Lordship inviting the interview. He was aware that Mr. Dallas's letters for Washington would go forward on the 27th November, and he wished Mr. Dallas to convey in them some few remarks from him:

"The Mosquito Protectorate, communicated to the President the treaty negotiated by Sir Gore Ouseley with the Minister from Nicaragua. It was believed that no objection was expressed to its provisions. One of its objects was to terminate the Mosquito Protectorate.

Second. Sir Gore Ouseley was by this time at Nicaragua, and would exert himself to obtain a ratification of the treaty; in doing which, it was indispensable that he should be protected by the presence of a naval force from any violence meditated by the filibusters.

He had, however, been much surprised at the contents of a recent letter from Lord Napier, which stated that Gen. Cass considered that the orders issued for the protection of Sir Gore Ouseley to be incompatible with the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. These orders were to the effect, that if the Government of Nicaragua required for their defence, and should have taken the intervention of military power, a suitable armed force was to land, seize the offenders, and hand them over, if American, to the nearest authority of the United States; and having done this, to retire immediately. He could not understand why such proceedings should be regarded as a violation of that article of the treaty which interdicted "occupation and dominion," especially as a clause in the Cass-Yrissarri treaty, with which this Government found no fault, but, on the contrary, desired to see effected, provided for exactly the same sort of temporary assistance.

It was impossible to allow their diplomatic representative to have his object cut short by marauders. When the treaty was disposed of, there would be an end of their interference. Thus far as to Central America.

Third. Lord Malmesbury, he described Spain as extremely irritated by the cruelties inflicted upon Spaniards, and as threatening to send a fleet to punish and exact redress. England, however, had successfully persuaded Denmark to wait a year longer, relying on condition that it could scarcely be said to have a responsible Government. England had herself been grossly outraged in the person of Mr. Hanson, whose treatment could best be resented, in the opinion of the Queen and her Crown, by a British fleet being sent to Tampico. Her Majesty's Government, however, were averse to any strong measures, which might make things worse than they already are, and severity would probably be visited on the innocent.

It was difficult to say what result the disordered state of Mexico must lead to, if the nations interested in her well-being forebore to intervene.

Mr. Dallas says: "My solicitude in this narrative has been to give the leading ideas of Lord Malmesbury. Of course, he was not unfrequently interrupted by comments from myself, which I felt compelled to interpose. Among other things, I remarked that the provision in the Cass-Yrissarri treaty, which seemed to me rather to carry out than to violate the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, by securing for all equally safe and uninterrupted transit. It was essentially different in its character from the admiralty orders which, amid the struggles of parties, left to the discretion of naval officers whom to recognise as the *de facto* Government of Nicaragua, and whom to denounce for British pursuit and dispersion as filibusters; if the popular party now in motion acquired strength, their adversaries would, as a matter of course, brand them with that odious name, and call for British succor, thus installing foreign troops to settle the political destinies of the country. That was a consequence to which the President and people of the United States could not be supposed to be insensible—which of all things was most repugnant to the spirit and letter of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and which could not possibly follow from the application, as contemplated by Gen. Cass, of merely such temporary force as might be deemed by Nicaragua herself necessary to keep the transit route open for common convenience. He insisted that both landings in the two cases were equally right or equally wrong. He esteemed them to be right, and certainly any attempt by filibusters to defeat the operations of Sir Gore Ouseley would be put down.

"I also incidentally remarked that I regretted that his Lordship had expressed some leaning in favor of Mr. Belly's project, and intimated having done so—M. Belly was patronized neither by England nor France. He was a speculating adventurer. It was immaterial by whom the work of opening the transit route was effected. If any of the citizens of the United States held an unexpired or unforfeited contract, he would be entitled to go on. He was not intimate with the merits of the several claimants to contract.

"Again: In the course of the interview I referred, with probably an obvious feeling, to the alleged 'joint note,' addressed by the French and British Ministers to our Government, respecting M. Belly's contract; he promptly and emphatically denied that anything of the sort had been written or even contemplated. The rumor of the morning, coming direct from Paris, was adverted to—that the Anglo-French fleet had orders to proceed to the Gulf of Mexico. That rumor he said had lowered the funds, but was nevertheless utterly destitute of foundation.

"I can perceive that the discovery of the golden sands in Fraser river, leading to the creation of a new province in British Columbia, has increased the solicitude for Isthmian routes of transit. In other respects, the pacific dispositions of this Government do not appear to have changed.

"Lord Malmesbury several times remarked that it was best to accomplish one aim at a time. That the disrelished protectorate of the Mosquitos was finally disposed of in Sir William's treaty. That as soon as an English guarantee was given for the Nicaragua route, capital, science, and labor, would hasten to accomplish the work, however formidable it appeared. I have the honor to be, etc.,

"G. M. DALLAS."

Next follows a private note from Lord Napier to Mr. Cass, marked "private," in reply to a private note of the latter.

After quoting [see above] "First. That Lord Napier had communicated," &c., Lord Napier says he conceived that what the Earl of Malmesbury intended to convey to Mr. Dallas was this: "Lord Napier had imparted verbally to Mr. Cass the general sense of a projected treaty which Sir Ouseley is instructed to negotiate with Nicaragua; the object of which treaty is to terminate the Mosquito protectorate, and to which no objection was expressed by the United States Government. I have not had the honor of holding any personal communication with the Nicaraguan Minister, but I expect to be able to do so shortly. In so far as I am informed, no treaty has yet been concluded by Sir Ouseley with any agent on the part of Nicaragua. I remain yours, &c.,

"NAPIER."

"*To Hon. Lewis Cass, Secretary, etc.*"

Next follows a confidential letter from Mr. Cass to Mr. Dodge, Minister at the Court of Spain, dated October 21, 1858, in which he says:

"SIR: Late arrivals from Europe bring us reports that a naval and military armament is about to leave Spain, destined to attack Mexico, with the view, as is rumored, to acquire political ascendency there, taking advantage of the distracted condition of the unfortunate Republic. Under these circumstances, I have thought it proper to ask your attention to this subject. You are aware of the position taken by the United States: That they will not consent to the introduction of any of the independent States of this continent to European Powers; nor to the exercise of a protectorate over them; nor to any other direct influence to control their policy or institutions. Recent circumstances have given to this determination additional strength; and it will be inflexibly adhered to, whatever may be the consequences.

"The subject is familiar to you, and needs no illustration. I do not desire you to draw the attention of the Spanish Ministry to it by any formal communication, but it would be well to embrace such favorable opportunities as may present themselves to bring the matter incidentally to the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and to make known the interest which this Government attaches to this subject, reminding him, at the same time, of the policy concerning it which has been repeatedly deserved by the United States, and which will, in all human probability, never be departed from.

"With respect to the causes of war between Spain and Mexico, the United States have no concern, and do not undertake to judge them: nor do they claim exemption from any hostilities which may take place. Their policy of observation and interference is limited to the permanent subjugation of any portion of the territory of Mexico or any other American State to any European power whatever.

"It is very desirable that this Government should know whether Spain is about to send a force to Mexico; and, if so, what is its strength, and also what are the alleged causes and avowed objects. You will, therefore, thankfully communicate all the information you can procure upon these points, and upon any others connected with this subject, which you may deem important.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,

"LEWIS CASS.

"*To C. A. Dodge, Madrid.*"

An extract from a dispatch from Mr. Dodge to Mr. Cass, dated Madrid, November 15th, says:

"SIR: I had the honor on the 13th to receive your number 66, dated 24th ult., asking information respecting the threatened hostilities between Spain and Mexico, and expressing the wish entertained by your Ministry of the United States to resist the subjugation by the European Powers of the day of the independent States of our continent, with a view to exercise a protectorate or any other political influence over the political destinies of Mexico. On the same day, I sought and obtained an interview with Calderon Collantes, Her Catholic Majesty's Minister of State, causing your dispatch to be read and translated to him, and at his request have since furnished him with a copy of the same.

"He took no exception whatever to any of the views or determinations therein expressed. He assured me most earnestly that, in the movement which duty, honor, and self-respect, had constrained his Government to make against Mexico, Spain had not the most remote intention of interfering with the well-known policy of the United States as expounded by President Monroe and reiterated by yourself, or of attempting anything for the present more than to afford protection to her citizens, and obtain redress for injuries done them, he averring that they had been insulted and maltreated in the most inhuman manner.

"He said that they would not receive back nor attempt to govern Mexico, nor any of the South American States, were she or they to request such a protectorate to-morrow; that Spain expected or desired in that quarter was retention in peace of her present possessions. He went on to say that the enormities recently perpetrated upon his countrymen were of such an atrocious character as to demand the presence of a suitable naval force off Vera Cruz and Tampico, but that no troops to operate on land had been sent, and that the officers in command had been instructed to avoid, if possible, any conflict with Mexicans.

"As explanatory of what has been done, and the reason for doing it, I send you a translation of number one of memorandum of observations of Minister of State, furnished to me, after the interview, by Mr. Comyn, Assistant Secretary of State, a gentleman who, when holding a diplomatic situation in London, was well known to Mr. Buchanan. You will remember that I have always given it as my impression that there would be no war, for the reason that I have always believed that England and France would have sufficient influence to prevent it; but, to my surprise, I now learn from Mr. Collantes himself, as well as from the—[there occurs a hiatus]—that in matters of recent complaint the Spanish Government have rejected in the most emphatic manner the proffered intervention of England.

"I remain respectfully, etc.,

"C. A. DODGE.

"*To the Hon. Mr. Cass, Secretary of State.*"

[MEMORANDUM.]

The excesses committed in St. Louis Potosi by the constitutional troops, upon the subjects of her Catholic Majesty, induced the Captain General and Governor of Cuba to send to Tampico some vessels of war, in order to guard against a repetition at the last-named point of the outrages suffered at the former place. These vessels entered the harbor of Tampico with permission from the Governor of the place, and remained quiet spectators of the conflict which was then raging, when Gen. La Garza imposed upon Spaniards a large war tax, putting in prison and injuring those who from want of means were unable to pay it.

The Captain General of Cuba then determined upon sending to Tampico other vessels of the royal navy. The expedition of these vessels has for its sole object that of obtaining from Gen. La Garza reparation for losses and damages caused to the subjects of her Catholic Majesty; the refunding of amounts exacted from them, and satisfaction for these outrages. If, to obtain this end, it should be necessary to employ force, any measures which may be adopted will tend exclusively to the accomplishment of that object, and protect Spaniards against excesses of Mexicans. These measures will have to be proportioned to the extent of the injuries and the difficulties to encounter, but will never have any other object than the one above indicated.

The instructions given to the commander of the frigate Berenegula, who is chief of the station at Tampico, also indicate protection of other foreign subjects whose interests may be prejudiced. The assembling of a respectable naval force at Sacrificios is for the same purpose.

Knowing the tendency of the Mexicans to engage in a bitter persecution of Spaniards, the Spanish Government has believed it to be its duty to assemble sufficient means to force them to respect the lives and property of its subjects. These two squadrons are not designed to interfere in any manner in the interior affairs of the Mexican Republic.

Letters from Captain McIntosh.

Next follow dispatches received by the Secretary of the Navy from Commodore McIntosh, dated Nov. 26th, in which he says he has heard report that an officer was sent from the British frigate Valorous to demand of Commander Washington. He then says: "I am taking immediate measures to get full particulars from Captain Jarvis, and will report them in full by the next mail, according to my present understanding of the matter, it looks like a renewal of the scenes which lately occurred around the Island of Cuba, changed only from Africans to filibusters. You may rely on my taking proper and efficient measures to protect the honor of our flag. Should it become necessary, and if really her Britannic Majesty's officers have instructions to board and examine American merchant vessels under the very guns of the ships of war, I apprehend time must be very short before most serious consequences may be anticipated."

In a subsequent dispatch, dated December 3d, he says:

"By copies of correspondence with Captain Aldham, the Secretary will perceive Captain A. claims protectorate over the harbor of Greytown."

Capt. A. and Sir William Gore Ouseley's secretary subsequently paid an uncereonious visit to Com. McIntosh, the latter, no doubt, he says, being sent by Sir William purposely to remove all unfavorable impressions, and to talk over rather than write further upon the subjects at issue. Capt. Aldham disavowed all intention of interference with American vessels, his great desire being to act in concert with Commodore McIntosh, in endeavoring to prevent the landing of filibusters; that he was probably not the slightest cause for the apprehension of any difficulty; and that, so far as he was concerned, there should be none.

With Mr. Syage, Sir Gore Ouseley's secretary, the conversation was equally frank. He declared, distinctly declared that England had never abandoned the protectorate, but believed that, before the first of January next, the whole matter would be finally settled.

As to boarding and searching American vessels, they had already abandoned it, not from fear or pusillanimity, but because England felt that she could do so honorably, and ought to do it; and it was not probable that it was now to be revived; that there was nothing secret or mysterious in Sir William's mission, which was well understood in Washington; and no officer in her her Majesty's service would be less likely to do any act which could be construed as offensive, or as an interference with us, than Captain Aldham.

In this conversation, Commodore McIntosh had little to say, for his position had been taken in his correspondence, and he desired there to leave it. He does not pretend to give the precise words of these free and frank conversations, but endeavors, so far as his memory serves, to give their meaning literally; and if there was sincerity in them, of which he has not the slightest doubt, he is happy to say that he can at present see no cause of apprehension on our part of the recurrence of the proceedings.

He was much pleased with both the gentlemen, and everything was done by Captain Gardner and himself, which hospitality and kindness could dictate, to make them comfortable and at home, and they left the ship fully so impressed.

Captain Aldham, in a subsequent letter to Commodore McIntosh, seeks to convince the latter that he had acted in no spirit of interference with American merchant vessels, and had not arrogated to himself any right that was not conceded, by universal custom, to the commanding officers of the naval forces in a port belonging to or placed under the protection of his own Government.

McIntosh, replying, says that "the inquiries which were propounded by the boarding officer from your ship looked at once to a thorough examination and investigation of the ship, and to the manner in which the United States officers had performed their duties. This I consider as exceeding what would be characterized as a friendly visit, to which I called your attention, and which I am constrained still to consider unnecessary on the part of the officers under your command."

Capt. Jarvis, of the ship Savannah, informs Commodore McIntosh that Sir William "appears to be very fair in diplomacy, but we have not been able to ascertain what he wants. He appears to be in constant communication with Mr. Green, the British Consul. Mr. Bunnel, the reported Consul for Nicaragua, was received on board the Valorous with seven guns." Other points in the documents have heretofore been substantially published.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS,

Second Session.

Tuesday, December 14, 1858.

SENATE.

Mr. Hale offered a petition of citizens of New Hampshire, praying the establishment of common-school education in the navy, and libraries on board of ships of war.

Mr. Rice introduced a bill to aid in the construction of railroads to the Pacific.

Mr. Rice gave notice of a bill for the organization of Nicaragua Territory.

Mr. Mason introduced a bill to equalize the compensation of the Ministers to France and England from July, 1855, to January, 1857.

A petition was presented from J. Horsford Smith, asking to be allowed to import iron steamships duty free for his New York coaching line. It was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Broderick gave notice of a bill for the establishment of a line of telegraph to the Pacific; also, a bill to establish a line of steamers from San Francisco to China, via the Sandwich Islands and Japan.

The consideration of the Pacific railroad bill was now resumed.

Mr. Davis, of Miss., offered an amendment which he intended to propose as a substitute for the bill reported by the majority of the special committee. The amendment proposes that Government shall advertise for proposals for the carrying of the mails, munitions of war, troops, &c., by railway, between the States of the Atlantic and the Pacific; appropriates alternate sections of the public lands, for six miles on each side of the road, to aid in its construction, one-half of said lands to be sold and unconditionally conveyed by the contractors in five years, and the remaining half within ten years; provides that the contractors shall locate the route, and furnish survey to the President; stipulates that the road shall be divided into sections of twenty-five miles each, and when a section shall be completed, patents shall be issued for the alternate lands in that section; that section, the remaining fourth being retained as security for the completion of the succeeding section; authorizes the President to make contracts for twenty years for carrying the mails, military stores, troops, &c., at rates not exceeding those which the Government would have to pay by any existing mode of transportation; appropriates $10,000,000 to aid in the construction of the work, upon certain guaranties and conditions; provides that no dividends shall be paid to stockholders until the advance shall be repaid to the United States; provides that the United States Government shall take possession of the road; and revokes all grants of land and money in case of any failure of performance on the part of the contractors.

Mr. Mason, with a view of testing the strength of this measure, moved to lay the bill and amendments on the table. The yeas and nays being ordered, and received as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Bates, Bayard, Benjamin, Brown, Cameron, Clay, Clingman, Crittenden, Fitzpatrick, Hamlin, Hammond, Houston, Hunter, Iverson, Johnson of Tenn., Mason, Pearce, Reid, Sebastian, Slidell, Thomson of New Jersey, and Toombs—23.

Nays—Messrs. Bell, Bigler, Bright, Broderick, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Davis, Dixon, Dodlitle, Durkee, Fessenden, Fitch, Foot, Foster, Green, Gwin, Harlan, Jones, Kennedy, King, Polk, Rice, Seward, Shields, Simmons, Smart, Trumbull, Wade, Ward, Wilson, and Wright—32.

So the Senate refused to lay the bill on the table—yeas 23, nays 32.

Mr. Davis, of Mississippi, now addressed the Senate in support of his amendment.

Mr. Green offered an amendment, that the western terminus should be somewhere between the mouth of the Big Sioux river and Fort Smith, in Arkansas.

Mr. Doolittle thought the best route would be from Breckinridge, on the Missouri river, to Puget's Sound, and thence down to San Francisco.

Mr. Brown thought it would be better to lay the whole subject aside for this session, as it would be impossible in two months to consider the multiplicity of propositions that were offered.

Mr. Iverson opposed Mr. Doolittle's amendment, as it would exclude the South from any chance of having the terminus.

Mr. Clay's amendment that the terminus might be fixed somewhere between the 32d and 49th parallels of latitude.

Mr. Davis moved to change the pending amendment, so as to allow the terminus to be anywhere within the limits of the United States. This motion was adopted.

Mr. Wilson's motion to postpone was then negatived, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, gave notice of a bill for the establishment of a mail route from Minnesota to Puget's Sound.

Mr. Phelps, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported bills for the payment of invalid and other pensions; for the support of the military academy; for the contingent and other expenses of the Indian department.

Mr. Kellogg, of Illinois, offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish a statement of the number and kinds of the productions of the British Colonies imported into the United States free under the reciprocity treaty, and also the amount and kinds of the productions of the United States exported to said colonies under said treaty, and also the like exports and imports from 1850 until the ratification of said treaty; which was adopted.

The House then resumed the consideration of the Watrous case.

Wednesday, December 15, 1858.

SENATE.

Various memorials of little importance were presented, with the exception of that from the convention of ironmasters who met in Philadelphia on December 20, 1849. On this memorial, Mr. Cameron addressed the Senate.

The Senate declined to call up Mr. Clingman's Clayton-Bulwer resolution, by a vote of 24 yeas to 25 nays.

After an ineffectual attempt to take up the Pacific railroad bill, the vote being 24 in favor of it to 24 against it, the Senate went into Executive session.

HOUSE.

Mr. Comins, of Massachusetts, gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to modify the tariff law, and impose specific duties on iron and other articles to which that principle can be applied.

Mr. Bowie, of Maryland, introduced a joint resolution, with a view to obtain a modification or reduction on the duty on American tobacco by foreign Governments; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

The consideration of the Watrous impeachment case was resumed.

The resolution pending was in favor of impeachment, for which the House, by 111 against 92, adopted a substitute, that the testimony taken before the Judiciary Committee in the case of Judge Watrous is insufficient to justify the preferring of articles of impeachment against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

The House agreed to the resolution, as thus amended, by 113 against 86.

Mr. Boyce, of South Carolina, called up the report made from the Committee on Elections last session, stating that "it appears there were such tumults, riots, intimidations, and injustice, in the third Congressional district, Baltimore, in November, 1857, that there could not be a fair election; that it shall therefore be declared null and void, and that the Speaker be requested to notify the Governor of Maryland of the fact."

Mr. Boyce offered a resolution admitting Mr. Whyte, who contests the right of Mr. Harris, to a seat on the floor of the House during the consideration of the subject, with the right to speak.

Pending the consideration of the subject, the House adjourned.

Thursday, December 16, 1858.

SENATE.

Mr. Wilson, of Mass., moved to amend the Arizona Territory bill, so as to provide for the election of a Governor, Secretary, Judges, and other officers, by the people, for the term of two years.

Mr. Wilson also introduced a resolution calling on the President for information concerning the binding, by the chief Wanderer, on the coast of Georgia, of a cargo of slaves. Adopted.

Mr. Clingman, of North Carolina, attempted to bring up his resolution to abrogate the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

Mr. Mason, of Va., Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, was in favor of laying the resolution on the table.

Mr. Collamer of Vermont, Mr. Shields of Minnesota, and others, expressed their sentiments; after which, the vote was taken, resulting in yeas 22, nays 28. So the resolution was not taken up.

The consideration of the Pacific railroad bill was then resumed, Mr. Bell, of Tennessee, having the floor.

After Mr. Bell's remarks, the further consideration of the Pacific railroad bill was postponed.

Mr. Iverson, of Georgia, introduced a bill to give the back pay to the officers since reinstated, who were retired by the Naval Board.

The Senate Agricultural College bill was made the special order for Tuesday next.

The Senate then adjourned till Monday next.

HOUSE.

The Speaker laid before the House a message from the President, enclosing communications from the State and Navy Departments, in response to the resolutions calling for information relative to recent events in Central America. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs without being read.

The House then resumed the consideration of the Maryland contested election case of Mr. Whyte against Mr. Harris.

Mr. Boyce, of South Carolina, said that Mr. Whyte did not claim the seat for himself, but simply pleaded the retention of it by Mr. Harris.

The House, by a vote of 108 yeas to 90 nays, laid on the table the resolution admitting Mr. Whyte to the floor, and the liberty of speaking on the subject.

Mr. Boyce, of Louisiana, moved to table the resolution reported from the Committee on Elections, which read as follows: "It appears to this House that there was much tumult, riot, intimidation, and injustice, in the election for Representative in Congress from the third Congressional district of Maryland, on the 3d of November, 1857, in contempt of law, and in violation of the freedom of election; that said election is void, and the seat is declared vacant, and the Speaker is hereby directed to notify the Governor of Maryland of the fact."

The motion to lay on the table prevailed—yeas 106, nays 97.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, endeavored to have taken up the President's annual message, but the consideration of the bill reported last session, granting pensions to the officers and soldiers of the war of 1812, and those engaged in all wars during that period, was resumed.

Mr. Savage, of Tennessee, insisted that the honor and reputation of the country demanded that those brave men should have their services recognised.

Mr. Nichols, of Ohio, was opposed to the principle of the bill throughout, and to increasing the fund of pensioners under it.

Mr. Bocock, of Kentucky, replied, that no policy was better calculated to unite our system of Government, to keep alive the spirit of patriotism and devotion to their country, than by assuring its defenders, when they become old and helpless, that they will be taken care of by Government.

Mr. Ritchie, of Pennsylvania, said that the resources of the country would by this system be exhausted, and we would be prevented from carrying on any war at all, if necessity should require it.

Mr. Mason, of Kentucky, said that those who asked for pensions did not come here as paupers, but are entitled to pensions in discharge of debts promised to be paid.

Various amendments were then voted on, but nothing definite accomplished. Adjourned.

Friday, December 17, 1858.

The Senate was not in session to-day.

HOUSE.

Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole upon the private calendar; which was carried.

The Speaker called Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, to the chair.

The subject before the Committee was the bill to revive the examination and payment of certain claims of citizens of Georgia and Alabama, on account of losses sustained by the depredations of the Indians in the Creek war of 1836, 1837, and 1838, and for the subsistence of the United States army.

Mr. Shorter, of Alabama, explained the circumstances which had led to the introduction of this bill.

Mr. Washburn, of Wisconsin, opposed the bill. He said this subject had come before the Committee on Claims during the Thirty-fourth Congress, and, after a careful examination of the question, that committee decided that the claims possessed no merit whatever.

Mr. Shorter. I desire the attention of the gentleman from Wisconsin who addressed the House last. I understood him, while addressing the House, to say that the people of Alabama had died from their homes in fear of the Indians, thereby leaving their property, and that the Government had refused to do this, "to *pay for their bravery*." Did I understand the gentleman correctly?

Mr. Washburn, of Wisconsin. Very likely I may have used that language. Perhaps I should have added, and for their losses, too.

Mr. Shorter. So far as the declaration that they come here asking "*pay for their bravery*" is concerned, I pronounce it false and slanderous. [Cries of "Order, order."]

Mr. Washburn, of Wisconsin. I have no doubt that the citizens of Alabama are brave, as has been illustrated by their Representative here to-day.

Mr. Shorter. I can say nothing more to the member from Wisconsin.

The House adjourned to Monday.

Monday, December 20, 1858.

SENATE.

Mr. Allen introduced a joint resolution to adjourn over from the 23d instant to the 4th of January; carried—29 to 21.

Mr. Rice introduced a bill to organize the Territory of Nicaragua.

Mr. Crittenden gave notice that he should call up the French spoilation bill.

The consideration of the Pacific railroad bill was resumed.

Mr. Wilson submitted an amendment, authorizing the President to appoint five civil engineers to locate the route. Received, preliminary, and ordered to be printed.

The question was taken on Mr. Polk's amendment, fixing the eastern terminus anywhere between the 49th parallel of latitude and the southern boundary of the United States; which was rejected, 17 to 29.

Mr. Rice, of Minnesota, addressed the Senate in favor of a Northern route, as most practicable and desirable.

The question recurred on Mr. Foster's amendment, that all the iron composing this road should be of American manufacture.

The amendment was adopted, by yeas 25, nays 23, as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Bigler, Broderick, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Crittenden, Dixon, Fessenden, Foot, Foster, Hale, Harlan, Houston, King, Kennedy, Seward, Simmons, Thompson of Kentucky, Thomson of New Jersey, Toombs, Trumbull, Wade, Wilson, and Wright—25.

Nays—Messrs. Bates, Bright, Clay, Clingman, Davis, Durkee, Fitch, Fitzpatrick, Green, Gwin, Hammond, Hunter, Iverson, Johnson of Tennessee, Jones, Mallory, Mason, Polk, Reid, Rice, Sebastian, Stuart, and Ward—23.

The question was then stated to be on the amendment of Mr. Wilson, to construct the road by the shortest practicable route between the parallels of 35 and 42. Pending which, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Washburn, of Wisconsin, rose to a personal explanation, in regard to the colloquy between himself and Mr. Shorter, of Alabama, on Friday last, in which he had not spoken of the Representatives from Alabama as illustrating the bravery of that State, but of that particular gentleman only.

Mr. Chaffee, of Mass., introduced a bill instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of repaying the State of Massachusetts certain advances made to the General Government in the war of 1812–'15.

Mr. Hughes introduced a resolution directing the Committee of Ways and Means to report an appropriation for taking the census of the United States in 1860, under existing laws.

Mr. Whiteley offered an amendment, instructing the committee to inquire into the propriety of repealing all the present laws on the subject, except so far as related to the counting of the people; not agreed to—51 yeas, 140 nays.

The original resolution was agreed to.

The previous bill was then taken up, the question being on the amendment of Mr. Cobb, of Ala. to include the soldiers of the Mexican war of 1846–'47, and the Florida war of 1817.

Mr. Smith, of Va., moved as an amendment to include the soldiers of the Black Hawk war of 1827, '30, and '31.

Agreed to, by yeas 79, nays 48.

Mr. Cobb, of Ala., spoke in behalf of his amendment; which was then rejected.

The amendment as amended was then adopted, by yeas 64, nays 60.

Mr. Underwood, of Kentucky, moved an amendment, to include the soldiers who fought in Wayne's war against the Indians in 1793 and 1794. These had never been provided for.

Mr. Stewart, of Maryland, made an ineffectual effort to get a bill regulating the granting of pensions made the special order for January 4th.

Mr. Stanton, of Ohio, introduced a resolution, which was adopted, calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for statements of the aggregate value of the exports of Great Britain, from 1847 to 1857, inclusive, according to our custom-house returns, compared with the value of the exports of Great Britain to this country, by her custom-house returns. Also, for a similar statement as regards France. Also, for a particular statement of the same character in regard to the movement of manufactures of iron and wool.

Mr. Keitt moved to suspend the rules, in order to consider the following resolution, viz: The Senate, proposing to adjourn over from December 23d to January 4th; carried—yeas 130, nays 60.

Under the influence of the previous question, the resolution was adopted—yeas 98, nays 94.

And then the House adjourned, at half past four o'clock, P. M.

FOREIGN SUMMARY.

NEWS BY THE ARABIA.—It appears the long-missing steamship Indian Empire reached Broadhaven, county Mayo, Ireland, on the 26th ult. All well. Her fuel had become exhausted, and a portion of her cargo and wooden masts were consumed. Provisions had also run short. The ship laid to for a week, within a day or two's steaming of Galway, during two furious storms.

England.—James Davis & Sons, extensive leather importers, of London, have failed. Their liabilities are very considerable.

All the English papers containing Montalembert's trial are not allowed to enter France.

An industrial meeting composed of operatives in the cotton trade in Liverpool had adopted resolutions in favor of making one hundred pounds the standard weight for all kinds of grain, flour, and meal.

The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has issued a proclamation against Ribbonism and other secret societies.

The Atlantic telegraph shares are quoted at £25½.

The London *Times* claims the release of Montalambert as a triumph of the English press.

The London *Times* continues editorially to hold up the corruption which prevails amongst officials in the United States, as a warning against the adoption of universal suffrage. It likewise draws a similar lesson from the Canada system.

The London *Herald's* Paris correspondent says it is asserted in political circles that the British Cabinet has sent a circular to all the European Governments, stating, in the most explicit terms, that it does not share, by any means, the views put forth by Sir John Young's dispatches, surreptitiously obtained and lately published, respecting the Ion

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SOUTHERN SENTIMENT.

The Black Democracy of the South embraces within its pale all the ultraism and disunionism which is to be found in that quarter of the Union. We often quote, from the Southern journals in the interest of that party, articles in proof of this fact; and it is but fair to present the other phase of public sentiment, which is prevalent in the ranks of the opposition.

The following is an extract of a letter written by the Hon. Kenneth Rayner to gentlemen in Delaware, in October last, prior to the State election. Mr. Rayner is a large slaveholder, a man of marked ability, and of great personal popularity; and yet, with all these advantages, he has chosen to withdraw from public life, rather than prostitute himself to the low arts of the demagogue, and ride into place and power by fanning the flame of Pro-Slavery excitement. We by no means endorse the views of Mr. Rayner in reference to the formation of a People's Party, but we give his letter as evidence that all honor and manliness in the South has not been crushed beneath the Juggernaut of Slavery Propagandism. What must the miserable Northern servile think of themselves, after reading Mr. Rayner's manly denunciations of the Kansas iniquity?

"Of course, the Locofoco presses and orators all over the South will proclaim the late victories of the People's party as *Abolition* triumph. True to their vocation of agitating the question of Slavery for party purposes, they will endeavor to smother their mortification by the use of hard words and abusive epithets. Having lately been on a visit to Pennsylvania, it affords me pleasure to say that I did not meet the first man who claimed the triumph of the People's party in that State as an Anti-Slavery or Anti-Southern victory. So far from it, those with whom I conversed (and I conversed with hundreds) spoke of the People's party as a great conservative movement towards the inauguration of an enlarged and national system of policy, in support of which all patriotic and Union-loving men may cordially unite, without respect to previous party ties or sectional considerations. True, the issue of the late elections involves a most decided rebuke to the Administration and its followers, for their course on the Kansas question—a rebuke which was richly deserved, and which I was delighted to see administered. This whole Kansas business, from its inception in the appeal of the Missouri Compromise, down to the passage of the *English bill*, I have ever regarded as a delusion and a cheat, and have so pronounced it. It roused the good-genius of agitation on a dissolution question, which parties had hoped was put to rest. It has sown broadcast the seeds of disaffection and sectional discord between the North and the South. It has for ever alienated all questions of public policy to one of sectional strife and debate. The author sowed the wind, and he is now deservedly reaping the whirlwind. I fear we have not witnessed all its evils yet. As an American citizen and friend of the Union, I was opposed to it in its origin; as a Southern man, I deplored it, because of the evils I foresaw and foretold it would entail on the South.

"In regard to the institution of Slavery, I consider the strength and security of the South consist not in any abstract dogmas touching the moral aspect of the question; or, which a certain school of Southern politicians unwisely and without authority tendered, an issue to the Northern public; but in the general policy of representative government to which I adverted in the early portion of this letter, viz: That the States are sovereign in the regulation of their internal police and domestic relations; and that this sovereignty finds its expression in the local code of national harmony and the friends of the Union in the South, who are opposed to the present corrupt and despotic Administration, may be able to contribute. But, if it were certain that not a single democratic vote could be relied on in a single Southern State, still it will be none the less necessary to organize a strong minority party in every State in the South. And why? Because of the moral strength and support the party will give to the Executive to be chosen by the People's party, and the Administration of the Government under his auspices. Because for them we may, and probably shall, have the battle of THE UNION to fight, in case the party now in power see deprived of the spoils of office. No matter who may be the standard-bearer of the People's party in 1860—no matter whether he be from one section or another—he will certainly be denounced throughout the South, by the party in power, as '*an Abolitionist*,' just as Gen. Harrison was in 1840, as Mr. Clay was in 1844, as Gen. Taylor was in 1848, as Gen. Scott was in 1852, as Mr. Fillmore was in 1856. And I consider it just as certain that, in case of the election of the Democratic candidate the direst calumny will be raised by a portion of the Locofoco party throughout the entire South. When they present that issue under the flag of the Union, we will meet them, and under that flag whip them. This battle we may have to fight on Southern ground, and under the influence of Southern opinion. In order that we may be enabled to do this successfully, let our Northern friends bear in mind that we must have conservative ground on which to stand, conservative principles to rally our forces around. In other words, if the People's party of the North is a conservative party, as I understand it to be—if it is national in its aims and objects—if it discourages sectional strife, and recognises and contends for the harmony of interests of the various portions of our Confederacy—I hazard nothing in saying that the conservative men of the South will struggle to put it in power, and will preserve and defend the Union under its Administration.

"Please pardon me, gentlemen, for this long and rambling letter. I feel so deep an interest in the movement, and so anxious to deliver the country from its present unfortunate and perilous condition, that I could not refrain from expressing my views of its mission, and my hopes for its success.

"I am, with great respect, gentlemen, your obedient servant, K. RAYNER.

"*Messrs. William K. McClees, Joseph Pyle, Samuel P. Betts, Committee, Wilmington, Delaware.*"

The following article from the Crockett *Argus*, a Texas paper, is in the same vein of candor which characterizes the letter of Mr. Rayner. We clip it from another Texas paper, called the *Standard*, printed at Clarkesville; and it may therefore be regarded as reflecting the sentiment of a large part of the people:

From the Crockett Argus.

SOUTHERN FANATICISM.

The article in this number of the paper, entitled "The South, has the South by the Throat," is not inserted because we endorse the sentiments it expresses, but simply to show how like a maniac a man may become, when he permits a single idea to engross his mind. If Genl. Cushing ever thought of giving a saying as that attributed to him, he ought to be ashamed for it, both by the South and the North, for it savors little of either statesmanship or patriotism, and is only calculated to furnish a pretext for such insane ravings as those of the Charleston *Mercury*. It was as much the fault of the South as of the North, that protective tariffs, National banks, and constitutional appropriations for internal improvements, were saddled upon the country; and the Democratic party of South Carolina has as much to answer for in these respects as any other. It is true, that the South was foremost to discover the unconstitutionality of the measures, and that they were not productive of the benefits she anticipated from them; but she is not the less chargeable with their incception. Protective tariffs are as injurious to one portion of the country as another, because the burdens they impose fall upon consumption, which is not confined to one section. Had the South been able, as she hoped, by means of slave labor, to compete with the North in manufactures, she would doubtless have been so early in discovering the unconstitutionality of these tariffs; and as respects Banks of the United States, it would be difficult to prove that they were more injurious to one section of the Union than to another. We regard the banks, whether State or National, as unmitigated evils, and alike unconstitutional; but the South has been as culpable as the North in reference to the internal improvements by the General Government have her representatives acted to an extent calculated seriously to affect the interests of any portion of the country, and cannot be charged to the General Government as evidence of hostility to the South.

We are wearied out of patience by the captious, unreasonable, and unjust complaints which are constantly made in some quarters against the Government, or rather against the Union of States. If the Government is not worthy of belief, the Southern States would be set down as one of the most down-trodden, oppressed, and wretched portions of the earth; whereas, in truth and in fact, nowhere else in the world can a people who live in as much ease and comfort, who enjoy so many of the blessings of existence, and who have so much cause to be grateful that their lot was cast in a land so favorable to the pursuit of happiness. Such complaints of oppression and houseless suffering are absolutely unknown, and, with health and a moderate amount of industry, the road to independence, if not to affluence, is open to all. The Government against which there is so much raving for neither was nor felt in the ordinary transactions of life, and the evils charged, if they exist at all, are of a pure speculative character. If the North has outgrown the South in wealth and political power, it was not owing to any partiality of the General Government, but to causes over which it had no control. It could not divert the tide of immigration into different channels, nor could it direct the minds of Southern men to those pursuits which have built up the power and wealth of our Northern neighbors.

From the American Missionary.

PROGRESS OF ANTI-SLAVERY IN THE SOUTH.

NORTH CAROLINA.—[From Rev. D Worth.]

"NEW SALEM, *Oct.* 26, 1858.

"Again we have the soul-cheering intelligence of progress to report and to announce. At one of the churches on this work, we have just had an ingathering of thirty-three members. It has been a time of great rejoicing. Blessed be the God of our fathers, he is evidently going before us in this work, and we hope is the Spirit on either hand. The great Head of the Church is giving us great access to the hearts of the people. We desire to give Him the glory."

Since the above was received, we have seen another letter from Mr. Worth, giving a more detailed account of the work. In it he says it appears that nine of those who have just joined the church at Sandy Ridge were apparently converted in connection with other congregations, but wished to unite with those churches on account of their connection with Slavery.

Among the converts is one man, who, a few years since, was engaged with a mob in driving two Christian Anti-Slavery ministers out of the county. He now appears to love the cause of truth and righteousness as much as he then opposed it.

To the several churches to which Mr. Worth ministers, there have been added in all about twenty members, since the first of May last; and they are looking for still further manifestations of God's grace in the conversion of souls.

KENTUCKY.—[From P. H. West, a Colporteur.]

God is still with us. The cause of Christ and of suffering humanity is now in a more prosperous condition than ever before. To God be all the glory. Surely He has chosen the weak things of this world to confound the mighty. The children have established quite a place prayer meetings in different neighborhoods, and the result is visible. Many are inquiring, "what must I do to be saved?"—and more heartily, fervently, searching, earnest, devotional prayer I have never known.

In many places in this field are Sabbath schools in progress, and largely attended. obtained from the A. R. Tract and Book Society, Cincinnati, a small library of Anti-Slavery books, and these are eagerly sought out, taken home, and read. No one as yet objects. In this way parents read them, when they could not be induced to otherwise. Our day-school, the idea is a promising one. Our plan, a great or some ten or twelve common schools taught by Anti-Slavery young men, who are making their mark. At our Union school-house we have regular prayer meetings each Sabbath at four o'clock, and many from different denominations attend.

[From another Colporteur—Robert Jones.]

The People Accessible.—The region of country I have travelled over is a broken one, in which there are not many slaveholders. Free labor only can be sustained there.

The larger part of the slaveholders whom I visited were willing to talk on the subject of Slavery, on to which they hold against their better judgment. In a month's labor, I have found but one slaveholder and three non-slaveholders who were unwilling to read. The great majority of the people are accessible. Many fields are open to the colporteur.

In what are called the mountain counties, with suitable laborers, an entire revolution could be effected in the public mind on the subject of Slavery. It is the great and absorbing topic. Now is an important time to work.

A teacher in one of the schools connected with the labors of our missionaries in Kentucky expresses some fears in regard to the minds of the people there, especially in educational matters. We extract the concluding part of his letter:

"As for the willingness of the people to hear and to secure the advantages of education, I can only relate my experience in teaching in this the interior of Kentucky. The school is a country school, and known around as an 'Abolitionist school.' The attendance has been for the past five weeks from seventy-five to eighty per day, and, if we could accommodate them, I think we would have a hundred; but our school-room is now crowded. Last Saturday, while at Richmond, the county seat for Madison county, one of the prominent men of the town said to me, 'I wish we could have some of your good teachers to come to this place to teach for us.' The people south of Kentucky is open for earnest men and women to labor. The people would respond as soon as confidence is gained, which a godly and earnest walk would soon secure. What is needed, is earnest, spiritual, social, self-denying men and women, to show out the plan of a better life by a practical living. We need your prayers. Let us have them; and bestow upon us some of the many blessings you are favored with. It will bring a fund of happiness to your own souls, such as few have yet enjoyed."

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs reports that no change has taken place in our relations with the various tribes with whom we have had treaty stipulations, except in the case of the Camanches.

The whole number of Indians within our limits is estimated to be about 350,000. The whole number of tribes and separate bands is 175, with 44 of which we have treaty engagements. The number of ratified Indian treaties since the adoption of the Constitution is 393, nearly all of which contain provisions still in force. The quantity of land acquired by these treaties is about 581,163,188 acres. The entire cost of fulfilling these treaties will be $49,816,344. From a part of these lands the Government received no pecuniary advantages, because they were ceded to the respective States within whose limits they were situated. From those sold, the Federal Treasury received not only the whole of the expense incurred for their acquisition, but a revenue in addition, amounting to a surplus of at least $100,000,000. The amount applicable for the fulfilment of treaties, and for other objects connected with the Indian policy for the present fiscal year, was $4,852,407.34; of which sum, $2,04,562.07 was derived from investment of trust funds.

The whole amount of trust funds held on Indian account is $10,590,649.62; of which, $3,502,641.82 has been invested in stocks of various States. The remainder, viz: $7,088,407.80, is retained in the Treasury, and the interest thereon annually appropriated by Congress.

The Commissioner thinks it worthy of consideration, whether it will not be advisable, when the National Treasury shall be in a condition to admit of it, also to invest the above sum of $7,088,407.80 in like manner with the other Indian trust funds.

The aggregate amount appropriated by Congress for Indian service during the present fiscal year was $2,639,389; of which sum, $1,309,054 was required for the fulfilment of treaties, leaving only $1,350,335 for recognised and established objects of expenditure connected with our Indian policy, over which economic reformation could be exercised. The Commissioner hopes, by a system of retrenchment already commenced in the colonizing policy in Oregon, California, and Texas, to reduce materially the expenses of the remainder of the present and succeeding years. Under Every item in the estimate submitted for the last-mentioned period has been carefully scrutinized, and the sum estimated is less by $744,829.51 than the amount appropriated for the present fiscal year.

The Commissioner points out three fatal errors which have marked our policy towards the Indians from the very beginning:

1. Their removal from place to place as our population advanced.

2. Their assignment of too great an extent of country to be held by them in common.

3. The allowance of large sums of money annuities.

He recommends that the tribes should be permanently located upon reservations embracing not more land than is necessary for actual occupancy; to divide the lands among them individually, so that they should live upon and cultivate the land as their own; to give them, in lieu of money annuities, stock, animals, agricultural implements, mechanic shops, and manual-labor schools; and inasmuch as most of the other treaties have fixed by money annuities, he recommends that Congress shall enact a law empowering the Department to commute the money annuities whenever the Indians assent, as above set forth. The Indians in Oregon and Washington Territories, 30,000, are subdivided into 35 tribes and bands. Those in Oregon who formerly occupied the Rogue river, Umpqua and Willamette valleys, are now living upon two reservations—one on the western and one on the eastern side of the Cascade Range of Mountains. The country to which their titles were extinguished was rapidly filled up with an enterprising and thrifty population.

During the year 1855, the Superintendent of Oregon was directed to negotiate treaties with various other tribes and bands, by which large tracts of land were ceded to the Federal Government, for which the Indians were promised benefits enumerated in said treaties. These treaties, however, were not ratified by Congress, and the benefits therein stipulated for by the Indians were not and could not be conferred upon them. The white population entering upon these tracts, and making settlements thereon, the Indians believed they were to be dispossessed without receiving the stipulated benefits. This state of of things exasperated them, and, in the opinion of well-informed persons, caused the recent acts of hostility. He therefore recommends the ratification of the treaties above mentioned. He also recommends, on account of the difficulties attending the management of Indian affairs in Oregon and Washington, the great extent of country, and the number of Indians inhabiting it, the appointment of two additional Superintendents. He also reiterates the recommendation of last year, for the employment of a small war steamer along Puget Sound and the waters of Admiralty Inlet. The policy of concentrating Indians on small reservations, and of sustaining them there for a limited period, until they can be fitted to sustain themselves, was adopted in 1855. The number and location of reservations to carry out this policy is as follows: In California, with 11,239 Indians; in Oregon two, with 3,200 Indians; and in Texas two, with 1,483 Indians.

The whole number of Indians expatriated upon the reservations has been $1,175,000 in California, and $301,833.73 in Texas.

The amount expended in Oregon for reservations has not yet been ascertained, but the whole amount expended for the year 1857, for Indian purposes, in Washington and Oregon, was $1,323,000; the amount disbursed in New Mexico, for the same period and purpose, was $212,500; and in Utah, since 1855, $172,000.

The Indian population in Texas, at the reservation system have been merely experimental. Serious errors have already been detected, which will in future be properly remedied. In Oregon, for instance, a great mistake was made in the location of the reserves; in California, a greater number of reserves was established, and of course greater expenses were incurred than circumstances required. It was expected that the expenses of all the reserves would be diminished from year to year, as the Indians would progress in the arts and habits of civilized life, but such has not been the fact. These have increased enormously.

He also recommends that the authorities of California should be applied to for the requisite State legislation, so that the intercourse laws should be enforced upon the reservations within that State, and the Indian orphans could be hound out for a term of years to upright and humane persons, to be taught suitable trades and occupations. Also, that the Pimas and Maricopa bands of Arizo should be furnished with agricultural implements, &c., as recommended by special agent Godard Daily, from whom alone all additional information, since the last annual report, concerning the Indians in Arizona, has been obtained.

The Indians in New Mexico, with the exception of the Navajos, have been peaceable during the year. The citizens of that Territory have severally suffered from Indian depredations since its acquisition by the United States, and claims have been sent in, amounting to $516,160.68. There appears to be a material improvement in the conduct of Indians in Utah, caused by the presence of our army in that Territory.

Measures have been adopted to locate a third reserve for the Indians in Texas. No progress has been made in carrying out the provision in the act of March 3, 1857, for collecting the Southern Camanches and Watchetas on reservations south of the Arkansas river, and nonecan be made until the War Department is empowered to furnish adequate force for protection.

Colonel Rector has effected the removal of nearly the whole of the Seminoles of Florida, west of Arkansas, at a very small cost.

Commissioner renews recommendation of last year, for the establishment of a Federal Court for the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, and Cherokees.

It is recommended that the killing of buffaloes, merely for their skins, should be prohibited.

The report is altogether an able one, and reflects great credit on Commissioner Mix, who had the preparation of it.

THE PUBLIC LANDS.

The Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office covers a period of five quarters, ending Sept. 30, 1858, and gives a full and satisfactory statement of the proceedings of the Land Department of the Government, upon the subject of its varied and complicated jurisdiction.

During that period, there were 15,209,870, acres of public lands surveyed, which, with former surveys, made a quantity of 61,951,046 acres of the public lands surveyed and ready for market on the 30th Sept., 1858, which had never been offered for sale by the Land Office.

During the same period there were sold for cash 4,804,919 4-100, from which was realized $2,554,192.20, located with military land warrants 1,401,565 4-100 acres, and reported swamp-land grants of 1,401,565 4-100 acres, making an aggregate of cash sales, land-warrant locations, and swamp selections, of $12,183,594.54.

The cash realized seems disproportioned to the quantity of land sold. The fact is accounted for by the very large sales at reduced prices under the graduation law of Aug. 4, 1854. From the passage of that act up to the close of the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1858, there sold, of the lands at graduated prices, 1,801,843,534 acres, of which there was sold at the lowest price of 12½ cents per acre 10,068,480 25-100 acres. The Commissioner expresses the opinion that a very considerable part of the proceeds of the entries made under that law have been made by unscrupulous individuals, in contravention of the law, and bought up by speculators who are relying upon Congress for a confirmation of their entries.

The following table presents a summary of operations under the several bounty land acts:

Dates of acts.	No. of warrants issued thereby.	Acres covered thereby.	No. of warrants issued thereby.	Acres covered thereby.	No. of warrants issued thereby.	Acres covered thereby.
1847	32,584	13,154,960	36,648	12,139,900	7,436	1,011,300
1850	29,103	12,000,000	29,103	12,000,000	1,346	1,346,000
1852	11,922	6,000,000	9,616	5,000,000	2,294	1,147,000
1855	227,928	72,000,000	160,450	49,734,110	67,456	9,893,890
Tot.	316,703	55,734,590	419,634	84,873,910	100,126	14,099,890

Very few lands have been offered for sale during the period of the report. The wish to sell for cash, and to do as much as possible relieve the Treasury, was outweighed and overcome by the desire on the part of the Executive to deal in the most liberal manner with the settlers on the public lands.

It was impossible for them to raise money to pay for their lands during the financial pressure of the last year, except upon the very hardest terms; and rather than embarrass, and in some instances destroy the settlers, it was decided to postpone the public sales in Kansas, Nebraska, and Minnesota. Under the act of 1849 and 1850, granting the swamp and overflowed land to the States within which they are situated, there has been a total quantity of five years, to the General Land Office 55,129,492.13 acres; upon which patents and lists having the effect of patents have been issued for 36,086,888.34 acres. Of this—

	Acres.
Ohio receives	54,438.14
Indiana	1,334,732.50
Illinois	3,245,891.46
Missouri	4,246,203.81
Alabama	2,595.51
Mississippi	2,836,675.89
Iowa	1,752,296.29
Louisiana, under act of 1849	19,660,396.33
Louisiana, under act of 1850	541,945.93
Michigan	7,273,724.72
Arkansas	8,562,752.93
Florida	11,790,637.46
Wisconsin	2,827,199.14

The Commissioner renews the recommendation of the other years, that the price which the States claiming swamp lands shall select and report them.

By the acts of Congress of May 15 and 17, June 3, and August, 1856, and March 3, 1857, grants of public lands for purposes were made to Iowa, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Mississippi, and Minnesota. The lines of roads are described in the acts, and the alternate sections, within six miles of each side thereof, are granted, with the right of selecting, within the limit of fifteen miles, other lands in lieu of those which the United States may have sold, or otherwise disposed of, within the six-miles limit.

In the exception of two of the roads, the States have accepted the grants, the surveys of most of the roads have been made, and reported to the General Land Office, and the work connected with the adjustment of the grants assigning to the States the granted lands, and restoring to market the reserved Government lands, is rapidly progressing.

Iowa receives for the—

Dubuque Pacific railroad	1,016,320
Iowa Central Air-line railroad	686,522
Mississippi and Missouri railroad	406,000
Burlington and Missouri railroad in Iasowa	252,656
Making a total of	2,476,321

Alabama receives for the—

Florida road, the Mobile and Girard, and the Alabama and Tennessee railroads	1,137,143
Florida receives for the—	
Florida and Alabama railroad	165,686
Florida and Alabama Gulf Central railroad	27,778
Pensacola and Georgia (estimated)	901,000
Florida (estimated)	280,000
Making a total of	1,374,464
Louisiana receives for the—	
New Orleans, Opelousas, and Great Western railroads	684,000
Vicksburg, Shreveport, and Texas railroads	363,670
Making a total of	1,047,670
Wisconsin receives for the—	
La Crosse and Milwaukie railroad	725,000
St. Croix and Lake Superior railroad	900,000
Chicago, St. Paul, and Fon du Lac railroad	600,000
Making a total of	2,225,000

It is estimated that Michigan will receive for her part of the—

Chicago, St. Paul, and Fon du Lac railroad	575,000
Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad	660,000
Detroit and Milwaukie railroad	35,000
Point Huron and Milwaukie railroad	15,000
Flint and Pere Marquette railroad	615,000
Making a total of	1,910,000

It is estimated that under the act of March 3, 1857, Minnesota will receive for the—

Minnesota and Pacific railroad	850,000
And its branch	400,000
Minnesota and Cedar Valley railroad and its branch	150,000
Making a total of	1,400,000

The report gives no estimate of the lands granted to the Southern Minnesota and Transit Railroads, the maps being incomplete and not finally acted upon.

Amendments of the pre-emption laws are recommended, with a view to uniformity in the system, and made to settle disputed rights and to terminate controversy in litigated cases.

The adjustment of the Fox and Wisconsin River Improvement Grant, in the State of Wisconsin, is nearly completed.

The area inuring to the State and her grantees is 684,269 acres.

Under the grant for the improvement of the Des Moines river, the State of Iowa has realized 725,283,92 acres.

The question whether she is entitled to additional lands, and if so, to what quantity, depends upon the opinion of the Attorney General.

Land officers will be discontinued in districts where but few of the lands remain unsold.

In Minnesota, surveys have been reported during the last fiscal year of 2,000,000 acres.

During the year ending September 30, 1858, 20,000; over 7,000,000 acres have been surveyed in Kansas and Nebraska—which, with prior surveys, make 15,000,000 surveyed, and ready for market.

By the 1st of July next, these surveys will have reached 20,000,000 acres.

In New Mexico, the surveys have gone up to 830,000 acres.

No surveys have taken place in Utah, the Surveyor General having abandoned his post.

Surveys in California for the year ending Sept. 30, 1858, cover 1,000,000 acres, making the aggregate of surveys in that State since 1851 30,000,000 acres, or nearly 1/5 of its area.

In Oregon, 350,000 acres have been surveyed during the last year, and the Commissioner calls particular attention to the necessity of extinguishing the agricultural interest of the Hudson Bay and Puget Sound Companies.

PENSION OFFICE.

Mr. Commissioner Whiting reports that the business of the Pension Office is up to date, and a material reduction of clerical force will soon become necessary.

During the past year, 209 army invalid pensions have been added to the rolls, the aggregate of whose yearly stipends is $18,775; the allowances of 35 have been increased in the further sum of $1,386, and the whole number of pensioners in this class now on the rolls in all the States is 4,916, requiring the annual sum of $446,483.93. The claims of 11 surviving Revolutionary soldiers have been allowed, and five have had their stipends increased. One hundred and thirty-two claims have been allowed to widows of Revolutionary soldiers, for the aggregate annual sum of $8,554.06, and thirty-five have had their pensions increased in the further sum of $2,070.35 per annum. The number of Revolutionary pensioners yet alive and drawing pensions is 253, and the number of widows of deceased Revolutionary soldiers is 4,209. The annual amount required for the former, $44,724.29; and for the latter, $334,450.85. The number of Revolutionary soldiers whose deaths have been reported during the year is 104; and of the widows, 624.

One hundred and eighty-seven claims have been allowed to widows and orphans of the army, whose yearly pensions amount to $13,924. The whole number of this class now on the roll is 1,345, and the pensions amount to the sum of $107,029.22 per annum. The whole number of army pensioners on the rolls, if under all the acts is 10,723, and the sum of their stipends $902,700.29. Thirty claims have been allowed to invalids of the navy, requiring $1,485.50 per annum, and thirty-two claims to pensions of deceased naval officers, &c, requiring the annual sum of $6,696. The whole number of navy pensioners now on the rolls is 892, whose annual pensions amount to the aggregate sum of $130,510 per annum. The sum actually paid during the year ending the 30th June, 1858, for the army and navy pensions, exclusive of the bounty pension claims adjudicated by the act of March 3, 1855, and the claims of 1847, termed unclaimed pensions, was $1,130,369,95. Under the act of June 3, 1858, renewing and continuing for life, or during widowhood, the half-pay pensions previously granted to widows and orphans for the term of five years, 541 claims have been allowed, involving the immediate payment of $45,031.15, and $44,087 annually thereafter. The whole number of claims to be allowed under this act is estimated to be not less than 3,000. The estimated amount saving to the Treasury of $118,670.20 during the past year, as the result of the Secretary's decision to discontinue the practice, pronounced by the Attorney General to be illegal, of paying to the children of deceased Revolutionary soldiers and their widows the pensions they might have drawn, but did not claim, during their lifetime.

The whole number of bounty-land warrants issued during the year is 13,815, which require — acres of land to satisfy them. This, added to the quantity reported last year, makes the whole amount of public land granted by the Bounty Land Bureau since 1847 to 100,126 acres. The number of bounty-land claims on the suspended files, under the acts of 1847 and 1855, which may or may not be established by further evidence, is about 74,000.

It appears that 336,000 acres of bounty land is yet due to officers and soldiers of the Revolution, and to soldiers in the late war with Great Britian, which, if claimed, cannot be awarded unless the time within which the warrant must be issued be extended, which the report recommends.

Numerous frauds under the bounty land laws have been detected during the past year, covering 17,000 acres. Four of the perpetrators have been convicted and sentenced, one has escaped punishment under the statute limiting prosecutions to two years after the commission of the offence, and thirteen others, against whom indictments have been found, await trial. Besides these, it is intimated that strong suspicions exist against other parties, against whom the evidence is not yet sufficient to justify legal proceedings.

The whole sum paid for pensions in money and land, estimating the land at $1.25 per acre, is, up to this date, $168,424,302.

HORSE RACING AT A DISCOUNT.—It is not many years since *dueling* received its death-blow at the hands of public opinion, which first by two individuals, then by a few of their friends, shortly afterwards by hundreds of the aristocracy and middle classes, and then published and circulated. And now a duel is never heard of in any part of the Union, and scarcely even in France. Success in this case arose out of the mature state of the public mind on the subject; and if there is in our day a similar opinion against horse-racing, such means might be expected again to succeed. That there is at least progress in this wholesome direction, we may infer from the decay of the saturnalia that used annually to be common at some of the Eastern cities. The policy of Doncaster, for example, so far-famed for its race-course and its racing history, cannot now muster a sufficient company in the evening for a ball, and serious apprehensions are entertained that the Doncaster ball will be given up—"a consumation" which many of the respectable inhabitants think "devoutly to be wished." This age is less frivolous, in some respects, than the last; and even where pure religion has little influence, there is a growing conviction that something higher and nobler than the pursuits that once satisfied society.

The death of Mr. Asbeton Smith, a noted horse-racing enthusiast in Wales, has just called forth a well-written article in the *Times*, pointing out the folly and the unworthiness of the life led by one who, with numerous good and amiable qualities and immense material wealth, was induced by custom, never giving a place among his fellow-men, without having seriously devoted himself to any one object in the world, save the pursuit of foxes. The *Times* expresses here, as it generally does, the public sentiment of the people of England.

The Detroit *Advertiser* gives a new method of computing interest on any number of dollars at six per cent., which appears simple. Separate the right hand figure by a point, and the figures on the left hand of this separate point will be the interest in cents for six days—the figure on the *right* of the point, *decimals* of a cent. Multiply the whole amount by *free*, to find the interest for thirty days, and by *six* and *free* for sixty days, three for ninety days, &c. For any number of days *less* than six, take the fractional part of the interest for six. Care must be taken to separate the right-hand figure of the *dollars*, whether there be cents and mills in the given sum or not.

LIFE.—The bread of life is love: the salt of life is work; the sweetness of life, poesy; the water of life, faith.—*Mrs. Jameson.*

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