THE CENTRE REPORTER,

FRED. KURTZ.....Editor.

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And now, (April 29) Brown, in his Republican reads Grant out of the party for vetoing the inflation bill.

Bill Brown has read out of the republican party, the following persons, for reasons appended: Beaver, Blanchard, Shortledge, Furst, et al, for selling his printing office; Gov. Hartranft for appointing Judge Orvis, and President Grant for vetoing the inflation bill. This leaves the radical party composed about as follows: Bill Brown and a darkey somewhere down south.

Bogus Bill Passing.

An attempt to pass an important tax bill for Philadelphia, was attempted in the House at Harrisburg the other day. When the vote was had the speaker announced the bill passed. A democratic member, Mr. Stranahan, had kept close tally and instead of the bill having one majority as announced, Mr. Stranahan found it was a tie, by which the bill would fall, and he called the attention of the House to the fraud. The thing was done by some one voting for Mr. Ash who was absent—some one played the personating game, so well known to Philadelphia politicians. An investigation proved Mr. Stranahan's tally correct.

A few days after, on the 30 ult., the following proceedings took place in the House relative to this personation:

Mr. Porter rose to a question of privilege and asked to have read the following statement in the Patriot of this morning:

"There is at least one able-bodied repeater in the republican delegation from Philadelphia. In voting for Mr. Ash he was only keeping his hand in."

"The question before the house is, who voted in the name of Joey Ash? If discovered will not the perpetrator of this fraud be liable to punishment for violating the laws against false personations?"

He then said it was currently reported that he was the member who had voted in Mr. Ash's name. The statement was false, wicked and malicious. He had never voted for Mr. Ash, but had simply told Mr. Allen, of Warren, as he was passing out the door not to forget to vote, and he was under the impression that Mr. Allen had voted by mistake for Mr. Ash.

Mr. Allen, of Warren—I remember I was standing near the door talking when the vote referred to was being taken. I remember Mr. Porter's reminding me not to forget to vote. I answered as I thought to my own name, and I only intended to vote once. I did not hear Mr. Porter vote as he went out.

Mr. Stranahan—I was the person who made the statement that Mr. Porter had voted in Mr. Ash's place. When the yeas and nays were being taken, I was interested and I was watching. I was looking in the direction of the gentleman from Warren (Mr. Allen) when Mr. Ash's name was called. A gentleman was going out the door at the time who turned around and answered. I called Mr. Crawford's attention to it, and asked him if the gentleman with sandy hair and complexion was Mr. Ash. He said it was Mr. Porter, I know Mr. Allen's voice; it was not he who answered. I may be mistaken, but I honestly think it was Mr. Porter who voted for Mr. Ash.

Mr. Porter—One question, Does the gentleman say I voted for Mr. Ash?

Mr. Stranahan—I honestly think so.

Mr. Porter—Then I again repeat that the statement is false, wicked and malicious.

Several other statements on both sides were made in regard to the matter and it was finally dropped.

The governor of South Carolina on the 12th of April, 1874, pardoned twenty-seven convicts out of the penitentiary because the state was too poor to keep them. They marched in a body to the state house and asked for relief. The state, it will be remembered, has been bankrupted and impoverished by carpet-bag rule.

STATE SINGING PROFESSOR.

A bill has been passed by the Legislature, says the *Columbian*, requiring the appointment of an additional Deputy Superintendent of Schools for the state whose business is to be to visit the various schools and give instruction in singing! Next in order will be a professor of ball playing, and then a Deputy to superintend whistling schools. There never will be an end to Legislative toomfoolery until the people see the necessity of electing none but men of great ability and unquestioned integrity as governors, and altogether a more sober-minded and solid set of men as Legislators. We put it to the common sense of any man, what can be more absurd than a State Professor of singing, going around amongst 2,000 schools, ostensibly giving lessons in singing—in fact squalling a few newly fashioned songs into the ears of gaping children.

Arkansas continues in a ferment, and both parties are still armed and evidently eager for the fray. The President still refuses to interfere, and the only way to end the disgraceful quarrel is through the Legislature. It is more than probable that that body will take sides as warmly as the militia seems to have done.

Our special despatches from Washington, says the *Press*, gives the leading features of the new financial bill prepared by the Senate Finance Committee. The date fixed for the resumption of specie payments will most probably be 1878; free banking is provided, greenbacks redemption to the extent of 80 per cent., and the abolition of the reserve on national bank circulation. Our correspondent doubts the success of the bill or of any legislation on the subject at this session.

A crowd witnessing a row in Detroit was dispersed by the announcement that "a collection would now be taken up for a poor widow."

Irenacus, in the N. Y. Observer, in an article on preaching, headed "Too Loud and Too Long," says with reference to the latter:

The other part of the promise—"too long"—the space left in this letter is too short to discuss. The bishop did not tell the young men how long is too long, and I presume he did not know himself. Probably nobody knows. What is "too long" in one preacher is "very short" for another. And vice versa. Many bestow the more abundant time on the parts that are least deserving, and spin out a discource to forty-five minutes, that was done and well done at thirty. Many an audience has been preached into a good frame, and then out of it, in the same sermon. It is better to send the people away craving for more, than satiated to disgust with too much, even of a good thing. If great preachers are sometimes long preachers, it is not true that length is essential to greatness. "If I never did a great thing," said a preacher, "I am sure I never did a long one." "Short, sharp, and decisive," is the demand of the human mind in the attitude of receiving instruction. It is enough for the servant to be as his master, and our Master's sermons were not long. Paul was once so long preaching, that one of his hearers got asleep from sheer weariness, fell out of a third story window and was killed. The best models we have, of pulpit eloquence, encourage young preachers to be short. As preachers become older they generally preach longer sermons. This is one of the chief reasons why a people grow weary of their pastor as he becomes aged. If he shortened his sermons as he grows in wisdom and grace, packing what he has to say in fewer and better words, they would like him more instead of less. Short sermons would thus lengthen the life, usefulness, and pastorate of the minister.

The new financial policy is probably foreshadowed in the following paragraph from the special correspondence of the Baltimore *Sun*:

The senate finance committee held a meeting to-day for the purpose of maturing a new financial bill. The new bill, it is understood, will contain certain features of the old bill originally reported from the committee, with a number of important additions. Among these will be more definite provisions for free banking and redemption. The committee will hold another meeting to-morrow, and will hear the views of several of the leading senators who voted for the currency bill lately vetoed. The free banking section in the new bill the committee agreed to-day should provide for a retirement of forty per cent. of legal tenders in proportion as the volume of the banking currency is increased until the aggregate amount of legal tenders outstanding is diminished to $300,000,000. The fixing of a time for specie resumption will be considered to-morrow, and three or four years hence agreed upon. The house currency bill will not be reported. The committe have assurances that the house will probably accept free banking, with other provisions contemplated in the new bill.

THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

PHILADELPHIA, May 4, 1874.

A full meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee was held here this evening, Dr. Nebinger presiding.

A resolution was offered and adopted, fixing Wednesday, August 26th as the day for the State Convention.

Pittsburg was unanimously agreed upon as the place for holding the same.

From Baltimore comes an account of a shocking case of brutality committed on a negro boy named James Henry Woodley, aged fifteen years, in Howard county, by two negro men. On the twentieth of April, according to Woodley's statement, the two men, without provocation, scarred and branded his body and limbs in the most cruel manner with a red-hot iron, and afterwards poured spirits of turpentine over his naked body and lower limbs and set him on fire. In this condition he escaped from his persecutors and succeeded in extinguishing the flames, in what manner he is scarcely able to tell. His back and legs were roasted to a crust, and his recovery is doubtful. It is reported that the parties perpetrating the outrage have been arrested.

THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS AFLOAT ON A CAKE OF ICE.

A correspondent furnishes us with the following, and vouches for its accuracy:

On the last day of March, a man named Patrick Ryan, of Maitland, N. S., was walking along the shores of Minas Basin, on the board ice, which extended some yards from the banks, when suddenly the piece upon which he was walking became detached and he drifted out to sea. This occurred some time in the forenoon. After drifting about all night, exposed to the severity of the weather, which it will be remembered was very severe, he was sighted off Diligence river the following morning. An attempt was made to proceed to his rescue, but, as always happens in such cases, not a boat could be found in which it was safe to leave the shore. The wind blowing a gale at the time, the man drifted out of sight in a short time. During the night the wind veered round and the unfortunate man was blown back in the direction from which he had come. He describes his sufferings from exposure and hunger, during this time, as beyond description. His frail bark was slowly but surely growing smaller before his eyes, while the waves dashed over it, deluging him almost every minute, and thus added to the miseries of his condition. He dare not sit down lest he might fall asleep, from which he well knew he would never awake. It was only by the most superhuman effort that he succeeded in keeping awake, and from constantly changing his position, managed to keep himself from perishing with cold. On the morning of the fourth day he was finally sighted again, although nearly in an insensible condition.

Our correspondent does not say where the man was brought ashore, or by whom, but states that he soon recovered from the effects of his novel and dangerous voyage.—*St. John Telegraph.*

The Centennial appropriation bill has now passed both branches of the Legislature and awaits the Governor's approval.

The amount appropriated is one million dollars. Congress has not yet passed the bill appropriating three millions for the same purpose.

At Hudson, N. Y., Charles Ernst, the officer whom Waltz, the day before his execution, was thought to have murdered, has recovered sufficiently to be removed to his residence.

THE ROMANCE OF CRIME.

JAMES SAEGER BROUGHT TO JUSTICE FOR STEALING $500,000 SIX YEARS AGO—HE CONFESSES THE CRIME, BUT REFUSES TO RETURN THE MONEY.

In the early part of 1868 five men living at Saegerstown, Pa., entered the house of a Mr. Bennehoff, a wealthy gentleman, at Petroleum Centre, and compelled him to deliver up the key to one of his safes, in which he kept a large sum of money. The robbers secured over $500,000, and made good their escape. Two of them were afterwards arrested and convicted, and were sent to the Penitentiary. Two others were never heard from, but one, James Saeger, has been followed by detectives ever since. The money was secreted, but before the time appointed for a division of the spoils Saeger stole the entire sum, and fled. Mr. Bennehoff offered $100,000 for his arrest and conviction. After a search of six years, the outlaw has at last been arrested, and is now secure in the county jail at Denver, Colorado. The story of his capture is related in the Denver News, from which it appears that he was recognized by Mrs. Potter, into whose husband's restaurant he had gone to get some oysters. She called him by name, and he confessed his identity. Her husband recognized him also, and though he had once adopted the outlaw as his son, he was ready to bring him to justice because of some outrage he had perpetrated upon a relative. By following the advice of detectives his arrest was finally made, and he confessed everything. From his own account it appears that he became a boatman on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers after the robbery and then went to Mexico. From there he passed into Texas and engaged in the cattle business for three years. Starting North with a drove of cattle he made his way to Denver and into the hands of the law. He says he intended to repay Mr. Bennehoff, but has met with too many reverses to do so. The stolen money, he says, is where it can never be found.

IN LIMBO.

The editor of the Huntingdon Globe was last week convicted of libeling a certain Dr. Brumbaugh, and sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution, a fine of $150 and undergo 40 days imprisonment. He now writes his editorials in prison, John Bunyan like. This conviction is the result of our infamous libel law, which will not permit the editor of a newspaper to prove what he states is true, but the reverse; "The greater the truth the greater the libel." The editor, Prof. A. L. Guss, in one of his prison epistles says:

"The whole matter grew out of and constitutes part and parcel of the series of devilish persecutions to which I have been subjected by the minions of John Scott, and which he vainly supposes will enhance his political prospects.

If any man, in the State, was ever hounded, traduced, abused, falsely accused and villainously lied upon, as I have been, I have never heard or read his name. If the people of this county will stand this outrage to be inflicted upon one of her unoffending citizens, and not resent it at the polls next fall, we are much mistaken in their temper.

There is no man living who has suffered half what we have to undergo that would not long ago have settled matters in a summary way—seeing that in this county a Court of Justice is a Court of John Scott's partizans for Jurors.

We were not allowed to give the truth in evidence, nor to show that what we did was for the public good. The letter of the law was enforced and technically the Jury could not well avoid the verdict. But the sentence of the Court, to gratify the Scott Ring I regard as shameful in the extreme. May God and the people visit upon my persecutors the trouble and infamy they have sought unjustly to heap upon me.

I rely upon the common sense of justice in the masses of the people to condemn this outrage and stamp with infamy the perpetrators.

For four months my business has had to be neglected. Thousands of dollars have been literally *stolen* from me, all my business affairs in chaos, property going to destruction, and daily great losses are entailed upon me for want of personal attention. Yet I am to be here 40 days to add to my losses, and gratify the "spite and hate" of "bitter and unrelenting enemies." People of Huntingdon county, when you learn of this outrage on me, my wife, my children, my property, register your vows in Heaven, that retribution must overtake the perpetrators. The fiends of hell never exceeded the John Scott Ring in unjust, infamous persecutions.

HOW A WIFE PLOTTED TO GET RID OF HER HUSBAND—THE DAUGHTER'S WARNING.

Bathurst, N. B., April 30.—Gallian, who murdered Poulin in Caraquet, has made a confession. He says he was incited to the act by Poulin's wife, who importuned him to kill her husband that they might be married. The night before the murder she sharpened a knife and gave it to him, telling him to be on the lookout for her husband when he went to the woods for rails the next day. He promised to do so, and secreted the knife on his person. When he met Poulin in the woods the next day, he said: "Poulin, I am going to kill you." His victim, on bended knees, implored him for time to confess to his priest, when he would be willing to be killed at any time, or would leave the country. While Poulin was in this suppliant attitude the prisoner struck him on the head with a stick, stunning him, and finished his bloody work with an axe. Poulin's daughter testified at the inquest that her mother went to Gillian's bed one night and told him that her husband was asleep in the next room, and there would be a good chance to kill him, but that she awakened and warned her father, and prevented the carrying out of the design.

The *Southern Churchman* charges the managers of the Virginia Bible Society with spending sixty per cent. of all its receipts to pay agents. Every bible it gives to the destitute is given at an expense of $2.09. These figures are disputed, but the *Southern Churchman* affirms that they are correct, and calls for a reform in the management.

Intelligence has reached Constantinople that a famine prevails in Asia Minor, and that many persons are starving. It is stated that in the town of Angora alone one hundred deaths occur daily from starvation. The river Tigris is again swollen by heavy rains, and further floods are apprehended.

WALTZ, THE CONDEMNED CATSKILL MURDERER, COMMITS ANOTHER DREADFUL DEED ON THE EVE OF HIS EXECUTION—HIS KEEPER KILLED IN HIS SELL.

Hudson, April 30.—Joe Waltz, the murderer, who is to be hanged at Catskill to-morrow, killed his keeper, Charles Ernst, in his cell at 3 P. M. to day, by striking him on the head with a piece of iron, smashing in his skull. During the past week Ernst had guarded Waltz in his cell in order that he should commit no injury to himself. The murder to-day had been committed some time before it was discovered. George Olney, with a reporter, went to see Waltz, and called for Ernst, but no answer being returned, they looked through the cell door and saw him lying on the floor unconcious. The officer's revolver was found on the person of Waltz. The victim lived only fifteen minutes after medical aid was summoned.

The prisoner manifested a stolid indifference as to his horrible crimes. The excitement at Catskill is intense, and at least two thousand people are collected around the jail, threatening to break down the doors and lynch the prisoner. The sheriff is cool and determined to maintain order and carry out the sentence. If the mob does not take the offair off his hands Waltz will be hanged at 1 P. M. to-morrow. The Governor has been appealed to, and two companies of militia have been ordered to proceed from Albany to Catskill forthwith.

EXECUTION OF WALTZ.

Hudson, May 1.—Joseph Waltz was hanged in the Catskill jail yard to day. He appeared perfectly stolid on the scaffold. His neck was not broken, but after hanging fourteen minutes he was pronounced dead. His father witnessed the execution, and took possession of the body. The Catholic church refused him burial, and the body will be interred on the Waltz farm to-night.

The Spanish government is sanguine that Bilbao will be relieved by Marshal Serrano's army within a week.

Five hundred Republican soldiers, wounded in the recent engagements with the Carlists before Bilbao, have arrived at Santander. Information has been received of the defeat, in the province of Tarragona, of a body of Carlists, two thousand strong, by a force of National troops numbering only nine hundred men. The Republicans have lately defeated and dispersed several bands of Carlists in Arragon and Albacete.

THE SPRING CROPS.

Indianapolis, May 3.—The following is a synopsis of the leading information furnished yesterday by the *National Crop Reporter*. The unusual backwardness of the season has delayed very much all kinds of spring work, and at the date of the last full reports, prepared April 15, there had been practically no seeding at all in Minnesota, and but little ploughing in Wisconsin. At the date mentioned, about 40 per cent. of the estimated area had been sown in wheat, and but little over one fourth in oats. The average area sown in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin was 87 per cent, of the estimated probable total, 62 per cent. in oats, and 30 per cent. in potatoes. The prospects of the fruit crop to date are of the most encouraging character, and the reported damage by frost, excepting in a portion of Maryland and Delaware, is inconsiderable.

WARRANTS TO SURVEY VACANT LANDS.

The governor has signed an act relative to the issuing of warrants to survey vacant lands, which provides that every applicant for a warrant to survey any of the vacant lands of this commonwealth shall produce to the surveyor general a particular description of the land applied for, with an affidavit of a disinterested witness, made before a justice of the peace of the township or borough in which the land applied for or the greater portion of it is situate, or if there be no justice of the peace in such township or borough, before a justice of an adjoining township or borough, specifying whether the said land be improved or not, and if improved how long since the said improvement was made, that interest may be charged as now provided by law. The applicant for such warrant shall declare, upon oath or affirmation, before a justice of the peace of the township or borough in which the land or the greater portion of the same is situate, or if there be no justice in such township or borough, before a justice of an adjoining township or borough, that he verily believes that no warrant or other office right has previously issued for such land, or if one has issued, after giving full particulars in relation thereto, shall depose that he verily believes it has been abandoned; and if at any time thereafter it shall appear that the person or persons deposing as aforesaid, or any of them, shall knowingly have sworn falsely, such person or persons shall suffer all the pains and penalties of perjury.

Sec. 2. No warrant shall issue for any tract or piece of land on which settlement is made, or which may be either in whole or in part cleared and fenced, or otherwise improved, used or occupied and held by defined boundaries, unless to such person or persons, respectively, who have made the settlement, clearing, fencing or improvement, their legal representatives or assigns, upon proof of ownership of such settlement or improvement right, and if any warrant shall issue otherwise than as aforesaid it shall be void: *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to abandoned improvements.

Sec. 3. Every applicant for a warrant to survey vacant land shall, after filing his or their application for such warrant, and depositing the amount of the purchase money and fees with the surveyor general, give at least thirty days' notice of the filing of said application, with a full description of the land as set forth in the application by publication, once a week for three successive weeks, in one or more newspapers of the county in which the land is situate and nearest its location, and shall furnish proof that such notice has been given before a warrant shall issue. *Provided*, that if any caveat or caveats shall have been entered against issuing such warrant, the same shall not issue until directed by the board of property; and if the board of property, after a hearing upon a citation issued in pursuance of any caveat, shall decide against issuing the warrant, the purchase money shall be returned to the applicant.

Sec. 4. This act shall not apply to applications for warrants filed with the surveyor general before its passage.

ARE YOU AWARE OF IT.

Common Table Salt is a compound substance of which Chlorine and Sodium are the elements. Chlorine is a poisonous gas, which if inhaled produces choking and death. A tablespoonful of salt contains enough poison to kill a dozen persons. In combination with sodium this gas forms one of the most useful and healthful condiments, salt.

The piece of Chalk which the school boy holds in his hand at the black-board, contains enough poison to kill him; it is Carbonate of Lime, that is Carbonic Acid and Lime. Carbonic Acid when liberated and inhaled is a deadly poison, when taken into the stomach it is healthful.

If the proportion of Oxygen in the air were increased, the air would become inflammable, the first match lit would cause the general conflagration of the "last great day." Even if the proportion of oxygen remained the same, and the hydrogen of the air were liberated and a spark of fire came in contact with it, the same direful consequence would ensue.

If the quantity of oxygen in the air we breathe were double, we would constantly inhale the gas now administered to the persons who have their teeth extracted without pain, we would be insensible to pain and suffering, and would be intoxicated constantly.

If the earth or one of the heavenly bodies were thrown from their orbit but a hand's breadth, if a pound weight of matter were added to, or taken from the earth, or one of the heavenly bodies, there would be "a crash of matter and a wreck of worlds," the consequences would be incalculable, the effect irremediable.

Think of this, Christian reader, and exclaim, "how marvelous are thy works, O Lord, God, Almighty, in wisdom thou hast made all things!"

CITIES OF THE PAST.

Some graphic letters have lately appeared in the N. Y. *Times*, descriptive of a journey in South America—the land of perpetual verdure—from the Atlantic to the Pacific, by way of the Amazon mountains. Referring to a railway journey in Northern Peru, of some sixty miles, the last stage of a four months tour, the writer says:—"The valleys through which we passed bore unmistakable evidence of having once been the seat of a high order of civilization. At present it is but an arid desert. The sides of the mountains, from the base to the highest altitudes, are terraced, and the ancient gardens are everywhere distinguishable. At times we passed through ruins of cities that have contained a population greatly exceeding anything we now hear of. For miles we observed these ruins on either side, stretching away to the very foot of the mountains, where the terracing immediately commenced and was carried to the very summits. The land must at some remote period, anterior to the time of the Incas, have been occupied by a race both industrious and civilized.

Who they were, whence they came, and whither they have gone, is a mystery into which, up to the present time, but few have attempted to penetrate. There is an abundance of material in the country upon which the ordinary traveller could found the wildest theories, but from which the archæologist could extract much of value and interest both to science and mankind in general. Prof. Orton will be the first who has made any personal study of this subject in Northern Peru, and to his forthcoming work we may look with a great deal of interest." Again, in summarizing his travels, the writer observes: "We had been four months, all but a few days, in crossing from ocean to ocean. Although fraught with many trials and sufferings, we shall never look back to the trip with regret, and the memory of these romantic and lazy hours which we spent in the Brazilian forests, and in paddling about the Igarapes of the mighty river, will ever be to us an endless source of pleasure and enjoyment. No poet has sung of their wondrous beauty and grandeur, nor has any artist attempted to place them on canvas, but throughout our lives we are confident that the memory of those hours and days will ever remain as green and fresh as though it were but yesterday that, reaching the Pacific, we felt that at last our work was accomplished—that our wanderings had ceased."

FIGHT WITH HORSE-THIEVES

Little Rock, April 27.—At Boughton, on the Cairo and Fulton Railroad, 100 miles below this city, fifteen citizens followed a gang of horse-thieves on Sunday morning last. They got into a fight with the thieves and killed three of them and lost one of their own men by being killed and another wounded.

The murderer of the Hammet family, near Homestead, Pennsylvania, was arrested Friday night in Allegheny City. He gave his name as Mentzing, and made a full confession of his guilt. He says he killed the Hammets with an axe, his object being to get their money, believing a large sum was in the house.

At the last Huntingdon, Pa., court eight sentences on whiskey cases were imposed, aggregating forty days' imprisoment and $600 fine.—"Verily, the way of the transgressor is hard."

GOLGOTHA IN AFRICA.

In writing of the horrible scenes he saw in the vicinity of Coomassie, which the British army reached in its late Africa Expedition, Mr. Stanley in his letter to the N. Y. Herald, describes the place of the dead, where human sacrifices and executed persons are cast. He says:

Just at sunset I went to see Sammopane, or the Golgotha, the stench from which pervaded every nook and cranny in Coomassie, and made it appear as though we dwelt in a charnel house. The Golgotha was the dense grove, which, projecting almost into the heart of the city, appeared the very fittest place for a cemetery, were not the grove and the swamp objectionable from a sanitary point of view. A little narrow path leading through a maze of tall grass and dense growth of cane, which grew on the edge of the grove from the foot of the great market place, brought us, after traversing 100 feet or so, into a glade, where the quantity of dead bodies thrown in had killed the undergrowth, and revealed the most appalling sight that can be imagined We had entered the place with your handkerchiefs to our nose to prevent suffocation, for the odor was intolerable, but as the foul smell penetrated the folds of our handkerchiefs we could only remain long enough to assure ourselves that the wholesale butchery of humanity was real, and not a sport or freak of our fancy. Right at our feet, as we emerged before the hideous scene, where twenty or thirty

Dead Bodies

of men and women, which had been dragged hither after decapitation. There was only one body—that of a boy eleven or twelve years old—which showed that decapition was not the only means of inflicting capital punishment or sacrificing human beings to feticism, and this boy had evidently perished from strangulation. These dead bodies in the early stages of decay rested upon untold strata of human relics, of skulls, thigh bones, ribs and vertebra. I say untold strata intentionally for the reason that, ever since the city of Coomassie was founded, in the eighteenth century, this portion of the grove has been the receptacle of the hundreds of victims slaughtered annually for the observance of the cruel customs imposed upon the natives by their abject and pitiful superstition. Bowdich mentions that in 1817 the place was crowded with relics of mortality. Remember then, that at the rate of 1,000 unfortunate slaves sacrificed every year, a period of fifty-seven years which has transpired since Bowdich visited Coomassie, there have been 57,000 victims slaughtered at the bloody footstool of fetichism! It has been repeated over and over to us that the people of Coomassie slaughtered a thousand men and women slaves annually for the observance of their customs. M. Bonar, a French captive lately released, says he saw about 300 killed in one day. So that the enormous number of 57,000 is only a moderate estimate of the victims which have been dragged into this grove to bleach and rot during fifty-seven years. We cannot, then, be very far wrong if we compute the dead which have been thrown into this grove since the accession of Sy Tutu to the throne of Ashantee, in the eighteenth century, at about 120,000

Strata of Slain Bodies.

And here they line, strata upon strata of human dust, fresh victims hurled in each day—sometimes one, sometimes a dozen, sometimes 300—relics of humanity scattered by the thousands, nay, tens of thousands, as if the negroes of Central Africa had been specially heralds for the observance of Ashantee ceremonies and to pander to the lust of murder inherent in the souls of this cruel, fratrical race.

Horrible and More Horrible.

I hurried away from a scene which baffles description, which eclipsed that most awful sight the incarnate fury of the Emperer Theodore had prepared for us below the cliffs of Magdala, in Abyssinia.

THE CREMATION QUESTION.

The question of the disposition of the dead by burning of the bodies, after the manner of the ancients, is a subject which has for some years past been under discussion in Europe. Various processes have been devised as substitutes for inhumation among others petrifaction and preserving in antiseptic solutions; but in the end, it appears that the total disaggregation of the body by cremation has been considered and announced by many of the ablest foreign savants as the proper and indeed only way of avoiding the noxious effects resulting from the natural changes in the thousands of human remains buried in the neighborhood of thickly populated localities. Taking its origin in Europe, the movement during the last few months has, under the influence of Sir Henry Thompson and other eminent scientific authorities, who have strongly advocated its principles, taken a new life and has rapidly spread over the continent. The people of Switzerland, and Germany especially, have accepted it to no small extent. At Zurich recently, 2,000 persons subscribed to an association having the burning of the dead as its sole object. At Basle, the orthodox clergymen publicly subdubed their apparatus for carrying out the operation of incineration has been invented and advertised. More important than this to us is the wide spread discussion which the subject has evoked at the present time also in this country. A society has already been formed in New York city, including among its members Mr. Henry Bergh, Drs. Sexton, Lorilliard, and J. W. S Arnold, with many other well known citizens, for the purpose of promoting cremation and securing its practical application, and columns of the daily journals are given up to correspondence and the views of the people upon the advantages and disadvantages of the system.

The readers unversed in the process, which it is proposed to substitute for slow mouldering in the grave, will naturally think of the ancient pyre and probably suppose that it is the intention of the advocates of the plan to burn the bodies upon huge piles of variously scented wood, after the Greek or Roman fashion. Little would be gained in an æsthetic or even a sanitary point of view if such were the system, for the gases and fumes evolved would be far from healthy. The body of the poet Shelly was thus destroyed, and his biographer tells us that, so far from being the beautiful and poetic rite intended, the process was a very disagreable and nauseous operation. Science provides a better plan for reducing "ashes to ashes" in the apparatus especially devised by Professor Brunetti for the purpose, and by that inventor recently described in the French *Revue Scientifique*. After having made several experiments on the human subject, in which the bodies were burned in the retorts of gas manufactories, in close receptacles, and with free access of air, Professor Burnetti finds that an oblong furnace of fireproof brick is required, have in 10 heles below, by means of which the intensity of the fire can be regulated. The upper part of this is hollowed to receive the coffin, over which a doomed cover is placed, by which the flames as in a reverberatory furnace, may be directed upon the body. Within the coffin is a metal support or table on which the body rests, fixed by thick iron wire. The operation embraces three periods. the heating of the body, the spontaneous combustion, and the calcination of the bones. During the first period, and about half an hour after the pile of wood in the furnace has been lighted, the combustion of the body commences. If the wood has been well arranged, two hours suffice to produce complete carbonization. During the third period, the air holes being opened, the carbonized mass is collected and placed upon a fresh plate and the heat is urged to the utmost, a fresh supply of wood being inserted. By means of this arrangement, at the expense of about 150 pounds of wood, complete incremation may be affected in two hours. When the furnace has cooled, the cinder and bones are collected and deposited in a funeral urn.

So far as sanitary benefit to the people is concerned, we cannot but think the arguments of the advocates of cremation are cogent and forcible. It is well known that numbers have been rendered ill by water from springs and wells which have become contaminated by the near proximity of graveyards, and it is also a fact that there is a miasm arising from these receptacles which, as is universally recognised, renders their presence in crowded localities dangerous to health. We do not see the ground of the assertion that by burial the fertalizing properties of the bodies are lost to the earth, for it seems to us that they are in as good a condition for absorption as if sprinkled in the form of ashes over the surface. Neither can we incline to the belief, that by adopting cremation, a point of economy will be gained, in avoiding the expensive paraphernalia of modern funerals, since the latter are governed purely by the dictates of fashion, and that fickle individual would speedily make the jeweled urn as costly an affair as the sculptured stone.

Anything which seeks to subvert a settled popular custom strengthened not only by long usage but by a prejudice growing out of a religious feeling, presents, however, at best a doubtful prospect of success. There is not a person, we may safely say, who, when the horrors of possible living burrial, the slow decomposition, and the changes of the form of a loved one to a loathsome thing, to poison the health of the living, are laid before him, will not admit that the closed furnace, the pure fire flame, and the final handful of dry clean changeless ashes are much the better of the two means of disposition; but his admission in the end will be found to apply to everybody in the world except himself and his family. It is a question of the heart in the end, not of the mind. Science, cold and passionless, may point out the better way; but if its adoption is to tear wider the wounds caused by separation from those we love, no amount of reasoning will induce us to follow it. A husband may give his wife, a mother her child, into the embraces of the earth, and endure the keenest sufferings as the dirt and stone rattle on the coffin lid; but this act, revolting as it may be, is connected in the imagination with the highest and holiest of thoughts—the hereafter. We may bury those nearest to us in our own bit of ground; we may imagine that their forms remain where we put them, and we may tend the flowers which bloom over their resting places as messengers from them to us. All this we can do; but there are few, we think, who would have the heart to think of their child or wife to a public official to be burned, or would care to see the ashes of his ancestors scattered over the earth as manure.—*Scientific American.*

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